

**County Cavan
Joint Policing
Committee
Annual Report 2018**



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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

Property Marking Initiative

Cavan County Council under the auspices of the Cavan Joint Policing Committee purchased a Property Marking Machine in March 2018, which was made available for community groups to borrow in order to roll out Property Marking Schemes within their own local communities. Property marking is promoted by Cavan Joint Policing Committee (JPC) as a way of deterring theft, having proven to be very effective in communities where it has been introduced. It also supports An Garda Síochána to reunite lost or stolen items with their owners.

The machine works by punching a series of holes, in the shape of the property owner's Eircode, into the item to be marked. The machine is available free of charge to Community Groups who wish to organise property marking events. Groups who borrow the machine are also recommended to roll out Property Marking Signage in conjunction with the scheme. Signs and stickers of various sizes and in various materials are available at a low cost, which the JPC recommends householder invests in.



Six Community Groups across County Cavan have been embracing the Property Marking Initiative in order to combat crime within their local communities.

Property Marking Ireland also chose to launch their National Property Marking Initiative in Killeshandra, Co. Cavan to coincide with Killeshandra Community Alert's very successful implementation of their local Property Marking Scheme.

Assistant Garda Commissioner Barry O' Brien, along with Detective Superintendent Alan Cunningham attended the launch in September 2018.



Achievement 2

Community CCTV Scheme

Three community groups within County Cavan have been supported through County Cavan JPC to submit funding applications for the Department of Justice has a grant scheme for Community CCTC Schemes.

They have been reviewed by the national CCTV Advisory Committee and the groups are currently finalising the necessary documentation for the scheme before submitting their final applications for funding.

A further two groups are being supported to submit applications.

Achievement 3

County Cavan JPC – Newsletter & Media Coverage

A newsletter was published for the JPC in February 2018 for widespread circulation to highlight its work.

Following the JPC Meetings numerous articles were also published within the local media (paper and radio) to highlight the issues covered during the meetings.

3. PUBLIC MEETINGS HOSTED BY THE JPC DURING THE YEAR

2 Public Information Meetings took place in 2018:

6th November 2018: Ballyjamesduff County Museum

8th November 2018: Cootehill Library



The focus of these two meetings was on the local Property Marking Scheme with a demonstration provided on how to use the machine and information provided on the procedures for borrowing it and how to go about organising Community Property Marking Events

Superintendent Timothy Burke also took questions on both evenings and these related mainly to the operation of the local Text Alert systems.

The **Main Public Meeting** of the County Cavan JPC took place:

26th November 7 to 9pm – Slieve Russell Hotel

The focus of this meeting was again on the Property Marking Scheme. Presentations were also provided on Crime Prevention by Sergeant Michael Duffy Crime Prevention Officer (Cavan & Monaghan) and Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan on the Cavan & Monaghan Divisional Policing Plan with input invited from those in attendance on the 2019 Plan.



4. RECORD OF MEMBERS AND MEETINGS HELD DURING THE YEAR

Four meetings were held over 2018.

Agenda Items Covered over 2018

Date of Meeting: 9th February 2018
Agenda Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes from meeting 24th November 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by Garda Divisional Drug Unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community CCTV scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JPC to be asked to endorse a letter of support for the Ballyjamesduff CCTV application to the Dept of Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Property Marking Machine
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of JPC actions delivered in 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation plan for 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set date for next meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AOB
Date of Meeting: 4th May 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes from meeting 9th February 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime Statistics for Quarter 1 2018 compared to Quarter 1 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal Assets Bureau. Detective Chief Superintendent Patrick Clavin
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Protect, (Property Marking Scheme). James O'Neill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community CCTV scheme – updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JPC Annual Report 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date for next meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AOB
Date of Meeting: 14th September 2018

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes from meeting 9th May 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Garda Síochána's Computer Crime Investigation Unit (CCIU) - Detective Sergeant Adrian Kelly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Statistics for Quarters 2 2017 compared to Quarter 2 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions & contributions for the 2019 Cavan - Monaghan Policing Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "To ask Cavan County Council to extend bye laws for Anti Social Behaviour to the Castle Lake in Bailieborough". – Motion request by Niamh Smyth TD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JPC Annual Public Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOB
<p>Date of Meeting: 7 December 2018</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To confirm minutes of the County Cavan JPC meeting held on the 14 September 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Statistics for Quarters 3 2018 compared to Quarter 3 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions & contributions for the 2019 Cavan - Monaghan Policing Plan – Presentation Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "To ask Cavan County Council to extend bye laws for Anti Social Behaviour to the Castle Lake in Bailieborough". – Motion request by Niamh Smyth TD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from JPC's Annual Public Meeting & Information Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOB

Membership of the County Cavan JPC

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

* Eoin Doyle replaced by Brendan Jennings in September 2018

5. Copies of the Minutes of JPC Meetings in 2018

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 9th Feb 2018 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah Reilly, Cllr Shane P O'Reilly, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Cllr Winston Bennett, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Carmel Brady, Cllr Paddy Smith, Cllr Peter McVitty, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr Noel O'Connell, Cllr Paddy McDonald, Cllr Damien 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 John O'Reilly, Superintendent James Coen, Superintendent Leo McGinn, Inspector Nial McKiernan, Sgt Mick Kearney (Garda Drugs Unit).

Oireachtas Members: Deputy Brendan Smith, Senator Joe O'Reilly, Senator Diarmuid Wilson.

Apologies: Deputy Niamh Smyth Cllr, Aisling Tobin, Cllr Fergal Curtin, Noleen Brady

In Attendance: Eddie Butler (Northern Sound), Thomas Lyons (The Anglo Celt), Gladys Brady (Student), Karla Clarke (Student) Siobhán Gargan (Student).

The chair John Paul Feeley welcomed the new Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly to the meeting. Several other JPC members also welcomed him to his new role. John O'Reilly noted his appreciation of their comments and said he was fortunate to have a good team.

