

**County Cavan
Joint Policing
Committee
Annual Report 2019**



CONTENTS

Page No.

1. Background & Legislative Framework.....	1
2. Key Achievements of the JPC during the year	2
3. Public meetings hosted by the JPC during the year.....	4
4. Record of members and meetings held during the year.....	5
5. Copies of the Minutes of JPC Meetings in 2018.....	8

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 (JPC) first purchased a Telesis Property Marking Machine in 2018. The machine is made available for community groups to borrow for a week's period at a time in order to roll out Property Marking Schemes within their own local communities. Property marking is promoted by the 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.



Property Marking Initiative has been ongoing over 2019 led out by Cavan County Council in conjunction with Community Groups. An Garda Síochána also support the initiative and many Garda are now trained on how to use the machine. 23 Community Alert Groups borrowed the machine to date. 17 of these have been over 2019. The demand for the machine was so much over 2019 that the County Council made the decision to purchase a second machine in September 2019. Four training sessions were delivered by Property Marking Ireland over 2019. A presentation was provided on the Property Marking Initiative to the County Cavan LCDC in the Autumn of 2019.

Achievement 2

Community CCTV Scheme

Four community groups within County Cavan have been supported through County Cavan JPC to submit funding applications for the Department of Justice's funding scheme for Community CCTV Schemes. The groups are:

- Ballyjamesduff Community Council
- Ballyconnell Town & District Development Association
- Project Beltubet
- Ballinagh Community & Enterprise

However, due to the current Issues concerning the GDPR / Data Protection elements of the Community CCTV Scheme which arose over 2019 at the national level there has been no further movement in relation to these applications.

Achievement 3

County Cavan JPC – Newsletter & Media Coverage

A newsletter was published for the JPC in February 2019 for widespread circulation to highlight the work of the JPC.

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

3. PUBLIC MEETINGS HOSTED BY THE JPC DURING THE YEAR

Due to the need to reconstitute a new JPC over 2019 there was no public meeting in 2019.

4. RECORD OF MEMBERS AND MEETINGS HELD DURING THE YEAR

Two meetings were held over 2019.

Agenda Items Covered over 2019

Date of Meeting: 22nd February 2019
Agenda Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes from meeting 7th December 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview on Crime Prevention Initiatives Undertaken by the IFA - Crime Prevention Officer, Barry Carry IFA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime Statistics for Q.4 2018 compared to Q.4 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of the 2018 JPC Work Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priorities for 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set date for next meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AOB
Date of Meeting: 6th December 2019 Inaugural Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Remarks – JPC Chairperson
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role & Function of the JPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify community based interests to be represented onto the JPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steering Committee – agree and formalise membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval sought for Community Groups funding applications for the Department of Justice’s Community Based CCTV Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime Statistics for Q.4 2019 compared to Q.4 2018. Chief Superintendent J. O’ Reilly
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AOB

Membership of the County Cavan JPC meeting 22nd February 2019

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

* Eoin Doyle replaced by Brendan Jennings in September 2018

**Membership of the new Joint Policing Committee following its reconstitution
(Community Representatives were not in attendance at this meeting as their
selection was to be decided by the JPC Steering Committee at a later meeting)**

Membership of the County Cavan JPC Inaugural meeting 6th December 2019

Name of Member	Organisation	Title	In attendance
John Paul Feeley (Chairperson)	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Peter Mc Vitty (Vice Chairperson)	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Sarah O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Shane. P. O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	No
Clifford Kelly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Paddy Mc Donald	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Craig Lovett	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Carmel Brady	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Patricia Walsh	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Madeline Argue	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Philip Brady	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
T.P. O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Trevor Smith	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	Yes
Brendan Fay	Cavan Co Co	Cllr.	Yes
Aiden Fitzpatrick	Cavan Co Co	Cllr.	Yes
John O'Reilly	An Garda Siochana	Chief Supt.	Yes
James Coen	An Garda Siochana	Supt.	Yes
Gordon Englishby	An Garda Siochana	Supt.	Yes
Brendan Smith	Dail Eireann	Deputy	No
Joe O'Reilly	Dail Eireann	Deputy	Yes
Niamh Smyth	Dail Eireann	Deputy	Yes
Robbie Gallagher	Dail Eireann	Deputy	Yes
Brendan Jennings (in place of Chief Executive)	Cavan Co Co	Director of Services	Yes

