

**County Cavan
Joint Policing
Committee
Annual Report 2021**



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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 (JPC) have purchased two Telesis Property Marking Machines. 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.



The following Property Marking Events took place between the following community groups and An Garda Síochána's Crime Prevention Officer and the Community Engagement Unit over 2021.

Bicycle Property Marking – An Garda Síochána	June 2021
Cootehill Tidy Towns	24th July 2021
Cross / Virginia Community Alert	25 th September 2021
Kilcogy Community Development	18 th September 2021
Cross/Mullagh Community Alert	25 th September 2021
Shercock Killann Rural Development Association	2 nd October 2021
Swanlinbar Development Association	9 th October 2021
Shercock Community Alert	9 th October 2021
Ballyconnell & District Development Association	23 rd October 2021

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 ongoing current Issues concerning the GDPR / Data Protection elements of the Community CCTV Scheme at the national level these applications are on hold.

Achievement 3

County Cavan JPC – Newsletter & Media Coverage

Following the JPC Meetings over 2021 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 Covid-19, no public meeting took place over 2021.

4. RECORD OF MEMBERS AND MEETINGS HELD DURING THE YEAR

Four meetings were held in 2021. Due to COVID-19 they were held online over Microsoft Teams.

Agenda Items Covered over 2021

Date of Meeting: 26th March 2021
Agenda Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes from meeting - 4th December 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic Violence Presentations<ul style="list-style-type: none">- An Garda Síochána's Protective Services Unit- Tearmann Domestic Violence Services – Siobhán Mc Kenna
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime Figures for County Cavan – Q1 2021 compared to Q1 2020. Chief Superintendent Glacken
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set date for next meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AOB
Date of Meeting: 11th June 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes from meeting 26th March 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime Figures for County Cavan – YTD 2020 vs YTD 2021

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Community Text Alert Scheme within County Cavan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vanessa Clarke, Development Officer, Muntir na Tire - Sergeant Michael Duffy, Crime Prevention Officer, Cavan County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Brendan Smith – The urgent need for a comprehensive plan to deal with the scourge of illegal drugs in Cavan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date for next meeting
<p>Date of Meeting: 3rd September 2021</p>
<p>Agenda Items</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes from meeting - held on 11th June 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports for Victims of Crime: Inspector Nial McKiernan and Garda Staff Sheila Enright
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs & Alcohol Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MQI CAMDAS (Cavan and Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Service): Zoe Wells, Service Co-ordinator - North East Regional Drugs Task Force: Andy Ogle, Regional Co-ordinator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set date for next meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOB
<p>Date of Meeting: 3rd December 2021</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes from meeting held on 3rd September 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters Arising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support (MaCYSS) Alcohol Forum Ireland. Niamh Mc Daid, Development Officer & Gemma Mc Cabe, Therapeutic Practitioner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cavan County Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. Bridie Mc Brearty, Senior Executive Officer, Housing, Cavan County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LA16 – Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure. Director of Service, Brendan Jennings, Cavan County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Figures for County Cavan – YTD 2020 vs YTD 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AOB
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date for next meeting

Members of the County Cavan JPC & attendance over 2021

Name of Council Member	Organisation	March 21	11 th June 21	3 rd Sept. 21	3 rd Dec. 21
Cllr John Paul Feeley (Chairperson)	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cllr. Peter Mc Vitty (Vice Chairperson)	Cavan Co. Co.	NO	NO	NO	YES
Cllr. Sarah O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cllr. Shane. P. O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	NO	NO
Cllr. Clifford Kelly	Cavan Co. Co.	NO	NO	NO	NO
Cllr. Paddy Mc Donald	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cllr. Craig Lovett	Cavan Co. Co.	.NO	NO	YES	NO
Cllr.Carmel Brady	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cllr.Patricia Walsh	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cllr.Madeline Argue	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cllr.Philip Brady	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	NO
Cllr.T.P. O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	NO
Cllr.Trevor Smith	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cllr.Brendan Fay	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	YES	YES	NO
Cllr.Aiden Fitzpatrick	Cavan Co. Co.	YES	NO	NO	YES
Aiden Glacken / Alan Mc Govern *	Chief Superintendent An Garda Síochána	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Gordon Englishby	Superintendent An Garda Síochána	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Padraig Jones	Superintendent An Garda Síochána	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vanessa Clarke	Community Representative	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Leanne Coyle	Community Representative	No	Yes	No	No
John Magee	Community Representative	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stanley Nwaneri	Community Representative	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tony Mc Govern	Community Representative	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Elizabeth Ormiston	Community Representative	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Margaret Mathews	Community Representative	No	No	No	No
Brendan Smith	Community Representative	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Joe O'Reilly	Dail Eireann	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Niamh Smyth	Dail Eireann	No	No	No	No
Robbie Gallagher	Dail Eireann	No	No	No	No
Pauline Tully	Dail Eireann	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Brendan Jennings	Director of Service Cavan County Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

***Chief Superintendent Alan Mc Govern replaced Chief Superintendent Aiden Glacken in November 2021**

5. Copies of the Minutes of JPC Meetings in 2021

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held on-line over Microsoft Teams, Cavan on 26th March 2021 at 3pm.

Present:

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

Community Representatives: Vanessa Clarke, John Magee, Stanley Nwaneri, Elizabeth Ormiston, Tony Mc Govern

Executive: Brendan Jennings (Director of Services, CCC)

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent Aiden Glacken, Superintendent Paudraic Jones, Superintendent Gordon Englishby

Oireachtas Members: Deputy Brendan Smith, Deputy Pauline Tully, Deputy Joe O'Reilly

Apologies: Deputy Niamh Smyth

In Attendance: Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan (An Garda Síochána), Siobhan Mc Kenna (Tearmann Domestic Violence Services), Detective Sergeant Rose Mc Girl (An Garda Síochána's Protective Services Unit), Gráinne Boyle (CCC), Eddie Butler (Norther Sound), Damian Mc Carney (Anglo Celt)

Chair Cllr. J.P. Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded members that because the meeting is taking place on-line there will be no opportunity to go 'in-committee' and as always the case, no personal issues are to be raised for discussion.

