**County Laois Joint Policing Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on Monday 10th September, 2018 at Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise**

**Present**: Cllr Padraig Fleming (Chair), Chief Supt John Scanlon, Supt Anthony Pettit, Cllr Paddy Bracken, Cllr Seamus McDonald, Cllr Paschal McEvoy, Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald, Cllr John King, Cllr Tom Mulhall, Cllr David Goodwin, Cllr Willie Aird, Cllr James King, Cllr Noel Tuohy, Mr Conor O’Leary, Mr Patrick Fitzpatrick, Mr Thomas Timmons,

**In attendance**: Mr John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Mr Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Ms Pamela Tynan, A/Administrative Officer.

**Apologies**: Cllr John Moran, Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley, Mr Sean Fleming TD, Mr Brian Stanley TD, Ms Antoinette Kinsella, Mr Thomas Jones, Ms Georgina Ireland

Cllr Padraig Fleming welcomed all members and members of the press

**Confirmation of Minutes**

Upon the proposal of Cllr Paddy Bracken, seconded by Cllr Seamus McDonald, the minutes of the Laois County Joint Policing Committee meeting held on 16th July, 2018 were confirmed and signed.

**An Garda Síochána Report**

Chief Supt John Scanlon presented a report on behalf of An Garda Siochána in respect of July-August 2018.

* Burglary is down on this time last year
* Crimes against the Person have reduces slightly on the same period last year. Threat to kill or cause serious harm increase but this is due to having the prison in the jurisdiction.
* Criminal Damage and Public Order Offences are down slightly on last year due to the number of extra Gardaí on the streets.
* A larger number of Simple Possession of drugs were apprehended at the Electric Picnic.

The Chief Superintendant stated that while figures are down overall there is no place for complacency. It should be noted that Laois is a place where business can be done. He stated that 37 burglaries is too much at that they are mostly local crime. However, there is a number of travelling criminals but these are being monitored.

The Chief Superintendent, Mr John Scanlon stated that there is a approximately 75 new Gardaí at present and 3 more are expected to the traffic unit. It is hoped that there will be no One Person Garda Stations in the future. It is envisaged that the large towns will have an increase in the number of Gardaí stationed in them as soon as the new Gardaí have finished their training in Portlaoise. There is also a drugs unit and a Community Sergeant.

The members thanked Chief Superintendent John Scanlon for his report and raised the following:

* Complemented the Gardaí on their traffic management for the Electric Picnic and also for the way in which they policed the Electric Picnic.
* The matter of people cycling on footpath and driver of buses using mobile phones.
* The number of temporary dwellings moving into the county.
* Public should be notified about bogus callers particularly now that winter is approaching.
* Welcomed the increase in Gardaí in the larger towns.
* Gardaí were thanked for work they carried out over the summer months.
* There is a rise in anti social behaviour in some estates were there was none before.
* They thanked the Chief Superintendant for being available to the members of the Committee when the need arises.

**Laois County Council Report**

This report was presented to the members of the Joint Policing Committee and noted by them.

**Any Other Business**

CCTV

The Chief Executive stated that there is a meeting over the next week with County and City Management Association. There are a number of issues to be considered if the Local Authority was to assume the role of Data Controller as it may involve additional resources. It is hoped that a decision will be reached shortly. Data protection, safety and security issues would also have to be resolved.

Illegal Dumping

The matter of illegal dumping at the rear of Lakeglen, Portlaoise was raised by Mr Thomas Timmons and Director of Services, Mr Donal Brennan stated that the matter would be examined as soon as possible.

JPC Implementation Plan

This plan was circulated to members of the Joint Policing Committee and it was noted that most items are ongoing.

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be a public meeting and it will be held on Monday 19th November, 2018.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cllr Padraig Fleming

Chairperson