5. Copies of the Minutes of JPC Meetings in 2019

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 22nd February 2019 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah O' Reilly, Cllr Winston Bennett, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Smith, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Cllr Peter Mc Vitty, Cllr Carmel Brady, Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Madeleine Argue

Community Representatives: Bob Gilbert, Noleen Brady, Vanessa Clarke,

Executive: Brendan Jennings (Director of Services), Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive)

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly, Superintendent James Coen

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

Apologies: Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly, Frank Mc Dermott, Cllr Noel O' Connell, Cllr Damien Brady, Senator Diarmuid Wilson, Aisling Tobin, Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Deputy Niamh Smyth, Superintendent Timothy Burke,

In Attendance: Inspector Valerie Gahen - Bailieborough Division, Barry Carey (IFA), Sean Mc Mahon Anglo Celt, Gráinne Boyle, Community & Enterprise

Chair Cllr Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting including Inspector Valerie Gahen, Bailieborough Division and Barry Carey IFA.

Minutes from meeting of 7th December 2019 & Matters Arising

No matters were arising from the previous meeting.

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

Overview on Crime Prevention Initiatives undertaken by the IFA – Barry Carry, Crime Prevention Officer, IFA

B. Carry provided an overview on the type of activities undertaken by the IFA in relation to crime prevention under the following categories:

- Bodies and organisations they engage with to undertake this work, including providing annual submissions to the Policing Authority for Policing Plans
- Current trends nationwide - the IFA are seeing trailers, tractors and quad bikes as the main items targeted in recent times, the trend of steeling cattle

and sheep seems to have decreased. The other area of concern is the theft of tools from outhouses, farms and vans.

- Crime prevention measures including the Rural Crime Task Force, 999/112, WhatsApp Group, Eyes & Ears Group, Community CCTV Scheme

Chair Cllr Feeley complimented B. Carey on a very interesting presentation and invited questions from members.

Senator O'Reilly enquired if the IFA endorses the Property Marking Initiative to its members. B. Carey said they welcome all initiatives which can prevent crime and theft and this initiative is particularly useful in helping to recover property items to return to their owners. IFA still strongly promote TheftStop also.

Senator O'Reilly asked what impact Operation Thor has had on IFA's members. B. Carey replied that it has been a great success to date, certain areas have been continually targeted in the past and this has proved to be a great deterrent.

Cllr. W. Bennett made the point that the IFA and the GAA are a great help to the gardaí in supporting crime prevention. However he believes the problem still lies in the short sentences being handed down to those committing crimes.

Cllr. Mc Vitty brought up the issue of livestock theft and the ongoing problem around this for farmers. B. Carey agreed with him adding that this area of crime in particular can be difficult to detect and prevent. He referred to Community CCTV Schemes and the important role these can have in preventing this area of crime. Cllr. Mc Vitty said that the ongoing issue of who will monitor the CCTV screens under this scheme needs to be resolved. Ideally he believes the gardaí should have the responsibility for this. He asked if there were any further updates in relation to the Community CCTV Scheme. Chair Cllr. Feeley replied that the issue is still with the County & City Managers Association as they have raised concerns on the County Council's being appointed as data controllers for the scheme considering the recent GDPR legislation. He also added that there a multitude of issues which should be reviewed in connection with the scheme such as where the equipment is housed, costs etc.

Deputy Smith commented that there is a very good traceability system on animals currently. However he believes that there needs to more severe penalties and zero tolerance on anyone who trades in livestock. It is up to everyone to be vigilant in this area as the gardaí are too under resourced to tackle this on their own.

Crime Statistics for Q.4 2018 compared to Q.4 2017

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly read through the Crime Statistics for Q. 4 compared to Q.4 2017.

Deputy Smith highlighted the lack of supports available for those suffering domestic violence in Counties Cavan and Monaghan. He enquired if this need has been identified through An Garda Síochána. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly said the nearest domestic violence refuges are in Navan and Dundalk. Tearmann also

operate in Castleblaney providing support services in this area. He stated that follow up supports are available to reporters of domestic violence however it is not within the remit of An Garda Síochána to provide a domestic refuge facilities.