Minutes & Matters Arising

Chief Superintendent Glacken requested for the minutes of the previous meeting (4th December 2020) to be corrected to read that the crime figures under assaults do include Domestic Violence figures.

The minutes were proposed by Chief Superintendent Glacken and seconded by Vanessa Clarke.

Crime Figures for County Cavan – Q1 2021 compared to Q1 2020.

Chief Superintendent Glacken reported that crime figures are down generally due to COVID – 19 in the areas of assault, burglary, criminal damage and public order.

Changes to the garda roster enables Gardaí to be in frontline service which has also had an impact on the figures.

There had been a couple of recent significant drug seizures. There are concerns around the level of drug driving and the high figures under this category. An Garda Síochána are putting a lot of effort into this area.

They are working closely with the PSNI to address cross-border crime. There are joint operation activities taking place on an ongoing basis.

Chief Superintendent Glacken referred to the appreciation An Garda Síochána have for the general public for their co-operation and support over the COVID pandemic. They are currently expanding their Community Policing Service and are currently advertising for new full-time posts for County Cavan. Superintendent Jones said that this will be a very welcomed addition. Superintendent Englishby also welcomed this addition and availed of the public to engage with the newly appointed Community Gardaí once they are in place.

Chair Cllr. Feeley commended the Gardaí on their work over the pandemic to date and the news of the expansion of Community Policing personal. He asked if they will be additional personal.

Deputy B. Smith referred to the high number of Drug Driving Detections and said that it was alarming, he asked if the penalties imposed are adequate enough. In relation

to cross-border activities and dealing with dissident groups, he enquired if a zero policy approach is needed and are their adequate resources to deal with these small groups.

Chief Superintendent Glacken replied that the Community Policing Personal are additional to their quota of existing personal. In response to Deputy Smiths questions, he responded that he believes due to the establishment of the Armed Unit, An Garda Síochána are in a good position to deal with dissident groups effectively. An Garda Síochána also have an excellent working relationships with their colleagues across the border to tackle this issue. In relation to the issue of drugs he believes that they are also better equipped to deal with this issue due to better legislation and technology. The main issue which needs to be addressed however in the perception by some members of the public that it is acceptable to purchase drugs and support this illegal activity. Intimidation is a big problem also. People need to trust An Garda Síochána by working and confiding with them so that they can deal with this issue within the community effectively.

Deputy O' Reilly welcomed Chief Superintendent Glacken and Superintendent Jones to their new posts. He congratulated An Garda Síochána in their successful approach to the expansion in Community Policing. He was happy to see the reduction in crime figures in general but added that it was disturbing to see an increase in drug driving. He commended the Gardaí on the recent drug seizures and urged them to keep up the good work under this. He agreed with Chief Superintendent Glacken on the need to tackle the acceptance amongst some members of the public around drug taking. In relation to domestic violence he welcomed the recent introduction of the cohesive control legislation and asked if there are any cases under investigation within this division under this. He welcomed the expansion of Community Policing, adding that this has been the traditional model in Ireland and it works very well.

Cllr. P Walsh was happy to hear that An Garda Síochána are keen to address the issue around drugs and intimidation. She believed that the additional Community Gardaí will also be effective is addressing this issue as people will be able to build up a good rapport with these Gardaí making it easier to build trust.

Cllr. P. Mc Donald said that the Drugs Unit is doing great work to address the issue of drugs within the County. It is unfortunate to see the increase in drug driving however. He welcomed the increase in the community policing personal.

Chief Superintendent Glacken thanked members for their comments. He said that it is essential that the Gardaí receive the ongoing support and engagement of the public to effectively carry out their work. He responded to Senator O' Reilly's query informing him that three Cohesive Control investigations are underway.

Cllr. P. Brady welcomed both Chief Superintendent Glacken and Superintendent Jones to their new posts. He welcomed the expansion to Community Policing. In

relation to Cavan Town he said that they do not see many Gardaí on foot patrols, he wondered if this was down to lack of Gardaí or an increase in paperwork. He said a lot of areas in Cavan Town do not have CCTV cameras and the Gardaí do not seem to patrol these areas and as a result they are hot spots for drug dealing and taking. He also enquired if it is necessary for new recruits to An Garda Síochána to take a drug test before being accepted into training in Templemore.

Cllr. Shane P. O' Reilly welcomed the additional community policing personal, adding that there has been a big demand for this for a number of years now. He asked where the additional 8 personnel will be placed. He asked if An Garda Síochána had a deficit in Family Liaison Offers. He mentioned that members of Cavan Co Co recently passed a motion requesting that money which is obtained from CAB under seizures within the county be funnelled back in to support community & voluntary organisations operating within the county such as the Family & Support Agency and Cavan Drugs Awareness (now Merchants Quay). He concluded his comments by referring to some malicious damage to property which was carried out by young people within Ballyjamesduff. He said the community are extremally upset over this and the Gardaí may have to be vigilant around this.

Cllr B. Fay referred to the Garda Community Cars which were on patrol last year, he said that they were great in giving the community and in particular older adult's peace of mind. He enquired if these cars will make a return. He also asked if there were any updates concerning the Community CCTV scheme.

Cllr A. Fitzpatrick said that the situation around drugs within the county is concerning, he thanked the Gardaí for their good work in tackling this as best they can. He said that the Drugs Task Force are hoping to open an office in Cootehill or Clones. He asked for the Oireachtas Members to support that funded in directed to support this development to take place in Cootehill as it is much needed.

