

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE JPC SUBCOMMITTEE HELD IN CROOM CIVIC CENTRE, MAIN STREET, CROOM, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER, 2022 AT 12:30 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor S. Keary, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

A/Superintendent (Mr. P. Brennan), Sergeant (Mr. P. Bentley), Detective Sergeant (Mr. M. Reidy), Sergeant (Mr. D. Cummins), Newcastle West Area Administrator (Ms. Y. O'Keeffe Fox).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed members of An Garda Síochána to the Meeting.

1. Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Joint Policing Sub Committee Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 8th November, 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;
Seconded by Councillor Collins;
And Resolved:

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

2. Policing Issues

A/Superintendent Brennan commenced by introducing members of An Garda Síochána present. Members commended An Garda Síochána for their work during the Covid 19 Pandemic.

The A/Superintendent proceeded to give Members an update on crime rates in the District. He advised the biggest decrease from last year's statistics were burglaries which

dropped by 90% with only one incident reported in the District. He further advised the most significant increase was retail theft which had increased by 600% from one incident to seven. In relation to road traffic offences drink driving was down from six cases to three, however, there was an increase in drug driving which went from zero cases to three. He further added there was a decrease in fraud cases which he claimed was due to the increase of social media awareness among the public.

A/Superintendent Brennan then advised that contrary to rumours the budget for policing operations in Rathkeale during the Christmas period had not been withdrawn. The A/Superintendent went on to say the Christmas operation would commence at the beginning of December and continue until mid-January and would include Drug and Road Traffic Units as well as the Armed Response Unit. He further added that Sergeant Paul Bentley would be leading the operation and Sergeant Bentley along with additional Gardaí would be stationed in Rathkeale during this period. He added if members of the public witness a crime happening they need to report same.

The A/Superintendent then referred to a fatal road traffic collision which occurred on Halloween night in the District. All present extended their condolences to the families involved in the fatality. The A/Superintendent advised road users to check their vehicles are road worthy and also ensure they are not sleep deprived before driving during the winter season.

Discussion ensued and Councillor Sheahan stated it was a mistake to close Askeaton Garda Station and this was reflected on incidents that occurred during Halloween night in the town. Councillor O'Brien added Gardaí on foot are a huge comfort to citizens and have a crime deterrent effect in local communities. The A/Superintendent stated An Garda Síochána are aware of the incidents in Askeaton referred to and advised youths took advantage of the lack of Gardaí on the night due to members of the force having to attend the scene of the previously mentioned fatal road traffic collision.

Councillor Collins stated it would be beneficial to meet Community Guard, Garda Claire O'Mahony at a future Meeting to discuss local liaison with youth groups such as Foroige. The A/Superintendent advised the Gardaí do work with other agencies and can request Garda O'Mahony to attend a future Meeting.

Councillor Collins also added in the interest of road safety the Gardaí need to look at traffic travelling from Limerick to Adare on the N21 as some motorists are overtaking on the inside to turn left before the Lantern Lodge Roundabout or pulling back into traffic, which could lead to a collision. The A/Superintendent agreed to forward this request to the District Traffic Core Unit.

Councillor O'Donoghue stated there is a huge issue in some areas with members of the public entering private lands at night with dogs. The A/Superintendent encouraged land owners to contact 999 or their local Garda station when these incidents occur.

Councillor Teskey referred to the illegal drug pandemic in society at the present time and encouraged a targeted approach on drug crime detection. Councillor Keary concurred with Councillor Teskey's sentiments adding people with low incomes are driving expensive cars and the Criminal Assets Bureau need to take action. Detective Sergeant Reidy agreed drug use is a scourge on society and education is key to reducing this. He added the Gardaí are active in giving presentations in schools and also GAA Clubs. He further added the Gardaí had investigated families in the District who were on low income and driving expensive cars and their investigation found personal injury claims to the value of €200,000 were used to fund these vehicles.

Councillor Collins requested an update on the use of CCTV camera footage in assisting An Garda Síochána and also queried the legislation around the use of electric scooters. Sergeant Cummins advised CCTV is monitored centrally for the region in Moyross and is governed by GDPR legislation. An Garda Síochána can request and use footage of an incident to assist in an investigation. He further added dash cam footage is also a valuable tool in assisting with a Garda investigation. In relation to electric scooters Sergeant Cummins advised this is an ongoing issue and he hoped to have clarification on legislation in the near future.

The A/Superintendent concluded by informing Members they can contact the Gardaí, if they wish to do so, by emailing LK.LimerickCounty.CE@garda.ie Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. or by contacting 999 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

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

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____