MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE JPC SUBCOMMITTEE HELD IN ÁRAS SÉAN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor K. Sheahan, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Keary, O'Brien, O'Donoghue and Sheahan.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. A. Finn), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Harnett).

Superintendent A. Magner, Inspector A. Lacey, Sergeant D. Callinan, Sergeant C O'Neill and Sergeant B. Manton.

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed the members of An Garda Síochána to the Meeting

1. Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Joint Policing Sub Committee of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 14th February, 2019.

Councillor Keary requested the Minutes record he be detached from the following sentence in the draft Minutes "*While some residents of the town of Rathkeale had complained of over policing due to checkpoints etc. it was agreed that the District experienced a relatively crime free Christmas season as a result of the policing plan"* as he felt the town of Rathkeale can never be over policed.

2. Policing Christmas 2019 – Rathkeale

The Superintendent advised Members that there had been very positive feedback on the previous year's policing plan for the Adare-Rathkeale District and the Gardaí would

progress the 2018 plan to include some amendments for the Christmas 2019 period. She advised additions to the plan would include the erection of gates at the end of some laneways in Rathkeale town. The Gardaí would continue to work closely with the Youth Diversion Programme in Rathkeale and intended to extend the opening hours of the youth café in 2019 due to the high participation from youths in the previous year. It was hoped that this would remove the younger people congregating on the streets. There was also a plan in place to extend the opening hours of the Garda Station in the town. The Superintendent advised checkpoints would continue to form part of the policing plan for the District and welcomed any suggestions or observations from Elected Members on its implementation. Councillor Keary expressed disappointment with the lack of engagement from Túsla in relation to the number of children congregating throughout the streets during the Christmas period.

Discussion ensued in relation to drug use in the District. The Superintendent urged anyone with information and or evidence of drug use to come forward and speak confidentially to the Gardaí in an effort to combat the issue. The Superintendent also informed Members that a dedicated drugs unit for the Newcastle West Garda District would be rolled out in the new year and would be a positive step for the Gardaí and the community. Members welcomed this new unit.

The Superintendent also spoke in relation to burglaries in the District. She informed Members there had been 125 burglaries in the District in the year to date which was down 18% from the same period in the previous year and explained the decrease was as a result of a targeted operation against two organised crime gangs in the District.

Councillor Keary advised he was not happy with the casual trading taking place across from the Council Offices on New Line during the Christmas period, which had been reported several times with no action taken. The Director advised Councillor Keary that the Council did follow up on his complaints and were successful in securing a conviction on this illegal trading. Councillor Keary also asked the Superintendent if she was happy with current access to CCTV footage in the District. The Superintendent informed Councillor Keary that although GDPR and the restriction on the signing of access documentation has slowed the process of accessing the CCTV footage An Garda Síochána are happy with the access and would often use business premises CCTV also to help with their investigations.

The Superintendent concluded by saying that Rathkeale is a great town where people from a multiplicity of ethnicities live in great harmony. The bad press it gets is very unfair in the Gardaí's opinion, as the influx of 2,500 extra people into the town during the Christmas period is the only reason why an extensive policing plan is needed at this time.

Members thanked the Superintendent and Members of An Garda Síochána for their attendance and contribution to the Meeting.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____