



Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Report for year ended 31st December, 2016

Wicklow County Council JPC – Inaugural Meeting

Following the local elections in June, 2014 the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee held the inaugural meeting of the new committee on the 8th of December, 2014.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

The first business of the meeting was the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee. Councillor Jim Ruttle was elected Chair and Councillor Irene Winters vice-chair.

Operating Guidelines

Revised Guidelines for Joint Policing Committees issued by the Department of Justice and Equality, dated the 29th August, 2014 were circulated to the committee and the following requirements were noted:-

1. The committee will operate at County level, following the abolition of the 4 Town Councils
2. The preparation of a six year Strategic Work Plan
3. The preparation of annual work plans
4. The submission of an Annual Report (no later than 3 months after the end of each year).
5. The requirement to put in place a communications strategy

Establishment of the JPC Steering Group

The JPC steering group is established comprising, Councillor Jim Ruttle, Chair, Chief Superintendent John P. Quirke and Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer, Wicklow County Council (Chief Executive's nominee).

Adoption of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing committee Six Year Strategic Plan 2016-2021

Wicklow County Council adopted the WCC Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategic plan, 2016 - 2021 at Council meeting held on the 3rd of October, 2016 which was formally launched at a public meeting held in Roundwood on the evening of the 2nd of November, 2016. The Plan was prepared so that the Joint Policing Committee takes a genuine strategic and collaborate approach to policing issues in County Wicklow and to strengthen the strategic alignment of JPCs with other relevant County Plans and structures.

Four key themes are identified within the Plan which will form the key objectives for the JPC's annual work plan for 2017.

The key thematic areas identified are:

- (1) Policing Communities
- (2) Tackling Crime in Rural Areas;
- (3) Drug Prevention
- (4) Communications.

The four priority strategic objectives were compiled following a wide stakeholder consultation session held on the 4th of March, 2016 and from the issues raised at public meetings of the JPC held at various locations throughout county Wicklow since the Committees inception.

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Work Plan

The JPC Work Plan, 2016 – 2021 is contained within the 6 Year Strategic Plan and set out hereunder:-

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2016 - 2021

Strategic Priority 1: Policing Communities

| Strategic Priority 1: Policing Communities | | |
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| OBJECTIVES | BY WHOM | TIMEFRAME |
| 1. Establish Sub Committee to oversee JPC Objective: Policing Communities | CWJPC | Quarter 3, 2016 (Done) |
| 2. Develop a strong community collaborative response and work collectively to improve quality of life and enhance community policing | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/WCC/HSE/PPN/Chambers of Commerce/Business Forums/Local Development Agencies/Community Groups/Local Clubs | Ongoing |
| 3. Support the roll out of the 'Purple Flag' initiatives in our Towns to develop safe night time economies | CWJPC/WCC/CWETT/Chambers of Commerce/An Garda Siochana | Ongoing |
| 4. Support the provision of CCTV for Wicklow and Arklow Towns | CWJPC/WCC/An Garda Siochana/Chambers of Commerce/Business forums | Project review has commenced in both Towns under new Departmental Guidelines |
| 5. Work collaboratively to support a safe environment for Older People | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/Older Persons Network/WCC | Ongoing collaboration with Wicklow Network for Older People. Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy |

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| 6. Work collaboratively to assist young people to engage positively with An Garda Siochana | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/An Comhairle Nog/WCC | Ongoing |
| 7. Support the Annual Garda Youth Awards (inaugural presentation held in 2016) | An Garda Siochana/JPC | Ongoing – Youth Awards held on 4 th Fe, 2017, Grand Hotel, Wicklow. |
| 8. Support Estate Management Initiatives and supports to Tenant/Resident Associations | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/WCC | Ongoing – Garda Crime prevention Officer is collaborating with WCC |
| 9. Support and participate in An Garda Siochana’s Schools Education Programme to create awareness of and assist young people in dealing with issues such bullying, alcohol and substance abuse, personal safety, cyber bullying etc. | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana | Ongoing – Schools Programme being delivered throughout the County |

