Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 30th January, 2017 in the Council Chamber, Carrick-on-Shannon at 11.00am.

In attendance:
Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services
Chief Superintendent Michael P. Clancy
Superintendent Kevin English
Councillor Sinead Guckian,
Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire,
Councillor Enda Stenson,
Councillor Caillian Ellis,
Councillor Brendan Barry,
Councillor Gerry Dolan,
Councillor Mary Bohan,
Councillor Padraig Fallon,
Councillor Justin Warnock,
Councillor Sean McDermott,
Councillor Felim Gurn,
Mr. Neville Patterson,
Ms. Sheila Mollaghan,
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services
Mr. Joe Dolan

Apologies:
Deputy Martin Kenny
Deputy Marc McSharry
Ms. Janice Raine-Conick
Ms. Hayley Fox – Roberts
Ms. Kathleen Flanagan

1. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee held on 14th November, 2016.

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Sheila Mollaghan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of the Joint Policing Committee Meeting of 14th November, 2016 be adopted”.

2. To agree revised membership of the JPC with the nominations from the business community in Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton.

Ms. Mary Quinn outlined it was agreed at the last meeting of the JPC that the membership of the JPC Community Representatives be increased from 6 members to 8 members. She also outlined that it was agreed that the nominees be sought from the Carrick-on-Shannon Chamber of Commerce and from the Manorhamilton Enterprise Forum. Ms. Quinn advised that Carrick-on-Shannon Chamber of Commerce
nominated Mr. Kenny Murtagh and the Manorhamilton Enterprise Forum nominated Mr. Bernie McGauran. Ms. Quinn advised that the approval of the JPC is required to ratify the additional members of the JPC.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

‘That Mr. Kenny Murtagh and Mr. Bernie McGauran be approved as Community Representatives to the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee’.

Ms. Mary Quinn provided an update on the JPC Strategic Plan 2015-2020. The report as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix No. 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Quinn advised that the JPC is required to submit an Annual Report on the activities of the JPC in 2016 to the Council, the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government and the Garda Commissioner. She advised that the Annual Report will be included on the agenda of the March Council Meeting and will be forwarded to the Department and the Garda Commissioner.

This update was noted by the Members.

4. To consider the JPC Draft Work Programme for 2017
Ms. Mary Quinn provided an over-view of the JPC Draft Work Programme for 2017. The report as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix No. 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Ms. Quinn advised that the Work Programme has been formulated having regard to the strategic objectives and associated actions in the JPC Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

The Draft Work Programme was reviewed by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Brendan Barry queried if the Gardai will be appointing a designated Garda to a particular area e.g. Keshcarrigan.

Superintendent Kevin English outlined that the Gardai have recently introduced a new Community Policing Model and that this will provide for Gardai to be assigned to specific communities in the county.

The Members welcomed the update on the Community Policing Model.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian requested that the JPC Draft Work Programme for 2017 should include an item on speeding.

Superintendent Kevin English advised that the Gardai are engaged on an ongoing basis to combat excessive speed by drivers and that the locations for speed detection vans have been extended to more locations. Superintendent English stated that excessive speeding by motorists cannot be addressed solely by enforcement measures and that a change in driver culture is also required.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the information provided by Superintendent English on the measures employed by the Gardai to combat speeding, however, she also called for specific projects to be progressed in a number of towns and villages to address the problem particularly in residential areas.
Ms. Mary Quinn agreed that a specific action to address speeding will be included in the 2017 JPC Work Programme.

5. **To agree a schedule of JPC meetings for 2017**
Ms. Mary Quinn referred to the report on the JPC Schedule of Meetings for 2017. The report as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix No. 3 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The JPC Schedule of Meetings was agreed by the Members.

6. **To note the date and time of the public meeting of the JPC**
It was agreed that the JPC Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th February, 2017 in the Mayflower Hall, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim at 8 pm. It was also agreed that the theme of the public meeting will be ‘Community Safety in County Leitrim’.

7. **To receive an update on CCTV cameras for Carrick-on-Shannon**
The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed Mr. Joe Dolan to the meeting to give a presentation on the proposed installation of CCTV cameras in Carrick-on-Shannon. Mr. Dolan outlined the background to the proposal and he advised that there is ongoing engagement between the Local Authority, the Gardai and the Business Community in order to progress the proposal. Mr. Dolan also provided a brief overview of the Carrick-on-Shannon Ambassador Programme.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation outlined that the Council is working with stakeholders to provide CCTV Cameras as a Community Lead Scheme in Carrick-on-Shannon. He advised that following the Purple Flag Initiative, it is important that there is a sense of safety and wellbeing for residents and visitors to the town. Mr. Gilhooly outlined that eleven locations have been identified for CCTV Cameras with provision to add additional locations as resources allow. He advised a call for proposals to grant-aid Community Groups for CCTV Projects is expected to issue later this year. Mr. Gilhooly also presented a diagrammatic representation of the Carrick-on-Shannon Town Centre CCTV Scheme Scope. The report on the Carrick-on-Shannon Town Centre CCTV Scheme Scope appears as Appendix No. 4 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Members thanked Mr. Dolan and Mr. Gilhooly for their presentation and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Felim Gurn raised the lack of funding available to Community Groups to offset the ongoing maintenance costs for a CCTV system once it has been installed.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the proposed introduction of CCTV cameras for Carrick-on-Shannon. She queried if there will be provision to expand the system, what the indicative cost of the project is and if the data recorded on CCTV can be used in prosecutions.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly advised that the estimated installation cost for the CCTV System in Carrick-on-Shannon is approximately €60,000 depending on the scale of the project.