Cllr. Argue enquired if the gardaí provide a call back service to reporting domestic violence. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly responded yes they are obliged to provide a call back service, it is a huge step for an individual to make a complaint so this after support is needed.

G. Boyle referred to a local multi-agency group called Cavan Against Domestic Violence who are exploring the possibility of applying for funding support to set up a domestic violence refuge and support service for County Cavan. This group is being supported through Breffni Integrated. She said the work of this group is pending following a study being conducted by Tusla into the availability of refuge centres nationally, following this it is hoped that funding will be made available to develop a refuge centre locally. Both Deputy Smith and Senator O' Reilly both acknowledged this study stating that it has been going on for some time and needs to be progressed.

Chief Superintendent O' Reilly pointed out that Cavan has the highest Drug Driving detections outside of Dublin which is an ongoing concern.

Cllr. Mc Vitty referred to the rise in the number of public order offences and enquired if this is caused by late night drinking on the weekends. Superintendent Coen replied that these incidences are not exclusive to the weekend only and can happen any time of the week although there would be a spike in the numbers then. He explained that with the enforcement of Liquor Licence Laws society has seen a cultural shift. More people are drinking at home and by the time they try to enter into public premises they are often refused, as a result they end up on the streets. Another issue relating to this is often the unavailability of taxis late at night so people end up hanging around.

In relation to specific figures around elderly abuse Bob Gilbert stated that he was not surprised with the low figure recorded as people are often very reluctant to come forward, however he referred to research that indicates as much as 1 in 20 people suffer from this. Superintendent Coen acknowledged that this is a very difficult and sensitive area but individuals who do come forward are provided with lots of support.

Cllr. Mc Vitty offered his gratitude to the gardaí for attending a public meeting in Mullagh recently.

Review of the 2018 JPC Work Programme

G. Boyle presented a report detailing all the work undertaken over 2018 to progress the implementation of the JPC's Strategy 2017 – 2022. Some of the highlights undertaken include:

- Quarterly meetings of the JPC.
- One public meeting and two public information meetings hosted by the JPC.

- Community Property Marking Initiative underway.
- Cavan Drugs & Alcohol Forum – ‘Local Directory of Services’ produced and Teacher Training Workshop delivered on Drugs & Alcohol.
- Ongoing supports provided for the Community CCTV Scheme. Three applications submitted and reviewed by the national CCTV Advisory Committee. Two further groups are also being supported to prepare applications.
- Public Participation Network hosted two public JPC Linkage Group meetings over 2018.
- Sports Partnership hosted various safety initiatives as part of Bike Week 2019.
- Road Policing and Road Safety – An Garda Síochána hosted ‘Beep Beep Day’ and the ‘Are you too young to die’ Programme.

Cllr. Mc Vitty said it was good to see that activity is underway and receive an overview of what is going on.

Cllr. C. Kelly thanked the Chief Superintendent for the recent increase in the garda numbers allocated to the Kingscourt area. He went on to say that he would like to see consideration provided for a Sergeant to be appointed also.

Cllr. Mc Vitty sought clarification on what is happening with the Ballyconnell Community CCTV Scheme, explaining that poles have recently been put up for the cameras, but nothing has happened since. G. Boyle said she would make enquires into this and come back to him with further information.

Next Meeting

Chair Cllr. Feeley explained that this would be the last meeting of this current JPC as it will be necessary to reform a new committee following the local elections in May.

He acknowledged the support of the Vice Chair Cllr. Mc Vitty and also G. Boyle for her assistance with the co-ordination of the JPC. He also thanked the elected representatives and community representatives for their involvement in the JPC over the past term. Lastly, he praised An Garda Síochána for their co-operation and openness.

Chief Superintendent O’ Reilly thanked Chair Cllr. Feeley and members of the JPC for their input and assistance over the duration of the JPC’s term.

Cllr. Kelly complemented Cllr. Feeley for excellent chairing of the meeting and was joined by Cllr. Argue in this sentiment, she also thanked the Chief Superintendent and the local media for their role in supporting the JPC.

