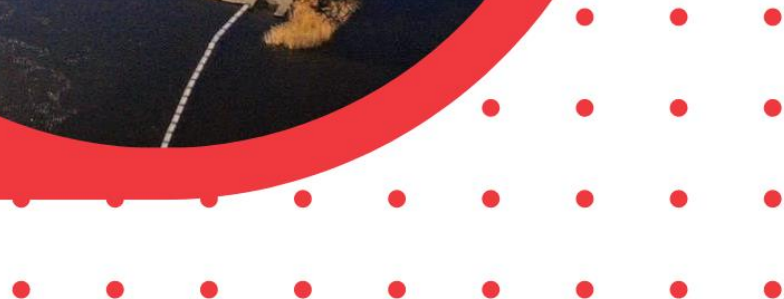




# Galway City Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2022



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# 1. Message from the Chairperson of Galway City Joint Policing Committee

As Chairperson of the Galway City Joint Policing Committee (JPC) I welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2022. The report details the work of the Committee in delivering on its work during 2022 within the context of Covid-19 at the earlier part of the year and the states humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis and is an important means of communicating the role and work of the Committee.

The overarching aim of the Joint Policing Committee is to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Galway City Council, Elected local representatives and to facilitate the participation of the community and voluntary sectors in the committee. As with previous years, the Joint Policing Committee continued to take a strategic approach to its work in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

The Galway City JPC convened on four occasions during 2022, with additional meetings of the JPC Sub Committees taking place online. The JPC has tried to deliver initiatives that have a positive impact on our communities, such as discouraging anti-social behaviour, promoting road safety messages and initiatives, and continuing to support community safety and tackling organised and serious crime. I would like to thank the members of the JPC and its Sub Committees for their work during 2022.

I want to acknowledge the important work of members of An Garda Síochána in playing their part in keeping our communities safe at this exceptionally challenging time.



This year An Garda Síochána celebrated 100 years, and in this centenary An Garda Síochána has established a very strong bond with communities and has become a central part of people's everyday lives.

As an organisation it has adapted to change in order to serve the past and present needs of a national, unarmed police service, while also striving to provide a specialist response to prevent and detect crime.

I wish to record my appreciation to the An Garda Síochána team, led by the recently retired Chief Superintendent Tomás Curley and welcome the new Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche to the Galway Garda Division. I also want to acknowledge the excellent level of participation by the elected and community representatives on the Committee and to each member of the JPC for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC and to Galway City Council for the administration of the Committee.

**Councillor Níall McNelis**

Chairperson of the Galway City Joint Policing Committee

## 2. Message from Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche, Galway Garda Division

As Chief Superintendent of the Galway Division, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Galway City Council, Community Representatives and Elected Local Officials in Galway City.

I want to acknowledge the co-operation and participation of all Joint Policing Committee Members in ensuring our city is a safe place for all.

I look forward to your continued co-operation in 2023.

**Gerard Roche**

Chief Superintendent

Galway Garda Division



### **3. Introduction: Background and Legislative Framework**

The legislative framework for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in Section 36 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005 to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area.

JPCs operate under revised guidelines issued by the Policing Authority in 2022 after consultation with the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Garda Commissioner.

The functions of the Joint Policing Committees 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, and in particular to -

- 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 (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), 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.

Section 37(1) also provides:

“A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility.”

## 4. Summary of Progress

### 4.1 Monitoring of Levels and Patterns of Crime

An Garda Síochána provided detailed quarterly statistical reports to Galway City JPC on the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Galway city, which were kept under review and responded to as appropriate.

The members were updated at each meeting on Garda activities across the city, including roads policing, public safety and community engagement, public order and anti-social issues as well as statistics on crime levels including burglaries, thefts, assaults and domestic incidents.

As per previous years each report covered how the crime types are trending in comparison to the same period in the previous year. A Fraud Incident Report also formed part of this report for 2022, detailing the number of cases of the different types of fraud happening in Galway city.

