

**County Cavan  
Joint Policing  
Committee  
Annual Report 2017**



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## **1. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees. The Guidelines issued subsequent to the Act set out to establish the committees based on the experience gained in the pilot areas and on lessons learned from an extensive consultation process commenced in 2007.

The functions of the Joint Policing Committee's are set out in Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states:

“The joint policing committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, Discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area”

- a) keep under review:
  - (i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and
  - (ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,
- (b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,
- c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area,
- d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph
  - (i) or on which it is to advise under paragraph
  - (ii), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and
- (e) Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.

## **2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE JPC DURING THE YEAR**

### **Achievement 1**

#### **Launch of JPC Strategy**

The Cavan JPC strategy was launched in May 2017. This six year plan will ensure that the Joint Policing Committee takes a strategic and collaborative approach to policing issues in County Cavan. It sets out how all agencies and communities can work in partnership to make sure our county is a welcoming, secure and safe place.

The JPC also developed an Annual Work Plan for 2017 to support the implementation of actions.

The strategy's four themes were generated from public consultation. Activity is categorised as:

- Education
- Enforcement
- Engagement
- Co-ordination

### **Achievement 2**

#### **Community Alert Groups support from Muintir na Tire**

Muintir na Tire provided ongoing support to Community Alert groups during 2017. This included support for governance and funding applications. They promoted the Seniors Alert programme and associated changes. Text Alert is subject to ongoing review with significant improvements in text issue and delivery.

They recruited volunteers to work as Crime Prevention Ambassadors during the year. Twenty one volunteers participated in training. A review of the project is almost complete. It is recommended that community groups apply to deliver the project locally using the Station Register of Vulnerable Persons as the target cohort

annually. A network will be formalised in Cavan in 2018. Muintir na Tire held its annual meeting for Community Alert groups in December 2017.

### **Achievement 3**

#### **CCTV Schemes**

The Department of Justice has a grant scheme for Community CCTV schemes.

A number of communities in County Cavan are interested in setting up CCTV schemes for their local areas. The JPC established a subgroup to support communities in September 2017. The JPC produced an information leaflet to support communities through the process.

### **Achievement 4**

#### **Property Marking Machine**

Cavan County Council purchased a Property Marking Machine, which can punch an EIRCODE or other identifying information onto household or farm property.

Lawnmowers, garden tools, bicycles, plastics, carbon fibre golf clubs can be marked. Eircode engraving is recommended to trace lost or stolen items back to their household. This initiative is supported by the JPC and An Garda Síochána.

### **Achievement 5**

#### **Garda Station Open Days**

An Garda Síochána held a number of open days in their stations. One was held in Bailieborough in December 2016 and another in Cavan in September 2017.

Garda Vehicles, mounted unit, armed support unit and dog unit were present on the day, along with members of Cavan Fire Service, who displayed a fire engine.

The purpose of these open days is to improve engagement with the public and give people of all ages the chance to meet local Gardaí and get an extensive tour of the station.

### **3. PUBLIC MEETINGS HOSTED BY THE JPC DURING THE YEAR**

There was no public meeting held over 2017.

### **4. RECORD OF MEMBERS AND MEETINGS HELD DURING THE YEAR**

Four meetings were held over 2017.

#### **Agenda Items Covered over 2017**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 20 January 2017
<b>Agenda Items</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To confirm minutes of the County Cavan JPC meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Feedback from the JPC Strategic Plan Consultation Sessions – Colm Finnegan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads Policing in Cavan Monaghan Division'. Presentation by Inspector Kevin Gavigan, Divisional Traffic Inspector</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report from the JPC Public Meeting</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Cavan JPC Annual Report 2016</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set date for next meeting</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AOB</li> </ul>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 31 March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To confirm minutes of the County Cavan JPC meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the County Cavan Road Safety Plan – Road Safety Officer, Cavan County Council, David Farrelly</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree and adopt the County Cavan JPC Six Year Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date for next meeting</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AOB</li> </ul>
<p><b>Date of Meeting: 30 June 2017</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To confirm minutes of the County Cavan JPC meeting held on the 31 March 2017</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matters Arising</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation Property Marking (James O’Neill, Muintir na Tire and Sergeant Ken Coughlan)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community CCTV Funding Scheme</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual work plan for JPC</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on actions in the JPC plan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set meeting dates for September and November</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AOB</li> </ul>
<p><b>Date of Meeting: 24 November 2017</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To confirm minutes of the County Cavan JPC meeting held on the 16 October 2017</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matters Arising</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community CCTV Funding Scheme - report from new subgroup on community engagement</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of Speed Vans</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council motion to propose a CCTV grant for agricultural community and rural dwellers</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballyconnell Garda Station – changing of opening hours</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on actions in the JPC plan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual meeting for Community Alert Groups</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set next meeting date</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AOB</li> </ul>

### **Membership of the County Cavan JPC**

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>No. Of JPC Meeting attended</b>
John Paul Feeley (Chairperson)	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	4
Peter Mc Vitty (Vice Chairperson)	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	4
Sarah O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	3
Shane. P. O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Clifford Kelly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	3
Fergal Curtin	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Winston Bennett	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	3
Carmel Brady	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	3
Paddy Smith	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	3
Madeline Argue	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	3
Damian Brady	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	3
Noel O'Connell	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	4
Paddy Mc Donald	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	3
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Siochana	Chief Supt.	3
Colette Quinn	An Garda Siochana	Supt. Chief	1
James Coen	An Garda Siochana	Supt. Chief	3
Brian Mc Dermott	Community Rep.	Mr.	4
Noleen Brady Smith	Community Rep.	Ms.	3
Frank Mc Dermott	Community Rep.	Mr.	1
Vanessa Clarke	Community Rep.	Ms.	4
Aisling Tobin	Community Rep.	Mr.	2
Bob Gilbert	Community Rep.	Mr.	4
Brendan Smith	Dail Eireann	Deputy	3
Diarmuid Wilson	Dail Eireann	Senator	0
Joe O'Reilly	Dail Eireann	Deputy	3
Niamh Smyth	Dail Eireann	Deputy	0
Tommy Ryan	Cavan Co.Co.	Chief Executive	4
Eoin Doyle	Cavan Co.Co.	Director of Services	3