Strategic Priority 2: Tackling Crime in Rural Areas

| OBJECTIVES | BY WHOM | TIMEFRAME |
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| 1. Establish the Sub Committee to oversee JPC Objective: Tackling Crime in Rural Areas | CW JPC | Done |
| 2. Develop an awareness raising campaign around the importance of self-vigilance on how to minimise risk of theft to one’s own property and personal safety (<i>link in with Communications sub-committee</i>) | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/CWP/ | Ongoing – Public Information days being conducted on a quarterly basis |

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| 3. Develop a programme to address isolation and security fears among older/vulnerable people in both urban and rural areas e.g. ‘ <i>Operation Conversation</i> ’ or a ‘ <i>Befriending Programme</i> ’ | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana | Ongoing – Work to commence on Older Persons Database in 3 rd Quarter of 2017 |
| 4. Support the Tus Tourism Ambassadors Project throughout the County | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/CWP | Ongoing |
| 5. Promote and encourage establishment of Community Text Alert Systems and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana | Ongoing – 4,530 households now engaging in West Wicklow Area |
| 6. Work with representatives from relevant agencies/organisations etc to address the issue of Dog Control in the Uplands | CWJPC/WCC/An Garda Siochana/Wicklow Uplands/ISPCA | Ongoing – IFA/National Game Council |

Strategic Priority 3: Tackling Drugs – Supply Reduction

| OBJECTIVES | BY WHOM | TIMEFRAME |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 1. Establish Sub Committee to oversee JPC Objective: Tackling Drugs – Supply Reduction (Expand objective to include Alcohol) | CWJPC | Done |
| 2. To highlight the issue of drug related intimidation from the lower level to the most serious with a view to devising appropriate and sustainable local responses to the issue. | CWJPC/ECDTF/SWRTATF | Ongoing – Garda Inspector appointed to liaise with families subjected to |

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| | | intimidation |
| 3. Promote Garda Confidential Line, create awareness of the benefits of reporting incidences to the Gardai (<i>link in with Communications sub-committee</i>) | An Garda Siochana/CWJPC | Ongoing – Item agenda at Public JPC meetings |

Strategic Priority 4: Communication

| OBJECTIVES | BY WHOM | TIMEFRAME |
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| 1. Prepare, adopt, publish and Launch the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee 6 year Strategic Plan | Wicklow County Council/WCC JPC | Done |
| 2. Prepare and adopt the CWJPC Annual Report | Wicklow County Council/WCC JPC | End Quarter 1 annually |
| 3. Establish Sub Committee to oversee JPC Communication Objective | WCC JPC | Ongoing |
| 4. Develop a Communications Strategy to inform the general public and the community sector of the work of the JPC (see stakeholder recommendations) | Communications Sub Group of JPC | Quarter 4, 2016 |
| 5. Develop an awareness raising campaign around the importance of self-vigilance on how to minimise risk of theft to one's own property and personal safety (<i>link in with Tackling Rural Crime sub-committee</i>) | CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/ | Ongoing – Use of public media to get safety messages across. Regular item on East Coast Radio |
| 6. Arrange and host two public meetings per annum at various locations in | CWJPC | Ongoing - Roundwood 2016, |

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| County Wicklow concerning matters affecting the policing of the County | Dunlavin 2017 |
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ITEM 1

Summary of progress in implementing the JPCs work programme

| | Strategic objectives | Summary of the actions taken and the progress achieved during the year and any significant difficulties which were encountered | Advice given by the JPC to the local authority/Garda – identify specific recommendations made. | Results of advice/recommendations Feedback received from the local authority/Gardai |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Policing Communities | Local fora meetings with Municipal Districts and Gardai ongoing. | The provision of CCTV for Arklow Town being considered | |
| 2 | Tackling Crime in Rural Areas | Inaugural meeting of the Working Group held on 21 st November, 2016. Garda resources assigned by the Chief Superintendent. Administrative support assigned by Wicklow County Council. Cllr. G. O Neill appointed as Chairman. Annual work plan agreed | Actions agreed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To meet with Muintir na Tire to discuss text group sizing and neighbourhood watch scheme 2. To seek more information re. pendants 3. To engage with key stakeholders in WCC regarding animal controls and welfare (including dog controls) 4. To aim to work with Tus Tourism Ambassadors Project and to request information from them to see how we can work in partnership 5. Develop database of elderly persons | |

