

**Minutes of Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 in Council Chamber Áras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon at 2:00 pm**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Enda McGloin, (Chairperson)  
Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive,  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services,  
Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken,  
Superintendent Kevin English,  
Inspector Carla Curry,  
Deputy Martin Kenny,  
Councillor Thomas Mulligan,  
Councillor Sean McGowan  
Councillor Enda Stenson  
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire,  
Councillor Paddy Farrell,  
Councillor Felim Gurn,  
Councillor Pádraig Fallon,  
Councillor Brendan Barry  
Councillor Justin Warnock,  
Councillor Sean McDermott,  
Councillor Gerry Dolan  
Mr. Bernie McGuaran  
Ms. Kathleen Flanagan,  
Ms. Osazuwa Peter-Olabiyi  
Ms. Breege Grimes  
Ms. Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:**

Deputy Marc McSharry,  
Ms. Janice Raine-Conick  
Kenny Murtagh,

**1. Election of Chairperson (Elected Representative of Leitrim County Council)**

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and agreed;**  
"That Councillor Enda McGloin be elected Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee"

As there were no other nominations for the position of Chairperson, Councillor Enda McGloin was duly elected Chairperson.

On taking the role of Chairperson Councillor Enda McGloin thanked those that had proposed him for the position and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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## **2. Election of Vice - Chairperson (Elected Representative of Leitrim County Council)**

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor Thomas Mulligan;**

**“That Councillor Sean McGowan be elected Vice Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee”**

As there were no other nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson, Councillor Sean McGowan was duly elected Vice Chairperson.

## **3. To approve the Minutes of the JPC Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.**

**Proposed by Mr. Lar Power, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

**“That the Minutes of the Joint Policing Committee Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 be adopted”.**

## **4. Overview of the role and operation of the Joint Policing Committee.**

Ms. Mary Quinn gave a presentation to the members outlining the role and operation of the JPC. The presentation summarised the JPC Guidelines that were circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Quinn’s presentation addressed the following topics; Membership, JPC Guidelines, Purpose, Functions, Meetings, and Operation of the JPC.

The presentation appears as **Appendix 1** of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The presentation was noted by the members

## **5. To approve the Draft Standing Orders**

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan and Seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

**“That the Draft Standing Orders of the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee be adopted’.**

The Draft Standing Orders as adopted appear as **Appendix 2** of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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## **6. Correspondence.**

Members noted the following items:

- Reply from Minister Shane Ross, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding licensing of Local Area Hackneys.
- Reply from National Transport Authority regarding licensing of Local Area Hackneys.

Councillor Padraig Fallon stated that he was disappointed with the reply from the National Transport Authority as potential hackney operators cannot gain access to the scheme with the restrictions that are currently in place regarding distance. Councillor Felim Gurn also outlined his dissatisfaction with the scheme.

Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that we write again to the National Transport Authority, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and, as he is a member of this JPC, Deputy Marc McSharry on this matter.

The following was proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon and seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson

**"That Leitrim Joint Policing Committee call on the National Transport Authority, and The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to revise the Local Area Hackney Scheme by increasing the area within which a driver may pick up passengers from the existing 5-7 kilometres, to an increased area of 16 - 20 kilometres from his/her home address, for towns and villages where the population does not exceed 1,500."**

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that he was aware of a Rural Public Lift application that had been developed by Clare County Council and asked if further information could be obtained on this.

## **7. Report from An Garda Síochána**

Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken congratulated Councillor Enda McGloin on his election to the position of Chairperson of the JPC. He noted and welcomed the large attendance at the meeting and also welcomed the new members to the committee. He outlined that the primary function of An Garda Síochána is to keep people safe and that he welcomes any and all input that the community can give to the Gardaí and he looks forward to continuing the good work that has been carried out in the previous years.

Chief Superintendent Glacken noted that the Garda Commissioner had been invited to attend this meeting but unfortunately he was unable to attend however he has indicated that he will attend a meeting of this JPC in the near future.

Superintendent Kevin English delivered a presentation to the members on the Leitrim District Policing Plan 2020.