\*Replaced by Chief Super. Christopher Mangan in Oct. 2017



## **5. Copies of the Minutes of JPC Meetings in 2017**

**Minutes of Meeting of Co. Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 20 January 2017 at 3pm.**

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**Councillors:** Cllr. C. Kelly, Cllr. J. P. Feeley, Cllr. W. Bennett, Cllr. P. Mc Vitty, Cllr. P. Smith, Cllr. M. Argue, Cllr. N. Connell, Cllr. P. Mc Donald, Cllr S. O' Reilly, Cllr. C. Brady,

**Community Representatives:** Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott,

Bob Gilbert, Noleen Brady Smith

**Executive:** Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Gráinne Boyle, (Social Inclusion Unit)

**Garda Officers:** Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan, Superintendent James Coen

**Oireachtas Members:** Deputy B. Smith, Senator J.O' Reilly

**Apologies:** Cllr S. P. O' Reilly, Deputy N. Smyth, Aisling Tobin, Cllr. F. Curtin, Senator D. Wilson

**In Attendance:** Sgt. James Gallagher, Inspector Kevin Gavigan, Sgt. Patrick Conway, Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan,

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### **Minutes and Matters Arising**

Cllr. Mc Vitty proposed the minutes and Bob Gilbert seconded them.

There were no matters arising.

### **Correspondence**

Two letters of response have been received to letters previously issued through the JPC. These included a response from:

- Leo Kinsella (Area Manager HSE) in relation to the JPC's request for additional resources to be allocated to the Cavan & Monaghan Drugs Awareness Project.
- The Tánaiste and Minister for Justice & Equality, Ms. Frances Fitzgerald in response to the JPC's request for additional Garda resources to be made available for County Cavan.

Chief Superintendent Mangan said that they regularly submit requests for additional staff for the jurisdiction to the Department. Three new Garda recruits have been allocated for this year but the numbers received are nowhere near matching the numbers needed. The difficulty is in not knowing in a given year how many recruits they will receive.

Cllr. Feeley asked that both letters be forwarded to all JPC members.

### **Feedback from the JPC Strategic Plan Consultation Sessions – Colm Finnegan**

Mr. Finnegan talked through a report produced on some of the main findings from the consultation process carried out for the JPC Strategic Plan. The report included the findings from the consultation session carried out with the JPC members at their previous meeting in October 2016 and the public consultation session held at the JPC Public Meeting in December 2016. Road Safety and Drugs /Alcohol seemed to be the two topics which raised the most interest at both consultations.

He suggested that all the topics raised seem to fall in under four themes. These included: education, enforcement, engagement and co-ordination. He suggested that any objectives and actions put forward under the JPC's Strategic Plan should come under these categories.

Cllr. N. Connell proposed the consultation report and N. Brady Smith seconded this.

Cllr. Feeley thanked both G. Boyle and Mr. Finnegan on the work carried out on the consultation process to date and in particular the consultation session which was

held at the JPC's Public Meeting. He stated it was a well attended event with good engagement and feedback received.

Work will commence on developing the strategic plan using the findings from the consultation process. The JPC steering committee will meet in advance of the next JPC meeting to go through the draft of the plan and the final report will be brought forward for approval at the next meeting of the JPC. Chief Superintendent will assign someone within An Garda Síochána to work with G. Boyle on developing the plan.

### **Roads Policing in the Cavan Monaghan Division**

Cllr. Feeley introduced and welcomed Sergeant James Gallagher and Inspector Kevin Gavigan, the Divisional Traffic Inspector to the meeting.

Inspector Gavigan provided a very comprehensive and informative presentation in relation to the following topics as part of his presentation:

- Fatalities on the Roads of Co. Cavan for 2016
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants
- Enforcement of Road Traffic Legislation
- Life saver offences, Drink Driving, Speed ,Mobile Phones and Seat belts
- On Going Operations Regarding Traffic
- Initiatives on Road safety going forward for 2017

He informed members that four personal have recently been recruited to the Traffic Corps Unit.

As well as informing the JPC members of the statistics he also apprised the members of how the figures were used. He explained that planning by the Road Safety Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland was based on the statistics supplied by the local gardaí. This data also feeds into a number of other areas such as informing the local authority about overgrown hedges and road signs that are dirty or damaged. Inspector Gavigan thanked Cllr. J.P Feeley for inviting him to present at the meeting.

Cllr. Feeley congratulated Inspector Gavigan on a very good presentation, commenting how interesting it was to hear the figures and statistics around road offences within the county and what is actually being carried out by the local gardaí lower them. He said it was encouraging to hear that so many offences are being dealt with by the gardaí employing effective methods.

Deputy Smith praised the gardaí for their great work in this area. He enquired into illicit diesel products stating that he has previously called for a dedicated all island multi-agency approach to tackling this issue. Inspector Gavigan replied that there has been a decrease in illicit diesel products within Counties Cavan and Monaghan due to the diesel dye which is now being used; he ensured that robust enforcement will continue.