The chair welcomed students Karla Clarke and Siobhán Gargan who were attending with Cllr Sarah Reilly to observe the meeting and also Gladys Brady who was on work experience with the local authority.

The chair congratulated Bob Gilbert on winning the All Ireland Community & Council Awards in the category of Volunteer of the Year. Bob Gilbert thanked everyone for their good wishes.

Minutes from meeting 24th November 2017

Previous minutes were proposed by Cllr Peter McVitty and seconded by Cllr Carmel Brady.

Emer Coveney noted that Noeleen Brady had made an amendment to the wording of the minutes in relation to her point about Maghera text alert.

Presentation by Garda Divisional Drug Unit

Sgt Mick Kearney gave an overview of drug use patterns in Cavan and crime trends. He has been in charge of the Drug Unit since it was established in 2017. There had been no drugs unit in Cavan Monaghan for a five year period.

Half of illegal drugs coming into Cavan are bought across the internet. The 'dark net' has sites for the purchase of drugs, hit men and prostitution. New drug users are tech-savvy. He outlined the range of new synthetically manufactured drugs. The Gardai have found crack cocaine pipes in Cavan. This is cocaine that is heated to a very high temperature and is extremely addictive. There is evidence of grow houses in Cavan. There is also misuse of prescription drugs.

He said there is large scale drug use in every town in Cavan and Monaghan. Cannabis is the most common drug used. There are no major drug lords but there are a lot of small dealers. The economic boom is back and this has resulted in a resurgence in cocaine use. Hash is chemically enhanced to make it more mind-altering and addictive. Depression among young people who use drugs is a major problem.

Sgt Mick Kearney's contact details are: 086 828 1846 and email michael.j.kearney@garda.ie

The chair commended the work of the Gardai in tackling the drug problem.

Senator Joe O'Reilly congratulated the police on their work and asked what advice the Gardai have to encourage people to disclose information about drug use in the community. He referred to the Alcohol Bill going through the Dail at the moment and said that as a society we have too tolerant a position on alcohol.

Cllr Sarah O'Reilly asked if the Gardai go into schools to provide this information.

Inspector Nial McKiernan said it is part of the plan for the JPC to research more effective ways of providing drug education through the schools. Through the Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum there is a plan to deliver training to teachers so awareness can be rolled out through the SPHE programme.

Cllr Paddy McDonald commented that a five person drugs unit was a small team to cover two counties. Gardai should be going around night clubs to deter drug use.

Deputy Brendan Smith in complementing Sgt Kearney on his presentation asked if it could be given to the wider community perhaps through a JPC Public Meeting. He said he

participates with the Gardai in seminars on road safety and perhaps something could be done on the same basis in relation to drug issues.

Cllr Shane P O'Reilly suggested working with the Vintners' Federation. As a board member of the Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board, he was sure that the ETB would support any proposal coming before them in relation to drugs education. As chair of the Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum, he would be interested in a publicity campaign using the Council page in the Anglo Celt over a number of weeks. The Gardai also have radio airtime to promote drug awareness.

Cllr Clifford Kelly suggested approaching Development Associations or Chamber of Commerce to organise community meetings where parents could be invited to hear a presentation on drug use.

Cllr Noel Connell referred to mandatory sentencing for drug offences in excess of a certain value.

Cllr Peter McVitty asked if roadside checks for drug use are happening and if anything could be introduced to curtail ordering online.

Cllr Carmel Brady referred to the effectiveness of a Birmingham initiative that features imagery displayed in toilet blocks of the damage caused by drug use.

Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly said there are Criminal Asset Bureau asset profilers in this region. Deputy Chief Superintendent Pat Clavin is giving a presentation to the Monaghan JPC on this issue. They forward information to CAB who then investigate the individual in question and have the power to seize monetary and physical assets.

In relation to sentencing, John O'Reilly said that under Section 15A, there is mandatory sentencing when the value of drugs is €13,000, but it is not always being applied.

In relation to the comment on increasing the capacity of the drugs unit, there is a District Crime and Drugs Unit in Cavan and Monaghan which works well with the Divisional Drugs Unit.

Responding to Deputy O'Reilly's point about fear of disclosure, John O'Reilly said there is a facility for people to engage with the Gardai without giving their identity. The Garda confidential (**Crimestoppers**) number is [1800 666 111](tel:1800666111)

The facility for checkpoints for drug use is up and running.

To have an impact on the online drugs market, the Chief Superintendent said we have to start in the home with parents taking responsibility for their own children. Customs officers regularly identify suspicious packages and sometimes they also do controlled deliveries.

Senator Diarmuid Wilson asked if there were statistics on the percentage of drugs coming in through Northern Ireland and whether there was co-operation with the police in Northern Ireland. John O'Reilly affirmed there were a number of joint operations with the PSNI and good contacts.

Community CCTV scheme

The chair asked JPC members to endorse a letter of support for the Ballyjamesduff CCTV application to the Dept of Justice. This was proposed by Deputy Brendan Smith and seconded by Cllr Shane P O'Reilly.

Emer Coveney explained that a JPC subgroup had been set up to support communities with CCTV applications. There had been a number of internal meetings in the County Council and meetings with the Gardai about CCTV.

Community groups that have received grants for CCTV or which are in the process of applying for grants are being invited to a meeting 22nd Feb at 8pm in the Council Chamber. This will be an opportunity for the local authority to explain data protection issues to community groups. Cavan County Council is in the process of developing its policy on community CCTV.

Director of Service Eoin Doyle advised that while we are supportive of CCTV as a measure to counteract crime, there are resource implications for local authorities. There will be changes to data protection legislation in May this year. The local authority system is coming to terms with what this will mean and will need to review applications for CCTV on a case by case basis.

Inspector Nial McKiernan said that the Gardai will provide assistance where they can. There is a CCTV Advisory Committee in Garda headquarters.

Cllr Paddy Smith called for the CCTV command posts to be situated in local Garda stations where at all possible. This point was supported by Cllr Winston Bennett.

