

WEXFORD JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

REPORT ON MEETING HELD ON MAY 8 2017 AT 11.30 IN WEXFORD COCO OFFICES

The meeting was convened at 11.30 by the Chairman and he welcomed the new PPN Rep, Joy Lattimore to the meeting. He also welcomed Tina Smith as an observer to the meeting and said that her appointment as PPN Rep would be ratified later that day.

It had been anticipated that a talk was to be presented on domestic violence, however as no one was available from the Victim's Alliance group, a discussion has been arranged for the next meeting on the issue.

JPC Subcommittees Report

1. Crime Prevention & Community Safety:

- It was contended that a few community groups had expressed an interest in having an expert give a talk to communities with special emphasis on elderly security and they would like to have the opportunity to have community Garda visits.
- The Victim Alliance group have been invited to give a presentation to the committee.
- It was suggested that the issue of closed rural Garda stations needs to be addressed again.

2. Reduction in Anti Social Behaviour:

- This subcommittee meeting did not go ahead due to lack of numbers. It was commented upon that more of an effort for those on the subcommittee should be made.

3. Misuse and of Alcohol & drugs and related crime:

- Robbie Ireton informed the committee that he had written to Minister Francis Fitzgerald regarding new legislation written to tackle the escalating issue of drugs being carried through the postal system.
- He also asked of the members present was it known how many Gardai are specifically designated to the issue of drink and drugs within the communities.
- He also noted that the latest Alcohol bill is still outstanding.

Superintendants Report

1. Report on latest crime figures:

- Property crime is down.
- Simple possession is up and this is thought to be because enforcement has increased.

- Domestic abuse figures are also on the increase.
- Traffic Offences are all up –
 - i. Speed offences
 - ii. Use of mobile phones whilst driving
 - iii. Non use or misuse of seatbelts

2. Garda reporting discrepancies:

- The Superintendent explained that Wexford discrepancy figures are among the best in the country at only 4%. He also explained the concept of “natural wastage” with regard to the use of the breathalisher mouth pieces and how this can account for some of the differences. He also expressed complete confidence in the methods used and the figures under his remit.

3. Other matters:

- With regards to community text alert initiatives, he suggested that uniformity needs to be looked at as all the different systems employed throughout the county bring varying results and a standardised system using “best practice” methods would be better for all communities.
- He was asked about the re-opening of Garda stations and he replied that the 3 stations closed in the county had already been sold and so this was not an option.
- With road side drug testing about to begin, the Superintendent was reluctant to state his confidence in the initiative considering all the controversy surrounding the drugs being tested for. He is concerned that the judicial system will get clogged up (as well as valuable Garda time) in court cases.
- He also made the point that personal responsibility must be taken by the general public regarding staying within the law and that people should not keep blaming the enforcers.
- An Garda Siochana annual Policing Plan for 2017 was also distributed to all members present.

Any other business

The issue of parking at Wexford Park was discussed at length and the concern was raised that should an ambulance or any other emergency vehicle need to get down that road, it could have dire consequences as the road becomes completely blocked. More cones will be issued to residents therefore reducing the amount of parked cars hindering access.

The date of the next meeting was set for 10th July at 11.30am.

The meeting concluded at 12.45pm.

Report compiled by Tina Smith