Chief Superintendent Mangan commented that it is disappointing to see that statistics on road offences are still so high within the county. Ultimately the responsibility is on the driver of the vehicle, people's driving habits can be very poor and the figures reflect this. He recently submitted a request to increase the number of 'Go Safe' and 'Gatso' (speed trap vans) allocated to the Cavan and Monaghan Division. He believes this is an effective way of tackling the issue and will help lower the number of offences.

Cllr. Mc Vitty stated that the drinking and driving figures were very interesting to see. He enquired if there was a distinction made between those driving under the influence of drink and other drug substances. Inspector Gavigan replied that they are all considered under the heading of 'driving while intoxicated'. There has to be an element of impairment to somebody's driving for them to be pulled over to be tested.

Deputy J. O'Reilly wished to endorse the comments made by Chief Superintendent Mangan. He congratulated Inspector Gavigan on the schools programme being delivered to TY students, believing it to be an excellent programme targeted at the perfect age group. He asked if they will get to deliver it to every secondary school within the county. Inspector Gavigan replied that it is their ambition to deliver to all schools within the county.

Cllr Mc Donald enquired what the situation was around pedestrian road users not wearing high vis-vests asking if they could face prosecution for doing so, especially when walking along dangerous stretches of the road. Inspector Gavigan replied that they cannot be prosecuted however the onus is on the individual to take responsibility for their own safety and wearing these vests has a huge impact of lowering the number of road accidents that could potentially take place.

Cllr. Feeley endorsed the previous comments made by Inspector Gavigan and agreed that personal responsibility is key to lowering the number of incidents taking place on the roads. He informed the committee that the Council's own Road Safety Officer has been working on a Road Safety Strategy for County Cavan which is to be launched in February 2017 and suggested that a presentation on this be provided at the next JPC meeting.

### **County Cavan JPC Annual Report 2016**

Cllr. W. Bennett proposed the JPC's annual report for 2016 and B. Mc Dermott seconded this.

### **AOB**

There was a discussion around the Garda Open Day held in Bailieborough in December 2016. The following individuals all wanted to congratulate the Bailieborough Gardaí involved in the day and specifically Superintendent Leo. Mc Ginn.

- Deputy B. Smith
- Cllr. C. Kelly
- Cllr. S. O'Reilly
- Deputy J. O'Reilly
- Cllr. P. Mc Donald

The Chief Superintendent Mangan also commented that it was a fantastic event with great community engagement on the day. They hope to replicate this in other stations.

Deputy Smith enquired into the current status of the re-establishment of the Cavan and Monaghan Divisional Drugs Unit. Chief Superintendent Mangan replied that the interview process will be getting underway over the next couple of weeks. The unit itself should be set up by the 1<sup>st</sup> week in March.

Both Cllr. C. Kelly and Deputy J.O. Reilly stated that this was very welcome news.

**Next Meeting**

31 March 2017, 3pm in the council chamber.

**Minutes of Meeting of Co. Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 3pm.**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** Chairperson Cllr. J. P. Feeley, Cllr. W. Bennett, Cllr. P. Mc Vitty, Cllr. P. Smith, Cllr. M. Argue, Cllr. N. Connell, Cllr. P. Mc Donald, Cllr S. O' Reilly, Cllr. C. Brady, Cllr S. P. O' Reilly, Cllr. F. Curtin

**Community Representatives:** Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott,

Bob Gilbert, Noleen Brady Smith, Ashling Tobin,

**Executive:** Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Gráinne Boyle, (Social Inclusion Unit)

**Garda Officers:** Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan, Superintendent James Coen, Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan

**Oireachtas Members:** Senator J. O' Reilly

**Apologies:** Cllr. C. Kelly, Deputy N. Smyth, Senator D. Wilson, Cllr. C. Brady

**In Attendance:** David Farrelly, Roads Safety Officer

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**Minutes and Matters Arising**

Cllr. D. Brady proposed the minutes and Cllr. W. Bennett seconded them.

There were no matters arising.

**Presentation on the County Cavan Road Safety Plan by David Farrelly, Road Safety Officer, Cavan County Council**

Cllr. Feeley introduced David Farrelly, the Roads Safety Officer within Cavan County Council and welcomed him to the meeting. Mr. Farrelly provided a comprehensive overview on the development of the County Cavan Road Safety Plan 2017 to 2020, detailing:

- Membership of the Road Safety Plan Working Group

- Their mission statement
- Objectives & targets of the plan
- Overall profile of the county
- Cavan's Collision and Fatalities Statistics
- Stakeholders Involved
- Details on actions within the plan

Cllr. Feeley thanked Mr. Farrelly on his presentation, adding that it's good to see a multi-agency approach being taken through the plan.

D. Brady thanked Mr. Farrelly on his presentation also. He stated that some of the decisions being taken by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) are putting road users in danger. He requested that the County Cavan JPC issue a letter to TII in relation to this issue.

Mr. Farrelly agreed that this is something the Roads Safety Committee could work on jointly with the JPC on and a joint submission could be made.

Cllr. P. Smith believes that the TII and the Roads Safety Authority are not interested in councillor's comments and suggestions. More enforcement is needed around speeding and more speed limits are needed.

Cllr. Feeley noted that this matter had already been discussed at a recent County Council Meeting and the request has been put forward to the TII to come and meet with them. He hopes that this will go towards helping to resolve some of the issues.

Senator O'Reilly welcomed the Road Safety Plan, stating that its important to see education programmes included within the plan. He believes that it is especially important that such programmes are targeted at Transitional Year (TY) students. He suggested that Mr. Farrelly links in with all the TY Co-ordinators within the county's schools to ensure these education programmes are targeted directly at these schools



Cllr. Feeley informed members that the Road Safety Plan will be adopted at the next council meeting.

