

Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee held on Wednesday 8th September 2010 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seán Conlon

Present: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.
Garda Inspector Alan Cunningham, Monaghan Garda Station
Noel Hennessy, Gavin Shipley and Packie Kelly, Monaghan Community Forum
Declan Nelson, County Manager and Marie Deighan, Town Clerk.

David O Rourke, Market Street, Monaghan was welcomed to the meeting as an observer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 12th April 2010

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 12th April 2010.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Gavin Shipley was informed by the Cathaoirleach that the recent trade union dispute precluded staff from working after 6pm and that as the dispute has now been resolved the meetings will be held at 6pm to facilitate those who are working.

Cllr Paul Mc Geown referred to serious incidents of anti-social behaviour which he witnessed recently by underage drinkers in the centre of Monaghan town following a teenage disco. Garda Inspector Alan Cunningham stated that the Gardaí deploy extra resources at the time of teenage discos because of the large crowds. Inspector Cunningham stated that the Gardaí summons parents to come to the Garda Station to pick up their children who are under the influence of alcohol and that there are many instances where the Gardaí have seized alcohol from young people. Packie Kelly stated that he was of the opinion that JPC's are all about trying to pull in all the key stakeholders to develop responses to underage drinking and other issues. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to the support of the JPC to the "Don't pour your dreams away" campaign and the Members were unanimous in stating that the Members have to voice the concerns of the people who they represent.

It was noted that there are incidents in which taxi services are being engaged by people to purchase alcohol and to deliver it to particular locations. The Cathaoirleach suggested that the Gardaí make contact with the hackney and taxi firms in the area outlining the laws in this regard.

It was noted that areas where anti-social behaviour occurs include Canal Walk and the Mullaghduin area.

Packie Kelly referred to CAWT (co-operation and working together) which is a cross border health and social care partnership, comprising the Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland and the Southern and Western Health & Social Care Trusts, the Health and Social Care Board and the public Health Agency in Northern Ireland. CAWT has been successful in securing funding from the European Union INTERREG IVA programme to progress a two year cross border alcohol harm reduction project. It was agreed to write a letter to CAWT to enquire if a programme has been planned for the North East and if details could be provided as to how the programme is run.

3. **Correspondence**

The committee noted the following correspondence:

- Letter dated 14th June 2010 from Andrew Ogle, Co-ordinator – North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force.
- Letter dated 21st May 2010 from the Office of Community and Enterprise regarding the Community Service Scheme. It was agreed to issue a letter to Monaghan Tidy Towns to enquire as to what degree of engagement they have with the Community Service Scheme.
- Correspondence from Richard McKenna regarding late night disturbance/casual trading. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Town Council.

4. **Annual Report 2009**

The Members noted the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committees Annual Report for 2009 and noted that it has been circulated to the relevant Departments in accordance with Department Guidelines.

It was agreed to enquire from Carol Lambe, Administrative Officer, Office of Community and Enterprise, Monaghan County Council the obligations of the JPC to have a member of Comhairle na nÓg represented on a JPC.

5. **Reports from Sub-Committees**

The Members noted the Minutes of the following Sub-Committee meetings:-

- Meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Sub-Committee held on Monday 12th April 2010 in relation to underage drinking
- Meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Sub-Committee held on Monday 21st June 2010 in relation to underage drinking
- Meeting of Co-ordinators and Chairpersons of Monaghan Local Authorities Joint Policing Committees held on 18th May 2010

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon gave an overview of the work of the committee dealing with underage drinking and congratulated Comhairle Na nÓg on the work they have done in this regard. It was noted that a campaign “Don’t pour your dreams away” will be taking place to coincide with the release of the Junior Certificate results on the 15th September 2010. The Members noted that funding for this campaign is from Peace 111.

6. Report from Gardaí

Inspector Alan Cunningham presented the following report on crime in general in the Monaghan area

	2009	2010
Public Order	119	133
Criminal Damage	33	34
Drugs	9	19
Drink Driving	33	19
Assault	27	33

The Members thanked Garda Inspector Cunningham for his report

7. Report from County Manager

Declan Nelson, County Manager reported as follows:-

Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

An Architect from the National Building Agency will attend the next meeting of Monaghan Town Council to outline proposals for infill housing to deal with anti-social behaviour in an area of the estate. It was noted that the Remedial Works underway in the estate are ahead of schedule.