### 4.2 An Garda Síochána Garda Statistics Report 2022

Galway City	Year to 31st of December 2022*			
	2021	2022	Difference	% Difference
<b>Property Crime</b>				
Burglary/ Buirgléireacht	125	111	-14	-11%
Theft from M.P.V./ Goid as Feithicil	203	173	-30	-15%
Theft from Person/ Goid Ó'n Duine	19	49	30	158%
Theft from Shop/ Goid as Siopa	446	803	357	80%
Theft Other/ Goid eile	161	287	126	78%

\*Data is provisional, operational and may be subject to change



	Year to 31st of December 2022*			
<b>Galway City</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
<b>Drugs / Drugaí</b>				
For Sale or Supply/ Le díol nó soláthar	82	96	14	17%
Simple Possession/ Seilbh shimplí	248	266	18	7%
Drugs Seized/ Urghabháil Drugaí				
Cocaine/ Cócaon	€370,142			
Ecstasy/ Eacstais	€15,631			
Cannabis/ Cannabas	€287.353			
Heroin/ Hearóin	€30,084			
Other Eile	€31,850			
<b>Road Accidents / Statisticí Timpistí Bóthair</b>				
Fatal/ Marfach	1	3	2	
Serious Injury/ Gortú Tromchúiseach	5	12	7	
FCPN Speeding / Bhrostú	5513	5699	186	3%
No Insurance/ Gan Árachas	121	124	3	2%
Intoxicated Driving/ Tiomáint faoi thionchar alcóil nó drugaí	115	122	7	6%
MIT Checkpoints/ Seicphointí - Teist Alcóil Sainordaitheach	329	608	279	85%
FCPN - Parking Offences	867	817	-50	-6%
FCPN - Pedal Cycles	40	48	8	20%
FCPN - Traffic Lights Driving Past	126	130	4	3%
<b>Public Order Incidents</b>				
Public Order Offences/ Coireanna Ord Poiblí	523	548	25	5%
Begging	53	36	-17	-32%
<b>Assaults / Ionsaithe</b>				
Assault causing Harm/ Ionsaithe Ag déanamh dochar	107	141	34	32%
Minor Assault/ Mion-ionsaí	336	338	2	1%

\*Data is provisional, operational and may be subject to change

<b>Galway City</b>	<b>Year to 31st of December 2022*</b>			
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
<b>Domestic Incidents / Eactraí Intíre</b>				
Breach of Barring Order, Safety Order and Protection Order/ Bearnagh d'Orda Cosanta, Orda Cosaint agus Orda Sábháilte	94	65	-29	-31%
Domestic Abuse No Offence Disclosed	339	435	96	28%
<b>Sexual Assaults / Ionsaithe Gnéasacha</b>				
Rape of Male or Female / Éigniú ar Fhear nó ar Bhean	25	22	-3	-12%
Sexual Assault (Not aggravated)	55	55	0	0%

<b>Fraud Type</b>	<b>Number in 2022*</b>
Accommodation Fraud	17
Account Take Over Fraud	81
Bogus Tradesman Fraud	<5
Business E-Mail Compromise	<5
Card Not Present Fraud	35
Cheque Fraud	<5
Counterfeiting Notes and Coins	8
Deception/Other	60
Employee/Internal Fraud	<5
Forgery / False Instrument Offences	11
Investment Fraud	5
Money Laundering	5
Phishing/Vishing/Smishing Frauds	27
Romance Fraud	<5
Shopping/Online Auction Fraud	14
Welfare / Benefit Fraud	<5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>282</b>