### **County Cavan JPC Six Year Strategic Plan**

Ms. Boyle provided an overview of the six year strategic plan developed for the County Cavan JPC, covering in detail the main objectives and actions contained within it.

Cllr. Feeley said that it is important to note that the JPC is not an implementing body; it has more of a co-ordinating role and this plan is reflective of this. He invited feedback and comments from members in relation to the plan put forward.

Deputy O'Reilly congratulated all those involved in the development of the strategy. He stated that the best and most effective activity included within the plan is to have a dedicated community guard allocated to each urban area. He is happy to see that the plan highlights the importance of the interaction between the JPC and the Drugs & Alcohol Forum and stated the importance of the JPC supporting the work locally of the Cavan Drugs Awareness Project. He thought the Bailieborough Garda Open Day initiative was a great idea and is glad to see that it will be rolled out further to other stations within the county under the plan. He stated that the CCTV Scheme has huge potential; it's a deterrent to crime being carried out and it's also very useful for evidence gathering purposes. He also made reference to a new bill which is currently being drafted involving contact between motorists and cyclists which he believes will be of importance.

Supt. Coen responded to the point made around community guards. He said that gardaí are currently being assigned to different estates and built up areas within the county.

Chief Supt. Mangan said that in relation to the issue of Drugs he believes that the re-established Divisional Drugs Unit will have a huge contribution to make in tackling this issue. However he believes it is of critical importance that those taking drugs receive the appropriate supports and rehabilitation treatments available to support

them to come off them and prevent them from going back on them. He also stated that CCTV is essential in helping to prevent crime and resolves many issues, he is highly supportive of this.

Cllr. Connell welcomed the plan but asked could the An Garda Síochána's crime statistics which were used within the plan be trusted in light of recent media reports.

Chief Supt. Mangan replied that he would be majorly concerned if the figures for the division were not being recorded accurately. He advised that a major internal audit is underway within the division to investigate the recent media claims. He sought to remind members that there is excellent work being undertaken by the gardaí by some very committed and responsible personal.

Cllr. Feeley commended Chief Supt. Mangan for his honest and frank response. He expressed his gratitude and respect for the work An Garda Síochána carry out, stating that it is important to acknowledge the level of risk they put themselves under in carrying out their duties and he believes that the vast majority of people recognise this.

B. Mc Dermott enquired into the census figures used within the report. He asked why the 2011 census data was used and not the more up to date 2016 data. He also enquired into the Electoral Divisions highlighted as 'disadvantaged' within the report and where they are located within the county. G. Boyle replied that at the time of writing up the report only preliminary data from the 2016 census was available, the more detailed county data will not be available until later in the year. She said that a map to highlight areas of deprivation within the county will be included within the final report.

The plan was proposed by Cllr. W. Bennett and seconded by Cllr. P. Mc Vitty.

Cllr. Feeley told members that they will be contacted regarding the launch of the JPC Strategy once arrangements were made.

## **AOB**

Cllr. Feeley informed members that the Ballinagh Community Alert are applying for funding for a Community CCTV Scheme within the town and are seeking endorsement of their project through the Co. Cavan JPC.

Cllr. W. Bennett said that there are huge volumes of traffic going through the town and the installation of a Community CCTV System would be of benefit for both the town and An Garda Síochána.

Cllr. S. P. O'Reilly proposed the endorsement of the scheme and Cllr. P. Mc Vitty seconded this.

Supt. Coen commended the community within Ballinagh for driving this project.

E. Doyle informed members that an announcement by the Department of Justice on a new round of funding for the Community CCTV Scheme is to be made shortly. He asked the elected members to consider suitable CCTV Schemes which could be supported in the future through this funding source. Communities are to provide match funding but there is potential to co-fund such schemes through the Council's Municipal District Funding Scheme.

Cllr. Feeley suggested that this scheme would be of particular importance to areas where garda stations have closed down. He encouraged the elected members to work with their local communities who wish to apply for funding under the new scheme. Cllr. S.O' Reilly and F. Mc Dermott both said that there was a strong requirement for a CCTV Scheme in Shercock.

Cllr. D. Brady welcomed the new scheme for Ballinagh and enquired who would be responsible for monitoring the cameras. Supt. Coen replied that the camera's will not require continual monitoring, however they are good to revert back to as and when needed.

Cllr. S. P. O'Reilly raised the issue for the need of a Dog Handling Unit within the Cavan & Monaghan Division. He also wanted to request that extra garda personal be assigned to the Mullagh area due to the significant increase in its population growth. He congratulated the staff of the Bailieborough Garda Station for their recent Open Day.

Chief Supt. Mangan replied to say that he would look further into the viability of a Dog Handling Unit. He said that they have a very active unit in Dublin which is very effective. He acknowledged Cllr O'Reilly's request for additional gardaí to be assigned to Mullagh and said that he is continually seeking additional personal for the Cavan & Monaghan Division and in specific for the Bailieborough Sub-District as it is very under resourced.

Cllr. S. O' Reilly requested that the JPC lobby to fast track the new Garda Headquarters Building which has been agreed to be located in Bailieborough. Cllr. Feeley agreed that a letter would be written to the Minister on behalf of the JPC to request this. Senator O' Reilly stated that there have been fantastic achievements under this to date with the capital programme for the building having received full approval. He said that he will also continue to lobby for progress on its development and informed members that there is currently a slight technical issue with securing the site for the building, however he is positive that this will be resolved very shortly.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the County Cavan JPC will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm in the Council Chamber.