The presentation appears as **Appendix 1** of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

He outlined that an additional 9 gardaí has been allocated to Carrick-on-Shannon in the last two years. He also welcomed the members input into the Policing Plan and stated that Local Projects and Initiatives can be included as the arise in the Policing Plan.

Councillor Padraig Fallon queried if there were any developments in providing an enhanced or updated community Text Alert Scheme.

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Councillor Sean McDermott stated that the feeling in the community is that the Text Alert Scheme is not working as well as it had done previously. Councillor Brendan Barry stated that standing charges and fees for Community Text Alert Schemes have increased of late. He queried if WhatsApp would be a better means of circulating community alert messages.

Superintendent Kevin English stated that the Text Alert Scheme is an important resource to the community. The existing Text Alert Schemes in the county need to be streamlined and meetings will be held with community groups in the coming months to re-energise the scheme. He stated that the Gardaí would not advocate the use of WhatsApp, due to GDPR concerns, as means of distributing community alert messages.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan stated that there is an issue with Garda Stations, such as Mohill, being unmanned for long periods during the day and queried if there could be an increased Garda presence in all stations. Councillor Sean McGowan supported Councillor Mulligan's query in relation to the manning of Garda Stations. He also queried if there were enough Garda resource being allocated to tackling drug crime.

Deputy Martin Kenny welcomed and congratulated the work the gardaí are doing in the area of domestic abuse. He queried if there were targets in the policing plan for detecting drivers that were driving under the influence of drugs. Councillor Felim Gurn queried if a task force is in operation in Leitrim with regard to drugs enforcement.

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment at the staffing levels in Garda stations, as Kinlough station has only been open one Saturday in the last 2 months. He expressed his dissatisfaction in the Policing Plan.

Chief Superintendent Aidan Glackan stated that he does not have the resources at his disposal to staff all stations. Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton stations are staffed 24 hours per day 7 days per week. Garda Management are working to increase opening hours in all other stations. He stated that the allocation of resources in the county rests with him and he will allocate those resources where there is the greatest need. The policing model is now based on having a more mobile policing presence that engage with the community rather than having gardaí confined to manning stations. He stated that the function of this committee was to deal with matters on a broad strategic level for the benefit of the county and not on particular matters relating to one particular area.

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Issues raised with the Gardaí must be based on fact and not on vox pops, rumour and innuendo. Views and opinions are welcome and the Gardaí will respond with the resources that are available to them.

Superintendent Kevin English outlined that there is a low level of crime in Kinlough. Gardaí from Ballyshannon help to deal with incidents in Kinlough as the need arises. He stated that drug detection forms a central part of the policing plan. Garda operations are ongoing in regard to drug enforcement and that local Garda personnel are assisted by the drug unit based in Sligo and local officers also have access to the National Drugs Unit.

He encouraged the reporting of domestic abuse cases to the Gardai. He outlined that the Gardai have received training in dealing with these cases and deal with these matters in a sensitive manner.

#### **8. To consider Questions submitted by the JPC Members.**

**Question 1:** Submitted by Janice Raine-Conick , Leitrim PPN on behalf of South Leitrim Regional Game Council)

Has a Garda Liaison officer been appointed in the Leitrim Garda District/Division to investigate "Wildlife Crime" as promised some time back? The introduction of this dedicated position was welcomed and we now enquire as to progress on filling of this position.

Chief Superintendent Aidan Glackan stated that an Inspector with responsibility for Wildlife Crimes has been appointed in the Sligo Leitrim Division.

**Question 2** – submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn

Are there any plans to put Garda back into Garda stations along the border such as Kiltyclogher or Glenfarne?

Chief Superintendent Aidan Glackan stated that there are currently no plans to put gardaí back into these stations. Contingency issues are in place depending on the outcome of the Brexit negotiations. The Gardai are not in a position to hand the station buildings back to the community as they are owned by the OPW and not An Garda Síochána.