Road Safety

Road works will be carried out within the next few weeks on Castle Road to try and eliminate flooding in the area.

A directive has been issued by Monaghan County Council Management to all staff stating that all signs at roundabouts are to be removed and that the Local Authorities will be taking prosecution proceedings against anyone caught erecting signage. Voluntary/Community groups wishing to promote events could apply to get permission from the Local Authority for the erection of signage but would be requested to position signs back from the junctions.

The County Manager acknowledged the co-operation of businesses/residents in the Dublin Street/Diamond area of the town during the major works being undertaken at present as part of the BMW Funding.

Casual Trading

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that it took approximately two years to get Bye-Laws in place for Casual Trading, currently located at the rear of the Courthouse. The reason this area was chosen for casual trading was because there are no residents in the area and it is easier for the Gardaí to police. The Casual Trading bye-laws will be amended in the coming months to incorporate the Farmers Markets.

Cllr. Paul McGeown left the Council Chamber.

8. “In an effort to reduce late night disturbance at weekends in the residential area adjacent to Peter’s Lake, will this Council agree to meet with An Garda Síochana and relevant businesses with the view to re-assessing previous commitments that crowd control and associated nuisances would be tackled through a multi-stakeholder approach?”

Cllr. Seán Conlon proposed the above motion and Cllr. David Maxwell seconded the motion. Cllr. Conlon referred to a discussion which had taken place between the Town Council and the Gardaí when the Casual Trading Bye-laws were being introduced whereby a multi-agency approach would be taken to marshal the large crowds exiting the night club in the Diamond to the rear of the Courthouse.

Gavin Shipley expressed concern regarding the prevalence of public drinking in the town during the Harvest Time Blues Festival and stated that it sent out a negative message about alcohol, particularly to young people. Mr. Shipley also referred to public drinking in the area of the campsite on the Clones Road. Inspector Cunningham stated that there were no real issues for the Gardaí at the time of the Festival. Declan Nelson, County Manager pointed out that ratepayers in the town need the revenue and that the Town Council and County Council supported both the Feile Oriel and Blues Festival. It was noted that no alcohol was available during events held in the Market House.

9. **Arrangement of Public Meeting**

It was agreed to arrange a Public Meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee on Tuesday 19th October 2010 in the Market House, Monaghan from 8pm – 9.30pm. It was agreed that the Gardaí would make a presentation on policing issues. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon invited the JPC Members to communicate items for the agenda to the Town Clerk.

10. **Setting of Date for Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee Meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next Joint Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 9th November 2010 at 6pm

11. **Topic to be place on agenda for next Joint Policing Committee Meeting.**

The outcome of the Public Meeting to be held on 19th October is to be placed on the agenda for the next Joint Policing Committee.

12. **Any Other Business**

It was noted that illegal parking is continuing to take place in areas of the town causing an obstruction to pedestrians. Cllr. Conlon called on the Gardaí and Monaghan Town Council Traffic Wardens to consider the implementation of a warning notice mechanism to those who break the law.

Cllr. Sherry called for the provision of public lighting on back lanes in Killygoan and Connolly Park in the interest of public safety and for road markings in the town to be improved.

Gavin Shipley enquired if the removal of the steps from the front of the Courthouse had been recorded while the refurbishment works had been undertaken. It was noted that this is a Court Service building operated by the OPW.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon vacated the Chair and left the Council Chamber and Cllr. David Maxwell took the Chair.

Gavin Shipley referred to a hedgecutting/drainage notice published by Monaghan County Council prohibiting the cutting of hedges during the period 1st March to the 31st August each year. Mr. Shipley stated that a hedge had been removed by the Local Authority on the Clones Road. Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that he would check out the matter but that necessary maintenance work is provided for in legislation and he was of the opinion that this was the reason for the works.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that he will be retiring from his post of County Manager with effect from the 5th November 2010. The Members of the Joint Policing Committee paid tribute to the County Manager and thanked him for his contribution to the Joint Policing Committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 9th day of November 2010

Cathaoirleach