**Minutes of Meeting of Co. Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 3pm.**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** Chairperson Cllr. J. P. Feeley, Cllr. W. Bennett, Cllr. P. Mc Vitty, Cllr. P. Smith, Cllr. M. Argue, Cllr. N. Connell, Cllr. P. Mc Donald, Cllr. C. Brady, Cllr D. Brady.

**Community Representatives:** Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott, Bob Gilbert.

**Executive:** Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Emer Coveney (Community & Enterprise).

**Garda Officers:** Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan, Superintendent James Coen.

**Oireachtas Members:** Senator J. O' Reilly, Deputy Brendan Smith

**Apologies:** Cllr. F. Curtin, Noeleen Brady, Deputy Niamh Smyth

**In Attendance:** Seamus Enright (Anglo Celt), Tessa Fleming (Northern Sound), Inspector Nial McKiernan, Sergeant Ken Coughlan.

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Cllr John Paul Feeley, chairperson, opened the meeting by congratulating Grainne Boyle on her new baby. He expressed congratulations to everyone who was involved in the Constituency boundary campaign.

**Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Peter Mc.Vitty and seconded by Brian McDermott.

## **Matters Arising**

Cllr Damien Brady asked if the letter had been written to Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Emer Coveney said she had been in contact with the Road Safety Officer who had discussed this with the Senior Engineer but the Road Safety Committee has not met since.

## **Presentation on Property Marking**

Sergeant Ken Coughlan gave a presentation on property marking. A pilot project on property marking was launched in June. He provided a demonstration of an engraving machine. This machine can be used to mark various types of property such as lawnmowers, garden tools, bicycles, plastics, carbon fibre golf clubs.

He recommended engraving the Eircode onto property so that lost or stolen items could be easily linked back to their household. It has been proven that property marking is a good way of deterring theft. This scheme was first piloted in West Cork where there was a problem with the theft of outboard engines.

Sgt Coughlan also showed examples of signage that could be used to indicate 'property marking in operation' which would further deter theft. Signage can be relatively inexpensive and could be displayed for example in a yard, boat yard, farm yard etc.

He showed examples of items that had been engraved with Eircodes. He also circulated examples of stickers that indicate property has been marked. Property marking can be overt and covert.

The scheme has been piloted in the Carrickmacross district. If any group wants to organise property marking they can contact the Gardai.

## **Community CCTV Funding Scheme**

Dr Emer Coveney outlined general information about the new Community CCTV scheme. Grants of up to €40,000 are available to community groups for the capital costs of installing equipment. Grants will cover a maximum of 60% of the total costs. Eligible groups include area partnerships, community development projects, family resource centres, community enterprises etc.

The scheme is not intended for private or commercial applicants. Consortium applications may include private groups alongside community interests. There is significant paperwork to be completed as part of the application process, including a letter from the JPC, supporting letter from the local authority in relation to data control, and authorisation from the Garda Commissioner. The scheme will not fund the upgrading or repair of existing schemes.

Emer asked if communities are generally aware of the scheme and what further promotional work is necessary.

Vanessa Clarke said that Community Alert groups are aware of the scheme but that the amount of paperwork required is onerous. In terms of timeframe, it would probably be early 2018 before we see applications coming through.

She suggested setting up a consultation subcommittee, where representatives of the local authority and Gardai could assist community groups.

There is the potential that groups with higher capacity will access this funding, but other areas with a high level of need may not have community groups with the capacity to apply.

The Chief Superintendent said that the Ballinagh scheme is almost at a conclusion and that a template would be available on this process to support other groups. He assured the committee that An Garda Síochána would engage with groups and assist them. Vanessa Clarke said that the Public Participation Network could also support this process.

The Chief Superintendent said that the control of data is extremely important. He has to sign off on applications, stating there is a need for the scheme.

Inspector Nial McKiernan is the main contact person for the Community CCTV scheme.

Senator Joe Reilly expressed his satisfaction with the introduction of the scheme which will be a huge disincentive to crime and public order offences. He applauded the Ballinagh initiative and enquired into funding amounts under the overall scheme.

Deputy Brendan Smith said that the scheme is a very welcome development. Such schemes have been successful where they have been put in place in the past. The Ballyjamesduff community have advanced a proposal and it is ready to go to the Chief Superintendent.

Cllr Winston Bennet thanked Inspector McKiernan and Superintendent Jimmy Coen for their work to date in supporting the Ballinagh scheme.

There is reluctance in some communities to apply for CCTV schemes and some further promotion work may be necessary.

Superintendent Jimmy Coen noted that there has to be a valid reason to download CCTV footage. It has to be for criminal investigation.

Cllr Feeley clarified that the footage is not monitored on a constant basis.

Bob Gilbert said that communities had an element of a 'big brother' mentality about the scheme, and that we need to look at some way of reducing the paperwork, for example, could all the agencies stamp one document. Vanessa Clarke responded that every application is different. She suggested that the consultative group would be useful because a lot of groups are not used to filling out paperwork. She asked the executive to provide information to the Public Participation Network for distribution to community groups.

The chairperson noted that the application from the Ballyhaise community requires a letter of endorsement from the JPC. This was proposed by Cllr Winston Bennett and seconded by Cllr Carmel Brady.

### **Annual work plan for JPC**

Dr Emer Coveney circulated a draft of the annual workplan for the JPC. This was developed by asking lead agencies what activity they proposed to undertake this year, and focusing on the short-term actions from the overall strategy.

The Chief Superintendent said that the actions being led by the Gardai are moving at a pace, however there is an IT issue affecting the text alert system.

