

## LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL / AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

### *Drogheda Local Policing Forum*

Minutes of meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 6pm in the Governors House, Millmount, Drogheda

**Present:**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Elected Members:**

Cllr Kenneth Flood  
Cllr Richie Culhane  
Cllr Oliver Tully  
Fergus O'Dowd TD

**Officials:**

Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Service  
Mary G Reilly, Acting Administrative Officer

**AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA**

Chief Superintendent Sean Ward  
Superintendent Andrew Watters

**Also in Attendance:**

Tony Mullins  
Flora Okobi

**Apologies:**

Imelda Munster TD  
Declan Breathnach TD

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were proposed by Superintendent Andy Watters and seconded by Tony Mullins.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**Local Authority Report**

J. McGuinness, Director of Services circulated a report of Local Authority activity which is based on the adopted Joint Policing Strategy or otherwise known as the Community Safety Strategy.

Matters included in report

- Abandoned Houses- 16 Units in 2016
- Derelict sites- source of anti-social behaviour- council have commenced a CPO process
- Monaghan County Council have appointed a full time Road safety officer in a joint Initiative with Louth.
- Community Fire Safety Strategy – Implementation work to commence in second half of the year
- Public Events continue to be addressed through Event Management
- Procurement process to identify suitable contractors for the delivery of the Roads Programme 2017 is currently underway
- Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum has been established and- matters receiving attention include alcohol Bye Laws to include all intoxicating substances including improper use of prescription drugs.

- The Council maintain representation on the Children and Young people's Services Committee and also Comhairle na Nog forum is maintained by the Council
- The Louth Age Friendly Alliance are currently reviewing their action plan in light of the adoption of LCEP
- The older peoples forum in their action plan for 2017-19 is planning to increase awareness of older people in the use of technology
- The council are in the process of re-establishing the Traveller Inter Agency Group arising from an action of the LCEP to ensure that there are adequate support mechanisms for members of the travelling Community
- Operations staff working with Tidy Towns groups are progressing a number of initiatives aimed at facilitating cross community engagement.

Discussions arose from the report as follows

- Green Flags Initiative
- Abandoned units at West Street
- Bayview House at Cromwell's Lane – The Gardai and Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services were commended for securing the house
- Dumping at the corner of Cromwell's Lane opposite the entrance to Bayview House

### **Garda Report**

Chief Superintendent Sean Ward gave a presentation on the Garda Report outlining crime Statistics in the Drogheda area January 2017 to March 2017. Arising from the report the following matters were discussed

- Integration between minorities – Gardai to work with them – diverting funds towards groups eg: Cultural Connect
- Is there an active Muslim Group in Drogheda that could be point of contact in Cultural Connect.
- Reactivation of Neighbourhood Watches.
- Modernisation of the Regional Programme – 5 year programme.

### **Other Matters**

- How do we increase attendance at the yearly public meeting? There is a need need to look at how it is advertised and consider September as a possible date rather than in core annual leave time. It was proposed by Joe McGuinness, Director of Service to have meeting in September and seconded by Cllr Kenneth Flood. It was also suggested to have a guest speaker on relevant topics eg: internet safety and drugs. **Also proposed to have this matter on the agenda for the July 2017 Meeting.**
- Recognition of positive community efforts – Garda Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Drug paraphernalia exchange programme is in the old Boomerang Building every Wednesday.
- Translation services to ethnic culture groups.

**Confirmed at Meeting held on:**

**Chairman:**

Kenneth Flood

**Meetings Administrator:**

Mary G. Reilly