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 6th December 2019 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah O' Reilly, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Cllr Peter Mc Vitty, Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Carmel Brady, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Brendan Fay, Cllr. Criag Lovett, Cllr. Trevor Smith, Cllr. Patricia Walsh, Cllr. Philip Brady, Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly

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

Executive: Brendan Jennings, (Director of Services)

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly, Superintendent Gordon Englishby, Superintendent James Coen,

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

Apologies: Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly, Deputy Brendan Smith, Senator Robbie Gallagher

In Attendance: Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan, Gráinne Boyle

Cllr. J.P. Feeley had been nominated as Chair and Cllr. P. Mc Vitty, Vice Chair, at a previous meeting of the JPC elected members.

Welcome & Opening Remarks – JPC Chairperson

Chair Cllr. Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for his re-nomination as JPC Chair. For the purpose of informing the new JPC members he went through matters which the JPC is unable to discuss at meetings, specially if it relates to:

- a criminal investigation or prosecution
- to the security of the State
- endanger the security of individuals or an individual
- Involves information received in confidence
- Would prejudice crime prevention/detection,

Identify community based interests to be represented onto the JPC

Cllr. Feeley explained that six community representatives are also to be invited to sit on the JPC. In doing this he referred to the following two documents which should be noted for consideration.

- Regard to relevant guidelines issued by the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government (these state that the PPN's should be approached to seek community representation onto Local Authority Committees)
- Under the Department of Justice's Migrant Integration Strategy "A Blueprint for the future", Action 62, Local Authorities will take action to have migrant representation on all JPC's (by 2020) The Migrant Integration Strategy has been developed as the Government's response to the challenge of promoting integration in a context of increased diversity. Department of Justice have been following up with JPCs to ensure this action is fully completed.

Chair Cllr. Feeley recommended advertising broadly to seek community nominations along with inviting the JPC to put forward community nominations. Once received the JPC Steering Committee will decide on the six community representatives to be nominated.

Referring to the JPC Guidelines Chair Cllr. Feeley said that the JPC's needs to discuss and agree the main categories or most appropriate community-based organisations to be represented on the JPC. Community-based interests could include for example, farming community, Older People, Youth, Immigrant Communities, Business Community, geographical areas.

The following community-based interests were agreed:

- Disability Interests – proposed by Cllr. Kelly
- Youth Interests– possible projects Garda 365 / Bouncback, proposed, by Cllr. Walsh
- Older People Interests – proposed by Cllr. Feeley
- Business Interests – proposed by Cllr. Walsh

- Community Alert / Neighbourhood Watch – proposed by Cllr. Feeley. It was acknowledged that Muntir na Tire had representation on previous JPC's and it would be good to see this continue as they have a good overview on developments in the area of community engagement.
- Immigrant Community Interests – proposed by Cllr. Fay
- Farming / Rural Community Interests – proposed by Cllr. O'Reilly
- Drugs & Alcohol – proposed by Cllr. O'Reilly

Steering Committee – agree membership

Cllr Feeley referred to the JPC guidelines and informed members that the JPC Steering Committee is to consist of the chairperson, a representative of An Garda Síochána and the Chief Executive or a person nominated by him.

He explained that the function of the steering group will be to facilitate the efficient functioning of the JPC and in particular to ensure that it retains a clear focus on strategic and collaborative actions. This was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and agreed unanimously.

Approval sought for Community Groups Funding Applications for the Department of Justice's Community Based CCTV Scheme

Cllr. Feeley informed members that JPC approval is being sought to support funding applications for the Department of Justice's Community Based CCTV Scheme for the following four community groups:

- Ballyjamesduff Community Council
- Ballyconnell Town & District Development Association
- Project Beltubet
- Ballinagh Community & Enterprise

He informed members that these groups had previously received letters of endorsement by Cavan County Council and the JPC but the Department of Justice has requested that these are re-submitted in light of the updating in legislation.

Cllr. Brendan Fay proposed this and Cllr. Sarah O' Reilly seconded it.

Cllr. Mc Vitty stated that the CCTV monitors need to be placed within secure locations such as the garda stations if the scheme is to be successful. Cllr. Walsh agreed with this adding that garda stations are monitored 24 hrs, while council buildings for example are not.

