

# **MONAGHAN TOWN JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 6pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

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**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Seán Conlon

**Present:** Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, Donal Sherry and Seamus Treanor  
Inspector Pat McMorrow, Monaghan Garda Station  
Gavin Shipley and Packie Kelly, Monaghan Community Forum  
David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinead McCann, Staff Officer.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllrs. David Maxwell and Padraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

At the outset, Packie Kelly stated that he had been unable to attend the meetings of the Joint Policing Committee held on the 9/11/2010 and the 15/2/2011 and noted under Section 120 of the Standing Orders that “A Member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned and a replacement shall be sought from the appropriate nominating body”. It was noted that Monaghan Community Forum have been informed of Mr. Kelly’s absenteeism from the Meetings. Mr. Kelly stated that he is still interested in his position on the Joint Policing Committee and on the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed that Packie Kelly remain as a Member of Committee.

## **1. Presentation by Caitriona Mullan, Project Manager, Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) on Time 4A Change – Border Region Alcohol Project**

The Chairman of the Joint Policing Committee, Cllr. Seán Conlon welcomed Ms. Mullan to the meeting. Ms. Mullan explained that the project is a Cross Border EU Interreg IVA funded initiative aimed at establishing new ways of working to address alcohol culture and alcohol harm currently experienced in the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Region and that it is a first step by the Health Services towards wider civic ownership of key issues around alcohol. Ms. Mullan stated that the project is aimed at influencing change around service models, collaborative partnership working and around public engagement on a crucial population health issue.

It was noted that the project has 3 strands:-

1. Early Intervention Service (Alcohol)
2. Community Mobilisation Process/Transferable toolkit
3. Innovation in Early Intervention Family Support – Strategic Consortium and Strengthening Families model.

A question and answer session followed.

The Members thanked Ms. Mullan for her detailed powerpoint presentation and requested her to keep the committee informed of any projects which will be taking place locally.

Ms. Mullan left the Council Chamber.

On the proposal of Gavin Shipley seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed that the Joint Policing Committee Co-ordinator liaise with Ms. Mullan in six weeks time to enquire if any projects have been undertaken by her group in the local area.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

## **3. Confirmation of Notes taken at Meeting of Chairs, Co-ordinators and Garda Members of Monaghan Local Authorities' Joint Policing Committees.**

The Members of the Joint Policing Committee noted the notes taken at a meeting of Chairs, Co-ordinators and Garda Members of Monaghan Local Authorities Joint Policing Committees held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

## **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

It was noted that there are two full time Community Policing Gardaí in Monaghan Town at present.

## **5. Correspondence**

The Members of the Joint Policing Committee noted the following correspondence:-

- Email dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011 from Fiona McEntee, Youth Development Officer, Monaghan County Council setting out the work plan for the Comhairle na nÓg Members for 2011.

The Chairman, Cllr. Seán Conlon announced that on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011 representatives from an Garda Síochana will be present in Monaghan County Museum to discuss safety for older people in the community. It was agreed to ask the organizers to have this event publicized in the parish bulletin and on the local radio station.

The Chairman also informed the Members that a “Communities and Policing in Transition” project which is a Peace III funded Cross Border and Cross Community Training and Development Project are holding a workshop for the East Tyrone/Monaghan area on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 10.00am in Cookstown.

## **6. Report from Gardaí**

Garda Inspector Pat McMorrow informed the Members that the number of public order offences in Monaghan Town has dropped significantly due to a decrease in the number of people socializing in the centre of town at weekends.

Inspector Pat McMorrow reported that since the last JPC meeting a number of “creeper” burglaries had taken place in the local area, in which homes were broken into and car keys stolen resulting in the criminals making off with the cars from outside the dwellings. Inspector McMorrow called on the public to take precautions to ensure their homes were adequately locked and secured. The Members expressed disappointment with the ease in which doors in some dwellings could be tampered with. Gavin Shipley suggested that an awareness campaign be instigated alerting people to the availability of effective locks that could be fitted to patio doors. Mr. Shipley also pointed out that tracking devices were available that could be fitted to vehicles.

The Members complimented the Gardaí on the work which they are carrying out in the area.

In relation to late night discos in the town the Members called on all parents to pick their children up immediately following the late night event.

## **7. Report from A/County Manager**

David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that the CCTV scheme for Mullaghmat is at an advanced stage and that he has had meetings with Packie Kelly, Co-ordinator of the scheme. Packie Kelly stated that the CCTV is not operational yet but that an information meeting was held recently for the Residents of the area and that there is a demand for additional cameras. It was noted by all present that a very strict code of conduct on how the scheme is operated is in place and will be adhered to.

In relation to skateboarding in the Diamond area, David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that the Town Engineer is undertaking to examine measures introduced in an area of Dublin to combat the problem of skateboarders.

## **8. Annual Report for 2010**

The Members of the Joint Policing Committee noted the Monaghan Local Authorities Annual Report for 2010.

## **9. Green Schools Walking Bus Scheme**

The Members noted details of the Green Schools “The Walking Bus” Scheme which is an environmentally friendly way of travelling to school and noted that the idea is that children walk together as a group along a set route and that there is a “driver” at the front of the bus and a “conductor” at the rear. The Members noted a number of case studies attached to the correspondence.

The Members expressed the view that the walking bus idea could help alleviate the serious traffic congestion problems associated with the Park Road/Clones Road area of the town on weekday mornings and afternoons. Following a discussion it was agreed that correspondence be sent to the schools in the area stating that the committee is interested in supporting them with such an initiative. It was also agreed to pass the information on to the Monaghan Community Forum.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher left the Council Chamber.

## **10. Setting of Date for next Joint Policing Committee Meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next Meeting of the Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 6.00pm.

## **11. Topic/s to be placed on agenda for next Joint Policing Committee Meeting**

It was agreed to place the topic of “Cyber Bullying” on the agenda for the next Joint Policing Committee Meeting. The Chairman asked the Members to liaise with the co-ordinator if they wish to add any item to the agenda.

## **12. Any other business**

There was no other business discussed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**