

## MONAGHAN TOWN JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 6.00p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seán Conlon

Present: Cllrs. Thomas Hagan, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.  
Superintendent Michael Clancy, Monaghan Garda Station  
Noel Hennessy and Gavin Shipley, Monaghan Community Forum  
David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinead McCann, Staff Officer.

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllrs. Robbie Gallagher, Mary Carroll, David Maxwell and Seamus Treanor.

At the outset a vote of sympathy was extended to Joint Policing Committee Member, Noel Hennessy, on the death of his wife, Rosaleen. A minutes silence was held. Mr. Hennessy thanked everyone for their support and kindness at this time.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon welcomed Richard McKenna as an observer to the meeting.

### **1. Engaging with the Migrant Community**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon welcomed Francis McCarron, Social Inclusion Officer, Monaghan County Council and Gerard Callan, Integration Officer, Monaghan Integrated Development Limited to the meeting. Francis McCarron stated that the Social Inclusion Unit supports Monaghan County Council to ensure that everyone who needs to use the Council's services can do so. Francis McCarron stated that the unit:-

- Raises awareness of what Social Inclusion is and who needs to be included amongst Elected Members, Management and staff
- Supports Council Departments to identify and remove barriers that put some people at a disadvantage while accessing Council services
- Supports Council Departments to put the needs of people who are disadvantaged at the heart of their policies and plans.

Gerard Callan, Integration Officer with Monaghan Integrated Development Limited stated that their organisation supports the integration of foreign nationals into their adopted local communities throughout the county and involves building the capacity of both the host communities and the foreign nationals to network and engage with each other to share cultures and experiences. Gerard Callan stated that Peace 111 funding was received in 2010 for the integrating of new communities and the main objectives of the project are:-

- Raising awareness of the extent, nature and value of diversity within the County and the wider region.
- Facilitating enhanced levels of community contact and participation
- Raising levels of understanding, respect and tolerance.
- Building capacity of indigenous communities to engage positively with their new neighbours
- Building capacity of immigrant communities to become actively involved in the development of their adopted communities.

The Members noted that the project allows people from different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds the space to learn about each others cultures and beliefs in a safe and fun environment and that this is being achieved through initiatives such as English language conversation classes, international cookery demonstrations, international fashion shows, cultural awareness weekends, networking, etc.

Gerard Callan invited the Members of the Joint Policing Committee to an evening of music, food and dance as part of anti-racism week Ireland 2011 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 which will bring together everyone in the multicultural community of Monaghan.

Superintendent Michael Clancy stated that he is aware of good work being done by the different agencies in relation to the integration of the new communities.

Gerard Callan and Francis McCarron left the Council Chamber.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Paul McGeown seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

## **3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

Cllr. Paul McGeown stated that the Community Initiative “Football in the Community” targeting 13-16 year olds in the Monaghan town area has been very successful and that up to 100 children have participated in the games.

## **4. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Report dated the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010 addressed to the Town Engineer from Monaghan Town Councils Horticulturist/Gardener regarding the removal of vegetation on the Clones Road.
- Report on the Monaghan Local Authorities Joint Policing Committees meeting held in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

- Letter received on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011 from Richard McKenna, Casual Trader in Monaghan Town. The correspondence stated that mobile catering was moved out of the Diamond area two years ago to facilitate the Gardaí in policing patrons exiting the pubs and discos late at night and to create a focal point for drop-off and pick-up for buses and taxis, cutting down on residential issues. Mr. McKenna's correspondence stated that there are takeaways and restaurants operating outside of their planning permission and that the new casual trading area located at the rear of the Courthouse has served no purpose at all. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to consider at the next Town Council Meeting a relocation of the mobile catering unit to a more central location in the Diamond.

Superintendent Michael Clancy stated that the numbers attending the late night establishments in the town have dropped over the last number of months and the Gardaí cannot direct people to go to a certain part of town. Superintendent Clancy also stated that if the Casual Trading area was relocated to the Diamond that he would have major concerns regarding access for emergency services getting through and the congestion that the Casual Trading may cause in the area.

## **5. Report from Gardaí**

Superintendent Michael Clancy reported that there is an upward trend in theft in parked vehicles in Monaghan town and appealed to the public not to leave valuables or money in their vehicles. The Superintendent also reported that there is a downward trend in the theft of heating oil from homes and business premises and stated that an arrest had been made by the Gardaí which he felt had contributed significantly to the decline in oil thefts.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon enquired why Residents in the Latlorcan estate have seen a drop in community policing in their area and was informed by the Superintendent that the Garda in question had been transferred from Monaghan and that they are awaiting on a replacement.

It was agreed to write to Packie Kelly, Manager of the Family Resource Centre at Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin to enquire on the update of the implementation of the CCTV cameras at Mullaghmatt.

Gavin Shipley stated that he had come across a few groups of teenagers drinking in various locations in the town recently and believes that these events are taking place simultaneously, particularly when there is a disco on.

Superintendent Michael Clancy stated that the Gardaí do not tolerate underage drinking and encourage the public to report such incidents as soon as they became aware of them. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon requested that a letter be sent from the Committee to Ms. Fiona McEntee, Youth Development Officer with Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg enquiring if the Comhairle Members had any more upcoming initiatives to tackle the problem of underage drinking.

Cllr. Paul McGeown left the Council Chamber.

Richard McKenna, Observer left the Council Chamber.

**6. Report from Acting County Manager.**

David Fallon, A/County Manager reminded the Members that Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides for the establishment of a JPC in each Local Authority administrative area and that the purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where the Local Authority and the Senior Garda Officers responsible for the policing of that area with the participation of Oireachtas Members and Community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area. Mr. Fallon stated that through the work of the JPC, both partners – the Local Authorities and the Garda Síochána along with Oireachtas Members and Community interests have the opportunity to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life of the community.

**7. Workplan for 2011**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that a meeting of the Chairs, Co-ordinators and Garda members of the Monaghan Local Authorities Joint Policing Committees is taking place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00p.m. in the MTek Building, Monaghan regarding Workplans for 2011.

**8. Setting of date for next Joint Policing Committee Meeting.**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 6.00p.m.

**9. Topic/s to be placed on Agenda for next Joint Policing Committee Meeting.**

It was agreed to place the following 2 topics on the agenda for the next Joint Policing Committee Meeting:-

- Presentation by Caitriona Mullan, Project Manager, Co-operation and Working together (CAWT) on the time IVA Change-Border Region Alcohol Project.
- Green Schools Walking Bus Scheme.

**10. Any Other Business**

The Members of the Committee expressed concern regarding skateboarding in the Diamond area of the town.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

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Cathaoirleach