Cllr Fay was happy to see Project Belturbet are in a position to submit their application and expressed his gratitude to Inspector Mc Kiernan for his assistance with the group in getting it to this stage. He acknowledged the issues around GDPR but said that the project is too valuable not to try and move forward with.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly agreed with Cllr Fay's comments in relation to moving applications forward. He believes a resolution is close at hand with the Local Authorities around the issue of data protection.

Chair Cllr. Feeley said that it is important the JPC continues to support these community group's applications but realistically the projects cannot progress until the GDPR issue is fully resolved. There are other issues that community groups need to consider however beyond GDPR such as maintenance and operation of the cameras, he believes there is a large scale work load involved for groups who are applying to deliver these schemes within their communities.

Cllr. S. O'Reilly said that this issue had been put down as a motion for discussion at the next council meeting at which she hopes further clarification can be received.

B. Jennings stated that the Council wants to fully support community groups in making applications under the scheme but until some agreement is reached in relation to the GDPR concerns it is difficult to progress. He acknowledged Linda Mc Gavigan's support in this area to date.

Chair Cllr. Feeley added to this by also acknowledging Inspector Kiernan's support and Chair Cllr Feeley also wanted to acknowledge the work being carried out locally by community groups themselves.

It was proposed that a letter should be issued to the Department of Justice to convey Cavan JPC's views on this issue.

Crime Statistics for Quarter 3 2018 compared to Quarter 3 2019

Crime figures were circulated to members. Cllr Kelly enquired if the statistics were confidential and Chief Superintendent O'Reilly replied that they are not as they do not identify anyone on an individual basis.

Chief Superintendent O'Reilly read through the figures.

Senator O'Reilly expressed his gratitude to the Gardaí for their work in this area pointing out that the number of assaults has fallen as well as drink driving for the Cavan Division.

In relation to the increase in numbers of people reporting domestic violence he suggested he asked if this is due to more people being willing to report it now than perhaps in the past. He suggested that the increase in the number of reports highlights the need for a domestic violence refuge centre to be available locally. He also welcomed elaboration from the Chief Superintendent in relation to the high levels in drug detections. Chief Superintendent O'Reilly agreed that more people are coming forward to report domestic violence as they feel more supported by the Gardaí to do so, once a report is made there are specific steps the Gardaí need to follow and they will return to the victim after seven days to check in with them. In relation to tackling drugs he said it is a constant battle, drug use has increased in rural areas, it's not just an urban problem anymore. An increase in personal for the division will help tackle the problem as there will be more visibility on the ground as a result. He informed members that twenty four new probationary Gardaí have been recruited in the Cavan & Monaghan Division. Eight of these new recruits were assigned to Cavan and as a result of that, other Gardaí could be moved from Cavan to Ballyconnell and Ballingh. There has also been an increase in personnel in Bailieborough and Kingscourt. He said they are endeavouring to get back to the manpower they had in 2012/2013.

Chair Cllr. Feeley welcomed the news of the new recruits but said the case for additional Gardaí still needs to be made.

Cllr. P. Brady enquired if people can be searched randomly for possession of drugs. Chief Superintendent O'Reilly replied that 27 searches were made in Cavan Town the previous week alone and under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs the Gardaí can search a person based on reasonable suspicion.

Cllr Fay enquired is there anything the elected members can do to support the Gardaí in the area of tackling drugs.

Chief Superintendent O' Reilly suggested that that this could be further explored, he said that Sgt. Mick Kearney within the Cavan Drugs Unit provided a presentation at a previous meeting of the JPC, he could be asked to attend a future JPC meeting to provide an updated presentation. He said that if anyone has any concerns or suspicions, they should contact the Gardaí.

Deputy N. Smyth wanted to thank Superintendent English for attending a recent public meeting which took place in Bailieborough. She queried if the Cavan Drugs Unit is sufficiently staffed to tackle the large-scale cocaine problem facing the county. Chief Superintendent O' Reilly replied that the Unit is supplemented by additional staff on a needs basis.

Cllr. C. Brady commended the Gardaí on the increased visibility of Gardaí due to the new Armed Response Unit in the Cavan Garda Station.

Cllr Lovett enquired if those charged with Drug Driving are investigated further once charged to see were their obtained their drugs, he suggested this would be an effective way of tackling the problem at source. Superintendent Coen replied that under the current legislation people are not obliged to provide this information, so it is not information they can easily obtain.