Inspector Nial McKiernan said that while previous schemes were in the Garda station, going forward the preferred option of the CCTV Advisory Committee is that the equipment is housed in local authority buildings.

Cllr John Paul Feeley said that the local authority does not have property in most towns. He welcomed the idea of CCTV but said we need to look at the expectations placed on voluntary organisations. There is a heavy responsibility on communities to both raise funds and manage data protection. The Blacklion community looked at this scheme but were reluctant to apply because of the obligation to maintain the equipment and data protection responsibilities.

Deputy Brendan Smith enquired who the main contact person is for CCTV. He was referred to the information leaflet produced by the JPC which lists contact details for all the relevant personnel.

Director of Service said that there is a growing awareness of how onerous the scheme is. There are three options for locating the equipment: 1) Garda Station, 2) community centre or 3) local authority property. However a lot of property is not suitable from either a practical or legal point of view.

Senator Joe O'Reilly welcomed the funding and said the existence of cameras would be a good deterrent. Logic would suggest that the control centre should be in the Garda Station.

Vanessa Clarke said that a number of areas have gone to the Department of Justice for clarification. She suggested that an MOU be devised to address legal queries.

Cllr John Paul Feeley said the scheme needs to be tweaked at national level and complemented Inspector Nial McKiernan and Emer Coveney for their work locally on the initiative.

Property Marking Machine

Cavan County Council has ordered a Property Marking Machine which will be available for use by the community. Cllr Peter McVitty and Cllr Val Smith made this request at the December Council meeting.

Cllr Peter McVitty thanked Tommy Ryan for agreeing to purchase it and thanked Inspector Nial McKiernan for his support.

Sgt Ken Coughlan had given a property marking demonstration at a previous JPC meeting.

Cllr Carmel Brady complemented the initiative and said it would be a great deterrent locally.

Bob Gilbert said there was responsibility on the community to organise property marking days in local venues.

Cllr Paddy Smith complemented the purchase of the machine but said that it would take a while to cover all 25,000 households in the county. He suggested training a number of people to use the machine.

There is a national charity promoting this approach called Community Protect. James O'Neill can be invited to the next JPC meeting to present information on this group.

Review of JPC actions delivered in 2017

A draft summary newsletter on JPC related activity in 2017 was distributed to the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Clifford Kelly and seconded by Cllr Madeleine Argue.

Implementation plan for 2018

The chair asked members to consider the main areas of JPC activity to include in the 2018 work plan.

- Public meetings to be held in each Municipal District area
- Property marking scheme
- Drugs education
- Garda open days

AOB

Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly acknowledged the contribution to policing made by Superintendent Leo McGinn throughout his 40-year career and wished him well in his retirement. The chair Cllr John Paul Feeley joined in these sentiments on behalf of the JPC.

Next meeting

The next Cavan JPC meeting will be held on Friday 4th May at 3pm.

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 4th May 2018 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah O' Reilly, Cllr Shane P O'Reilly, Cllr Winston Bennett, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Smith, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr Damien Brady.

Community Representatives: Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott, Bob Gilbert, Noleen Brady, Frank Mc Dermott

Executive: Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Gráinne Boyle (Community & Enterprise).

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly, Superintendent James Coen, Superintendent Paul Dolan, Inspector Nial McKiernan

Oireachtas Members: Deputy Brendan Smith, Senator Joe O'Reilly

Apologies: Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Carmel Brady

In Attendance: Eddie Butler (Northern Sound), Declan O'Reilly (CAB), Stephen Meehan (CAB), James O'Neill (Property Marking Management)

The chair John Paul Feeley wished to thank Emer Coveney for her support to the JPC over the past few months and welcomed Gráinne Boyle back from her maternity leave.

He also welcomed Superintendent Paul Dolan to the meeting and wished him every success in the new role. Cllr. Shane P. O'Reilly also wished him well and said that his predecessor Superintendent Leo Mc Ginn did a great job over his time. Deputy Joe O'Reilly seconded this.

Minutes from meeting 9th February 2018 & Matters Arising

Previous minutes were proposed by Cllr Shane P' O'Reilly and seconded by Cllr Damian Brady.

Cllr. S. P. O' Reilly wished to express his disappointment in the response received from the Department in relation to a motion put forward by Cavan JPC to introduce a CCTV Scheme for rural dwellers. He went on to say that due to the poor uptake of the current Community CCTV Scheme, he would hope that this would be reconsidered. He believes the current Community CCTV is not fit for purpose and sought unanimous support from Cavan County Council that any unspent money under the scheme is re-directed into a rural scheme. An Garda Síochána also need to be recruiting and re-deploying Gardaí to rural areas within the county.

Chair J. P. Feeley referred to the agenda and said that the Community CCTV Scheme is an agenda item which will be dealt with later in the meeting.

Crime Statistics for Quarter 1 2018 compared to Quarter 1/17

Chief Superintendent James O'Reilly talked through the crime figures for Quarter 1/2018 as compared to Quarter 1/2017, broken down for each Garda District.

There has been a large increase in the number of burglaries between these periods within the Cavan District. The national programme Operation Thor is targeting repeat offenders and also the Property Marking Initiative, once rolled out, should have a positive impact on reducing these figures also in the future. He said that there are a number of cases before the courts at present, he acknowledged his staff in enabling this to happen but also said that the local communities involvement has been vital.

Drug offences have been on the increase but inroads are being made here also with the setting up of the Divisional Drugs Unit.

Chair John Paul Feely backed his comments in relation to the importance of community involvement. He queried the low number of convictions for drug dealers. Superintendent James Coen responded that generally this number would be higher towards the end of the year and operation 'Clean Street' is now in operation and tackling this, however it can take a long time for cases to go to trial.

Senator Joe O' Reilly said that the two arrests made after the recent burglary in Ballyjamesduff will help restore the public belief in the gardaí and he also wished to congratulate the gardaí on the good work in apprehending the criminals. He did however want to raise the point that there is quite a high level of activity taking place in the Drumnavaddy area. He also wanted to back the earlier calls made in relation to extra gardaí being needed. Chief Superintendent James O' Reilly noted Senator Joe O'Reilly's comments in relation to Drumnavaddy.

