

Minutes of meeting of Waterford City & County Joint Policing Committee held on Monday, 11th September 2017 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Waterford

Present:	Cllr. John Carey	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. Breda Brennan	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. Mary Roche	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. Pat Nugent	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. John O' Leary	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. Jason Murphy	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. Cha O' Neill	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. Sean Power	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr. John Pratt	Waterford City & County Council
	Cllr Declan Doocey	Waterford City & County Council
	Mr. Ivan Grimes	Director of Services, WCCC
	Mr. John Devlin	Public Participation Network
	Ms. Breda Halligan	Public Participation Network
	Mr. Críostóir O Faoláin	Public Participation Network
	Mr. Jay Collins	Public Participation Network
	Ms. Rosemary Kennedy	Public Participation Network
	Mr. Donal Murphy	Public Participation Network

In Attendance:	Mr. Michael Leacy	Superintendent, AGS
	Mr. John Mulligan	Superintendent, AGS
	Mr. Gavin Hegarty	Divisional Sergeant, AGS
	Mr. Don Tuohy, SEO	Waterford City & County Council
	Ms. Carmel Banville	Inspector, AGS

Apologies:	Mr. Michael Walsh	Chief Executive Officer, WCCC
	Mr. Pdraig Dunne	Chief Superintendent, AGS
	Cllr. Siobhán Whelan	Waterford City & County Council
	Mr. Chris Delaney	Superintendent, AGS

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. John Carey.

1. Apologies

Apologies as set out above were noted.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 6th March, 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2017 were agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. John O' Leary

Seconded By: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

Matters arising:

B. Halligan raised the issue of minutes of the public meeting held in June. D. Tuohy stated that minutes of previous meetings had taken the form of notes as they have focussed on single issue agenda. Minutes can be taken at future meetings and notes of the public meeting held in June can be made available.

3. Amendment to Standing Orders

D. Tuohy stated that a draft amendment to Standing Orders had been circulated and was recommended for adoption:

“The time of the meeting of the Joint Policing Committee shall be Monday at 5.00pm with one meeting p.a. (apart from public meeting) commencing at 7.00pm. At 6.45pm (8.45pm in the case of 7.00pm meeting) the meeting shall go into committee to discuss future meetings and agendas”.

Proposed By: Cllr. Declan Doocey

Seconded By: Mr. Donal Murphy

4. Community Safety Networks Update

C. O Faoláin referenced the ability to contact groups so they can register with the PPN. Supt. Leacy suggested a joint PPN/AGS approach, subject to Data Protection issues.

5. Garda Report

- Sgt. Gavin Hegarty gave a briefing on the Garda Report to the Committee, which had been circulated to members before the meeting. Figures are for the year to 11th September 2017. The report outlined the Property Crime Summary, Burglary Overview, Theft Overview, Robbery Summary, Assault Causing Harm, Assault Minor, Drugs Overview, Public Order Overview, Weapons and Offensive Weapons, Arrests and Searches and Traffic Collisions. Sgt Hegarty stated that the overall crime trend in Waterford had dropped significantly over a six year period and he acknowledged the public’s input into this.

Sgt. Hegarty reiterated that if members required a response to a question in writing, they should email it in after the meeting.

Written Questions:

1. ***Críostóir O Faoláin:*** Has there been any recorded increase in criminal activity as a result of the Waterford Greenway being opened and do the Gardai feel that any special provisions are needed to police the Greenway?

Supt. Leacy responded stating that AGS were delighted with the success of the Greenway and they were happy that there had been no increase in criminal activity as a result of the Greenway. They now had Gardai patrolling the Greenway on mountain bikes and this would be a deterrent to any criminal activity.

2. ***Cllr Pratt:*** Any update on the replacement of the Sergeant in Tallow?

Supt. Leacy stated that he understood that a competition was underway to fill the position and it would be finalised by year end. He stated that Tallow had been prioritised.