Deputy Brendan Smith commented on the Road Show that took place in April. He suggested it could be brought to every post primary centre in the county and that media publicity could be generated for it. Superintendent Jimmy Coen said that the Gardai have started working with Transition Year students who are embarking on their driving careers.

Senator O'Reilly enquired about the effectiveness of Garda intelligence on drug issues and what actions are being taken by the police service.

Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan replied that they had a number of requests in 2016 regarding establishing a Divisional Drug Unit. He researched the issue and decided, based on seizures, that there was a necessity for it. He said it is possible to buy any type of drug in the immediate locality and there is a ready supply in the greater Dublin area. The information being provided to the Gardai is reasonable. The Drug Unit has resulted in seizures. He emphasised that information provided to the Gardai in relation to drugs is confidential and the informant would not have to attend court. In a lot of towns the greater problems are related to alcohol misuse and there are cases where the Gardai have to arrest people for their own safety.

He noted that there is only one drugs counsellor for the Cavan Monaghan area and that it is difficult for people who have problems with drug use.

Cllr Paddy Smith congratulated the Gardai on the large drug seizure in Co Meath the previous day. He called for more speed cameras, school education and education about safe cycling.

Cllr Peter McVitty enquired what powers the Gardai have in relation to the type of alcohol being sold in premises. Superintendent Jimmy Coen said the Gardai have general powers of entry for the purposes of inspection and to detect offences, but that the quality of alcohol is a matter for Revenue. This is usually investigated on foot of complaints. In general this is not a big issue in Cavan but there are serious fines.

The Chief Superintendent said that the majority of publicans are responsible and try to run a good business. The Gardai endeavour to contribute to school education. There has been an increased budget for traffic in Cavan-Monaghan and it is having an effect.

Deputy Brendan Smith asked if the threshold required to get a conviction for illicit drug possession was too high and whether there was a need for legislative change in this area. He welcomed the establishment of the Drugs Unit.

Cllr Winston Bennett commented on the availability of a single Drug and Alcohol Counsellor and asked whether it would be worth sending a letter to the HSE in relation to this matter. He congratulated the Gardai in Meath on the seizure.

Cllr Clifford Kelly said that drugs are available in every town and village. If signage was in place with the Garda number, people would feel confident to ring a member of the police service.



Cllr Carmel Brady said that the Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre was going to roll out a scheme to teach young people to ride their bikes safely. They are developing a road with relevant markings and will make this training available to groups in Cavan and Monaghan.

Cllr John Paul Feeley noted that the Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum is in place and this is a good structure for networking and linking with the HSE and many other groups.

### **Update on actions in the JPC plan**

There will be a JPC public meeting in the autumn. Date to be confirmed.

The annual work plan states that an audit will be carried out of community safety initiatives, and that a Community Engagement Subcommittee will be established to conduct the audit. It was suggested that we hold the first meeting of this new subgroup in the autumn.

### **Set meeting dates for September and November**

The next meetings will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm in the Council Chamber.

### **AOB**

Cllr Paddy Smith asked about the possibility of getting additional Gardai, especially in Kilnaleck. The Chief Superintendent said it was a fair request and that a number of other areas also need Gardai. He has highlighted this issue and has looked for a HR plan for the division. There was no recruitment for many years and also the service is being affected by retirements. He said there is a major recruitment campaign at the moment and the increase in members should start to take place by the end of 2017. In July there will be additional Gardai assigned to the Carrickmacross area. There are 327 members in the Division at present.

Cllr Winston Bennett asked if there would be a replacement sergeant assigned to Ballinagh.

The Chief Superintendent said that Cavan is a training station and that we require new recruits from Templemore. We are at minimum levels in Cavan at the moment. Other areas will be supplemented as new recruits come in.

Cllr Paddy McDonald welcomed the new police station in Bailieborough but said the location presented access issues. He asked about the start date for construction.

Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan said he hoped it would be started within a reasonable time. He would know the date at the next JPC meeting. He acknowledged that the site is an issue but said it would be a 'fit for purpose' Garda station.

Senator Joe O'Reilly congratulated Cllr Paddy McDonald on his election as Cathaoirleach. He also welcomed the planned development of the Bailieborough Garda Station, stating he had been personally involved in trying to progress this issue.

**Minutes of Meeting of Co. Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 at 3pm.**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** Chairperson Cllr. J. P. Feeley, Cllr. C. Kelly, Cllr. P. Mc Vitty, Cllr. P. Smith, , Cllr. N. Connell, Cllr. C. Brady, Cllr D. Brady. Cllr. F. Curtin, Cllr. S. O'Reilly, Cllr S.P. O'Reilly,

**Community Representatives:** Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott,  
Bob Gilbert, Noeleen Brady.

**Executive:** Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Emer Coveney (Community & Enterprise) and Sinéad Tormey (Community & Enterprise)

**Garda Officers:** Chief Superintendent Colette Quinn, Superintendent James Coen.

**Oireachtas Members:** Deputy Brendan Smith

**Apologies:** Senator J. O' Reilly Deputy Niamh Smyth Cllr. M. Argue Cllr. P. Mc Donald, Cllr W. Bennett, Cllr Carmel Brady, Aisling Tobin

**In Attendance:** Thomas Lyons (Anglo Celt), Inspector Nial McKiernan

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Cllr John Paul Feeley, chairperson, opened the meeting by conveying his condolences to Cllr Damien Brady on the recent death of his brother. The Chair also relayed the news that the death had occurred of Brendan Reilly, CEO of Breffni Integrated that morning. The committee observed a moment's silence as a mark of respect for both bereavements.