Cllr. Shane O'Reilly commented that with the recent good weather there has been an increase in the level of anti-social behaviour taking place within Bailieborough, particularly around the Lake Amenity area and local chippers.

Cllr. Damian Brady queried the large decrease in the figures for dangerous driving within the Cavan district in 2018 compared to 2017. Chief Superintendent James O'

Reilly explained that the figure is likely to increase as there has been a deficit of gardaí to address this issue and road policing units are getting back up now to where they once were.

Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB)

The chair welcomed Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin, Declan O'Reilly and Stephen Meehan from CAB to the meeting.

Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin thanked the JPC for the invitation to present to them. He commenced his presentation by explaining what CAB is and how it is working to recover the proceeds of crime based in the community. CAB is a state body that works locally, nationally, and internationally to recover the proceeds of crime. They have a broad range of staff employed from ranging from the Gardaí, Revenue and Social Welfare. They depend very much on the community for information, people are not required to give evidence and it is a purely confidential service. It is recognised that the community know the local problems and are best placed to raise concerns to CAB. He referred to the statistics for the Cavan/Monaghan Division, commenting that they are not high by national standards.

Chair John Paul Feeley thanked Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin for his presentation and said that CAB has been a great success story.

Deputy Brendan Smith agreed with the Chairs comments and asked if they have good co-operation with Northern Ireland and other countries, he also asked if the bureau deal with the issue of fuel smuggling. Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin responded that there has been great co-operation with the PSNI and English police and they do deal with the issue of cross border fuel smuggling, having been involved in a very significant court case recently involving fuel laundering. CAB also works well with international bodies such as the European Commission and Camden Assets Recovery Inter-agency Network (CARIN).

Senator James O' Reilly also commented on the success of CAB, saying that its success lies in that it hits people in the pocket. The Irish model of CAB is now becoming a model for the rest of Europe to follow. He also thanked Declan O'Rourke for his good work with CAB. He wanted to call on the community to report suspicious activities to CAB.

Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin agreed that the Irish model is indeed getting recognised internationally as a model of good practice and said that Malta is currently considering establishing this model after visiting Ireland recently to learn more about it.

Cllr. Damian Brady asked if CAB targeted convicted people and Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin said that they work closely with the local gardaí in relation to this, but he also stressed that they also need the input from the local community in order to effectively target them.

Cllr. Sarah Reilly wanted to point out that she carried out an internet search on CAB but noted they are not on Facebook. She suggested that they need to get more active on social media in order to raise their profile. Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin acknowledged this but said there is a balance between getting the message out there and ensuring the confidentiality of those who come forward to use the service, but this is something they are working on.

Cllr. Sarah Reilly asked if a disclosure is made to CAB what would be the timeline between assets being seized and an investigation taking place. Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin replied once research/investigation commences they are 90% of the way there but they do not want to alert the public to this fact too soon. He said that it is difficult to answer this question however as every case is different with varying complexities involved. They can respond very quickly however if necessary.

Cllr. Winston Bennett enquired if referrals die a death if no case can be made on them. Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin responded that they need to be careful of referrals and ensure that they are not just neighbourly disputes, but real criminals are being reported on. If the latter is the case, they will be followed through on.

Deputy Brendan Smith suggested that CAB should avail of local radio stations and media sources to promote their work if they are not already doing so. Chief Bureau Officer P. Clavin replied that they are currently attending all JPC meetings throughout the country and they hope the message will get out through the local media sources this way. They hope that local councillors will spread the word also.

Chair John Paul Feeley thanked Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin for his presentation. Their work is very relevant for catching smaller scale criminals within our region. Chief Bureau Officer Patrick Clavin said that they have seized assets as low as €12,000, he wanted to add however that they are not bound by values. If you can deal with low scale criminals it stops them progressing further so it can be a preventative measure in the long term.

Community Protect (Property Marking Initiative)

Chair John Paul Feeley welcomed James O' Neill to the meeting.

James O' Neill commenced his presentation by saying that his organisation is now registered as Property Marking Management. They are set up as a charity body. Research commenced three years ago in relation to the property marking initiative. He was originally involved in working with Detective Alan Cunningham in setting up the Community Alert Scheme.

Monaghan Co. Co. is the first council in Ireland to purchase a Property Marking Machine, and Cavan is the second. Sligo Co. Co. are about to order one and Donegal is also considering it. He said that there is a good opportunity for a cross border initiative to be created here and he is to make a presentation to the PSNI soon as they are also interested.

The Property Marking Initiative was originally piloted in West Cork. 33% of the population within the area piloted were 65 years and over, living in a rural isolated community. He said this is representative of many parts of rural Ireland and the ageing population is only going to increase. There were four key objectives to the initiative:

- 1) Strengthen partnerships between the community and the Gardaí
- 2) Lower the number of burglaries
- 3) Lower the fear of crime
- 4) Enable the community to take the lead on the initiative

They found that there was a dramatic reduction in crime levels within the pilot area once the initiative was implemented.

He said that the initiative would be of great importance to Community Alert areas, leading them to become even safer communities. He explained that signage is also available for Community Alert groups to use once they undertake the initiative within their areas and showed the JPC members samples of the signage. The signage would be put up strategically in conjunction with the Community Alert Groups and in partnership with the An Garda Síochána. He also explained that there is a registration system which should be used for all households and businesses who participate in the marking initiative so that their belongings can be logged.

James O' Neill envisages the initiative will run over four to five years and ultimately its success will be in all Community Alert groups implementing the initiative. He would like to see the initiative rolled out on a uniformed basis throughout the border counties and that there would be good co-operation levels amongst participating members on it.

