

Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee

Annual Report 2010



Adopted at Meeting of Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee held on 12th April, 2011.

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Background

The Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee was established in 2009 and held its inaugural meeting on 6th April, 2009.

JPC Members were appointed as per the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Guidelines; a senior Garda Official sits on the Committee and the Committee is chaired by an Elected Member, currently Cllr. Paul Cuddihy.

Meetings and Topics of Discussion

Inaugural Meeting – 6th April, 2009.

The Committee held its inaugural meeting on 6th April, 2009. Councillor Paul Cuddihy chaired the meeting which was an introductory meeting to explain the purpose and role of the Joint Policing Committee. The Director of Services provided an outline of the background, policy and legislation in relation to the Joint Policing Committee. The Chief Superintendent, on behalf of An Garda Síochána, welcomed the initiative and set out his views on how progress could be made to ensure that the work of the Joint Policing Committee could be effective.

All Elected Members and community representatives also welcomed the initiative and put forward what they hoped to achieve through the Joint Policing Committee.

All members of the Committee gave their approval to the RAPID CCTV proposal for the Hebron Road/Park area as outlined by the RAPID Co-Ordinator.

Meeting Held 13th October, 2009

15 no. Members attended this meeting and the following topics were discussed:

- Drugs Task Force.
- Safety in the Home.
- CCTV in operation.
- Gambling.

Meeting Held 9th March, 2010

15 no. Members attended this meeting and the following topics were discussed:

- Human Trafficking.
- Fix Date to View CCTV in Operation.
- Drug Abuse and Public Safety.
- Head Shops – the current legal position.
- Taxi Ranks and Parking Spaces.
- Neighbourhood Watch.
- Fix Dates for Meetings in 2010.

Meeting Held 18th June, 2010

13 no. Members attended this meeting and the following topics were discussed:

- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Kilkenny District Policing Plan 2010.

Meeting Held 13th September, 2010

13 no. Members attended this meeting and the following topics were discussed:

- Kilkenny Area District Policing Plan 2011.
- Community Policing.
- Derelict Houses.
- Drinking in public places.
- Neighbourhood Watch in Kilkenny.
- South East Regional Support Network.
- Pawn Shops.

Meeting Held 13th December, 2010.

12 no. Members attended this meeting and the following topics were discussed:

- Presentation from Sergeant Pat Conway, JPC Monitoring Office, Garda Headquarters.
- Adoption of Standing Orders.
- Kilkenny Borough Joint Policing Committee Action Plan 2010/2011.
- Presentation from South East Regional Support Network.
- Presentation from Regional Drugs Task Force.

Performance of Joint Policing Committee Function.

CCTV in Operation

Since the establishment of the Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee, 15 no. CCTV Cameras have been installed and are in operation in Kilkenny City. These cameras assist in the deployment and direction of Gardaí.

All members of the Committee viewed the CCTV cameras in operation on 29th March, 2010.

Major review of Gambling undertaken by Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

The Joint Policing Committee set up a sub-group to formulate a submission to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Committee agreed that Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert schemes are a significant contributor to the prevention of crime and that this item should be a high priority in the Joint Policing Committee's works programme.

It was also agreed to host an event to promote Neighbourhood Watch and to encourage greater community involvement.

The Joint Policing Committee were informed that a Community Policing Team is currently in place to role out more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and Garda Resources have been assigned to service these schemes and that any group wishing to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme should contact the Community Policing Team for support and advice.

The Committee agreed that information should be made more readily available to the community as to how to organise a neighbourhood watch scheme in their area.

A review of the current list of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes is being carried out and the Gardaí have agreed to carry out this review in conjunction with the Elected Members.

It was further agreed by the Committee that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would be promoted through the Garda Community Safety Week 2010.

Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places

The Committee, following numerous discussions on the availability of alcohol from off-licences and supermarkets and agreed that a letter be issued to the Minister for Trade, Enterprise and Employment, requesting a review of the Groceries Order regarding low cost selling which has contributed to the low cost of alcohol in Off-Licences and supermarkets and is the key issue driving the underage drinking problem.

The Kilkenny Borough Council Joint Policing Committee Standing Orders were adopted on 13th December, 2010.

Presentation from Sergeant Pat Conway, JPC Monitoring Office, Garda Headquarters.

Sergeant Pat Conway, Garda National Joint Policing Committees, Monitoring Office, was invited to give a presentation to the Joint Policing Committee on the following:

- 1) Function of Joint Policing Committee
- 2) Role of the Joint Policing Committee
- 3) Joint Policing Committees Best Practice.
- 4) Possible issues a Joint Policing Committee could focus on.
- 5) Access to Joint Policing Committee, i.e. website.
- 6) Reports to be prepared by the Joint Policing Committee.

Each Member was issued with a copy of the presentation.

Standing Orders

The Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee Standing Orders were adopted in December 2010 and a copy circulated to all Members.

Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee Action Plan 2010/2011.

The Joint Policing Committee agreed an Action Plan for 2010/2011 as put forward to them at their meeting of 13th December, 2010.

As part of this plan it was agreed to establish 3 no. sub-groups which will focus on the following areas of the Plan:

- 1) Crime, Drugs and Public Order.
- 2) Community Engagement.
- 3) Traffic.

Publicity.

The local media are notified in advance of the upcoming Joint Policing Committee Meetings together with a copy of the Agenda for that meeting.

The Committee agreed that the possibility of the setting up of a Joint Policing Committee website to improve accessibility by the public to the Joint Policing Committee should be investigated.

The Joint Policing Committee scheduled for 17th January, 2012, will be a public meeting.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Minutes of Meetings of Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee

2009/2010

Appendix 2

Standing Orders of Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee

adopted 13th december, 2011.

Appendix 3

Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee Action Plan 2010/2011