The Chair then welcomed the new Chief Superintendent Colette Quinn to the meeting and wished her well in her new role. He acknowledged the great work and cooperation that the group had with the previous Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan and said he looked forward to ongoing co-operation with the Gardaí.

Each of the Councillors conveyed their sympathy to Cllr Damien Brady and to the family of Brendan Reilly. They each in turn also welcomed the new Chief Superintendent Colette Quinn.

A discussion took place regarding the loss of Brendan Reilly. He will be sadly missed not only by his family, friends and colleagues but by the wider community and county as a

whole. He carried out tremendous work in the county and was always willing to help in any way he could.

### **Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Bob Gilbert and seconded by Cllr. Sarah O'Reilly.

### **Matters Arising**

The Chair acknowledged all of the work done by emergency services and in particular the Gardai during the recent storm Ophelia.

### **Community CCTV Funding Scheme**

Emer Coveney updated the committee on the subgroup meeting which was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. Cavan County Council will act as the Data Controller for the scheme. Lynda McGavigan from the Corporate Affairs department is developing a Data Protection Policy for Community CCTV Schemes. Applicant community groups will need to sign up to the local authority policy.

In some cases data control can be delegated to the Gardai. All those with responsibility regarding the data will have to be Garda vetted.

A question arose at the subgroup in relation to the option of using moveable cameras. The Department of Justice had not come across this enquiry before but were not sure if this was workable.

Emer Coveney distributed a shortened guide of the steps to be followed when applying for this funding to the committee members. She commented that the subgroup only need to meet and will be more functional when applications start to come in.

Inspector Nial McKiernan told the group that the Ballyjamesduff consultation has taken place.

Cllr S. P. O'Reilly enquired as to how the scheme will work regarding the housing of the equipment. He suggested that the Gardai should be responsible for monitoring the data and that it is a burden on community groups to take responsibility for the equipment.

Cllr Paddy McDonald mentioned that there were cameras put up in Ballyjamesduff by the locals and they were not welcomed as people felt their privacy was being invaded.

Superintendent James Coen explained that there will be no on-going monitoring of the data. It is only when an incident occurs that needs to be investigated when the data will be viewed. The Chief Superintendent has to approve the data download in order for it to be used for public viewing as evidence.

Eoin Doyle said that the burden will lie with the community groups for the housing and maintenance of the equipment. He said under data protection that there was a new national protocol and we need to see how this can be transferred to the community.

Deputy Brendan Smith commented on how difficult it is for community to access this funding. So far five applications had been received by the Department and they were all returned as they were incomplete.

Cllr Sarah O'Reilly commented on the large amount of detail on the forms and that it is a burden on volunteers. She felt the synopsis document produced by Cavan County Council was useful.

Vanessa Clarke advised that it is vital to hold consultations with community groups and also to link in with Community Development Associations so that groups are clear of exactly how the scheme works and when and how the data is used.

Cllr. Fergal Curtin questioned if the grant aid was 60% or did it vary. He felt this was not enough especially with ongoing cost element. Emer Coveney responded that the maximum grant is 60%. Eoin Doyle said that the Municipal District discretionary grants could be used towards funding the scheme.

### **Location of Speed Vans**

Cllr Paddy McDonald stated there should be more check points on the roads he also asked how the locations for speed vans are decided upon.

Superintendent Coen explained that locations are decided upon due to statistics of traffic collisions, serious injury accidents and fatal accidents over the years in association with the Garda Traffic Bureau. The 'Go Safe' speed vans are set at designated locations. Garda speed vans are in place where there is a community concern regarding safety, eg schools, sporting grounds, traffic congestion.

Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly said that there was a major issue regarding fixed penalty notices and people not receiving them. He suggested they be sent out by registered post to combat the situation.

Cllr Paddy McDonald questioned the location of the speed vans outside Ballyjamesduff on the Virginia Road. He suggested that the money spent on these vans could be better spent on Garda resources.

Cllr Noel O'Connell asked if there will ever be a provision for fixed cameras to be located in villages and between towns as this has in the past made drivers slow down.

Superintendent Coen explained that the Go Safe contract is for mobile cameras through the National Traffic Bureau. He said that through the proper channels he can bring the issue to the Bureau either in writing or through the Committee.

## **Council motion to propose a CCTV grant for agricultural community and rural dwellers<sup>1</sup>**

Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly referred to statistics regarding tool, machinery and livestock theft. He said that many crimes are unreported as communities or individuals feel that nothing is done about them. His proposal is for a grant for rural dwellers to help combat the epidemic of burglaries and thefts. He mentioned that older people have got the panic buttons and sensor lighting but said there is much fear among rural dwellers. He suggested a vat rebate facility or some sort of grant to help the vulnerable in our society to feel safe and secure in their own homes.

Deputy Brendan Smith complimented Cllr O'Reilly on his initiative and said it commands our support. The additional policing demands posed by being in a border region were emphasised. Deputy Brendan Smith said it would be useful if there was grant aid that acts as a leverage for small households and farmers to protect their own property.

Vanessa Clarke concurred with Deputy Brendan Smith in welcoming an approach to increasing awareness. She said communities have a role to play in crime prevention. Property marking initiatives have been successful, for example, in County Monaghan. She suggested that machines be made available in this area and perhaps tracking devices installed. She commented if the feedback and incidents were not being report for statistics then it will result in stations closing and a decrease in services in that area.

Chief Superintendent Collette Quinn explained that under-reporting would be a disadvantage from the point of view of funding and resources as most of these initiatives are decided based on evidence. She said it is vital to have engagement with the marts, farmers, and rural businesses.