Chief Superintendent Glacken responded to Cllr P. Brady's question concerning the recruitment of garda personnel, he said that this takes place at the national level so he would not know if recruits are asked to take drug tests before entering training. In relation to the hotspots within Cavan Town for drug dealing he requested that any information know around these areas be shared with the Gardaí and they will act on it. Superintendent Jones commented that it is disappointing to hear that there hasn't been a strong garda presence across Cavan Town as a specific effort was made to do this coming up to the Christmas period. He asked to be kept informed around any blackspots and he will ensure that they will be patrolled.

Chief Superintendent Glacken welcomed the motion passed by members of Cavan Co Co, he would very much welcome any additional resources available to tackle the issue of drugs within the county.

In follow up to the questions around the locations of the new community Gardaí he stated that 4 will be placed within the Cavan Division, 3 in the Bailieborough and one

sergeant will supervise the work. Both the Protective Services Unit and the Armed Supports Unit are at full personnel levels. Superintendent Englishby said that the Community Guards will be placed in Mullagh/Ballyjamesduff, Bailieborough and Shercock/Kingscourt within the Bailieborough Division.

Chief Superintendent Glacken said that the Community Policing Cars will be continued, the previous cars were rentals but they have purchased new permanent cars now.

Superintendent Englishby informed members that he recently sent clarifications relating to the Ballyjamesduff CCTV application as requested by the Dept. of Justice and he hopes to see movement on this project now. Chair Cllr. Feeley asked had there been some decision made in relation to the Community CCTV Scheme as he believed the scheme was still on hold. Superintendent Englishby will seek further information before the next meeting.

Deputy Smith informed members that he raised a parliamentary question in the Dáil recently to the Minister of Justice concerning the current position of the Community CCTV Scheme. He was told that a review of the scheme is to take place in 2021, to be completed before the summer. This review will focus on how the Community CCTV scheme can be brought in line with new proposed legislation which is currently being drafted. This legislation will deal with all instances of overt use of recording devices by members of the Gardaí. This new legislation will provide clear criteria and standards for the use of recording devices, including CCTV, by An Garda Síochána.

Deputy Smith proposed that the JPC issue a letter to the Department requesting that the legislation be brought forward as soon as possible so that the review can be carried out as soon as possible. Cllr B. Fay thanked Deputy Smith and agreed that a letter be issued to the Department on this.

Cllr B. Fay asked if the Garda Confidential Help-Line could be changed to a local number as the current number provided is off-putting to locals, they believe they will not get through to a local garda to speak with if they call it.

Domestic Violence Presentations – Detective Sergeant Rose Mc Girl, An Garda Síochána’s Cavan / Monaghan Protective Services Unit & Teermann Domestic Violence Services – Siobhán Mc Kenna

Detective Sergeant Rose Mc Girl, Cavan/Monaghan Divisional Protective Services Unit

Detective Sergeant Mc Girl thanked members for the opportunity to present to them.

Cavan/Monaghan DPSU was formally established on the 29th July 2020 and is based in two centres, Virginia, Co. Cavan & Clones, Co. Monaghan. DPSU Cavan Monaghan has one Inspector, Inspector Niall Mc Kiernan and each centre operates with one Detective Sergeant and five Detective Gardai.

DPSU has been set up to professionalise the standards of investigations into all sexual crime and serious Domestic incidents and is very much a victim centred unit with a focus on maintaining the following objectives

- To create the optimum environment for victims of sexual crime and Domestic coercive control to disclose their experience
- To ensure the delivery of a consistent Divisional response to the investigation of such crimes
- To ensure that vulnerable victims of crime are placed at the centre of the Garda Service
- Development and improvement of relationships with key strategic partners during the investigation of crimes, as well as the provision of support to victims

Detective Sergeant Mc Girl went on to provide information on:

- The Referrals Process to the service
- The type of investigations which are covered: - sexual, online child exploitation, child sexual abuse, historical sexual abuse, domestic violence
- Support provided through the service for the victim

Tearmann Domestic Violence Services – Siobhán Mc Kenna

Siobhán Mc Kenna thanked members for the opportunity to present to them.

Her presentation covered the following:

- The various types of domestic abuse
- How to recognise the signs of the various abuse
- Tactics used by perpetrators.
- The effects on women from living in abusive relationships
- The reasons women often stay in abusive relationships
- The current context of domestic abuse in Ireland today

- The introduction of Coercive Control Legislation
- The signs of Coercive Control
- Disclosure
- What research is saying

Chair Cllr Feeley thanked both presenters, commenting that they are both dealing with some very challenging issues which need to be dealt with carefully and sensitively. He enquired if there has been any movement towards the development of a Domestic Violence Refuge Centre for the region.

Deputy Smith complimented the presenters. It is an exceptionally difficult area to work in, he has linked in with Tearmann over the years and their support is always very appreciated. The lack of refuge accommodation in the Cavan and Monaghan counties is very concerning and he has been pushing this at the national level with the Minister for some time now.

Deputy Tully thanked both presenters for their work and support to vulnerable women. She believes that a multi-agency approach is needed to tackle the issue of domestic violence. She enquired if the recently advertised post for a support worker within Tearmann has been filled and if the worker will be covering Counties Cavan and Monaghan also. She echoed previous calls for the need for a Refugee Centre for the area.

Siobhán Mc Kenna responded that there is a review currently being conducted by the Dept. of Justice on the location and need for Refuge Centres nationally, nothing will happen until this review is completed. She replied that their new support worker will cover both Cavan and Monaghan. She informed members that Tearmann is currently merging with Safe Guarding Ireland and they will be managed through this organisation going forward. She is hopeful that this will be a positive move and will lead to access to better resources for them.

Detective Sergeant Mc Girl said that they welcome the assistance and support they receive through community projects, this is not an area the Gardaí can deal with on their own.

Vanessa Clarke informed members that on a wider basis, Muntir Na Tire are seeing a lot of abuse of the rise, including Elder Abuse. She is currently organising a webinar on this issue on the 29th April focusing on this issue.