Chair John Paul Feeley enquired into the costs of the signs and the process for ordering them. James O' Neill replied that four signs would be adequate per area. The erecting of the signs should be carried out in conjunction with the Community Alert Group and the Gardaí. The County Council engineer will need to sign off on the signage. There are set costs for the signs as laid out in an order form from the supplying company. Within Monaghan, the County Council has set aside a budget to pay for signs (once 50 houses within a Community Alert area have participated in the initiative), but it is up to individual councils to decide for themselves how they want to do this. A company has been selected to provide the signage for the initiative which groups participating in the initiative should be asked to use as they will have all the detailed specifications for the signage.

Chair John Paul Feeley commented that the initiative would be very beneficial in preventing homes and business break-ins. The theft of tools from houses, sheds or garages for those who may be uninsured can be devastating, particularly for a self-employed person. James O' Neill agreed and said that they would explore opportunities for local businesses to sponsor the purchase of a machine and this would be a way of targeting the business community.

Noleen Brady welcomed the initiative and asked how it would be rolled out in County Cavan. Gráinne Boyle explained that Cavan County Council have only recently received the machine and are currently getting their documentation in order for it.

They will follow the process as recommended by Property Marking Management and initially concentrate on lending the machine out to Community Alert Groups within the county. Community Alert Groups will be notified once it is ready for borrowing; they in turn will be able to host Property Markings Events within their own local communities.

Cllr. Winston Bennett suggested to James O' Neill that sponsorship should be sought from insurance companies to purchase a machine. If it can be proven there are less claims for insurance within areas covered under the initiative, this will be beneficial to them also.

Vanessa Clarke wished to acknowledge the support Cavan County Council under this initiative. A lot of predevelopment work will need to be completed with the Community Alert groups in advance of the initiative so that they can prepare to host property marking events within their communities.

Community CCTV Scheme

Chair John Paul Feeley concurred with Cllr. Shane P. O' Reilly's earlier points in relation to the Community CCTV Scheme.

Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan reported that Ballyjamesduff are ready to submit their application. The other two groups, Project Belturbet and Ballyconnell Town & District Council are also progressing fast.

Cllr. Damian Brady thanked Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan for his support on the ground with the groups in preparing applications. He also wished to back Cllr. Shane P. O' Reilly's earlier comments. Brian Mc Dermott also wished to thank Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan for his support to Project Belturbet, he is very happy with their application and believes that it will make a real difference locally.

Cllr. Sarah O' Reilly said that she has learned that only four groups have been approved nationally to date under the Community CCTV Scheme.

Cllr. Shane P. O' Reilly wanted to reiterate his earlier points, adding that it is unfair to Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan and his colleagues and the great work they are doing locally on the ground with groups. The fact that groups have to raise up to 40% in match funding in order to apply for the scheme places a huge hurdle for many communities in applying for funding and this is of particular concern for communities on the eastern side of the county. He believes the scheme should be administered by An Garda Síochána in conjunction with the County Council's directly and the responsibility should not be placed on communities. There are strong concerns around data protection and he believes issues will arise for communities operating the scheme in the future if they are not dealt with sufficiently now.

Deputy Brendan Smith also referred to Cllr. Shane O' Reilly's point in relation to the low uptake of the funding under this scheme nationally, adding that he had raised this question himself in the Dáil. He also agreed that the new data protection legislation is going to make it very difficult for all involved; it's also a concern for

elected members when making representations on behalf of their constituents. There is still no clarity relating to this issue at present.

Chair John Paul Feeley commented that while it is great to see that there is interest locally amongst groups in the scheme he does not believe that the County Council or community groups should be given the responsibility of managing the scheme. The scheme needs to be reviewed at the national level.

Cllr. Shane P. O' Reilly enquired if further clarification has been provided for community groups on the importance of the new data protection legislation and the implications for them. Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan responded that the County Council will be responsible for the data protection as they are the Data Controller appointed under the scheme.

Chief Executive Tommy Ryan concluded the discussions by commenting that the impending data protection legislation is of significant importance as there will be serious consequences for those who are not compliant with it.

Chair John Paul Feeley requested the JPC to endorse two letters of approval for applications for the Community CCTV Scheme. These were for Project Belturbet and Ballyconnell Town & District Council. This was proposed by Damian Brady and seconded by Brian Mc Dermott.

JPC Annual Report 2017

The JPC report for 2017 was noted.

Next meeting

The next Cavan JPC meeting will be held on Friday 7th September at 3pm. (This was changed to 14th September 2018)

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 14th September 2018 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah O' Reilly, Cllr Winston Bennett, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Smith, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr Damien Brady, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Cllr Peter Mc Vitty, Cllr Noel O' Connell.

Community Representatives: Bob Gilbert, Noleen Brady

Executive: Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Gráinne Boyle (Community & Enterprise).

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly, Superintendent Timothy Burke, Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan

Oireachtas Members: Deputy Brendan Smith, Senator Joe O'Reilly, Deputy Niamh Smyth, Senator Diarmuid Wilson

Apologies: Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Carmel Brady, Cllr Fergal Curtin, Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly, Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott, Frank Mc Dermott

In Attendance: Eddie Butler (Northern Sound), Detective Sergeant Adrian Kelly, Karen Shelley (Policing Authority), Damian Mc Carney (Anglo Celt)

Chair Cllr John Paul Feeley welcomed Superintendent Timothy Burke to the meeting and wished him well in his new post as Superintendent for the Bailieborough District. He also welcomed Karen Shelley from the Policing Authority and Sergeant Adrian Kelly to the meeting.

Minutes from meeting 9th May 2018 & Matters Arising

Cllr P. Smith stated that Ballyjamesduff submitted an application under the Community CCTV Scheme 15 months ago, however they recently learned that the application had not actually been lodged. Inspector Mc Kiernan explained that approval for the application had been sought through the National CCTV Advisory Committee, however the issue outstanding was Garda Vetting of the committee members. He believed that this has been completed and the application is now ready to be forwarded to the Department of Justice.

Cllr W. Bennett reported the frustrations conveyed at a recent council meeting in relation to the Community CCTV Scheme requirement that monitors have to be housed in council premises. Many at the meeting believed that the monitors would be better off placed in a premises owned by the Gardaí, as the requirement excludes communities without council premises in applying for funding. Inspector Mc Kiernan explained that the criteria for the scheme specifically state that the County Council are to be the data controllers.

