

# COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

## AN COMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA - JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Miontuairiscí an Chruinnithe a tionóladh Dé Luain, 26 Meán Fómhair 2022  
i Halla na Cathrach ag 2.30 p.m.  
*Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022  
in the City Hall at 2.30 p.m.*

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**Chair:** Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick

**Present:** Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Martin Brett, Pat Dunphy, Andrew McGuinness, Fidelis Doherty, Joe Lyons, Joe Malone

Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne  
Superintendent Derek Hughes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Anthony Farrell, Thomastown Garda Station  
Detective Sergeant Brian Sheeran  
Sergeant Peter McConnan,  
Marion Acreman, Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce  
Anthony Morrisson, Vintners Association  
Helena Power, PPN

Sean McKeown, A/Chief Executive, Tim Butler, Director of Services,  
Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Michael Doyle, Michael McCarthy & Patrick O'Neill.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Chairperson, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

### **Item No. 1: Minutes of Kilkenny JPC Meeting**

Minutes of Kilkenny Joint Policing Committee meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 were:

**Proposed By:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

**Seconded By:** Cllr. Martin Brett

**And Agreed:**

*"That the Minutes as presented to the meeting are hereby approved as accurate."*

### **Item No. 2: Appoint Chairperson**

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick spoke of the honour and privilege of Chairing the Committee over the last number of years. He thanked all involved in the Committee including the Gardai, the Elected Members, the Executive, associated members and the public. He also thanked the media for their reporting of the Committee's work. He acknowledged the contribution of Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes and Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne. He thanked all involved in rolling out many initiatives over his term as Chairperson, including Operation City Safe, Home Safe, Shop Safe etc. In particular he thanked Superintendent Derek Hughes and the HSE for their involvement in Project Connect. He expressed his delight in seeing the drug's initiative with the GAA get under way and confirmed he would continue to play an active part in this initiative and the Committee as a whole.

Chief Superintendent Dunne, Superintendent Hughes and Superintendent Farrell paid tribute to Cllr. Fitzgerald in his role as Chair and in particular his contribution to Community Policing, Project Connect and the Drugs initiative. They thanked him for his commitment and his dedication to serving the people of Kilkenny. They each presented Cllr. Fitzgerald with a token of their appreciation.

The Acting Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council, Mr. Sean McKeown acknowledged Cllr Fitzpatrick's contribution as Chair of the Committee and recognised how his work strengthened relationships with the Gardai and other agencies. Tributes were also paid to Cllr. Fitzpatrick by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. John Brennan and Cllr. Tomás Breathnach.

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Dunphy  
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness  
And Agreed by all:

“That Cllr. Martin Brett be the new Chairperson of the Committee.”

Cllr. Martin Brett took the Chair and thanked his proposer, seconder and all present. He said he was delighted to be Chair and paid tribute to his predecessors. He then spoke of his ambitions for the Committee.

### **Item No. 3: Crime Statistics update from An Garda Síochana**

Cllr. Martin Brett invited Detective Sergeant Brian Sheeran to present an overview on Crime Statistics for the Kilkenny/Thomastown Districts.

In his PowerPoint Presentation he gave an overview on the following since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022:

- 3,705 crime incidents recorded
- 5,757 calls for service responded to
- 864 arrests, 504 searches and 115 vehicles seized
- 6,158 Patrols, 1,414 checkpoints and 470 MIT checkpoint
- 67 Driving/in charge of vehicle under the influence
- 148 Possession and sale/supply of drugs
- 342 Public Order Offences
- 86 Burglary not aggravated
- 185 Theft from shops
- 65 Theft from MPV
- 118 Theft other
- 10 robberies
- 178 Assaults
- 2240 Domestic Related Incidents
- 220 Fraud/Economic Crime Incidents
- 12 Traffic Collisions – 8 serious, 4 fatal

Detective Sergeant Brian Sheeran outlined areas where crime has increased or decreased when compared to 2021 and the years prior to Covid.