\*Data is provisional, operational and may be subject to change

## 5. JPC Membership (at December 2022)

Name of Committee Member	Organisation	Position Held
Cllr. Níall McNelis	Galway City Council	Chairperson
Cllr. Mike Cubbard	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Frank Fahy	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Donal Lyons	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Michael Crowe	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Eddie Hoare	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Noel Larkin	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Alan Cheevers	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Owen Hanley	Galway City Council	Member
Cllr. Niall Murphy	Galway City Council	Member
Deputy Eamon O’Cúiv	Oireachtas	Member
Deputy Mairead Farrell TD	Oireachtas	Member
Senator Seán Kyne	Oireachtas	Member
Senator Pauline O’Reilly	Oireachtas	Member
Chief Supt. Tom Curley	An Garda Síochána	Member
Chief Supt. Gerard Roche	An Garda Síochána	Member
Supt Damien Flanagan	An Garda Síochána	Member
Inspector Brian Ryan	An Garda Síochána	Member
Sgt. Sinead Cunniffe	An Garda Síochána	Member
Sgt. Mick Walsh	An Garda Síochána	Member
Mr. Tommy Flaherty	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)	Member
Ms. Nicola Tierney	Galway City Community Network	Member
Mr. John Rabbitte	Galway City Community Network	Member
Mr. Cameron Keighron	Galway City Community Network	Member
Mr. John Cleary	Galway City Community Network	Member
Mr. Brendan McGrath	Galway City Council (Chief Executive)	Member

During 2022 Chief Superintendent Tom Curley retired and was replaced by Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche.

## 6. Joint Policing Sub-Committees - Membership (at December 2022)

<b>Strategic Goal 1: To Promote the Safety of all Road Users in Galway City</b>			
Cllr. Eddie Hoare	Cllr. Frank Fahy	John Cleary	John Rabbitte (Chairperson)
Inspector Conor Madden and Inspector Finbarr Philpott			
<b>Strategic Goal 2: To Enhance Community Safety Responses in Galway City with a view to Crime Prevention</b>			
Cllr. Donal Lyons	Cllr. Mike Cubbard (Chairperson)	Cameron Keighron	Tommy Flaherty
Caitriona Morgan	Sgt. Michael Walsh and Inspector Brian Ryan		
<b>Strategic Goal 3: To Reduce and Prevent Anti-Social Behaviour in Galway City</b>			
Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty	Cllr. Níall McNelis (Chairperson)	Cllr. Noel Larkin	John Cleary
Edward Conlon	Nichola Tierney	Maria Fallon Ward	President SU GMIT & NUIG
Sgt. Michael Walsh and Sgt. Darragh Browne			
<b>Strategic Goal 4: To Devise &amp; Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City</b>			
Tommy Flaherty (Chairperson)	Cllr. Owen Hanley	Cllr. Niall Murphy	Nichola Tierney
Vusi Thabethe	Cameron Keighron	Liam Kitterick	Sgt. Darragh Browne

## 7. Meetings of the JPC

Four JPC meetings held throughout 2022 as follows:

- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 online at 11:00am
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in person and online at 11:00am
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in person and online at 11:00am
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in person and online at 11:00am

The Galway City JPC held a Public Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 7:00pm in the Connacht Hotel.

Throughout 2022 at the JPC meetings there were guest speakers invited to give presentations to the JPC. Guest speakers included:

- Carol Baumann, COPE Galway gave a presentation on the Domestic Abuse Resource Pack and work / initiatives being delivered by COPE Galway in collaboration with key stakeholders, including An Garda Siochana, Galway City Council amongst others.
- Róisín Nic Lochlainn, NUIG Students' Union President gave a presentation on the 'Ask For Angela' Campaign
- Michéal Durcan gave a presentation on the work of the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF)
- Ruairí Lehmann, Galway City Council Tourism Officer gave a presentation on Night-time Economy and about the plans for the Galway City's night economy once the Night-time Adviser position is filled.