Cllr. D. Brady asked for an update on the Belturbet and Ballyconnell Schemes, Inspector Mc Kiernan said that Garda Vetting was also to be completed for the members involved in these schemes. Chair Cllr J. P. Feeley referred to a question raised in the Dáil by Deputy Brendan Smith seeking an update on the number of applications submitted under the CCTV Scheme for County Cavan. The response stated that one application from Cavan did not meet the requirements for the scheme. However, upon further investigation by G. Boyle with the Department of Justice, she was informed that no applications from Cavan had been considered for grant approval as of yet. Deputy Brendan Smith said that communications between the Department of Justice and the An Garda Síochána would need to improve. All replies to the Dáil are to be accurate so this is very concerning.

Cllr. P. Smith referred to the funding requirements of the scheme which state that community groups need to fund 40% of the total costs of the CCTV scheme. He suggested that due to the low uptake and delays in the roll out of the scheme the department should consider providing 100% of the funds. Cllr. C. Kelly also backed these comments. Chair Cllr J. P. Feeley concluded discussions by stating that the financial burden placed on community groups through the scheme in order to police their own communities is not acceptable.

In relation to the Property Marking Machine Initiative, Chair Cllr. J. P. Feeley reported that there is good interest amongst the community in the initiative, and three groups borrowed the machine to date over a week's period each. Blacklion, Dowra & Glangevlin Community Alert Group was the first group to borrow the machine back in May.

Previous minutes were proposed by Cllr D. Brady and seconded by Brendan Jennings.

An Garda Síochána's Computer Crime Investigation Unit (CCIU) - Detective Sergeant Adrian Kelly

Chair Cllr. J. P. Feeley introduced and welcomed Sergeant Adrian Kelly to the meeting.

Sergeant A. Kelly commenced his presentation by providing an overview on the Unit. It was set up in 2017 following a dramatic increase in the area of cyber crime over recent years. They have links with UCD in the area of developing training in forensic techniques. The world of cyber crime is one which is constantly changing so they have to stay up to date on developments. He referred to the area of cyber crime and said that they are the first agency to get involved in tackling this issue. He provided a presentation to members covering the following areas:

- Staffing arrangements
- Functions of the CCIU
- Latest developments – in technology and cyber crime
- Current & future projects
- Keeping the organisation informed
- Forensic case life
- Overview of the Cyber Investigative Unit
- Challenges
- Advice to give to the public

Chair Cllr J. P. Feeley referred to the unit's regionalisation plans as being ambitious and welcome. He thanked him for his presentation and the practical information provided within it.

Crime Statistics for Quarters 2 2017 compared to Quarter 2 2018

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly talked through the Garda Crime Statistics. The statistics were largely positive for the second half of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. However he stated that the current limited resources received by An Garda Síochána could negatively impact on crime figures for this time next year. The number of assaults recorded has not changed significantly and he went on to explain that often a victim may report a crime but may decide not to proceed with the case. As a result this has an impact on the number of assault cases recorded. Drug possession and supply is an ongoing issue. The number of driving offences had reduced significantly.

Chair Cllr. J P Feeley thanked Chief Superintendent O'Reilly for the updated statistics. He queried the reduced resources received by to An Garda Síochána he had referred to, pointing out that it is being reported that the gardaí are receiving additional funding. Chief Superintendent O'Reilly responded that he was referring to a human resource issue, the gardaí are only slowly getting back to a level where they should be at in terms of staff quotas, however this is taking time.

Chair Cllr J. P. Feeley also enquired into people reporting assaults but not pursuing them further, he wondered if the gardaí have any control over this. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly responded that this is up to the individual and the gardaí

cannot intervene in this, however they do have processes in place to provide supports to victims of crime.

Senator J. O'Reilly wanted to state that JPC members and the media should be careful that the fear of crime is not intensified unnecessarily to people by highlighting the negatives. He referred to the significant reductions in the offences recorded and said that this is a good news story and credit should be given to An Garda Síochána for their work in the reduction of crime levels. He went on to inform committee members of feedback he had received from the Department of Justice on the status of Community CCTV applications for the County. He said that they would allege there is an issue between the County Council's and the gardaí over data protection following the implications of GDPR. Chief Superintendent O'Reilly referred to the CCTV application process and stated that An Garda Síochána are part of the application process and it is in their interest also that schemes are up and running. In relation to his point on the reduced crime levels he referred to Operation Thor and explained that this has led to significant reductions in the volume of crime and this can be seen in the presented statistics.

Cllr. Kelly congratulated Superintendent Timothy Burke on his new role. He referred to Kingscourt town and the loss of gardaí over the last number of years. He hoped that this would be rectified in the near future.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly agreed that both Cootehill and Kingscourt have large populations and need additional gardaí in place. He reported that the Gardaí's recruitment process is underway, interviews are being held and he would expect the number of gardaí assigned to these towns to increase once completed.

Deputy Brendan Smith also extended his congratulations to Superintendent Timothy Burke on his role. He pointed out that there are unique policing needs of the border region and asked if any consideration is given by An Garda Síochána towards this. He also referred to Brexit and the possible implications this may raise for the county.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly acknowledged Deputy Smith's points and informed him that he has sought additional resources based on the grounds he pointed out. He welcomed the JPC to support his request also, stating all additional support requests for his case would be most welcomed. Deputy Brendan Smith said he would continue to raise the need for additional resources for the county.

Cllr P. Mc Vitty enquired if the assaults recorded in the statistics are classified and if so how many would be of a domestic nature. He also wanted to ask if An Garda Síochána test for driving under the influence of drugs.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly replied that they do not receive a breakdown on the type of assaults recorded, however he will seek this information for the next meeting. He was able to confirm however that most of the victims would be women. An Garda Síochána provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, through the provision of information packs and other supports. In relation to the drug testing for drivers he stated tests are carried out and Cavan has the highest levels recorded of drug driving within the northern region.

