

**LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL / AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA**

***Dundalk Local Policing Forum***

Minutes of meeting held by Town Hall Crowe St Dundalk at 7.00pm on Tuesday  
6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Present:

**LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Elected Members:**

Cllr Sean Kelly  
Cllr Marianne Bulter  
Cllr Antoin Watters  
Cllr Kevin Meenan  
Cllr Edel Corrigan  
Cllr Conor Keelan  
Cllr Tomas Sharkey  
Cllr Maeve Yore  
Cllr Emma Coffey  
Cllr John Reilly  
Cllr Andrea McKeivitt  
Cllr Robert Nash

**PPN Members:**

**Oireachtas Members**

Ruairi O Mhurchu, TD  
Senator John McGahon

**Officials:**

Joe McGuinness , Director of Services  
Thomas McEvoy , Louth County Council  
Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer  
Laura McCarragher, Clerical Officer

**AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA**

Superintendent Charlie Armstrong

**Apologies:**

Pat McVeigh PPN  
John Temple PPN  
Sean Farrell PPN

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the Joint JPC meeting which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were proposed by Cllr Watters and seconded by Cllr Meenan

## **Matters Arising**

Nil

## **Local Authority Report**

Director of Service Joe McGuinness advised members on recent developments under the 5 pillars of the Community Safety Strategy.

A copy of the most recent report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

Members welcomed the extension to the community centre in Muirhevna Mor and suggested that a future Dundalk JPC meeting should be held at this venue. This was proposed by Cllr Meenan and seconded by Cllr Butler.

Members thanked LCC staff for their contributions and preparations in relation to President Biden's visit.

## **Garda Report**

Superintendent Armstrong gave a presentation on the Garda Report outlining crime Statistics in the Dundalk Sub District Area.

A copy of the most recent report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting :

Arising from the report the following matters were discussed:

- Members thanked AGS for their support in relation to Land of legends and St Patricks Festival. Kate and Dara mentioned for special thanks.
- Members asked that Patron committee meet with AGS in advance of Patron Sunday to discuss arrangements and accessibility issues. Chairperson of Dundalk JPC will arrange meeting.
- Vulnerable Persons Register – Members asked AGS to look at register in Tipperary Division. AGS agreed but noted there can be data protection issues with registers. AGS also advised Operation Cara still in existence , community policing teams continue to deliver messages and medicines to older and vulnerable people.

- Members expressed concerns over the increase in sexual offences figures. AGS advised they link in with organisations locally who support victims of domestic abuse and gender based violence. AGS encourage any victims of abuse to report the matter to AGS and it will be investigated by specially trained gardai.
- DNA Database Missing Persons Register. Defined structure within AGS to deal with missing persons such as a National Database.
- Members thanked AGS for their ongoing presence in Carlingford at weekends.
- Members discussed access to beaches and the issues with accessibility and asb – suggested AGS meet with Community Alert groups locally to discuss and resolve the issues locally.
- Electric Scooters- AGS informed the committee that legislation is imminent. Members suggested AGS look at current legislation in Denmark for the policing of electric scooters/vehicles.
- Members welcomed ongoing community engagement by AGS
- AGS informed the meeting that a meeting between Residents Groups and AGS has been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm in Dundalk Garda Station.
- Members questioned if the Drugs Squad have a full compliment. AGS advised they would like to have additional people in place.
- Members asked would it be possible to have a Register of Landlords in large council estates. AGS advised there are issues with data protection and that if AGS have a query in relation to a landlord/tenant in a council estate they have to submit a request under section 41(6) of the Data Protection Act to the local authority.
- Members noted the recent fatal tragedies in Dundalk District and commended the emergency services and AGS for their dedicated work in these difficult circumstances.

### **.LA 16 Statistics**

Joe McGuinness informed the members this item will be included on the Agenda going forward and statistics will be provided for members consideration. Figures for noting.

### **AOB**

**Confirmed at Meeting held on:**

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**Chairman:**

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**Meetings Administrator:**

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