Superintendent Kevin English expressed his support for the Community CCTV Project. He advised that if the control of the CCTV system is located in the local Garda Station rather than in the community that it removes the requirement for the public to make a Statement of Evidence and attend Court Hearings.
Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged the success of the CCTV system in Manorhamilton. He stated that in many towns and villages the installation of CCTV cameras would also be welcomed, however, he expressed his concern that the local communities would not be in a position to provide match-funding as required to access grant-aid for the installation costs.

Councillor Brendan Barry stated that Drumshanbo would also benefit from the introduction of CCTV.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire advised that she has a CCTV camera outside of her business in Carrick-on-Shannon. She queried if there is an onus on businesses to inform the public that they have a CCTV system.

Mr. Joe Dolan advised that there is a requirement to have signage to notify the public that there is a CCTV camera on a premises and that communities need to make provision to have a ‘sinking fund’ to offset the CCTV maintenance costs. Mr. Dolan concluded by stating that as technology improves that the costs are decreasing and that from a legal perspective that it is more desirable to locate the monitoring system in the local Garda Station.

Councillor Justin Warnock queried why local communities are expected to fund the cost of CCTV cameras and that as a means of assisting the prevention of crime that the funding should be provided by the State.

Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy outlined that there is two CCTV Schemes – Garda CCTV and Community Based. He advised that the Garda based system is operation in the larger cities and that it is monitored and controlled all the time by the Gardai. Chief Superintendent Clancy stated that Community CCTV is grant aided and has the potentially to work very successfully in towns and villages. He also advised that the quality of the cameras and the imagery has improved immensely e.g. number plate recognition is now possible by CCTV cameras. Superintendent Clancy concluded by stating that the funding model is outside the control of the Gardai.

The Chairperson, Councillor Enda Stenson thanked the Members for their contribution and he stated that the JPC will support the Carrick-on-Shannon CCTV Proposal.

8. Report from An Garda Siochana
Superintendent Kevin English gave a presentation on policing issues in Leitrim for 2016. He cautioned at the start of his presentation that the figures presented in the report should not be reported on or printed in the local media. The report as presented by Superintendent English appears as Appendix No. 5 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The presentation provided a statistical breakdown of the following: Public Order Incidents, Fixed Charge Penalty Statistics, Assaults, Criminal Damage Incidents, Burglaries, Thefts from shops, Notable Drug Seizures, Road Safety and the Community Alert Scheme.

Superintendent English in his presentation noted the following:
- There was a decrease in the number of public order offences in Carrick-on-Shannon in 2016 due to the effort of the local business community.
- Alcohol continues to be a major contributory factor associated with public order offences.
- The number of assaults in Carrick-on-Shannon has increased by 60%.
- 50% of the assaults recorded in Carrick-on-Shannon are associated with the night-time economy.
- Burglary incidents have fallen by 33%
• Criminal damage creates reputational damage to an area.
• The number of thefts from shops has increased by one-third in Carrick-on-Shannon and this is a cause of concern for the business community.
• The Gardai made two notable drug seizures in the county in January, 2017 in Carrigallen and Aughavas.
• Road Safety – regrettably there was one fatal road incident in Leitrim in 2016.
• Incidents of drink-driving have increased slightly and efforts to combat excessive speeding is a major aspect of the Road Safety Plan.
• Community Text Alert Scheme – there is a greater sharing of information between the groups.

Superintendent English concluded his presentation by acknowledging the co-operation of the public in assisting the Gardai with their investigations. He also outlined that two additional resources have been assigned to the Leitrim Detective Branch which will increase the investigative powers of the Gardai.

The Chairperson, Councillor Enda Stenson thanked Superintendent English for his presentation and invited any questions/comments from the members. The following items were raised:

• Mr. Neville Patterson paid tribute to the efforts of the Gardai particularly to their actions in detecting the drug seizures in Carrigallen and Aughavas. He also welcomed the continued support of the Gardai in relation to the Community Text Alert Scheme.

• Councillor Brendan Barry referred to a recent spate of burglaries in Drumshanbo. He queried if the Gardai are aware if the perpetrators of these crimes are based locally or if they are travelling to Leitrim from other locations.

Superintendent English advised that the evidence would suggest that the crimes in Drumshanbo were committed by Travelling Criminals. He advised that it can be difficult to apprehend these criminals and he urged the public to secure their properties at all times.

