

**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, 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2022, AT 12.00 NOON.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Foley, Galvin, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Mr. M. Curran), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Executive Engineer, Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan)

Acting Superintendent, P. Brennan, Inspector O. Nally, Detective Sergeant M. Reidy, Sergeant N. Barry, Sergeant N. Barry, Y. O’Keeffe-Fox, District Clerk.

At the outset, Councillor Collins welcomed the Acting Superintendent and everyone in attendance to the October Meeting of the Newcastle West Joint Policing Sub Committee.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Online Meeting of the Joint Policing Sub Committee Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Proposed by: Councillor Ruddle  
Seconded by: Councillor Sheahan  
And Resolved:

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

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

The Acting Superintendent gave an update on policing issues within the District. He noted the cases, which the Gardaí have dealt with including burglaries, assaults, criminal damage, domestic violence, drink and drug offences, public order offences, theft, and fatal accidents.

He referred to the high increase in assaults in Newcastle West and to the increase in domestic violence in the District and nationally. He referred to the low incidence of public order offences and urged the public to report any incidents of public order to the Gardaí. He stated that Garda Claire O'Mahony is Community Guard in the District and referred to the Community Beat Initiative which has been re-enacted where Gardaí carry out high visible patrols in the District.

He also referred to the number of checkpoints carried out and noted that five fatal accidents had taken place in the District. He referred to the increase in fatal accidents which is considered high in this District and encouraged members of the public to check their vehicle, tyres and lights before going on a journey. He referred to the telephone lines at Newcastle West Garda Station which are diverted to Henry Street Garda Station from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. He stated that the use of the 999 telephone number is very effective as all calls are recorded and the nearest patrol car is dispatched to incidents when necessary.

Inspector Nally stated that incidents of domestic violence have increased dramatically and referred to the new initiative which is in place when dealing with incidents of domestic violence.

Detective Sergeant Reidy referred to the designated Drugs Unit in the District. He stated that Sergeant Kennedy and a team of five Members are assigned to the Drugs Unit. He made reference to the work which is in progress in dealing with drugs and to the targeting through intelligence of specific individuals which is currently taking place. He also noted the number of convictions secured for the sale and supply of drugs and to drug seizures in the District. He referred to the schools programme and stressed the importance of organisations and agencies in trying to combat drugs.

The Acting Superintendent stated that he is currently acting for Superintendent P. Reidy during his absence.

He also stated that Sergeant N. Barry is no longer in the District and is stationed at Henry Street Garda Station. The Acting Superintendent thanked Sergeant N. Barry for all his work while in the District. He then welcomed Garda D. Cummins to the District.

The Cathaoirleach, on behalf of the Members wished Superintendent Magner well in her new appointment and acknowledged her work within the District. The Members also thanked Sergeant Barry for his work and wished him well in his new role.

The Members expressed get well wishes to Sergeant N. Flood and wished him a speedy recovery.

The Director, on behalf of Management and Staff thanked the Acting Superintendent and Gardaí for their help and support in the District and wished everyone well in their new roles.

The Members referred to the frequent turnover of Gardaí and Superintendents assigned to the Newcastle District, as consistency is required in order to progress policing plans and also wished to be informed of any change to administration in the District.

The Members also referred to a recent visit by the Minister of Justice, Ms H. McEntee to the District to announce the submission of a planning application for the construction of a new District Garda Headquarters in Newcastle West and expressed disappointment at not being aware that this visit was taking place. In replying, the Acting Superintendent stated that details of the visit were leaked on social media and there was a need to rearrange the visit.

Reference was made to a number of other matters including anti social behaviour on the lead up to Halloween, importance of cctv in the District, surge in domestic violence, use of e-scooters on streets, drug detection rate, anti-social behaviour in housing estates and safety at the Demesne.

A request was also made that the crime statistics be given to the Meetings Administrator in advance of the Meeting.

In replying to the queries raised by the Members, Sergeant N. Barry outlined the procedure involved in dealing with anti social behaviour in housing estates. He also stated that during Halloween certain areas are targeted and the Gardaí will have more of a presence in these areas. Detective Reidy also stated that areas where fireworks are sold are identified so that fireworks are eliminated at source and not readily available.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Acting Superintendent and the Gardaí on the overview of policing matters in the District.

A minute's silence took place in memory of the ten people who tragically lost their lives in an explosion at Creeslough, Co. Donegal. Reference was also made to the emergency services who reacted swiftly during this tragic incident.

Prior to conclusion of the Meeting, the Acting Superintendent stated that an Open Day is being held on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, in Newcastle West, to celebrate 100 years of history of An Garda Síochána.

It was agreed to hold the next Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Sub Committee on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_