Cllr. S. P O'Reilly supported previous call for a Refuge Centre and welcomed the establishment of the DPSU. He also wanted to raise the point that domestic violence also happens to men. He asked if Detective Sergeant Mc Girl and her staff have been offered all the relevant training needed for continuous professional development.

Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly complemented them both on their work. He also backed the call for a Refuge Centre.

Siobhán Mc Kenna replied that Tearmann have also supported men, although not officially. 300 people were supported last year, 10 of which were men. They would advise these men on men's specific services they need to link in with.

Chief Superintendent Glacken complimented the presentations. He felt that any abuse in any form is not acceptable. He encouraged members of the public to come forward and report, silence only leads to further suffering. On a strategic level a multi-agency approach is needed to tackle this issue.

Detective Sergeant Mc Girl replied to Cllr. S. P. O'Reilly's queries. She said that COVID has put a halt to their training but all the personal appointed to the DPSU have the necessary skills to carry out their roles. Training will recommence when possible. Staff do receive mandatory Psychological Supports.

Next Meeting

The JPC Steering Committee agreed the following JPC meetings dates for 2021:

- 11th June
- 3rd September
- 3rd December

All meetings will take place at 3pm.

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held on-line over Microsoft Teams, Cavan on 11th June 2021 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah O' Reilly, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Carmel Brady, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr. Brendan Fay, Cllr. Trevor Smith, Cllr. Patricia Walsh, Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly, Cllr Shane P. O' Reilly, Cllr Philip Brady

Community Representatives: Vanessa Clarke, John Magee, Stanley Nwaneri, Elizabeth Ormiston, Tony Mc Govern, Leanne Coyle

Executive: Brendan Jennings (Director of Services, CCC)

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent Aiden Glacken, Superintendent Paudraic Jones, Superintendent Gordon Englishby

Oireachtas Members: Deputy Brendan Smith, Deputy Pauline Tully, Deputy Joe O'Reilly

Apologies: Deputy Niamh Smyth, Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick,

In Attendance: Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan (An Garda Síochána), Sgt Michael Duffy (An Garda Síochána), G. Boyle (CCC), Shelia Naughton (Northern Sound), Sean Mc Mahon (Anglo Celt)

Chair Cllr. J.P. Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded members that because the meeting is taking place on-line there will be no opportunity to go 'in-committee' and as always the case, no personal issues are to be raised for discussion.

Chair Cllr Feeley offered condolences to former Chief Superintendent J.O' Reilly on the death of his wife and Deputy Niamh Smyth on the death of her uncle.

Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes were proposed by Tony Mc Govern and seconded by Cllr. C. Brady.

Crime Figures for County Cavan – YTD 2020 vs YTD 2021

Chief Supt Glacken also wished to offer his condolences in line with Chair Cllr Feeley.

He talked through the crime statistics issued to members. Crime is down in general and the pandemic has had an impact on this. However he pointed out that there has been an increase in the figures in regards to the sale and supply of drugs with an increase of 38% recorded over the period. Domestic Violence has also been on the rise with a dramatic increase in the breach of court orders taken out by women against their partners. Five 'coercive control' cases are under investigation currently.

The newly established Community Engagement Unit is still in its infancy but will progress and grow over time. He asked all members to support An Garda Síochána in their efforts to do this.

Senator J. O' Reilly said that the rise in breach of orders was very sad to hear but it was good to see that there are more coercive control cases coming under investigation. He welcomed the new Community Engagement Unit and congratulated the Garda on their recent successful operations in Stradone and Virginia.

Cllr. T.P. O' Reilly also thanked the Garda for their very quick response in the Virginia incident and highlighted also the importance of the Senior Citizen's Panic Buttons and the role it played in this situation. He wanted to pay tribute in particular to Garda Owen Flynn.

Review of Community Text Alert Scheme within County Cavan

- **Vanessa Clarke, Development Officer, Muntir na Tire**
- **Sergeant Michael Duffy, Crime Prevention Officer, Cavan County Council**

V. Clarke said that the District Meetings are taking place on line facilitated through Muntir na Tire. There will be a lot of work needed once the pandemic has finished to support Community Alert Groups in coming together again and re-energising. A large proportion of volunteers would be the older age grouping.

Muntir na Tire are currently focusing on putting together a document which will support community groups around data protection. They are also working on supporting groups to compile Vulnerable People's Lists within their communities.

National Engagement Day is proposed to take place on the 11th October 2021, TBC.

Sgt. Duffy welcomed the setting up of the new Community Engagement Unit. Covid has led to a change of focus for An Garda Síochána and Community Policing is now more important than ever. He is hoping to see Community Alert Groups re-invigorated and new ones established with the support of the Community Engagement Unit.

Property Marking continues to be an area of focus which the Unit will also support in rolling out. They hosted a very successful Bicycle Marking Event in June with over 120 bicycles marked. Other areas the new Unit will have an impact on will be a higher visibility within the community with the new policing vehicles, increase use of social media and an increase in road safety activities.

The Text Alert System is under review. Community engagement under this is key, but information must be accurate and timely. Fundraising efforts has been greatly curtailed over the pandemic.

They are continuing to update the Garda's Vulnerable Persons Register. The Gardaí have been linking in with those who are vulnerable over COVID, they will continue to develop this in conjunction with community groups. He empathised the importance of the Senior Alerts Panic Alarms and the new Community Engagement Unit will support in promoting these also.

Cllr B. Fay said that a lot of people have been asking about the Senior Alerts Panic Alarm. He asked if V. Clarke would contact him in relation to this. He would like to see more activity under Text Alert but acknowledged the impact the pandemic has had on this. He would like to see the Community Engagement Unit host a Property Marking Event within the Belturbet area.

T. Mc Govern also requested for the Community Engagement Unit to host a Property Marking Event within Swanlinbar also. He said they have an active What's App group within their area around crime activity, he asked if the Gardai find this helpful or a hinderance. Sgt Duffy said the information would be useful however there has to be a way for the Gardaí to get information back out into the community, it should be a two way process.

