**Minutes of Meeting of Co. Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on Friday 13 February 2015 at 10:30am.**

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**Elected Representatives:**  Cllr Niamh Smyth, Cllr. Clifford Kelly, Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Cllr. Winston Bennett, Cllr. Carmel Brady, Cllr. Peter Mc Vitty, Cllr. Madeline Argue, Cllr. Noel Connell, Cllr. Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr. Shane P. O’Reilly, Cllr. Fergal Curtin, Deputy Brendan Smith

**Community Representatives:** Brian Mc Dermott, Noleen Smith, Vanessa Clarke, Ciarán O’Donoghue, Bob Gilbert, Frank Mc Dermott

**Executive**: Ger Finn (Chief Executive), Gráinne Boyle (Community & Enterprise)

**Garda Officers**: Chief Superintendent James Sheridan, Superintendent James Coen

**Apologies:** Eoin Doyle (Director of Services), Cllr. Paddy Smith

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1. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 December 2014 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Mc Vitty.

There were no matters arising.

1. **Standing Orders**

The draft set of Standing Orders were circulated to all members for review.

A schedule of meeting had been previously agreed by the JPC Steering Committee and these dates were provided to the members as:

* 01 May 2015
* 11 September 2015
* 11 December 2015

It was agreed that all meetings would take place at 5pm in the Council Chamber of the Courthouse.

All members agreed for all future correspondence for the County JPC to be forwarded to them by e-mail.

Cllr. O’Reilly proposed for the adoption of the standing orders and Cllr. Mc Donald seconded this.

1. **Garda Report – Crime Statistics for County Cavan 2009 to 2014**

Chief Superintendent Sheridan issued documentation to all members to highlight crime statistics within the County over the period 2009 to 2014. The figures were broken down to show the types of offences, locations, numbers etc. The figures for 2014 were provisional figures as many investigations are still ongoing.

He stated that the number of burglaries in 2014 within the county has increased slightly, however this comes following very significant decreases in 2013 and 2012. Theft is the highest classification of crime which occurs within the county.

Drive off’s tend to be quite common and would be something the Garda need to focus on. Chief Superintendant Sheridan suggested that this could perhaps be an area the JPC could provide support to the Gardaí on in the future,

In relation to traffic offences Cllr. O’Reilly asked how the decrease in the number of traffic corps has impacted on this area. Chief Superintendent Sheridan replied that there are presently high detection rates within the county. However ongoing support is needed from members of the County JPC to support the Gardaí’s traffic corps to do their job effectively and they can do this by getting information out to the public on road safety awareness measures.

Cllr. Kelly said that in 2009, 60 Sergeant Officers have gone from the county. He hoped that the new recruitment process currently underway would see additional resources being allocated to the county. He believes that the best prevention to crime is a strong Garda presence. He enquired if the Gardaí had any programmes linking in with schools / youth organisations. Chief Superintendent Sheridan replied that a Garda Schools Programme has just been piloted and they are hoping to roll this out to all schools within Counties Cavan and Monaghan over the coming months. They would also work with the Road Safety Officer to get messages out to the youth on an ongoing basis.

Cllr. Kelly also enquired into the operation of the Text Alert Scheme in place and asked if it was proven to be helpful. Ms Clarke replied that its introduction has helped to re-invigorate Community Alert Groups. She said that there have been teething problems with its introduction but these are being dealt with over time, one of these would be trying to manage the communities expectations from the scheme Both Ms Clarke and Superintendent Coen said that a networking event between all the Community Alert / Text Alert Groups operating within the county would be a very worthwhile exercise to do as it would offer an opportunity for best practice between groups to be exchanged. Chief Superintendant Sheridan said that a key message which must be promoted by these groups is for the need for rural communities, including farmers, to be vigilant and take care of their belongings to that they will not be targeted for crime, as often times these types of crimes tend to the quite opportunistic.

Cllr. Conway wanted to raise the point that it is very easy for people to get away with offences now due to the increase in technologies available – they can be one step ahead. He believed that more cohort operations need to be taken by the Gardaí in order to prevent and deal with crime. Chief Superintendant Sheridan acknowledged that this does present a challenge. However he replied that working with the community directly can help to work around this.

Cllr. Mc Vitty enquired into the reporting of crime stating that often crimes are left unreported as people are too scared to come forward. Chief Superintendant Sheridan replied that he would find generally that most people are comfortable in coming forward to make reports and he stressed the importance of this in order for the Gardaí to resolve cases.

1. **Annual 2015 County Cavan JPC Work Plan**

This agenda item was dealt with ‘in-committee’ as per standing orders.

1. **AOB**

Cllr. Mc Donald enquired into the Garda Station in Bailieborough. Chief Superintend Sheridan replied that this is being dealt with by the OPW and he couldn’t provide information in relation to timelines. However there are two points which would be of concern which they need clarification on and these are in relation to the location and finance for the building. He hopes there will be progression in relation to this matter over the coming months and if he can he would report on progress at the next meeting.