

Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of Meeting (Items 5 and 6 from JPC 23rd July)

11.00 a.m., July 30th, 2021 (Held Online).

Present: Cllr. Al McDonnell, Cllr. Tom Connolly, Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne, Cllr. Neil Cruise, Cllr. Sean Carey; Cllr. Michael Loftus, Cllr. Michael Burke, Cllr. Christy Hyland, Cllr. Damien Ryan, Deputy Dara Calleary, Mr Keelan Moran, PPN, Chief Superintendent Ray McMahon, Superintendent Joe McKenna,

In attendance: Superintendent Gabriel Moran, Mary Gildea, Deirdre Finnerty, Maura Murphy

Apologies: Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council

It was agreed at previous JPC held on the 2nd July that a further meeting of the JPC would be called to address two outstanding items from Agenda, i.e. No. 6 New Policing Safety Partnership and 7 Drone Regulations.

1. Welcome

Cllr. Al McDonnell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. New Chief Superintendent Ray Mc Mahon was congratulated on his new post and welcomed to the JPC.

2. New Community Policing Structure

Cllr. Al McDonnell stated to group that current JPC structure works excellently, and that good relations have been built between all partners.

Cllr. Michael Loftus expressed concern also about the new structure. He outlined briefly the proposed new structure, i.e. an independent Chairperson, 30 members in total and 7 of these to be Councillors. This will be funded by Criminal Assets Bureau. Cllr. Loftus fears that new structure will diminish what elected members have been doing. He suggested that each Municipal District should have community fora's that make representations to the main JPC.

Comments from Cllr. Loftus were supported by Cllr. Ryan, Cllr. Burke, Cllr. Hyland, Cllr. Kilcoyne and Cllr. Carey. It was suggested by Cllr. Ryan that the funding from CAB should be redirected to address the drugs issue. He welcomed the idea of rolling out a more enhanced JPC but not to completely change current structure.

Keelan Moran also agreed with the elected members and questioned how and when was there a consultation process?

Deputy Dara Calleary assured members that this is only a pilot and there will be no changes until pilot is completed. The proposed new model would have a broader membership, to include youth, voluntary sector, business and employment, HSE, Túsla etc. However, it will be some time before new structure will be initiated in legislation. Deputy Calleary said that the strengths of JPC should be protected and possibly include other agencies whilst retaining the progress of the current JPC.



Deputy Calleary recommended to group to nominate 5 members of the JPC to meet with Minister Browne in September to voice concerns raised. It was agreed at the meeting the following members are nominated to attend meeting:

- Cllr. Michael Burke
- Cllr. Damien Ryan
- Cllr. Michael Loftus
- Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne
- Cllr. Christy Hyland
- Keelan Moran

Deputy Calleary will progress this meeting and liaise with Maura Murphy.

Chief Supt. McMahon reminded meeting that new Policing Structure is not in place yet.

3. Drone Regulation update

Supt. Joseph McKenna briefed the meeting on the new Drone regulations effective since the 1st January 2021. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency has standardized drone regs. throughout it's member states. There are three operations categories that determine drone regulations based on the weight of the drone and the intended operation, i.e. Open, Specific and Certified. Full details of criteria per each category is available on <https://uavcoach.com/drone-laws-in-the-european-union/>.

There is no change in privacy laws as are still protected under Data Protection. From the 1st January 2023 it will be a requirement that all drones will display a CE label.

Due to the complexity of the new regs. it was suggested that an expert is invited to attend a JPC meeting to summarize and explain the new regs.

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne

Seconded by: Cllr. Al McDonnell

8. AOB:

Cllr. Christy Hyland raised concerns over the drugs issue and the reduced number of Gardai covering such a huge area, in Mayo alone. Chief Supt. McMahon replied that there are two Sergeants and 7 Gardaí for the Mayo area, plus 3 temporary Gardaí being seconded to the Divisional Drugs Taskforce for a number of months and they return to their permanent station having gained experience in drug detection policing, these three members are rotated on an ongoing and continuous basis, there has been no reduction in personnel allocated to the Divisional Drugs Taskforce.

Meeting concluded at 12 p.m.

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