**Question 3** – submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn

Have the Gardai any plans to have stations like the one in Dromhaire to open again so people feel safe knowing that a Garda presence is in their village? The landscape of Leitrim is too long to try and get Garda cars to cover from Tullaghan to Mohill and a Garda presence is needed in small towns and villages.

Councillor Felim Gurn stated that there was perception in the community that gardaí are not responding quickly to incidents such as burglaries. Councillor Sean McDermott said that a greater number of gardaí need to be allocated to Manorhamilton station given the size of the area that they police.

Chief Superintendent Aidan Glackan stated that thankfully Leitrim is a low crime area. He acknowledged that all Gardai are mobile and as a result, response times may not be what he would like them to be. He stated that he is mindful of a number of areas across the division where extra resource may need to be deployed and this is being considered by Garda management.

Councillor Brendan Barry acknowledged that the model has changed to a mobile policing unit. He queried if extra patrol vehicles were available in the county given the number of stations that had closed in recent years.

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Superintendent Kevin English stated that the gardaí in the county had a sufficient number of cars and vehicles. He continued to say that Garda Information Centres were recently launched in Dromahair and Keshcarrigan. To date these have not been well utilised by the public. The continued operation of these centres will be reviewed in Q1 2020.

**Question 4 – Submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock**

Can the Superintendent please tell me when can we expect to have the Sergeant and two Gardaí appointed to Kinlough Garda Station as these vacancies continue to have a negative impact on our community and those of surrounding areas, with stabbings, assaults, burglaries and anti social behaviour?

Chief Superintendent Aidan Glackan replied that Kinlough is currently served by a sergeant and two gardaí. When appropriate resources are available, those resources will be allocated by him based on the needs of the district.

**Question 5 – Submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock**

At Halloween, I phoned An Garda Síochána in Manorhamilton after being contacted by concerned locals, to see what cover was in the Kinlough area for that night, to be told that our 2 Gardaí were off and that there was only one car on in the Manorhamilton area that night. Is this acceptable knowing from the experiences of previous years?

Superintendent Kevin English stated that 3 incidents in Kinlough were reported to the Gardaí in Manorhamilton on the night in question. One incident related the use of 'Bangers' in an estate. The Gardaí patrolled the area but nothing was detected. The second incident concerned youths that were drinking in a local park, again the gardaí patrolled the area and dispersed the youths. The third incident concerned the use of fireworks. Manorhamilton Gardaí sought assistance from the Ballyshannon Gardaí, who responded to the incident, identified the culprit and seized the fireworks.

**9. Date and time of next meeting**

Ms Mary Quinn advised the members that the next meeting will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 11am in the Council Chamber, Carrick-on-Shannon.

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**A.O.B**

Councillor Gerry Dolan asked if the gardaí could work with the Area Engineer to resolve the issue on the Dowra Road, Drumshanbo, where the parking of vehicles is having a significant impact on traffic in the town.

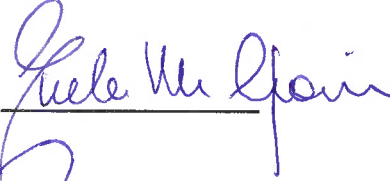
Councillor Paddy Farrell queried if those that carried out the recent damage to plants and planters in Carrick-on-Shannon could be identified and brought to justice.

Superintendent Kevin English stated that the culprits had been identified on CCTV and charges were being prepared.


Councillor Enda McGloin asked the gardaí to notify the public of the hours when their smaller stations will be open and operational so that the public can avail of their services during this time.

Councillor Enda McGloin closed the meeting by wishing all members, their families and their communities a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed: 

**Councillor Enda McGloin,  
Chairperson,**

  
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**Mary Quinn  
Director of Services,  
Housing, Corporate, Community  
& Emergency Services**

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It includes a detailed description of the experimental procedures and the statistical analysis performed.

3. The third part of the document presents the results of the study, including a comparison of the different methods and techniques used. It also discusses the implications of the findings and the potential applications of the research.

4. The fourth part of the document concludes the study and provides a summary of the key findings. It also includes a list of references and a list of figures and tables.

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