

# **WEXFORD JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

## **REPORT ON MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 AT 11.30 IN WEXFORD COCO OFFICES**

The meeting was convened at 11.30 by Chairman Cllr M. Whelan.

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

As there were no matters arising out of the previous meetings minutes, they were agreed and adopted.

### **2. Annual Report 2016**

The JPC annual report that had been sent to the committee members prior to the meeting was discussed. It was stated that a copy of the report goes to the Minister of Justice and the Garda Commissioner. It is also posted on the Wexford County Council website for public perusal.

### **3. Subcommittee meeting reports**

- The subcommittee for the **misuse of alcohol and drugs and related crime** reported that at their meeting there was a discussion regarding the drafting of bye laws to cover the issue of drinking in public. There are currently no bye laws in the county for this with the exception of the Wexford town borough. This draft will now follow the public consultation process and it is hoped that the final draft will be ready for the next JPC meeting in February for approval.

A suggestion was made that perhaps Traffic Wardens could be engaged in issuing on the spot fines for drinking in public. However, PPN Rep Tina Smith pointed out that the public may not react positively to such a move and that Traffic Wardens could possibly come in for unwanted abuse. This would obviously make them reluctant to carry out the duty.

- The subcommittee for **crime prevention and community safety** met and discussed the problem of lack of resources.
- The subcommittee for the **reduction in anti social behaviour** met and were given a presentation by a representative of Muintin na Tire regarding the benefits of a standardised text alert system.

The Chairman Cllr Whelan asked PPN Rep Joy Lattimore Rice for an update on the Riverchapel Forum. It was reported that the Forum is progressing very well but CCTV will improve the area and they are currently looking for funding for this. They have put up posters and have had 2 community meetings.

#### 4. CCTV

The county secretary, Pat Collins, circulated an update on the funding that has become available from the Dept. of Justice for CCTV. The report sets out the requirements for qualification and it updates on the current applications in the system. The main points are:

- **Gorey**
  - Provision is being made for up to 15 cameras in the Courtown Harbour area.
  - 15 cameras will be required in the new Gorey park.
  
- **Wexford town**
  - Immediate replacement of 6 faulty cameras and the installation of 10 new cameras has been approved.
  - Installation of 4 new routers.
  
- **Enniscorthy**
  - Set up to Garda stn access to CCTV and upgrade camera connections and transfer of data.
  - Replacement of damaged cameras and transfer CCTV equipment to new municipal offices.
  - Installation of new cameras at 5 sites in the town.
  
- **New Ross**
  - 3 new cameras to be installed in the town.

The report points out that the council are providing 60% of the funding for the above projects. It is a 3 year project and other locations will be added but the abovementioned projects are deemed to be the most urgent and JPC approval is required to complete the above work.

Cllr Ger Carthy stated that although the abovementioned work was appreciated he wanted it noted that it was very town centred and there was no mention in the report of a CCTV rural initiative.

Cllr Codd Nolan asked if it could be considered for the council to provide full funding as some rural communities find it difficult to fundraise to maintain the CCTV cameras.

Chief Superintendent John Roche said that they are in discussions with the Road Safety Authority regarding the installation of CCTV cameras at off ramps on the motorway. This would benefit traffic control and the detection of the movement of criminals.

## 5. Chief Superintendent's Report

### Report on latest crime figures:

- Property crime is up 4%
- Serious assault is up 8%
- Minor assault is up 2%
- Possession of drugs is up 4%
- Sale of drugs offences is up 8%
- Traffic offences
  - Use of phone whilst driving is up 26%
  - Non use of seatbelt is up 22%
  - Speeding offences are up 20%
  - Drink driving is up 5%
  - 8 arrests were made regarding drug driving

The Superintendent remarked that most traffic offences are now detected by officers in unmarked cars. He also remarked that he was saddened to report that there was a recent car accident fatality and that this was the first Wexford fatality in 1 year and 2 weeks.

The Superintendent also informed the committee members of the requirement of probationer Gardai to undertake community projects as part of their initial 2 years in training. This may include engagement with Scout groups, the homeless, suicide awareness and education in secondary schools or minority groups such as the Romany community etc.

He informed the chamber about the move from the old Garda station to the new station and how appreciative they were by the amount of public support they got. They decided to march all Gardai from the old to the new and were very pleasantly surprised when the local community burst into spontaneous applause. He also remarked that the open day in Gorey was a huge success and that the public was very positive about being able to engage with the Guards. They will look at making it possibly an annual event and may also have open days in other Garda stations throughout the county.

He told the committee that they now have 2 officers that can speak Polish and Romanian which was in response to Cllr Codd stating that language can be an issue when dealing with foreign nationals.

## 6. Any other business

The Chairman asked the Superintendent if it was possible to have the next JPC meeting in the new Garda Station. Superintendent John Roche agreed to this and it was decided that that is where the next meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 11.30am.

The meeting concluded at 12.50pm

**Report compiled by Tina Smith (PPN Rep)**