## 8. Key Actions 2022

### 8.1 Sub-Committee 1: To Promote the Safety of all Road Users in Galway City

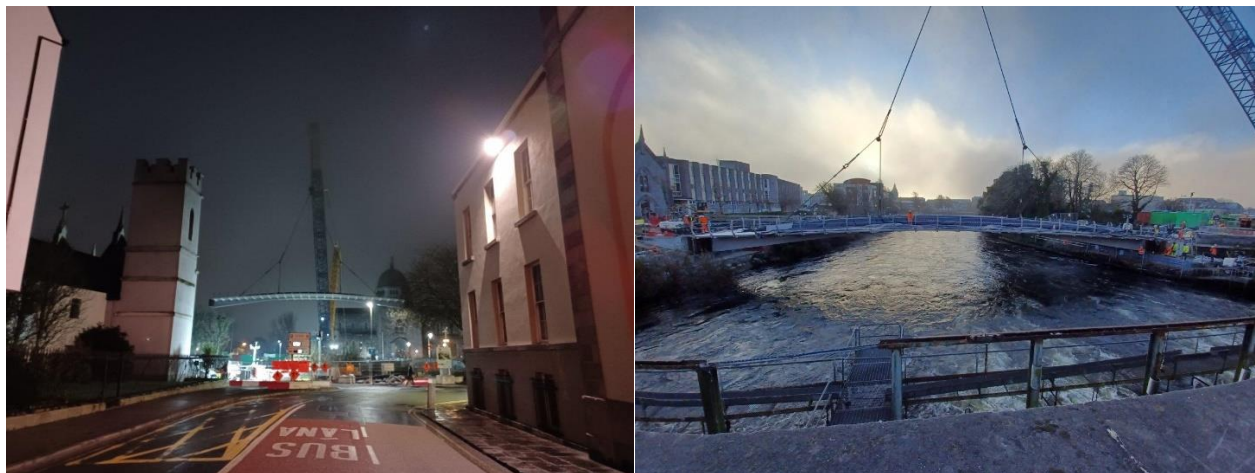
During 2022 and in line with priorities agreed by this sub-committee, a review of **Special Speed Limits** in the city was discussed at Transport Strategic Policy Committee Meetings and Ordinary Meetings of Galway City Council during 2022. Galway City Council prepared Draft Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws Schedule, Map and Report for consideration by the elected members at the December 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting, where it was decided to defer the agenda item until the January 2023 Ordinary Meeting. The draft Bye-Laws included a proposed 30 km/h special speed limit zone in the city centre and amendments to special speed limits on sections of national roads in accordance with the recommendations of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland National Speed Limit Review.

The installation of new **Driver Feedback Signs** was restricted in 2022 due to the large number (approximately 60) of existing Driver Feedback Signs already erected in the city. It was arranged to incorporate the repair and maintenance of the Driver Feedback Signs into the existing citywide traffic signal and equipment maintenance contract.

The **Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge** is the first new bridge to span the Corrib in over 30 years. The new bridge will draw pedestrians and cyclists, and facilitate a seamless and natural flow from either side of the river, while creating an iconic focal point for locals and tourists alike to take in the views of the River Corrib, the Salmon Weir, the Cathedral, wildlife, natural and built heritage in the area – providing not only a piece of transport infrastructure, but an architectural and urban amenity space. This project is funded by the European Commission through the European Regional Development Fund, and the National Transport Authority.

The new bridge will be quite unique, as it will cross the three separate watercourses (Persse's Distillery River, River Corrib and Friar's River Canal) south of the existing Salmon Weir Bridge, spanning a total of 85m. Tenders for construction of the Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge were received on 28th January 2022 with a contractor appointed in March. The first sod for the construction of the bridge was turned in April and the foundations were completed in early September. The main bridge components

were assembled in the Cathedral car park and lifted into place on 12th December 2022. The project will be completed in 2023.



The **Cross-City Link** is one of the major projects identified for Galway City as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS). The Galway Transport Strategy was developed by Galway City Council, Galway County Council, and the National Transport Authority in 2016, and sets out a framework for the transformation of Galway’s transport networks over the short, medium and long-term.

The Cross-City Link (University Road to Dublin Road) is a project under the wider BusConnects Galway Programme. BusConnects is the National Transport Authority’s programme to greatly improve bus services in Irish cities. It is a key part of national policy within the Project Ireland National Development Plan 2021-2030 and aligns with Government policy to improve public transport and address climate change across Ireland. This scheme is funded by the National Transport Authority and the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

The proposed road development will form a central route for public transport, cyclists and pedestrians along an east-west corridor through the city centre, while removing ‘through traffic’ from the city centre. The proposed road development is approximately 6.7 km in length on existing roads in Galway city. The area of the proposed road development incorporating the permanent works is 11.4 ha.