Deputy Brendan Smith – The urgent need for a comprehensive plan to deal with the scourge of illegal drugs in Cavan

Deputy Smith first offered his condolences to J. O 'Reilly. He welcomed the Community Engagement Unit and acknowledged the great support provided through An Garda Síochána over COVID.

He stated that the sale and supply of illicit drugs is having a huge impact on families, individuals and the community at large. The State has to be ruthless in dealing with this issue. He paid tribute to Tim Murphy who set up the Cavan Drugs Awareness Project and who has now since moved on following its merger with Merchant Quay. He wished Zoe Wells who has taken over all the best in her new post. He stated all agencies and organisations need to have a serious focus on this issue and it will require an inter-agency approach to tackle.

He requested for Cavan Drugs Awareness to present to the JPC at their next meeting, along with Andy Ogle from the North Regional Drugs Task Force. These organisations are struggling to obtain the resources they need to carry out their work effectively. He said that the JPC needs to provide whatever support it can to them.

He wanted to acknowledge earlier comments in relation to the importance of getting information out to the public on the Senior Alerts Panic Alarms.

Cllr. Walsh also wanted to be associated with the sympathies. She seconded Deputy Smith's request for the topic of Drugs & Alcohol to be focused on at the next JPC meeting.

Deputy Tully also offered condolences. She said drugs is a major problem within both urban and rural areas within the County. There is almost an acceptance towards them now. She also believes that alcohol abuse is just as an important issue to tackle. The National Drugs & Alcohol Strategy needs to be resourced and believes that Deputy Smith is well placed to push on this. Deprived areas in particular need extra support as individuals within these areas do not have the resources to help themselves. She also acknowledged the need for an inter-agency approach to tackling the issue.

Senator O'Reilly also agreed with the proposal for presentations from the drugs & alcohol organisations. Drug driving has become an endemic and he would like more information on how the Gardaí are tackling this. He suggested hosting a public meeting, perhaps twice a year, within the two garda divisions to focus on drugs & alcohol. The Gardaí have good connections with a wide variety of civic groups such as GAA, IFA, Trade Unions etc so are in a good position to obtain information from all these organisations. The timing is right for such activities to take place as it has become such a widespread issue that engagement would be easily obtained from the public. He agreed with Deputy Tully's comments in relation to the need to focus on alcohol also.

Chief Supt Glacken agreed with all the comments received and would like to see presentations provided by the requested organisations at the next meeting. The new Community Engagement Unit will be working closely with the public on the issue of drugs & alcohol so this will provide a good opportunity for hear from them. He believes drugs & alcohol is a wider societal issue, everyone needs to be involved in tackling. He referred to a number of documents and developments taking place which will also support tackling the issue:

- Community Security & Community Safety Bill – will be coming out shortly
- Dept. of Justice Strategy – will present a consolidated approach between statutory and non-statutory organisations.

- National Drugs & Alcohol Strategy – ongoing implementation
- Anti-Intimidation Strategy is in place.
- An Garda Síochána's Cavan & Monaghan Drugs Unit is established and fully operational

He said there has been a large increase in the number of Drug Driving detections and this can be down to the better equipment which the Gardaí have access to as well as the increase in usage of drugs amongst the general population.

He stated the drugs business is driven by greed. Silence needs to be broken and trust in the Gardaí needs to be had so that individuals feel confident coming forward.

Correspondence

Chair Cllr Feeley referred to the letter of response received from the Minister for Justice in relation to the Digital Recording Bill which all members had received. He said it will take some time for the bill to go through. He urged the Oireachtas Members to continue to highlight the importance of this issue.

AOB

Cllr B. Fay asked what the situation is on the four applications submitted under the Community CCTV Scheme. Inspector Mc Kiernan replied that Ballyjamesduff is still waiting to be called to present to the CCTV Advisory Committee, a meeting of this group is to take place in July following the current review which has been carried out on the scheme. The remaining three applications will follow this then also.

Next Meeting

The next JPC meeting will take place on the 3rd September at 3pm.

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held on-line over Microsoft Teams, Cavan on 3rd September 2021 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah O' Reilly, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Carmel Brady, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr. Brendan Fay, Cllr. Trevor Smith, Cllr. Patricia Walsh, Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly, Cllr. Philip Brady, Cllr Craig Lovett

Community Representatives: Vanessa Clarke, John Magee, Stanley Nwaneri, Elizabeth Ormiston

Executive: Brendan Jennings (Director of Services, CCC)

Garda Officers: Superintendent Padraic Jones, Superintendent Gordon Englishby

Oireachtas Members: Deputy Pauline Tully, Deputy Joe O'Reilly, Diarmuid Wilson

Apologies: Chief Superintendent Glacken, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick

In Attendance: Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan (An Garda Síochána), Sgt Michael Kearney (An Garda Síochána), G. Boyle (CCC), Andy Ogle (NERDTF), Zoe Wells (CAMDAS), Shelia Enright (An Garda Síochána), Eddie Butler (Anglo Celt), Diarmuid Pepper (Northern Sound)

In the Chair and Vice Chair's absence B. Jennings opened the meeting. He welcomed all in attendance.

Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Brady and seconded by Cllr. S. O. Reilly.

Matters Arising

Vanessa Clarke provided an update to confirm Community Engagement Day will take place on 13th October 2021. She is working on a promotional video to promote the Vulnerable People's Register, she will forward onto members to support in its distribution once finalised.

Deputy P. Tully and Cllr B. Fay enquired if there has been any further update relating to the Community CCTV Scheme. Inspector N. Mc Kiernan replied that the applications are still on hold due to Data Protection Issues. A clarification is needed on the Ballyjamesduff application once this has been completed the other applications will be dealt with subsequently.

Chair Cllr. J P Feeley joined the meeting at this point and was congratulated by members on his recent marriage.

