

Mayo Joint Policing Committee



Minutes of Meeting

2pm on Friday, 21st February 2020



Mayo House, Moneen, Castlebar

Present: Cllr. Al McDonnell, Cllr. Christy Hyland, Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne, Cllr. Damien Ryan, Cllr. Neil Cruise, Cllr Gerry Coyle; Cllr. Michael Loftus, Cllr. Michael Burke, Cllr. Mark Duffy, Cllr John O'Hara, Senator Paddy Burke, Senator Michelle Mulherin, Edith Geraghty PPN, Louise Glynn PPN, Keelan Moran PPN, Seamus Smyth PPN, Micheál Larkin PPN, Daniel Kabango PPN, Peter Hynes, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council, Chief Superintendent Tony Healy, Superintendent Joe McKenna,

In attendance: Superintendent Kevin Gately, Sgt Derek Lynott, Sgt Kenneth Duggan, Superintendent Thomas Calvey, Superintendent Gabriel Moran, Mary Gildea AP, Helen Blake, Michael Galvin, Siofra Kilcullen, Maura Murphy, Captain Lou Fine IAA,

Apologies: Alan Dillon TD, Rose Conway Walsh TD, Dara Calleary TD,

1. Welcome

Cllr. Al McDonnell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present and then introduced the five new PPN members -Louise Glynn, Keelan Moran, Seamus Smyth, Micheál Larkin and Daniel Kabango. He also expressed deepest sympathies on behalf of everyone present to Edith Geraghty whose husband, Seamus, passed away on January 3rd, 2020.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and matters arising

Senator Michelle Mulherin raised the matter regarding the tackling of the drugs issue in places like Swinford where there are no Gardai on the street.

Cllr Michael Kilcoyne requested that the following two questions be added to the list put to Commissioner Harris at the meeting in November 2019.

- Would adequate resources and funding be made available for Community Policing and would it be extended to other communities outside of the big towns? and
- Would transport be provided for Community Policing?

He proposed the minutes on the basis of these questions being added.

Proposed: Cllr Michael Kilcoyne
Seconded: Senator Paddy Burke

3. Presentation – Captain Lou Fine, Irish Aviation Authority – Drone regulatory area and industry in Ireland as a whole.

Captain Lou Fine, IAA, delivered a presentation on regulations around the ownership and use of drones in Ireland.

The main regulation governing drones, the Drone Implementing Regulation - EU Reg. 2019/947 and Delegated Act 2019/945, was passed by the European Union of Ministers and will come into effect in July 2020. He gave details on the regulation and areas it covers. There is no legislation in place yet to cover privacy issues concerning the use of drones.

The Chair thanked Captain Fine for his excellent presentation which was then discussed and the following questions were raised and answered:-

- Does the regulation cover every drone regardless of its size?
- Which Government Department has responsibility for regulation?
- Who is responsible for the enforcement of the Regulation?
- Have any charges been brought to date?
- Regarding Knock airport-who protects their space?
- Do landowners have the right to prevent use of drones over their property?

Peter Hynes suggested that due to the very sensitive and complex nature of the Regulations around drones that no advice should be given out by Mayo County Council but a working group should be set up to compile an advice note on the subject.

4. Annual Report 2019

The Chair referred to the Annual Report 2019 that was circulated which needs to be approved. He thanked Helen Blake for her excellent work in compiling the report.

Proposed by: Cllr Michael Burke
Seconded by: Cllr Damien Ryan

5. Agree Mayo JPC Annual Action Plan 2020

6. Topic for Public meeting

It was agreed that both these topics would be dealt with together.

The Action Plan for 2020 was circulated for approval and the following items were raised:-

The topic of Domestic Violence should be included in the plan.

Drugs:

Drugs is now the most serious crime facing society and more resources should be sought in the fight against drugs. The JPC will work closely with the Western Region Drugs Task Force and Community Policing. Any suspicious activities should be reported to the Gardai and all reports will be treated with strict confidentiality.

Resources:

More Garda resources to be sought for Mayo. Extra Gardai are required as the force is depleting. Disappointment was expressed that none of the recent new recruits from Templemore were stationed in Mayo.

Road Safety:

The increase in the number of Speed Check Vans was welcomed as a positive step. It was recommended the roadside signs for speed checks be taken down as they may be misleading. Peter Hynes agreed to seek clarification on who's role it is to have them removed and will arrange to have them taken down if the responsibility lies with Mayo County Council.

CCTV:

Issues around Data Protection still need to be addressed and funding is also an issue.

Proposed: Cllr Michael Kilcoyne

Seconded: Cllr Christy Hyland

7. Reports from An Garda Siochana

• **Superintendent Joe McKenna**

Superintendent McKenna thanked everybody for assisting Gardai and assured everyone all reports to Gardai are treated with strict confidence and people are not required to give evidence in Court.

2020 Crime figures for Mayo have shown positive decreases in most areas with the exception of drugs where detection of drugs for sale or supply is up 200%, detection of drugs for personal use are up 270% and cultivation of drugs up 167%. A grow house in Charlestown was raided with €64K worth of plants seized. The issue counterfeit currency has increased with €20K and GBP£6k recently seized in the Claremorris and Ballyhaunis areas. Burglaries are down 53% and shoplifting down 22%.

- **Mary Gildea, Assistant Principle**

Mary gave an overview of her role regarding her responsibilities around garda Business Services and the re-structure of the new area.

It will lead to more frontline Gardai in the area, lead to the re-deployment of Gardai from Administrative roles and reduce the administrative burden so Gardai are freed up to spend more time on the frontline.

- **Superintendent Kevin Gately**

Superintendent Gately gave an update on the Community Engagement Policing Plan 2020.

They are currently working in tandem with other Hubs to provide accessible policing and working closely with CCTV schemes and on illegal dumping. Road Safety is their top priority at present and they are concentrating on Transition Year Students and residents on Clare island and Inishturk Island.

- **Superintendent Gabriel Moran**

Superintendent Moran gave an update on the Drugs Squad recent successes, the Axa Road Safety show, the Community Policing's engagement with vulnerable groups and the very successful Garda Youth awards.

- **Superintendent Thomas Calvey**

Superintendent Calvey gave an update on 2019 Road Traffic offences in comparison to 2018 figures-:

Offence	2018	2019
Road fatalities	9	3
Speeding Fines	775	2820
Use of Mobile phone	718	1390
Not wearing seat belt	260	280
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	243	218

He said the emphasise this year is on education particularly around Transition Year students.

Under the 2020 plan it is now policy that anyone arrested for drug driving will automatically be searched for the possession of drug as will any passengers in the car at the time.

Cllr Michael Loftus proposed that the five Superintendents in Mayo be retained. This was seconded by Cllr AL McDonnell.

8. Advanced questions

There were no Advanced questions.

9. Proposed dates for 2020 Meetings

The dates proposed for the 2020 meetings were:-

May 22nd

September 4th or 11th

November 27th

It was agreed to change the meeting time to 11.00 a.m.

Summary of Actions

No.	Action	Organisation
1	Working group to be set up to compile an advice note on the regulations governing the use of drones.	MCC/JPC