Access for ‘destination’ traffic will be maintained but re-routed in many locations to provide access to premises and city centre carparks. Loading for businesses along the proposed road development will also be maintained, but similarly altered and restricted to

specific times and routes. The city bus network routes will be altered to use this high-quality corridor, providing high-frequency services with journey time reliability and opportunities for interchange. The corridor will ensure that public transport services can access key areas, such as the retail and recreational centre of the city, public transport hubs at the rail and bus stations, the city centre hotels and Bed & Breakfasts, and key areas such as University Hospital Galway, University of Galway and the Galway Cathedral.

The planning design stage was completed in 2022, including all necessary documentation such as Planning Report, Scheme Drawings, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Compulsory Purchase Order. All documents for the consent application to An Bord Pleanála were submitted in September 2022.

The R338 Dublin Road, Galway is one of the primary artery routes into Galway city centre. It runs from the Martin Roundabout to Moneenageisha Junction and includes significant landmarks and trip attractors along the route. The **BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road** project will provide a sustainable, multi-modal corridor which will deliver 4km of high-quality pedestrian, cyclist and public transport facilities, while balancing transport needs with the unique sensitivities of the local environment. The Options Assessment Process was completed in 2022 with an Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) identified with a non-statutory public consultation scheduled to commence in January 2023.

Works commenced on the upgrade of the **Martin Roundabout** and were ongoing throughout 2022. The project will replace the roundabout with a signalised junction to accommodate improved sustainable transport links into the Ardaun Area by providing improved pedestrian, cycle and bus priority facilities at the junction.

The proposed pedestrian cantilever pedestrian walkway onto the downstream side of the **Wolfe Tone Bridge** was approved in 2022 under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Consulting Engineers have been appointed for the detail design and construction phase of the project. It is planned to commence construction in 2023.

In May of 2022, Galway City Council held a workshop with the Galway City Community Network, and another with the Elected Members, to present the findings of the non-



statutory public consultations held for the Ballyloughane Active Travel Scheme and Doughiska Road South Cycle Network Scheme. The outcome of the non-statutory public consultations for these schemes were presented to the elected members in June 2022. In tandem with the above, the preliminary design of the Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Network Scheme and the Ballybane Road / Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme were also undertaken. Detailed design, and the preparation of tender documentation for the Clybaun Road (South) Active Travel Scheme, the Ballyloughane Road Active Travel Scheme, the Eglinton Canal Active Travel scheme, and the Doughiska Road South Cycle Network scheme were also progressed.

A tender for the construction of the **Doughiska Road South Cycle Network Scheme** was published in August 2022. Tenders were assessed in September and contract signing took place in December 2022. The project will deliver improved cycling facilities and associated improvements to footpaths involving the realignment of kerbs, signalisation of the Ros Caoin Junction, the provision of cycle lanes, footpaths and associated landscaping. This project is funded by the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and the National Transport Authority (NTA). Works commenced on site in December 2022, with the commencement of site clearance activities.

The popular walking and cycling path at **Millers Lane** is currently being upgraded, as part of Galway City Council's transport permeability projects. This upgrade project is being funded by the National Transport Authority. The Millers Lane project entails upgrading of the existing pathway, to provide an urban permeability route in the Knocknacarra area, linking Ragoon Road and Kingston Road. The lane is approximately 950m long, and runs by estates including Garraí de Brún, An Logán, The Orchard, Manor Close, Gort na Bró, Grangemore, Gort Gréine, Cruachan Park, and Ros Geal.

The aim of the project is to support permeability into adjacent estates, providing off-road walking and cycling routes for residents, and for children travelling to school. Millers Lane will link into the wider Galway City Cycle Network, supporting travel by bike beyond the Knocknacarra/ Ragoon area. Works on the Millers Lane project will also include lighting along the route, and pedestrian crossings at Gort Na Bró and on Ragoon Road to improve connectivity. The final public consultation report was published on the project page active travel page [www.activetravelgalway.ie](http://www.activetravelgalway.ie) in Q2 2022. Works on the upgrade

commenced in August with a 6 month construction programme. As part of the path upgrade, access may be restricted in phases along the route to facilitate these works.