Supports for Victims of Crime: Inspector Nial McKiernan and Garda Sheila Enright, Ballyconnell Garda Victim Service Office

Garda S. Enright and one other staff member run the delivery of the Supports for Victims of Crime service for the Cavan and Monaghan Division. Her presentation covered the following areas:

- E.U. Victims Directive 2012/29/EU - Criminal Justice (Victim of Crime) Act 2017
- Establishment of Garda Victim Service Offices (GVSO)
- What is provided through the GVSO
- Crimes addressed through GVSO
- Who is a victim? Victims Charter
- Initial Engagement with Victims
- Contact in Person
- PULSE Letters – Investigation Updates
- Information Leaflets
- National & Local Victims Support Organisations & An Garda Síochána's victim supports

- Operation Faoiseamh

Deputy J.O' Reilly proposed the following questions:

- Do victims of Crime receive regular updates of the details on investigations into their cases?
- Is the service countywide?
- Is support provided to victims around post traumatic stress?

Inspector. N. Mc Kiernan replied that regular updates are provided to the victims of crime, the service is countywide. Victims are provided with information of services and organisations that support them with any post traumatic stress they may have. This is provided through a leaflet as well as recommendations and advice provided by the gardaí.

Deputy P. Tully asked if a perpetrator has served a custodial sentence and is due for release will the victim be informed. Superintendent. P. Jones replied that the prison service will let victims know however the victim must request this information in advance. It was agreed that this is something which should be promoted and made know to victims if they so wish to receive this information.

Drugs & Alcohol Presentations:

- **MQI CAMDAS (Cavan and Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Service): Zoe Wells, Service Co-ordinator**
- **North East Regional Drugs Task Force (NERDTF): Andy Ogle, Regional Co-ordinator**

Cllr J P Feeley welcomed both Zoe Wells and Andy Ogle to the meeting.

Zoe Wells delivered information over the following areas as part of her presentation.

- History to the setting up of the MQI
- Overview of Services
- Services provided by Riverbank
- Services by County Provided
- Services over the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Cavan & Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Services
 - Overview of services
 - Referrals by month per county
 - Source of referrals
 - Primary Substances
 - Gender & Age Profile of clients
 - Primary substance by Age Group
 -

They have seen an increase in the number of referrals from older adults during the COVID 19 period for alcohol abuse.

A launch of the service will take place by Frank Feighan, TD, The Minister for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy on Tuesday 21st September, 2021 at 10:00 am in the Cavan Crystal Hotel.

Cllr J.P. Feeley said it was interesting to hear alcohol is still the biggest substance abused and also enquired into her thoughts as to why the largest numbers of referrals were coming in for County Cavan over Monaghan. Zoe replied that that they need to advertise their services more extensively in County Monaghan, also they only deliver a part-time service in Monaghan so it may be down to a resource issue.

Cllr. C. Brady informed members that she is a member of the NERDTF Board and commented on the tremendous work they carry out. The HSE are reluctant to attend their meetings and asked if the Oireachtas members could follow up on this to put some pressure on them, Cllr. J.P. Feeley also added that those in attendance who are also members of the HSE Forum should also raise this issue there.

Deputy J.O' Reilly agreed with the Chair's observations around alcohol abuse, it remains a consistent problem. He enquired how well the service was funded, by whom and do they find that they are able to meet the demand for their services. He also stated that it is of vital importance that they promote the service as much as possible. Z. Wells replied that they are funded through the NERDTF and HSE. They have waiting lists for their services, particularly for counselling. They are working to progress the service further and be able to respond to the demand for their services.

Andy Ogle provided a presentation on the NERDTF, covering the following areas:

- National Drug Strategy – mid term review & local priorities
- Funded services / joint initiatives
- Drug related intimidation
- Resources & supports

Cllr. S. O'Reilly thanked Andy Ogle for the presentation. She commented that there is a massive shortage in funding available for services tackling this issue. There is a very complex network of services involved and more support is needed. She referred to the Family Addiction Support Network (FASN) and the fantastic work they are doing on the ground but are facing imminent closure due to lack of financial support. She stated the HSE and the government need to step up on this. Drugs & Alcohol is a growing problem and more resources are needed, early intervention is especially important as it leads to better outcomes in the long-run. A. Ogle agreed with Cllr S. O' Reilly's comments relating to the FASN, they are meeting with the HSE shortly to address this and are also seeking further funding opportunities. It is currently not a sustainable situation and they rely heavily on volunteers.

Deputy P. Tully thanked both presenters for the information provided and wanted to commend them on the services which they deliver to a very high standard. She wanted to enquire what the current situation was around treating people for mental health issues if they have an existing addiction issue also, in the past this couldn't be done. A. Ogle agreed that the HSE deal with addiction separately from mental health, but there are investigations underway to see how both could be treated together as they will often naturally overlap. The HSE have a national Dual Diagnosis Group looking into this and he is hopeful there will be some clarity available around this soon. Services need to be much more people centred and a quick response is needed in a crisis situation.

Cllr. J P Feeley thanked both Zoe Wells and Andy Ogle for their presentations and members for their contributions.

He referred to the questions which had been submitted by members prior to the meeting as requested by Chief Superintendent Glacken and invited members to propose their questions directly.

Deputy P. Tully asked when a new sergeant will be appointed to the Ballyconnell area. Superintendent P. Jones informed her that a promotional competition was held recently and a panel has been formed from which appointments will be made. He expected by Q4 '21 or Q1'22 a new sergeant will be appointed. A sergeant from another area is covering the area for the time being on a part-time basis until the appointment is made.

Cllr. S O'Reilly made the following enquiries in relation to the Cavan & Monaghan Drugs Unit:

- How many gardaí are appointed to it?
- Are positions currently filled?
- Will an Inspector with specific responsibility for the implementation of the Drugs Intimidation Programme be appointed? If so, will this be a full-time role and will it be an additional garda recruit or taken from existing personal.
- Is the Unit fully equipped and fully resourced to carry out their duties effectively?
- Sniffer dogs are essential in helping to tackle this issue, do the Unit have one?

