

# **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST JOINT POLICING SUB COMMITTEE HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020, AT 11.45AM.**

## **PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor J. Scanlan, Cathaoirleach.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Foley, Galvin, Ruddle and Sheahan.

## **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Collins

## **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Community Development Directorate (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. G. O'Connor), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan)

Superintendent A. Magner, Inspector A. Lacey, T. Hannafin C.O.

At the outset, Councillor Scanlan welcomed everyone in attendance to the Meeting.

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Policing Sub Committee Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

Proposed by: Councillor Ruddle

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

And Resolved:

"That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed".

### **2. Policing Issues in the District**

Superintendent Magner gave an update on policing issues within the District. She noted the cases, which the Gardai dealt with over the last quarter of 2019 including burglaries, road traffic accidents, public order offences, drink and drug offences. She stated that incidents of

theft from shops continues to rise and that a Crime Prevention Officer is liaising with business owners in the District regarding this matter.

She noted a slight decrease in burglaries in the month of January this year along with the decrease in Minor Public Order offences. There was an increase in the incidents of Misuse of Drugs in January compared to the same period last year.

Superintendent Magner also referred to the number of serious assaults and stated that a number of these assaults related to one incident. She also noted the number of minor assaults and drug seizures which had taken place.

She said that two fatal Road Traffic Accidents occurred and also referred to the number of domestic incidents which the Gardai dealt with in the District.

Superintendent Magner encouraged the use of the community text alert system in combatting crime. She referred to community based policing and acknowledged the assistance of the public in this matter. She also mentioned the importance of community engagement and stated that a number of initiatives had taken place in the community. Superintendent Magner stated that she is now the Superintendent in charge of Community Engagement within the District.

She also noted that drug detection and enforcement was a priority at District and Divisional level. She was pleased to announce that from 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, a District Drugs Unit will be in operation dealing with the detection of drugs, sale and supply. The unit is to be based in Rathkeale and she stated that this will be of great benefit to the community.

She referred to crime investigation and the excellent work, which has been carried out in this area. She stated that a number of significant arrests had been made and also noted that a number of convictions had been secured for sale and supply of drugs.

Superintendent Magner stated that work is ongoing with regard to the new Garda Station and she is liaising with the Office of Public Works.

Inspector Lacey referred to the National Strategy for reduction of crime and the new policy on Victim Engagement, which is to be launched in February. He referred to a number of community engagement initiatives, which had taken place within the District and stated that more of these initiatives are to take place in 2020. He stated that the Schools Programme is also to be enhanced.

The Cathaoirleach and Members complimented the Superintendent on the overview of policing matters within the District and all Members welcomed the launch of the District Drugs Unit.

The Members also referred to a number of items including the opening hours of Abbeyfeale Garda Station and the need for a Sergeant for the station, a timeframe for the opening of the new Garda Station in Newcastle West, staff numbers in Garda patrol vehicles, the Text Alert System and the locations of Go Safe Vans.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

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