**Permeability projects** have been completed across various locations within the city. These works include the widening and resurfacing of walkways, and the installation of public lighting to promote active travel. Permeability projects completed in 2022 include:

- Carraig Ard – Installation of smart bollard lighting
- Cnoc An Óir – Full resurfacing works along with lighting, drainage, and new railing installation.
- Coole Park – Resurfacing of pathway and new lighting Infrastructure.
- Dun Na Coiribe – Installation of lighting
- Lakeshore Drive – resurfacing and widening of path, tactile paving, and lighting installation.
- Lenaboy Park/Emerson Ave – Installation of new pathway across park and smart bollard lighting installation.
- N59 Dangan Heights to Circular Rd. - widening of footpath, resurfacing and new path linkage at Dangan Heights.
- Ros Ard – Resurfacing of pathway, widening and new lighting Infrastructure.
- Rusheen Woods to Barna Road – full resurfacing, installation of lights and opening of access point in wall to improve permeability.
- The Plots – Resurfacing and drainage works to laneway.



The **provision of pedestrian crossings** aligns with the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021 to 2030, to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on Irish roads by 50% over the next 10 years. The strategy Action Plan 2021–2024 indicates a core focus on provision of safe infrastructure for pedestrians.

This work forms part of a large programme of pedestrian intervention works being undertaken by Galway City Council. The construction phase for the delivery of two pedestrian crossings at Blackrock, Salthill and on the Tuam Road south of the Joyce Road Junction commenced in September 2022 and commissioning was ongoing at both locations in December 2022.

The provision of additional crossings progressed in 2022 at locations including Millar's Lane at Western Distributor Road and Ragoon Road, with an additional 5 pedestrian crossing facilities to be delivered on the Martin Junction Signalisation Upgrade in 2023.

Further pedestrian facilities will progress as part of large-scale projects including Doughiska Road South (5 No) and Eglinton Canal Active Travel Schemes (3 No).

Galway City Council continues to support the **School Street Project** at Raleigh Row. The scheme was initially undertaken in 2020 following the publication of draft design guidance on 'School Zones', aimed at creating road user awareness of schools, with a view to improving safety, and supporting sustainable modes of transport.

The Galway City Council **Park and Stride scheme** was revised and relaunched as children returned to school in September 2022. Over 460 number permits have been issued.

The removal of cars from the front of the school has an immediate benefit in terms of child safety, whether they do the last leg of the school journey on foot, by scooter or by bike. The Galway City Council Park and Stride scheme facilitates parents to park their car legally and free of charge, in over 25 participating car parks, when walking the last part of the journey to school with their children. The car parks can also be used as 'hop and drop' facilities for older children to make their way to school independently.

The **Safe Routes to School Programme** is funded by the Department of Transport through the NTA and is supported by the Department of Education. An Taisce's Green-Schools is co-ordinating the programme, and funding will be made available to local authorities which will play a key part in delivering the infrastructure.

In April 2022, An Taisce's Green School Team published drafts of their Delivery Plans for the schools admitted to the National Safe Routes to School programme Call 1.

As part of the Safe Routes to School programme, Galway City Council engaged with the school community of Scoil Iognáid, Raleigh Row; Scoil Bhride, Shantalla; Galway Educate Together NS and St Joseph's Special School, Thomas Hynes Road; and Radharc na Mara NS, Mervue, to develop 'front of school' designs to make it safer for children walking, cycling and scooting to school. The design will also benefit residents and commuters walking and cycling through their neighbourhood.

Galway City Council developed conceptual designs of the proposed interventions. In May 2022, the council undertook a series of non-statutory public consultations, to allow members of the school community, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to input to the scheme development.

During the summer break of the academic school year, consultants on the SRTS programme assessed submissions and identified proposed amendments for each school location.

Following the commencement of the new academic school year in September 2022, Galway City Council Staff, and the appointed consultants, commenced the process of meeting with schools to outline the feedback received, and to assess the potential to amend designs in conjunction with An Taisce's Green-Schools team and each school. Round 2 of the Safe Routes to School Programme was announced in December 2022 to include Coláiste Iognáid, Scoil Fhursa and Gaelscoil Dara.

**Footpath renewal and safety improvement works** were carried out by Galway City Council Transport (Operations) Department at a number of locations in 2022.