She complimented the Gardaí on the recent drugs seizure in Bailieborough.

Superintendent P. Jones replied that the number of personal assigned to the Drugs Unit do fluctuate from time to time, however it is not just the Unit who is expected to tackle this issue, all sections and units work collaboratively to tackle the issue. He provided figures relating to drugs, 'Possession of Drugs' is up slightly from this time last year (48 to 52) however 'Sale or Possession' has reduced. He expects when the economy opens up it will begin to rise again. In relation to Drug Intimidation, he would encourage the person or public to come forward to make reports, people do not just need to go to the Gardaí, there are other methods of reporting also. They do

not have a sniffer dog at present for the Unit. Plans are in place to have Garda Dog Unit for Cavan and Monaghan however this was put on hold over the pandemic. The dogs are already trained so he expects this will be up and running very soon. In the meantime they can have access to a sniffer dog when needed through the National Dog Unit.

Cllr S O'Reilly commented that the Gardaí's unmarked cars are not very discreet and so therefore are not operating very effectively. She asked if there is a way this could be improved. Superintendent P. Jones informed her that the cars are swapped every now and again, but it is difficult to do this frequently.

E. Ormiston wanted to highlight the importance of dog owners keeping their dogs under control as she is hearing reports of some serious damage to livestock and there are fears it will only increase with people returning to work.

Cllr P Mc Donald enquired how the newly established Garda Community Policing Unit is progressing. Superintendent P. Jones replied that feedback in relation to the Unit has been very positive. They have been very active with young people in particular, Gardaí from the Unit have visited all the local schools.

Superintendent G Englishby said that the Community Policing Unit has also been active in supporting older and vulnerable members of the public. They will once again re-engage with the schools upon their return from the summer break. He also commented that he expects to see a dedicated Dog Unit for the County in the near future. He also reassured members that a new sergeant will be appointed for the Ballyconnell area within the near future.

Cllr. C. Brady said that she has been hearing great reports in relation to the Community Policing Unit, there has been great engagement and involvement with the Gardaí helping out at local events.

Next Meeting

3rd December at 3pm. The meeting will take place in the Council Chamber if the pandemic restrictions at the time allow for this.

Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held on-line over Microsoft Teams, Cavan on 3rd December 2021 at 3pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sarah O' Reilly, Cllr C. Brady, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr. Trevor Smith, Cllr. Patricia Walsh, Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Peter Mc Vitty

Community Representatives: John Magee, Stanley Nwaneri, Elizabeth Ormiston, Tony Mc Govern

Executive: Brendan Jennings (Director of Services, CCC)

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent A. Mc Govern, Superintendent Padraic Jones, Superintendent Gordon Englishby, Garda Diarmuid Laven

Oireachtas Members: Diarmuid Wilson, Deputy Brendan Smith

Apologies: Vanessa Clarke, Deputy Pauline Tully, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Deputy Joe O'Reilly, Senator Diarmuid Wilson

In Attendance: Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan (An Garda Síochána), G. Boyle (CCC), Eddie Butler (Anglo Celt), Diarmuid Pepper (Northern Sound), Niamh Mc Daid (MaCYSS), Gemma Mc Cabe (MaCYSS), Bridie Mc Brearty (CCC – Housing)

Chair Cllr. Feeley opened the meeting welcomed the new Chief Superintendent A. Mc Govern to his first meeting of the Cavam JPC and wished him well in his new role.

He reminded members that it would not be possible to go 'in committee' due to the fact that the meeting is taking place on-line. No discussions of a personal nature were to take place.

Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. C Brady and seconded by Cllr. P. Walsh.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support (MaCYSS) Alcohol Forum Ireland. Niamh Mc Daid, Development Officer & Gemma Mc Cabe, Therapeutic Practitioner

Both Ms Daid & MS Mc Cabe thanked the Chair for the invitation to present at the meeting.

Their presentation covered the following areas:

- Overview of the service & the team
- MaCYSS Youth and Family AOD Service Offer
- Rapid Assessment/Consultation
- Key findings from recent survey with young people and service providers
- Recommendations
- Next Steps

Ms Daid finished her presentation by inviting members to keep her formed about issues that they are coming across as it will help to inform their Development Plan for 2022. Chair Cllr. Feeley said that the issue of drugs and alcohol misuse come up at every JPC meeting, there is huge concern around this and welcomed their presentation to the meeting.

Cllr C. Brady requested that a copy of the presentation is forwarded to all JPC members after the meeting.

Cllr. P. Walsh congratulated the staff members of MaCYSS on all the work they have completed to date. She also encouraged JPC members to support and help promote the service.

T. Mc Govern asked how do they find young people are coping with the COVID restrictions. Ms Daid explained that the service is only established one year and this was during the pandemic so it is hard for them to measure this. However she said that while the pandemic is affecting all of society it does seem to be particularly hard on young people, especially around their mental health and this will have knock on effects in the long-term.

Cllr. J.P Feeley said that he hoped there would be opportunities for future collaboration between members of the JPC and MaCYSS.

Cavan County Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. Bridie Mc Brearty, Senior Executive Officer, Housing, Cavan County Council

Ms Brearty thanked the JPC members for offering her the opportunity to present to them on the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy (ASB). She explained that she will not go into the full details on the policy but will provide a general overview.

- It is a requirement that the JPC is consulted with on the drafting of the policy as well as the Council's Housing SPC.
- The Housing Miscellaneous Act 2022 – 2027 governs the drawing up and adoption of the ASB policy.
- The full ASB policy will be presented for adoption by Cavan County Council at their January 2022 meeting.
- The policy applies to all properties owned by Cavan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies are not governed by this document, as they would have their own.
- The policy operates under Cavan County Council's Mission and Policy Statement. They now have a new procedure for dealing with complaints.
- Anti-social behaviour has escalated over the pandemic. The Council now have additional Estate Liaison Officers (x3) in place and the policy framework will help to direct them in their work. An Garda Síochána's new Community Engagement Unit is also welcomed and the additional gardaí will be of great service. Ms Brearty hopes to strengthen links between the Council Housing Section and the Community Engagement over the coming period.

