

# **Minutes of Special Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 5th May, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. in West Clare MD offices, Ennistymon**

## **Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr. P.J. Kelly,

## **I Láthair:**

Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating.

## **Officials present:**

Ms. A. Haugh, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service,  
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.  
Chief Superintendent John Kerin, Clare Gardai  
Superintendent Martin McGonnell, Kilrush Gardai,  
Garda John Ryan

Cllr. Kelly opened the meeting and welcomed the Chief Superintendent and the other Gardai present. Chief Supt. Kerin indicated that he was delighted to be present for the first time at a meeting of the West Clare Municipal District. He indicated that he would be delighted to attend any future meetings that he was invited to. He handed out some statistics for the first four months of 2015 of all Garda Districts in Clare. The statistics mainly related to theft and burglaries. He advised that in West Clare that a lot of the burglaries related to holiday homes. He advised on Garda Resources and indicated that in the past 5 years that eventhough Clare Garda Divisions were down 53 Gardai, that West and North Clare were only down 2 Gardai during that time. He further added that approximately 2 years ago that an extra Garda shift had to be included in the Garda rota as per the European Working Rules Directive and this put more pressure on Garda resources.

He mentioned the success of the Garda Operation in Kilrush to tackle money lending. He also mentioned Garda operations in West Clare to deal with cannabis "Grow House" detections and Boy Racers which were very successful and overall these detections have had a massive impact on criminality in the West Clare Area.

A no. of queries were then posed to the Chief Supt. by the Councillors, such as the size of the West Clare Area and the policing of same, the fact that Ennistymon Garda Station was no longer open 24 hours etc. Chief Supt. Kerin indicated that there was the same no. of Gardai in Ennistymon as there was in 2010. A query was raised as to whether Ennistymon could be open full time for the summer months.

Chief Supt. Kerin said he thought that Community Policing was very important. He also added that no one had contacted the Gardai to indicate that they couldn't operate effectively without having Ennistymon Garda Station open full-time. He added that having Ennistymon Garda Station open full-time would impact on the no. of Gardai on patrol.

A query was raised regarding the effectiveness of CCTV in Kilrush and as to whether or not any prosecutions had been made based on same.

Garda Ryan indicated that CCTV was very beneficial with a no. of serious incidents averted. He added that CCTV evidence hadn't been used in Court as of yet. It was suggested that the West Clare MD Councillors would be invited to see the CCTV system operating. It was suggested that the West Clare area was too big to which Garda Ryan indicated that 3 Gardai in Ennistymon were living in Kilrush and vice versa.

Chief Supt. Kerin mentioned that one of the proudest events of his career was how crime in Kilrush had been turned around by the Gardai and public bodies working together.

Supt. McGonnell emphasised the importance of the Gardai becoming members of the community.

A question was raised re illegal encampment of caravans in Spanish Point and how they could be moved on.

Chief Supt. Kerin indicated that he was not aware of the situation. He added that the Gardai had power to seize caravans and that they work closely with the local authority in dealing with such issues.

The members again thanked the Chief Superintendent & his colleagues for attending

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed :**

**Cllr. C. Curtin  
Cathaoirleach**

**Signed :**

**J. Corry  
Meetings Administrator**

**Dated this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2015.**