• Councillor Justin Warnock queried if the use of cocaine was a serious issue in Leitrim.
Superintendent English advised that there is evidence of the availability of cocaine in Leitrim, however, he advised that cocaine use is not a serious problem in the county.

• Councillor Felim Gurn requested additional information with regard to a number of burglaries in the Manorhamilton area.

Superintendent English advised that the pattern of these burglaries took place in isolated dwellings in Glencar, Dromahaire and Rossinver. He advised that the gang that were responsible for the burglaries were based in Northern Ireland.

Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy also urged caution for members of the public leaving valuables visible in their cars particularly at scenic or tourist locations.

9. **To consider Questions submitted by the JPC Members.**

**Question No. 1**
Submitted by Ms. Janice Raine-Conick (Community Representative).

‘Are there any plans in place, or under development, to overcome the potentially dangerous parking congestion problem outside of Centra, opposite the derelict Abbey Hotel in Dromahair? There are very poor sightlines for traffic, cars parked both sides of the road on a bend and the potential for an accident involving vehicles and children is very high.'
It was agreed to refer this matter to Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer for a response.

Question No. 2
Submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock (Manorhamilton Municipal District)
With the spate of tractor and machinery thefts last year, is there a designated Rural Crime Team within the Sligo/Leitrim Garda Division?

- Councillor Justin Warnock stated that he considered that there is very little follow by the Gardai for agricultural theft. He stated that it is reported that criminals are now using drones to view farm holdings.

Superintendent Kevin English confirmed that there is not a designated Rural Crime Team within the Sligo/Leitrim Garda Division. He stated that all crimes reported to the Gardai will be investigated in the appropriate manner.

Question No. 3
Submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock (Manorhamilton Municipal District)
As Kinlough Garda Station is open on a regular basis, is there any money available to give it an exterior makeover?

The Gardai advised that there are no proposals in this regard presently.

Question No. 4
Submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian (Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District)
At the next Joint Policing Committee I will ask has any progress been made, to date, to develop and implement a specific town and village pilot project to address speeding on our streets. Last year I proposed and it was agreed by members, that our JPC would develop an initiative to create awareness, in conjunction with interested community groups, about the risks of unsafe driving through our towns and villages.

It was agreed that this item was dealt with under the Draft JPC Work Programme and it was agreed to have a specific action in the Work Programme to address the matter.

Question No. 5
Submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian (Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District)
At the next Joint Policing Committee I will ask the Chief Superintendent what measures or programmes are being undertaken by community Gardai, within schools, with regard to cyber bullying.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian raised the issue of cyber-bullying and the impact that this can have on teenagers and young people. Councillor Guckian outlined that awareness programmes of the dangers of cyber bullying etc are ineffective if the legislation is not updated to recognise cyber-bullying as a crime.

- Councillor Brendan Barry supported Councillor Sinead Guckian’s comments on cyber-bullying.

Chief Superintendent Clancy acknowledged that cyber-bullying is a huge topic. He referred to the obligations of parents to protect their children while they are on-line and he also stated that access by young people to pornography online is also becoming an increasing problem. Chief Superintendent Clancy advised that the Gardai run a number of awareness programmes through the schools.
Questions No. 6
Submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott (Manorhamilton Municipal District)
If it is appropriate, can I ask if any progress has been made in the recovery of the farm machinery that was stolen in North Leitrim on the first weekend of November, 2016?

- Councillor Sean McDermott expressed his concern in relation to the victims of a number of burglaries in November, 2016 in the North Leitrim area. He outlined that local people that had been the victim of these crimes felt aggrieved that they had not received a follow up visit by the Gardai to update them in relation to progress in investigating the incidents.

Superintendent Kevin English confirmed that two related incidents were reported to the Gardai, one took place in Dromahaire and one in Glenfarne. He advised that Detective Gerry Boland is investigating the crime and that there has been significant progress in identifying the persons that committed the crime with the assistance of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Superintendent English stated that the Gardai are in regular contact with the victims of this crime.

Chief Superintendent outlined that the Gardai’s capacity to investigate and prevent further incidents of crime had been impacted in recent years by the embargo on public sector recruitment particularly where staff retired and were not replaced.

Question No. 7
Submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott (Manorhamilton Municipal District)
Can I ask if there is any indication that the proposal to open some or any of the Garda Stations, that were closed recently in County Leitrim and if so will it happen in the near future?

The Gardai advised that there are no proposals in this regard presently.

10. Code of Ethics for the Garda Siochána
Ms. Mary Quinn referred to a letter dated 25th January, 2017 to Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive from the Policing Authority with regard to a Code of Ethics for the Garda Siochána. A copy of the letter appears as Appendix No. 6 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

11. To note date and time of the next meeting of the JPC
It was agreed that the next meeting of the JPC will take place on Monday 29th May, 2017 at 3 pm in the Council Chamber, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

Signed: ____________________________
Councillor Enda Stenson,  
Chairperson,  
26th June, 2017.

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Mary Quinn  
Director of Services