Cllr. P. Walsh thanked Ms. Brearty for her work on the development of the document. She also agreed that Community Policing will have a great impact in helping to reduce anti-social behaviour within the county.

Cllr. C. Brady asked if dog breeding came under the ASB area. Ms Brearty responded that the noise and control of dogs is exempt from the ASB policy.

Cllr. M. Argue welcomed the document.

Deputy B. Smith welcomed the document and the establishment of the new Community Engagement Unit. He stated that drugs are tearing communities apart and is having a detrimental impact on rural communities now as well as urban areas. He believes there needs to be more deterrents, suggesting an increase in sanctions perhaps. An Garda Síochána are doing the best they can under the situation.

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern said that three Community Gardaí have been allocated to Bailieborough, bringing the total number to seven. He complemented MaCYSS's on their work and said a good working relationship had already been established between An Garda Síochána and the service. He believes education is key in tackling the issue on drugs misuse.

Cllr. P. Mc Vitty complemented the Gardaí on their work in the Ballyconnell area. He said it is so important to have Gardaí back on foot patrol, it helps to build a trusting relationship with the community. People are more willing to pass on information to the Gardaí once trust is established. Cllr. P. Mc Donald also agreed with these comments. He thanked Ms Brearty on her work to develop the ASB Policy.

Superintendent Jones thanked Cllr. Mc Vitty for his comments and said that two Sergeants are temporarily covering duties in the Ballyconnell area after the retirement of the local Sergeant in recent months. They are committed to providing additional supervision to the area. A replacement Sergeant is currently being sought and he hopes will be in place before the end of 2021 or early 2022. They also have, in the meantime, a Detective posted to the area on a temporary basis.

The LA16 – Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure. Director of Service, Brendan Jennings, Cavan County Council

B. Jennings provided members with an update on developments to the LA16 reporting requirements following a new circular issued to County Councils from the Department of Transport. It recommends that a LA16 report is added as an ongoing agenda item for all JPC meetings. B. Jennings stated this will now be done so on an ongoing forward.

The LA16 – Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure is a protocol set up between Local Authorities and An Garda Síochána with support from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the CCMA, the LGMA and TII for the collection of data at fatal collision sites. B. Jennings explained that the data collected is for statistical purposes only and does not form any part of the Forensic Collision Investigation.

He said that this is not a new requirement, the County Council has always collected data at sites where fatalities occur and will continue to do so. The recent circular is however a way for the Department of Transport to remind all partners of their responsibilities under this process.

Crime Figures for County Cavan – YTD 2020 vs YTD 2021

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern talked through An Garda Síochána's crime figures for YTD 2020 vs YTD 2021.

There was a sharp increase in the number of sexual offences reported in Cavan over the last year, with 49 offences being investigated so far this year, up from 30 over the same period in 2020.

The numbers for drugs possession fell. 39 cases were reported in the year to date, down from 57 in the same period last year. Two grow houses were discovered in County Cavan over the period of the crime figures and he commended both Superintendents Jones and Englishby on their work relating to this.

Burglary offences have also fallen over the last 12 months. The number of serious assaults and minor assaults were also down. Three men have been convicted of false imprisonment and assault over this period and he acknowledged the work of the investigation team involved, commenting that it was a very difficult process.

Drink and drug driving offences detected have also fallen.

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern said many categories of crime this year were being compared with a low base in the previous year due to the pandemic and lockdowns.

Chair Cllr. Feeley congratulated the Gardaí on their investigative work on the grow houses. He asked if the increase in numbers around sex offences was due to the growing confidence amongst victims to report. Chief Superintendent Mc Govern agreed that a large proportion would be, there have also been awareness raising campaigns run both locally and nationally. The establishment of the Divisional Protective Services would have also helped to increase a sense of trust and An Garda Síochána also work very closely with Tearmann.

Cllr. P. Mc Donald complemented the Divisional Drugs Unit on their detection work on the grow houses. The Emergency Department in Cavan General Hospital are increasingly having to deal with issues due to drug misuse and he wanted to make the case that they should not have to. People who need to be treated due to drugs misuse should be dealt with under another section of the hospital as they often cause disruption within the Emergency Department.

AOB

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern informed members that the Community Engagement Unit will be running a Christmas Campaign targeting vulnerable members of the community on the 17 & 18th December. Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan will lead out on the initiative. Christmas treats will be provided to children living within disadvantaged families/ communities. This aim of the initiative is to establish trust between families and the Gardaí within the new Community Engagement Units and also help to raise awareness on the support services available to them and the importance of knowing your Eircode.

Cllr. P. Walsh welcomed this initiative, agreeing it is a great way to build trust within young people in particular.

J. Magee wanted to acknowledge the work of the new Community Engagement Unit. He has seen first-hand the added value it is bringing through his work in the ETB.

Deputy B. Smith welcomed the recent announcement that development works would soon commence on the new Bailieborough Garda Station. Cllr P. Mc Donald agreed with Deputy's B. Smiths comments and asked when will works commence.

Superintendent Englishby said that contracts were signed two weeks ago and he was hopeful that works will commence before Christmas. Deputy B. Smith said that he has been informed by both Minister Mc Grath along with the Minister Patrick O' Donovan that works would begin this month.

Next Meeting

As agreed prior to the meeting by the JPC Steering Committee the JPC will meet on the following dates during 2022.

- 4th March
- 3rd June
- 2nd September
- 2nd December

All meetings will take place at 3pm.

Chair Cllr. Feeley was hopeful that physical meetings can take place once again for the JPC in the new year but will be dependent on the recommended pandemic restrictions for the time.

