

**County Laois Joint Policing Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise**

**Present:** Cllr Pdraig Fleming (Chair), Chief Supt. John Scanlan, Inspector Maria Conway, Cllr Paschal McEvoy, Cllr John King, Cllr Tom Mulhall, Cllr William Aird, Cllr James Kelly, Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley, Cllr Noel Tuohy, Cllr John Moran, Cllr Seamus McDonald, Mr Brian Stanley TD, Mr Sean Fleming TD, Mr Conor O'Leary, Mr Thomas Jones, Mr Thomas Timmons

**In attendance:** Mr Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Ms Georgina Ireland, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms Pamela Tynan, A/Senior Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Mr John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Cllr David Goodwin, Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald, Cllr Paddy Bracken, Ms Antoinette Kinsella HSE, Mr Noel Dooley, Mr Pat Fitzpatrick.

Cllr Pdraig Fleming welcomed all members and members of the press. A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect to the late Cllr Jerry Lodge following his recent death.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

Upon the proposal of Cllr Tom Mulhall and seconded by Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley, the minutes of the Laois County Joint Policing Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 were confirmed.

**Matters Arising**

The issue regarding Data Protection and CCTV was raised. Donal Brennan advised those present that the issue around the role of data controller is currently with the Data Protection Commissioner for decision.

**An Garda Síochána Report**

Chief. Supt. John Scanlan together with Inspector Maria Conway presented a report on behalf of An Garda Síochána the respect of the first quarter of 2018 (copy attached). He particularly highlighted the following, compared to the same period in 2017:

- Burglary overall has reduced by 6.4%
- Crime against the person has risen by 38%
- Drugs and weapons are up by 63%
- Drink Driving has decreased but needs to decrease further.
- A Divisional Taskforce Drugs Unit has been established.
- It is envisaged that a significant number of additional Gardaí will be assigned to Laois/Offaly Division.

Chief Supt. John Scanlan informed the meeting that 70 new Gardaí have started in Portlaoise in the last 2 years. He stated that the new Gardaí will gain their experience in the larger towns first before they go out to the smaller urban areas.

The Members thanked the Chief Superintendent for his report and welcomed the news in respect of the new Gardaí and raised the following:

- Serious anti-social behaviour issues at the Mountmellick Road, O'Moore Place, Ballyfin Road, Bruach and Cois na hAbhainn, Hepburn Court.
- Welcomed the reduction in burglaries, the longer opening hours in Portarlinton Garda Station and increased Gardaí in the county.
- Speed Problems on the R419 and R420. The motorway is also providing easy access for criminals.
- Increased promotion of "Dial to Stop Drug Dealing" required in Laois.
- A request was made for Community Policing arrangements to be increased.

Chief Superintendent John Scanlon acknowledged the cooperation between An Garda Síochana and Laois County Council during the recent severe weather events.

#### **Laois County Council Report**

This report was taken as read by the members of the JPC, with no comment.

#### **Approval of Community CCTV Schemes**

A letter was received from Clonaslee Community Alert seeking approval by the Joint Policing Committee in respect of installation of CCTV in their area. Upon the proposal of Cllr Seamus McDonald, seconded by Cllr Willie Aird approval was given, subject to all other necessary approvals being in place.

#### **JPC Strategy Annual Report 2017**

The report was circulated to the members present. The Annual Report 2017 was proposed by Councillor John King and seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy.

#### **Draft JPC Implementation Plan 2018**

The plan was circulated to the members present. Conor O'Leary requested that Objective 3, action 1 be amended to include 'Reduce Fear' and include Muintir na Tire as a key partner. The plan, including the amendments was proposed by Conor O'Leary and seconded by Councillor John King.

#### **Any Other Business**

- Deputy Sean Fleming requested that landowners protect their property from illegal dumping. Director of Services Donal Brennan advised that Laois County Council's Litter Management Plan is currently being reviewed.
- Ms. Georgina Ireland advised that CAB have requested to make a presentation at the next JPC meeting. Upon the proposal of Councillor Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Councillor John King, this was agreed by the members.

A meetings schedule for the remainder of the year was circulated as follows:

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am in County Hall
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am in County Hall
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm in County Hall (JPC Public Meeting)

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

CLlr Padraig Fleming  
Chairperson

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