Q & A:

- Supt. Leacy referred to “Operation Storm” which was an AGS initiative undertaken in June which resulted in 40 arrests for a wide range of offences. More of these operations would be carried out in the future. **Cllr Fitzgerald** welcomed the report.
- **Cllr Mulligan** complemented the AGS for the work they have done in combating the sale and supply of drugs. Supt Leacy stated that it was the intention of AGS to put more resources into drug policing
- **Cllr O’Neill** raised the issue of seizing vehicles which had no NCT certificates. Supt. Leacy replied that AGS normally only seize cars as a result of defects and no tax/insurance. The position regarding NCT certificates was less clear and he would check it out.
- In response to **Cllr Murphy’s** query regarding offences while on bail, Supt. Leacy stated that it was the policy of AGS to proactively get repeat offenders before the courts.
- **Cllr Power** queried the issue of the importance of Community Text Alert to reducing crime figures. Supt Leacy stated that AGS placed great importance on the text alert system and stated that AGS relied on the text alert groups to provide very valuable information to the public at large.
- **Cllr Roche** queried whether AGS had information relating to CAB investigations in Waterford. Supt Leacy stated that this was not an issue for this forum. **Cllr Roche** also asked for reassurance that, in the context of national issues relating to AGS statistics that the statistics that come before the JPC are accurate. Supt Leacy responded that he could categorically stand over the figures in the reports that come before the JPC.
- In relation to “Driving under the Influence”, **Cllr Mulligan** requested a breakdown between drink and drug offences. Supt. Leacy undertook to check this matter out.
- **John Devlin** referenced the new National Drugs and Alcohol Strategy and the terminology therein. Supt. Leacy stated he would take this into consideration.

6. Council Report

The Anti-Social Behaviour Report was circulated outlining the number of anti-social behaviour complaints for 2017 (as of 11th September), details on abandoned houses, illegal occupiers and deferrals / refusals.

Críostóir O Faoláin requested that the ASB Report and AGS Report be circulated in advance of JPC meetings to enable members to have adequate time to consider them.

Cllr Mulligan stated that there had been a loss to services in Waterford since the Community Support / Sustainable Neighbourhood unit had been disbanded, particularly in the case of private estates which now no longer had a liaison with the Council. **Breda Halligan** stated that in her opinion reporting ASB issues to the Customer Care desk was not adequate.

In reply to these comments, Mr. Ivan Grimes stated that the Council had an Estates Management unit in place with officers who were on the ground dealing with residents associations in Council estates and low level anti-social behaviour. This unit was to be increased in size shortly. He would arrange for details of staff in the Unit to be issued to JPC members. There was a separate ASB Investigation Agent dealing with more serious anti-social behaviour issues. He stated that he wished to emphasise the need for tenants to report ASB so that the reports can be recorded and acted upon. He emphasised the confidentiality of the service. Mr Grimes stated that the Council had no enforcement powers in private estates.

Cllr Roche suggested that the Housing & Community SPC be requested to consider the issue.

7. Any Other Business

No other business.

8. In Committee: - Strategic Plan (2018 - 2023) Discussion Paper

J. Kielthy joined the meeting and gave a summary of findings to date and outlined the importance of the review process. She stated that the draft Plan would be considered at the November 6th workshop. D. Tuohy stated that the Strategic Plan was an important document which would influence the work of the JPC for the next six years and he encouraged all members to attend the workshop.

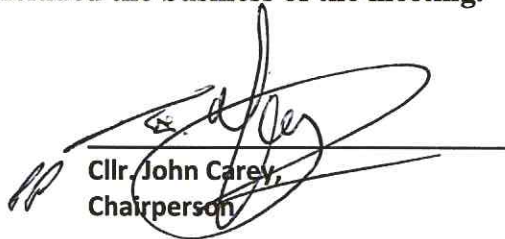
D. Murphy suggested that reference could be made in the Plan to expanding the senior alert scheme to vulnerable people.

C. O Faoláin stated that the PPN were happy with the process.

Cllr Fitzgerald referenced the issue of CCTV monitoring private property. **B. Halligan** suggested that CCTV guidelines be included in tenants' handbooks.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:


Cllr. John Carey,
Chairperson