

County Laois Joint Policing Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Held on Monday 16th July 2018 at Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise

Present: Cllr Pdraig Fleming (Chair), Supt Anthony Pettit, Graham Kavanagh CPO, AGS, Cllr Paddy Bracken, Cllr Paschal McEvoy, Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald, Cllr John King, Cllr Tom Mulhall, Cllr William Aird, Cllr James Kelly, Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley, Cllr Noel Tuohy, Cllr John Moran, Cllr Seamus McDonald, Mr Brian Stanley TD, Mr Sean Fleming TD, Mr Conor O'Leary, Mr Thomas Jones, Mr Thomas Timmons

In attendance: Mr Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Ms Pamela Tynan, A/Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Mr John Mulholland, Mr Noel Dooley.

Cllr Pdraig Fleming welcomed all members and members of the press

Confirmation of Minutes

Upon the proposal of Cllr Tom Mulhall, seconded by Cllr John Moran, the minutes of the Laois County Joint Policing Committee meeting held on 9th April, 2018 were confirmed and signed.

Presentation by Mr. Patrick Clavin, Chief Bureau Officer, Criminal Assets Bureau.

Mr. Patrick Clavin, Chief Bureau Officer with the Criminal Assets Bureau stated that it is the intention of the Criminal Assets Bureau to meet with every Joint Policing Committee during 2018. He thanked the committee for allowing him to make a presentation to them. He explained what the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) is and how it is working to recover the proceeds of crime based in the community. He explained how they review the existing 'Proceeds of Crime' legislation and ensure that adequate resources are provided to support the work of the Criminal Assets Bureau in tackling money laundering and to target the proceeds of crime. They examine how communities can better engage with CAB including provision of information on the suspected local use of the proceeds of crime and the potential of a smaller CAB being established to target regional assets. He stated that if members of the public suspect that someone's lifestyle is funded by crime that can contact CAB anonymously and they will carry out their own investigations. CAB has trained local Gardaí as Asset Profilers in each Division who send cases into the Bureau for further action. These profilers work closely with those on the ground who are best placed to know what is happening in their area. The CAB has immediate access to the Courts and there is great support for CAB from politicians, media and the public in general. Their Annual Report is available on their website at www.cab.ie.

The members of the Committee thanked Patrick Clavin for his very informative presentation and some members stated that it needs to be advertised more that members of the public making a report will be anonymous.

An Garda Síochána Report

Supt. Anthony Pettit presented a report on behalf of An Garda Síochána the respect of the second quarter of 2018 (copy attached). He particularly highlighted the following, compared to the same period in 2017:

- Burglary crimes down year on year
- Crime against the person has risen again this quarter
- Criminal Damage and Public Order down slightly
- Drugs and weapons offences are also up
- Drink Driving has decreased but needs to decrease further.

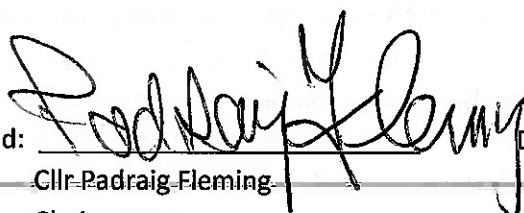
The members thanked Supt Anthony Pettit for his report and raised the following:

- Emergence of hate crimes
- The rise in the number of caravans parking illegally
- The rise in the number of people drinking outside pubs on the street and people being drunk on the street.
- The fact that some of the statistics included are from the prison

The issues with regard to community CCTV were raised in relation to the Data Protection Commissioner. Under the scheme the local authority is deemed to be the data controller for the Community CCTV Scheme. Donal Brennan, Director of Services stated that the matter is being examined by the CCMA and the Council is not prepared to take on the position of data controller until the matter is clarified further. The members stated that the matter cannot be allowed to carry on indefinitely.

The issue of putting further cameras on the Mountmellick Road and surrounding area was raised and Supt John Pettit said that An Garda Síochána are looking into this and will keep it on their agenda and will hopefully have an update for the next JPC meeting.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:  Date: 10/1/18
Cllr Pádraig Fleming
Chairperson