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| 3 | Prevention of Substance abuse | Inaugural meeting of the Working Group held on 19 th January, 2017. Garda resources assigned by the Chief Superintendent. Administrative Resources assigned by Wicklow County Council. | Actions agreed: 1. To invite SWRDTF (South West Regional Drugs Task Force, the ECRDTF (East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force and BLDTF (Bray Local Drugs Task Force) to present on the work and projects supported | |
| 4 | Communications | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Press Report on Crime figures presented by Chief Superintendent, Bray People 14th September, 2016 2. Press release and photo: Launch of WCC JPC six year plan – Wicklow Times 8th November, 2016. 3. CWPPP Newsletter, Autumn Winter 2016 – Getting your voices heard: WCC JPC 6 year plan and An Garda Siochana Policing Plan 2017 4. Wicklow County Council County wise – Stakeholder consultation 5. Wicklow County Council County wise publication: Launch of six year plan 6. Radio Interview with Chair of JPC Cllr. J. Ruttle on purpose of six year plan. | | |

Advice given by the JPC to the local authority/Garda – identify specific recommendations made:

- Overview of policing Achievement 2015 comparing 1014 YTD and 2015 YTD figures. Covering the following areas:-
 - Property Crime – Divisional Overview
 - Robbery of an Establishment/Institution
 - Robbery from a person
 - Aggravated Burglary
 - Burglary (not aggravated)
 - Theft from a person
 - Theft from Vehicle
 - Theft of other property
 - Theft/Unauthorised taking of vehicle
 - Theft/Unauthorised taking of pedal cycle
 - Theft from shop
 - Crimes against the person – divisional overview
 - Rape of a male or female
 - Assault causing harm
 - Minor assault
 - Criminal damage
 - Public order and other social code offences
 - Possession of drugs for personal use
 - Possession of drugs for sale or supply
 - Cultivation or manufacture of drugs
 - Traffic – Divisional overview
 - Road traffic collisions
 - Driving under the influence
- Security cameras to monitor traffic movements
- Overview of policing Achievements 2016 and YTD figures (difference and % change) covering the areas outlined above

ITEM 2 . – Highlight three key achievements of the JPC during the year and give reasons why these are considered to be significant

1. **Holding of the Stake Holders Workshop in the preparation of the Wicklow County Council JPC Six Year Strategic Plan, 2016 – 2021**

The holding of the stakeholder’s workshop as part of the consultation process was a very effective means of bringing the work of the committee closer to the community groups and wider sector stake holders. It was very well attended with some 53 persons present indicating the level of interested sectors from all over the County. The workshop discussion was informal. Engagement and participation was enhanced by round table discussion forums. The identification of objectives and key issues to inform the Plan were achieved.
2. **Setting up of the 4 working groups**

The setting up of the four working groups to advance the activities of the JPC and roll out the agreed key objectives within the Plan was identified as a step to achieve successful implementation of the 6 year strategic plan. The

identification of Chairs to oversee the committee work, the support of An Garda Siochana, representatives from Wicklow County Council and the community sector is key to the success of the groups in implementing and reporting on the annual work plans.

3. Holding of public meetings

The holding of public meetings by the JPC in various locations throughout County Wicklow are seen as key to bringing the work of the committee closer to the community. A public meeting of the JPC was held in Roundwood on the 2nd of November, 2016 and was very well attended. Organisations such as the Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association, the IFA, Munitir na Tire, as well as The Pure Mile project were represented. The Superintendent for the Area made a power point presentation on relevant matters and among the issues raised and discussed were: Illegal substances, Illegal Dumping, Attacks by roaming dogs, Weekend cyclists and dangers raised, Alert Alarms for Older People living on the own, crimes in rural areas and speeding cars.

An Garda Siochana Youth Awards 2016

The Wicklow Garda Youth Awards 2016 were launched on the 10th of October, 2016. This initiative recognises the great work being carried out by young people in many communities throughout County Wicklow and is something that An Garda Siochana want to acknowledge, recognise and reward through the Garda Youth Awards. The 2016 Awards was sponsored by the Wicklow County Partnership and is identified in the 6 year Strategic Plan as a strategic priority objective.