Deputy Niamh Smyth welcomed Superintendent Timothy Burke to the meeting, she also welcomed the news of new garda recruits to the Bailieborough district. She enquired if all positions are now filled in Bailieborough and if garda reserves could also be recruited for the district. She also requested information on the number of public order fines made in the first six months of 2018. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly said that these figures will be provided to her by Superintendent Timothy Burke. In answer to her query around the new recruits he replied that the list of successful candidates is currently being finalised and four sergeants have been assigned to the Bailieborough area and the two other positions will also be filled in the near future. The number of sergeants limited the number of probationary gardaí a district can take as they require supervision. In relation to garda reserves assigned to the area, he said that it was not a prerequisite for sergeants to be in place in order to get reserves.

Cllr P. Smith thanked Chief Superintendent O' Reilly for the updated crime statistics. He reported that he attended a recent meeting of the Baileborough Community & Text Alert Group and was informed by the committee that the gardaí have outsourced their text alert system to a private firm and, as such, the price per text is going up for individuals involved in the scheme, he felt that this was unfair. He asked Inspector Mc Kiernan if this is the case going forward with Text Alert Schemes. Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan said that each scheme operates differently and that the he is continuously looking at more cost effective solutions coming onto the market. However he said that there is currently no change as to how the scheme operates, text alert is not being outsourced by the gardaí. He will follow up on the issue in Bailieborough however and report back to Cllr P. Smith on his findings.

Contributions for the 2019 Cavan & Monaghan Policing Plan

A copy of the 2018 Cavan & Monaghan Policing Plan had been distributed to members in advance of the meeting for review. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly welcomed feedback from members under the various headings set out within the plan.

Cllr. C. Kelly welcomed the plan. He referred to the Roads Policing Programme commenting that this is an excellent initiative run with the schools. He'd like to see similar initiatives rolled out in the future. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly agreed that this is an effective initiative which is rolled out on an annual basis.

JPC Public Meeting

Chair Cllr J. P. Feeley said he would like to see three public meetings of the JPC take place across the county, one in each municipal area. It was agreed that these would take place in early November and property marking and crime prevention would be the focus of these meetings.

"To ask Cavan County Council to extend bye laws for Anti Social Behaviour to the Castle Lake in Bailieborough". – Motion request by Niamh Smyth TD.

Deputy Niamh Smyth had to leave the meeting early so it was agreed to defer the motion to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

7th December 2018, 3pm in the Council Chamber.

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 7th December 2018 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah O' Reilly, Cllr Winston Bennett, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Smith, Cllr Damien Brady, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Cllr Peter Mc Vitty, Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly, Cllr Fergal Curtin,

Community Representatives: Bob Gilbert, Noleen Brady, Brian Mc Dermott

Executive: Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Gráinne Boyle (Community & Enterprise).

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly, Superintendent Timothy Burke, Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan

Oireachtas Members: Senator Joe O'Reilly, Deputy Niamh Smyth

Apologies: Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Carmel Brady, Vanessa Clarke, Frank Mc Dermott, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr Noel O' Connell, Superintendent James Coen, Deputy Brendan Smith, Senator Diarmuid Wilson, Aisling Tobin

In Attendance: Thomas Lyons

Chair Cllr J. P Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting and commenced by offering condolences to Vanessa Clarke on the passing of her husband.

Chief Executive Tommy Ryan was hoping to be in attendance but may not be arrive on time and if so wanted to forward his apologies.

Minutes from meeting 14th September 2018 & Matters Arising

No matters were arising from the previous meeting.

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. P Mc Vitty and seconded by Cllr. W. Bennett.

Crime Statistics for Quarter 3 2018 compared to Quarter 3 2017

Chief Superintendent O' Reilly presented the Crime Statistics comparing the third quarters of 2017 to 2018 which had been circulated to all members. He said there is normally an increase in the number of burglaries at this time of year which is reflected in the statistics, however they are still lower when compared to the same quarter in 2017.

He followed up on a query regarding the breakdown in statistics on domestic violence figures which was queried at the previous meeting. In quarter 3, 2017 there were 33 offences in the Cavan jurisdiction and 17 in Bailieborough and in quarter 3 2018 there were 37 offences in Cavan and 34 in Bailieborough.

There were 31 drug driving offences over 2018.

Cllr. W. Bennett congratulated all the gardaí involved in the recent drugs seizure made in Kilnaleck in early November. He referred to an x-ray machine used by Customs to scan large vehicles which detects drugs in packages. He queried if An Garda Síochána could obtain more of these machines as they are very beneficial in detecting drugs.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly replied that the x-ray machine referred to is owned and managed by Revenue, he agreed more of the machines are needed as they are extremely beneficial to the gardaí in their work but he could not speak on behalf of Revenue on what their plans are in relation to the purchasing of new machines.

Cllr. D. Brady commented on the visible increase in Garda presence on the ground and suggested that this may be contributing to the decrease in crime statistics. He queried when there would be additional Gardai allocated to County Cavan. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly replied that on the 18th January 2019 the following additional Garda allocations would be made, 3 to the Bailieborough, 5 to Carrickmacross and 2 to Monaghan.

Senator J. O'Reilly commented that the increase in Garda numbers is most welcome and would help make An Garda Síochána operations easier.

Cllr. C. Kelly stated that there have been a large number of Garda retirements over the years which still leaves the allocations significantly lower than where they should be at. There are only two officers in Kingscourt and any increase to these numbers would be greatly appreciated.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly said that they are actively looking for replacements to cover Kingscourt.

Cllr. P. Mc Vitty queried the increase in total allocations to the Cavan & Monaghan Division to which Chief Superintendent O' Reilly responded that the total allocations made was between 75 to 80 and this leaves a net gain in allocations after retirements, etc are taken into consideration of 44.

