

# COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

## AN COMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA - JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Miontuairiscí an Chruinnithe a tionóladh Dé Luain, 13 Meitheamh 2022  
i Seomra na Comhairle ag 2.15 p.m.  
*Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2022  
in the Council Chamber at 2.15 p.m.*

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**Chair:** Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick

**Present:** Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Martin Brett, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Doyle,  
Pat Dunphy, Joe Lyons, Andrew McGuinness & Patrick O'Neill.

Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne [*via MS Teams*]  
Superintendent Derek Hughes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Detective Inspector James O'Brien  
Sergeant Peter McConnan,  
Inspector Claire Kenneally, Thomastown  
Marion Acreman, Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce  
Anthony Morrisson, Vintners Association

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty & Michael McCarthy.

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 14<sup>th</sup> March, 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."*

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick remembered those who lost lives in road accidents over the last few months.

### **Item No. 2: Project Connect - Presentation from Health Services Executive**

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick welcomed Ms. Tara Hunt, Manager of Older Persons Services, HSE to the meeting. He invited Ms. Hunt and Superintendent Derek Hughes to make a PowerPoint Presentation on "Project Connect".

Ms. Tara Hunt outlined the concept of the project which was to connect to people over 65 years in North Kilkenny.

It was a multi-agency approach and the purpose of the project was to connect with people and identify their needs in the community during Covid. She acknowledged the support of the JPC, Gardaí, HSE and Alone.

Superintendent Hughes gave an overview on the following:

- Statistics on the participants in the areas of Ballyragget, Castlecomer, Clogh and Kilkenny City.
- Protocols followed in identifying the needs of the participants.
- Details of contacts made and follow up contacts with the participants or a family member or neighbour.
- *Issues raised:* loneliness, personal safety, information, isolation, fear of crime, “Message in a Bottle” etc.
- *Purpose:* build community relations, increase Garda awareness of vulnerable people in the area, support in distressing times.

Superintendent Hughes advised that the project was well received and appreciated. It is hoped to extend this initiative in other areas in the County.

He thanked Sergeant Fiona Ruth, Frances Dunphy and Mary Colclough and Alone for their engagement with Project Connect. He also thanked the Chair of JPC Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick in bringing forward this initiative.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked both for their presentation and also thanked the media for publicising the project. He looked forward to extending the project across other communities in County Kilkenny.

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

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick invited Detective Inspector James O’Brien 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:

- 2,667 crime incidents recorded.
- 3,324 calls for service responded to
- 346 arrests, 329 searches and 93 vehicles seized.
- 3,958 Patrols, 935 checkpoints and 337 MIT checkpoint.
- 54 Driving/in charge of vehicle under the influence
- 107 Possession and sale/supply of drugs
- 206 Public Order Offences
- 62 Burglary not aggravated
- 107 Theft from shops
- 35 Theft from MPV
- 77 Theft other
- 5 robberies
- 121 Assaults
- 201 Domestic Related Incidents
- 106 Fraud/Economic Crime Incidents
- 10 Traffic Collisions – 8 serious, 2 fatal.

Detective Inspector James O’Brien outlined areas where crime has increased or decreased when compared to 2021.

Superintendent Hughes gave an overview on a Community Engagement Initiative “*Ains Nyuk*” for Traveller Leaders. He acknowledged the support of Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership, Cartoon Saloon, Lighthouse Studios, Newpark Football Club, Kilkenny Traveller Interagency Group and Traveller Mediation Service.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick thanked both for the detailed overview of Crime since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.

Queries were raised by Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Martin Brett, Andrew McGuinness, Michael Doyle and Ms. Marion Acreman in relation to the following:

- Increase in thefts and burglary – what factors are at play for this.
- Online fraud – increasing on a daily basis.
- Theft from shops not been reported.
- Shop Safety Awareness Initiative to be rolled out.
- Concerns – Market Yard – Alleged Anti-Social Behaviour.

Superintendent Derek Hughes, Detective Inspector James O'Brien and Mr. Tim Butler responded to the issues raised by the Members.

#### **Item No. 4: Drugs Initiative from An Garda Síochána**

Sergeant Peter McConnan gave an overview on the current Drugs Initiative being delivered in Carlow following request from Carlow GAA County Board. He advised Members that an Awareness Education Programme is being delivered to all GAA Clubs across Carlow. Meetings are being held with management of the club and coaches. He advised that a similar initiative be undertaken in Kilkenny. He thanked Cllr. Fitzpatrick for meeting with the Chairperson of the County Board in Kilkenny to commence this initiative. There is a flyer available for public circulation – “Drugs Ruins Life” and this should be made available widely across the counties.

Chief Superintendent Pádraig Dunne thanked the Carlow JPC for their full support with this initiative. He thanked the Local Authority, the Gardaí and the GAA for delivering this Education Programme with the purpose of diverting people from drugs. He would welcome that this initiative would also be undertaken in Kilkenny.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Martin Brett, Deirdre Cullen, Andrew McGuinness, Pat Dunphy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Joe Lyons, Patrick O'Neill, Ms. Marion Acreman, Mr. Anthony Morrison in respect of the following:

- Reaching young people who are not engaged in sport.
- Awareness for parents.
- Support of Gardaí at school level was acknowledged.
- Need to educate students from First Year.
- Include Kilkenny Camogie with the wider GAA.
- Revisit setting up JPC sub-committee.
- Gardaí powers to carry out drug tests at checkpoints.
- Identify peers – engage in social media platforms.
- Use of drugs in toilets in pubs/night clubs.
- Social outlets other than pubs for young people.
- Businesses acknowledge the engagement of Gardaí with them.

Chief Superintendent Pádraig Dunne, Superintendent Derek Hughes and Sergeant Peter McConnan responded to the queries raised by the Members.

#### **Item No. 5: Any Other Business**

Superintendent Derek Hughes advised that a new Sergeant has been assigned to Castlecomer Garda Station.

Number of queries were received from Cllrs. Pat Dunphy, Deirdre Cullen and Tomás Breathnach in relation to Garda resources. Chief Superintendent Pádraig Dunne advised that he will speak directly to the Members on staffing resources.

Cllr. Deirdre Cullen asked for an update on Traffic Management for the Irish Open in Thomastown. Mr. Tim Butler advised that parking areas have been designated, bus transfers are in place, park and ride facility from Kilkenny City and all area was will be marshalled.

Inspector Claire Kenneally advised that Gardaí have assigned resources for this event. Planning for this event has been underway with the organisers over the last few months.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

**Date of the Next Meeting**

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

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

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