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee congratulates An Garda Siochana for this fantastic initiative and looks forward to its continued success into the future.

ITEM 3 – Public meetings hosted by the JPC during the year

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| Roundwood | 2 nd November, 2016 |
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ITEM 4 – Record of meetings held in 2016 and list of members: Total number of JPC meetings held in the year = 2

Date of each meeting:-

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| 1 st February, 2016 | 5 th September, 2016 |
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Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Membership

Name of Chairperson: Cllr. J. Ruttle.

Number of Members: 15 elected members, 7 community representatives, 5 members of the Oireachtas, 2 Gardai and 2 Wicklow County Council officials

| | Name of Member | Organisation of Which member | Title | Meetings attended |
|----|--|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Cllr Vincent Blake | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 2 |
| 2 | Cllr Pat Casey (now Deputy Casey) | Wicklow County Council | TD | 1 |
| 3 | Cllr. Gail Dunne (co-opted for Deputy Pat Casey) | | Elected Member | 1 |
| 4 | Cllr Tommy Annesley | Wicklow County Council | Elected Member | 2 |
| 5 | Cllr. Tom Fortune | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 2 |
| 6 | Cllr. Gerry Walsh | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 2 |
| 7 | Cllr Irene Winters | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 1 |
| 8 | Cllr. Shay Cullen | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 2 |
| 9 | Councillor Steven Matthews | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 2 |
| 10 | Councillor Mary Kavanagh | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 1 |
| 11 | Cllr. James Ruttle (Chair) | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 2 |
| 12 | Cllr. John Brady now Deputy John Brady | Wicklow County Council | TD | 1 |
| 13 | Cllr. Gerry O Neill | Wicklow County Council | Elected member | 2 |
| 14 | Cllr. Mary McDonald | Wicklow County Council | Elected Member | 1 |
| 15 | Cllr. Daire Nolan | Wicklow County Council | Elected Member | 1 |
| 16 | Cllr. Joe Behan | Wicklow County Council | Elected Member | 2 |
| 17 | Cllr. M. O Connor | Wicklow County Council | Elected Member | 0 |
| 18 | Cllr. John Ryan | Ex-officio as Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council (June, 2015 to June, 2016) | Elected Member | 0 |
| 19 | Cllr. P. Fitzgerald | Ex-officio as Cathaoirleach of | | 0 |

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| | | Wicklow County Council (June 2016 and currently) | | |
| 20 | Deputy Simon Harris, Minister for Health | Oireachtas Member | TD | 0 |
| 21 | Deputy Stephen Donnelly | Oireachtas Member | TD | 0 |
| 22 | Deputy Andrew Doyle | Oireachtas Member | TD | 0 |
| 23 | Sean Malone | Public Participation Network | Community Representative | 2 |
| 24 | John Smith | Public Participation Network | Community Representative | 1 |
| 25 | Liz Ferris | Public Participation Network | Community Representative | 2 |
| 26 | Ann Halpin | Public Participation Network | Community Representative | 2 |
| 27 | Ann Lyons | Public Participation Network | Community Representative | 2 |
| 28 | Evelyn Cawley | Public Participation Network | Community Representative | 2 |
| 29 | Vacant | Public Participation Network | Community Representative | 0 |
| 30 | John P. Quirke | *An Garda Siochana | Chief Superintendent | 1 |
| 31 | Pat Mangan | An Garda Siochana | Retired Chief Superintendent | 1 |
| 32 | Patrick Ward | An Garda Siochana | Superintendent | 2 |
| 33 | Bryan Doyle Des O'Brien Deputy Chief Executive | Wicklow County Council | Chief Executive | 2 |
| 34 | Lorraine Gallagher | Wicklow County Council | Senior Executive Officer | 2 |

* Also in attendance at JPC meetings are the Superintendents of the Baltinglass and Wicklow Districts and other relevant Garda Officers as the Chief Superintendent considers appropriate.

*Chief Superintendent Pat Mangan retired May, 2016

*Chief Superintendent John P. Quirke appointed to the Wicklow Division on the 4th of August, 2016.

End.