Cllr. Mc Vitty asked what the penalty for drug driving is and how often can the Gardaí search a premises. Chief Superintendent O'Reilly informed him that under Section 4 of the Roads Act, an offence of drug driving leads to disqualification from driving for up to a one year period. Drug driving and impaired driving can lead to disqualification

for up to four years and a fine. In relation to carrying out searches he said they can carry out searches on any premises they wish but if this goes on on a continual basis they would need to serve a warrant.

Cllr. Kelly enquired if there is a garda confidential phone line. Chief Superintendent O'Reilly replied that there is and it is advertised widely through various methods including the side of their patrol cars.

Cllr. Walsh asked about whether individuals can be charged for obtaining obtaining drugs over the internet. Chief Superintendent replied that if the Gardaí can intercept a delivery before it is actually made, they can charge an individual. Cllr. Walsh suggested that this needs to be advertised more as there is often the perception that this is not possible. She also talked about the importance of Community Policing as a means of tackling the drugs issue, she believes that that building up a good rapport and trust with the local Gardaí makes it easier for people to come forward to report drug dealing. This is especially needed in urban areas with high levels of drug use. Superintendent Coen commented that he has been receiving some very positive feedback in relation to the Community Garda Seamus Herron who is based in Tullacmongan. However he believes that it the responsibility of every garda to build up a good rapport with the local community they are based in.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick commended the Gardaí on their work and said it is good to see crime figures mostly on the decrease. However he is saddened to see the issue of drug use still having a grip in County Cavan. He personally is seeing young people taking drugs brazenly in places such as schools and football matches. He stated the level of drug use amongst youths is only going to increase and he believes and it is up to communities to tackle this issue also not just the Gardaí. Chief Superintendent agreed but added it not just young people taking drugs, it is a widespread societal issue.

Chair Cllr. Feeley enquired about the proposed dedicated Arms Response Unit for County Cavan. He asked would there be many new recruits for the unit. Chief Superintendent O'Reilly informed members that a national advertisement went out

two weeks previously for personnel for the unit, 250 – 300 applied for these posts. The interview process will get underway early in the new year. For those who are successful there will be an intensive 14 weeks training programme which they will need to go through, and he expects that the unit will be up and running by mid-2020. The unit will be staffed by five sergeants and twenty five Gardaí in total.

In-Committee Session

Chair Cllr Feeley proposed, as is provided for in the Department Circular and in Standing Orders that the meeting go into committee to allow members the opportunity to express views on the on-going joint investigation between the PSNI and An Garda Síochána pertaining to incident in West Cavan/Fermanagh. This was agreed and those not members of the JPC were invited to leave the Chamber.

He advised members that as it was an on-going investigation and matters were before the Courts reference should not be made to individuals and comments should be general in nature. After a discussion the ordinary meeting resumed.

AOB

Cllr. S. O'Reilly enquired if there were any further updates in relation to the Bailieborough Garda Station. Chief Superintendent replied that the OPW is currently managing this project however he reassured her that it is progressing.

Cllr. C. Brady asked if there was further news in relation to the Garda Dogs Unit. Chief Superintendent replied that it is looking like the unit will not be set up on a divisional basis but will serve the North West Region.

Cllr. Kelly enquired when the new arrangements in relation to the restructuring of An Garda Síochána Divisions will take place. Chief Superintendent O'Reilly informed him that he believes it will commence by February or March 2020. He expects that Cavan & Monaghan will be the last division to be changed but it is set to be

amalgamated with Louth. He offered to provide a more informed presentation on what is proposed at the next JPC meeting.

Cllr. Kelly commented that it is a very bad decision to have the division's headquarters so far away and hopes that re-consideration will be given. Cllr. Fay concurred with this and suggested a letter should be send to the commissioner in relation to this.

Chair Cllr. Feeley said that the Policing Commissioner is currently attending all JPC's meeting around the country so this will offer the opportunity to do this. He said they will request that the commissioner attends a Cavan JPC meeting as soon as possible early in the new year as it is important that their views are made know.

In relation to the administration arrangements for JPC meetings, Chair Cllr Feeley asked if all members were happy for notifications and documentation is relation to meetings be e-mailed to members. All members concurred.