Cllr. Martin Brett thanked Detective Sergeant Sheeran for the update on the crime statistics.

### **Item No. 4: Community Text Alert**

Sergeant Peter McConnan provided details on crime prevention. He spoke of the small increase in the number of burglaries since last year as a result of the lifting of restrictions but how year on year incidents were decreasing. However the winter months usually sees a spike in burglaries.

To combat this the gardai have been engaging with community groups to encourage the securing of property and premises. The most dangerous time for burglaries in winter is between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. The top 5 tips being shared with all community groups are:

1. To secure doors and windows at all times.
2. Light up the home, use timer switches especially when going out at night.
3. Store Keys safely, away from windows and letter boxes.
4. Record details of valuables and don't keep cash at home.
5. Use the house alarm even when at home or going out for a short period.

The motto is lock up and light up.

He gave details of the "Property App" that was launched at the National Ploughing Championships and encouraged all to download the app. The app allows users to take photos of property with markings, record receipts and store registration codes. The app has the facility to report any thefts to Gardai.

#### **Item No. 5: Drugs Initiative from An Garda Síochana**

Sergeant Peter McConnan gave particulars on the drug initiative launched in GAA HQ's the previous week. Every club in the County was represented on the night. The aim is to organise clubs into groups to get the message out to every club member in the County that "Drugs Ruin Lives". Zero tolerance on drugs will be communicated to all and the use of drugs is not acceptable in the community.

He thanks Cllr. Fitzpatrick for his time as Chair in supporting this initiative and community policing.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Joe Malone, Joe Lyons, Andrew McGuinness, Pat Dunphy, John Coonan, Tomás Breathnach and Martin Brett, in respect of the following:

- Pushing the drugs initiative out to all clubs not just GAA.
- Possibility of putting the drugs message on every billboard, every lamppost and in every pub in the county.
- The need for the sustainability of the drug initiative.
- The resources available to ensure zero tolerance of drugs.
- Mechanism to bring learnings on drugs together.
- Methods to encourage the public to give information on drugs to Gardai.
- Gardai support and encouragement to the public about dangers of keeping money at home.
- Initiative on making fast food deliveries more secure for recipients.

#### **Item No. 6: Animal Welfare**

Acting Chief Executive Sean McKeown introduced Ms. Anne Marie Shortall to the Committee explaining that Ms. Shortall, Senior Executive Officer in Environment responsible for the Council's role in Animal Welfare which includes the control of dogs and horses and the Veterinary Services.

Ms. Shortall presented the Committee with an overview of the Council's role in Animal Welfare. She explained the different functions of the Council, Department of Agriculture and the ISPCA and provided details on:

- The Animal Welfare Committee originally established in 2015 and renamed in 2020. The Committee is made up of Elected Members, and representatives from IFA, Dog Charities, KTCM, KSPCA, Gardai and My Lovely Horse Rescue.

- Control of Dogs and the areas covered by the Council including licences, identification collars, micro chipping, seizing and impounding of dogs, restricted breeds, the Dog Shelter in Paulstown and the Dog Warden Service.
- Control of horses and the responsibilities of the Council, including horse micro-chipping, horse passports, the control of horses' bye-laws, horse exclusion zones in the city, horse standard booklet and the success of the horse project.

The Committee thanked Ms. Shortall for her presentation. Cllr. Andrew McGuinness provided some further details on the success of the Animal Welfare Committee in improving horse welfare in Kilkenny.

**Item No. 7: Any Other Business**

Under any other business the following was raised:

- Superintendent Anthony Farrell gave details on firearms security and Garda visibility in Thomastown.
- The need for more Gardai in Mooncoin.
- Increased Gardai visibility in the community.
- Possibility of a 24 hour manned Gardai Station in Callan.
- Congratulations offered to Superintendent Hughes, Farrell and O'Meara on their promotions.

Cllr. Martin Brett concluded the meeting and thanked all for attending.

**Date of the Next Meeting**

The next Joint Policing Committee meeting will be held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

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

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_