Superintendent Coen spoke about a report of suspicious activity which led to the recovery of a stolen vehicle and tools. He said all calls are monitored and closed off. He informed the group that rural areas are targeted, especially unlocked sheds, usually between 2am and 7am.

The Chair questioned how calls were monitored. Superintendent Coen replied that they were all monitored though the Regional Control Centre.

Cllr Fergal Curtin complimented Cllr. O'Reilly for putting this on the agenda. He mentioned that he himself and several neighbours were victims of this kind of crime. He questioned if the reporting of crimes leads to convictions. He also questioned where the equipment which

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from Council meeting October 2017

8. Cavan County Council supports a request to Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment, Denis Naughton, T.D., and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, T.D. to engage in meaningful dialogue for the creation of a CCTV and security systems grant for members of the agricultural community and rural dwellers due to the increasing frequency of burglaries and thefts in the North Eastern Region.

The members also asked that the television programme Crime Call be televised all year round.

is stolen ends up as it does not seem to be sold in local markets and are they exported out of the country.

Chief Superintendent Collette Quinn replied that the stolen goods are bought by criminal gangs and locally. She said statistics show what type of goods are taken and what is recovered.

For joint operations to recover property, more and more resources are needed and all reported incidents help to recover the goods and to address the problem.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Fergal Curtin and will be referred to the Minister for Justice.

### **Text Alert**

Maghera Community Alert is not receiving the Garda texts.

Inspector Nial McKiernan explained that the IT system for text alert was down from early May to end of September. He said that he personally sent messages when required. He said that the Cavan group held a stakeholders meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November and they will meet again in January.

He said that dissemination in Cavan has been remedied and that this will be rolled out to the Bailieborough district. The guidelines state that only a Sergeant can send a text alert message but they are piloting an idea that would allow the alert to be sent by a number of Gardai.

Inspector Nial McKiernan said he would discuss any queries regarding the Text Alert after the meeting.

### **Ballyconnell Garda Station – changing of opening hours**

The Chair said that he attended the open and very constructive meeting organised by Superintendent Coen in Ballyconnell regarding the changing of opening hours in the station.

Superintendent Coen told the group that he met with councillors as well as members of the JPC prior to the public meeting. It was arranged with the locals to discuss the rationale for reduced opening hours for the station. He said that they have to make the maximum use of resources. He explained that there is an increased Garda presence out of hours at night time in mobile units and that there is always one unit and where possible two units in West Cavan. He said the station has seen reduced opening hours but that the 24hr police presence is there.

Deputy Brendan Smith said it was a very beneficial meeting especially to see how they use their resources. He said it highlighted a clear message that additional personnel are needed in West Cavan. He said the communities support the work of the Gardaí and would request additional resources.

Cllr Damien Brady welcomed news of additional resources. He said there are people living in fear and understand that resources are a big issue but that the pressure needs to be kept on.

He shared with the group that a new group of undesirables from a criminal gang in Dublin has moved into the estate and families are moving out because of them.

Cllr Mc Vitty stressed that it is imperative to get the message across to people that the Gardaí are on the ground in West Cavan. The fact that there is no Gardaí in the station is a worry to people. He welcomed the decision to reopen the Bawnboy Station.

Superintendent Coen said he engages with communities and that locals need to be able to identify with a local Garda. Visibility of Gardai is important.

Chief Superintendent Quinn said that they are putting a mobile phone in patrol cars. It is crucial to have an operational presence and to be able to respond.

### **Update on actions in the JPC Plan**

There were no updates since the last meeting that were not already covered on the agenda.

### **Annual Meeting for Community Alert Groups**

Muintir na Tire is holding their annual meeting for Community Alert groups on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December in the Kilmore Hotel. This will coincide with two sessions being delivered by Pobal in relation to the Seniors Alert scheme. The Muintir na Tire session will run from 12.30 to 2.30pm. Topics will cover CCTV and text alert.

### **Date of next Meeting**

The next JPC meeting will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### **AOB**

A meeting will be held in Bailieborough on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in relation to the Community CCTV scheme. The chair noted that this meeting is party political and that the JPC could not be used as a Forum to discuss party political issues. Eoin Doyle said that we needed clarification if the meeting is being organised by the community.

Cllr Reilly referred to text alert again. People in Bailieborough have not received any text alert message in 18 months. Inspector McKiernan said that the problems with text alert have been countrywide. Monaghan is currently researching a remedy using the local authority text alert system.

The chair said that we needed to organise public engagement meetings and that we could look at organising one in each division in the new year.

It was commented on that the Open Day in Cavan Garda station was well attended and well organised. The chair complemented all those involved. Cllr S. P O'Reilly asked if this event would happen again. Superintendent Coen said it would be useful to hold it every two years.

Cllr S. O'Reilly said that the Bailieborough station is grossly under-resourced and the area is being affected by crime. She would like to see an increase in controls in that area.

Cllr D. Brady asked what could be done to encourage people walking on the roadside to wear high-vis jackets. Eoin Doyle said that 400 high vis vest has been distributed at Taste of

Cavan. Vanessa Clarke said that any group can go online and order high-vis vests from the Road Safety Authority. The RSA also makes Road Safety Officers available to support community groups.

Brian McDermott asked about images posted on Facebook of farmers with firearms. Superintendent Coen said he had not noticed an increase in firearms licences. He also asked to have a discussion about the Garda Drugs Unit.

It was proposed that the Garda Drugs Unit would make a presentation to the next JPC meeting.

Cllr S. O'Reilly asked for an update on the Bailieborough Garda Station. Chief superintendent said there was no update on the building but it is in progression.

The Chief Superintendent said they would be interested in recruiting more Garda Reserve and that a training programme was available.