Cavan - Monaghan Divisional Policing Plan 2019: Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan

Inspector N. Mc Kiernan provided a presentation on the Cavan & Monaghan Division Policing Plan for 2019 covering the following areas:

- Background information to the plan
- Policing priorities under the following areas: Community Engagement / Road Safety / Confronting Crime

Members were invited to put forward their comments for consideration in the 2019 Divisional Plan following his presentation.

Deputy N. Smyth asked how the priority of Community Engagement manifests itself. She specifically referred to the loss of Community Gardai and asked is there is a possibility that this role would be re-instated.

Inspector N. Mc Kiernan replied that Community Engagement is a work in progress. However all Community Alert groups have now been allocated a garda contact who would provide support to them.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly commented that the Policing Authority are currently recruiting civilian staff so the hope is that Gardai can be re-deployed to community policing following this process.

Deputy N. Smyth welcomed this news, commenting that the Community Guard is a very effective role which is badly needed to be re-introduced into local communities.

Senator J. O'Reilly concurred with Deputy Smyth's points. He asked if there are any plans to tackle the issue of repeat offenders. He also invited Chief Superintendent O' Reilly to put forward his views on how he views the Garda Drugs Unit progressing over 2019.

Chief Superintendent O' Reilly replied that in relation to the case management of repeat offenders a specific Garda has been allocated to deal with this issue and keep track of repeat offenders. This Garda can attend courts within the different counties where necessary. The Cavan Drugs Divisional Unit is still in operation and the interview process is near completion for further members. These will be in addition to the existing staff members of a sergeant and three additional guards.

Chair Cllr. J. P. Feeley welcomed the news of a Garda assigned to deal with repeat offenders. He enquired if there would be a cross border element in relation to this.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly replied that there is a Cross Border Task Force set up and this has direct contact with agencies in the north of the border. Essentially it operates under a different system but has the same objective.

Chief Superintendent O' Reilly informed members that the final agreement on the new Bailieborough Garda Station has been received and signed off on.

Deputy N. Smyth along with Senator J. O' Reilly, Cllr. S. O' Reilly and Cllr. P. O' Reilly all welcomed this news.

Deputy N. Smyth enquired into the timeframe and Chief Superintendent replied that they would expect the station to be occupied by Summer 2021.

"To ask Cavan County Council to extend bye laws for Anti Social Behaviour to the Castle Lake in Bailieborough". – Motion request by Niamh Smyth TD.

Deputy N. Smyth referred to the high levels of anti-social behaviour taking place at the Castle Lake Recreational Facility in Bailieborough over the summer months of 2018. However, she wanted to redraw her motion as she has been reassured following a meeting with Superintendent T. Burke that the Gardaí will crack down on any anti-social behaviour taking place at the facility.

Superintendent T. Burke explained that extending bye laws are not necessary as changes in legislation have extended the powers of the Gardaí to deal with a range of offences, they now have enough powers to deal with offences including public drinking and littering.

Cllr. S. O' Reilly commented that the facility is on private land owned by Coillte so therefore it would not be possible for the Council to create bye-laws. She was unhappy that continually raising the issue of anti-social behaviour at the facility was only giving it and the town of Bailieborough a bad reputation and believed that the good work taking place by the local community should be highlighted more. She commended everyone who works to keep the area tidy.

Cllr. C. Kelly referred to the great relationship which exists between Coillte and Cavan County Council. However he believes that there has always been a grey area around what powers An Garda Síochána had on enforcing the law on Coillte's property. He was happy to hear there was now some clarity on this now.

Cllr. S. P. O' Reilly said that the bigger issue is around young people's access to alcohol, stating that something needs to be done to tackle this.

Superintendent T. Burke informed members that they are currently in the process of developing localised policing plans. He offered the example that in Quarter 3 2019 there will be a step up in Garda patrols around the Castle Lake facility and this is in direct response to the issues raised. He welcomed further such feedback from members and the public to go into their plan.

JPC Public Meeting

Chair Cllr. J. P. Feeley congratulated the Gardaí and G. Boyle on the recent JPC Public Meetings. Two Public Information Meetings took place on the 6th and 8th November in Ballyjamesduff and Cootehill and the main JPC Public Meeting took place on the 26th November in the Slieve Russell Hotel. The focus of the meetings was on the Property Marking Scheme and this was very effective as bookings for the machine have significantly increased with the machine fully booked up now to the end of May 2019.

In relation to the Public Meeting Cllr. S. P. O' Reilly said that there was an encouraging response received in relation to a question raised on the potential of a Garda Dog Unit been set up within County Cavan. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly responded that he would be fully in favour seeing the establishment of a regional Dogs Unit if Gardaí resources allow for it. There is a move towards regionalisation of services so there is always a possibility for this to happen, adding that it looks very likely that the Gardaí's Regional Computer Crime Unit may be set up in County Cavan.

Cllr. P. Mc Vitty said that the recent Public Meeting was very enlightening and referred to an issue which was raised around CCTV cameras and the implications of GDPR. He asked if further clarification could be provided in relation to the implications of the recent legislation and the operation of CCTV cameras. Superintendent T. Burke said that GDPR has not changed what people can or can't do in terms of using the cameras. The Gardaí still have the legal authority to seek CCTV footage from private individuals if it aids an investigation.

Deputy N. Smyth thanked the local Gardaí in Bailieborough and Cavan County Council for their assistance on the local implementation of the Property Marking Scheme. They had up to 60 bookings for the machine, it was a slow process but believes it is very beneficial and worth the effort. She said that Bailieborough Community Alert Group wish to borrow the machine again next year.

Cllr. P. Smith concurred with Deputy Smyth's comments and encouraged other areas to avail of the machine also. He hopes to get the machine out to Ballyjamesduff in the near future.

Superintendent T. Burke stressed the importance of getting property marked with identifying information as it is hugely beneficial to the gardaí in enabling them to return property items to their owners.

Chair Cllr. J. P. Feeley wanted to wish a speedy recovery for the Garda Officer who was recently injured in Castleblaney, all members concurred.

The meeting was concluded by the Chair wishing everyone a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

Next Meeting

22nd February 2019, 3pm in the Council Chamber.