**National Bike Week** took place from Saturday the 14th to Sunday the 22nd of May, 2022.

One of the highlights of this year's events was the return of the City Centre Cycle on Wednesday 18 May 2022, following a lapse of two years due to Covid restrictions.

The cycle was led by the Gardaí, followed by Mayor Colette Connolly and Director of Services for Transport, Patrick Greene.

Over 200 Primary School Pupils took part in this 5K cycle of the city and included pupils from: Scoil Iognáid, St. Nicholas Parochial School, The Claddagh Primary School and Gaelscoil Dara.

An Garda Síochána, Civil Defence, Marshals and Community Wardens were present to ensure the smooth running of the lovely event.

Other events organised during the week included events run by the Galway Speeders, Ard Family Resource Centre, Tuath of Terryland Forest Park, Shantalla Family Fun Cycle, Galway University Hospital and others.

National Bike Week is funded by the National Transport Authority and was organised by staff from the Galway City Council Transport Department.



Galway City Council participated in a **road safety campaign** in 2022 held in conjunction with iRadio. TikTok Mic Drop put the spotlight on all age groups and their capacity to deliver a positive message to their peers and the wider community to communicate the importance of safe road user behaviour to ultimately save lives. The competition invited participants to duet a road safety TikTok with an iRadio presenter and was promoted on Galway City Council social media platforms.

The aim of the competition was to empower people to have conversations with their friends about making safe choices when they are behind the wheel, on foot, bicycle or however they use the road. Entrants for the road safety competition were asked to focus on sharing the road with other road users such as cyclists, drivers, horse riders, motorcyclists or pedestrians.

This innovative challenge was promoted by 12 local authorities in 2022 with an overall prize fund of €6000. The TikTok Mic Drop campaign won a 'Special Recognition Award' at the Road Safety Authority (RSA) 'Leading Lights in Road Safety' Awards 2022. This was the first Leading Lights in Road Safety Awards since the launch of the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030

The **Road Safety Together Committee** consists of representatives from Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Elected Members, Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and An Taisce. The Committee meets regularly and jointly examines options available to improve road safety for pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists, motorists and road users, in general.



## 8.2 Sub-committee 3 - To Reduce and Prevent Anti-Social Behaviour in Galway City

In an effort to combat anti-social behaviour, a JPC task group was set up in each of the three Local Electoral Areas, chaired by a local City Councillor and assisted by the Housing Estate Liaison Officers (HELO) assigned to each area.

These task groups met to discuss a number of issues of local concern, in addition to solutions to tackling these issues in each area.

A very successful regeneration project took place in Sliabh Rua, which was part-funded by this JPC Subcommittee. They engaged with the residents and a local priest during 2022, and a resident's association was formed.

Trees were planted in the green area, and they have a great significance in the estate as they were initially put in to represent the passing of young children belonging to families. The residents of the estate had requested that some of the older trees on the estate which had been damaged by winds over the years be replaced. Five trees were secured with metal frames and the families had the names of their passed children engraved on the frames. Flower beds were also dug out and planted with flowers and shrubbery.

A mural was painted by an artist on the boundary wall with funding under the Greening the Laneways Project. Galway Bay FM visited the estate to highlight the great works being carried out and to promote the relationship between Galway City Council and residents of Sliabh Rua. A play and seating area is proposed for 2023, subject to funding.



### 8.3 Sub-committee 4: To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City

During the life of its plan, five key objectives were focused on. Covid had a big impact on the work but the subgroup continued to meet online and focus on our objectives.

The Gardaí continued to support the elderly through visits and local meeting.

Members linked up with Heathy Galway City and funded an event aimed at reconnecting the elderly and Community Gardai attended one of the events to talk about the supports in place. A calendar of events was prepared for everyone to see the range of activities taking place across the city.

Membership was increased to ensure that ethnic minorities are included on the subcommittee, and further new members will be joining in 2023.

The relationship has also increased between these groups and the Community Gardaí as they played their annual soccer match again this year.

A meeting was held with Claddagh Watch and the concerns raised have been addressed and they have a secure premises to store their transport and equipment.

The “Reconnect Communities” project targeted older people living in the community, specifically living in socially disadvantaged areas or those experiencing isolation.

A specific effort was made to involve those who were not already engaged with existing community groups. Funding from the Joint Policing Committee to support community engagement models of best practice was used to expand the project and host a Christmas lunch and social get-together for older adults.





## 9. Engagement with the Community – JPC Public Meeting

The Galway City JPC held a Public Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 7.00pm in the Connacht Hotel.

Despite extensive local engagement and publicity, numbers on the evening in attendance were low.

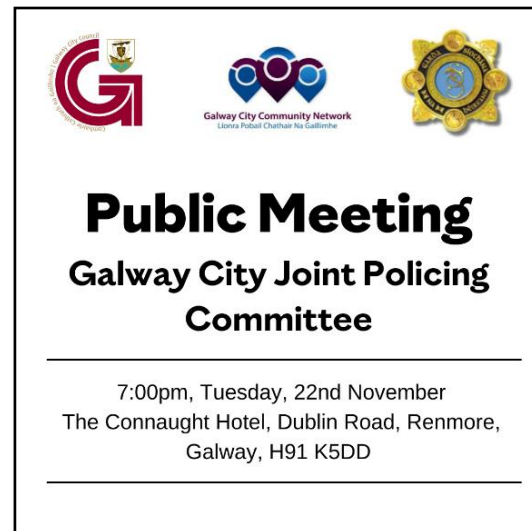
In advance, and in line with the guidelines, members of the public were invited to submit their views in the form of questions on general policing matters affecting the policing of Galway City. It was also noted that the meeting would focus on the strategic aims as set out in the Galway City Joint Policing Committee 4-year Strategic Plan 2017– 2020. A total of 7 written questions were received in advance of the meeting, which related to a range of matters including the enforcement of parking regulations and illegal parking; speeding which included speed limits for certain areas; community safety concerns; CCTV etc.

A number of other questions were taken during the meeting, with the following items being discussed:

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Staff retention
- Illegal parking and speeding
- Community Policing
- Community Engagement



The poster features three logos at the top: the Galway City Council logo, the Galway City Community Network logo, and the Galway City Joint Policing Committee logo. The text is in Irish and reads: **CRUINNIÚ POIBLÍ**, **COMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA**, **CHATHAIR NA GAILLIMHE**. Below this, it states: 7.00in Dé Máirt, 22ú Samhain 2022 in Óstán Chonnacht, Bhóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, An Rinn Mhór, Gaillimh, H91 K5DD.



The poster features three logos at the top: the Galway City Council logo, the Galway City Community Network logo, and the Galway City Joint Policing Committee logo. The text is in English and reads: **Public Meeting**, **Galway City Joint Policing Committee**. Below this, it states: 7:00pm, Tuesday, 22nd November, The Connaught Hotel, Dublin Road, Renmore, Galway, H91 K5DD.

Senior Data Analyst Oliva Maher with An Garda Síochána presented the Garda Report and Fraud Incidents Report, noting the reports were for a 10-month period from January to October 2022 which annual comparison figures to the same period in 2021 and 2020. Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche gave an update on the Divisional Policing Model for the Galway Garda Division, clarifying some queries and concerns raised. He noted it will not affect the service or management on the ground and also added that new model has resulted in a considerable increase for Inspectors and Sergeants for Galway which is very welcomed. Cllr. Níall McNelis, Chairperson of the Galway City JPC then brought the meeting to a close by thanking the speakers and those in attendance for their contributions and their participation in the meeting.

### **9.1 Galway City COVID-19 Community Response**

During Q1 2022 the Government continued to issue guidance to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, however the laws in force during the pandemic were no longer in place with all COVID-19 restrictions ending from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. Galway City JPC received updates and communication as relevant on the Community Call Helpline, led and coordinated by Galway City Council which continued throughout to provide a dedicated community response helpline to ensure that all vulnerable members of our community were appropriately supported through COVID-19.

### **9.2 Galway City Ukrainian Community Response**

During Q1 2022 a meeting of the Forum was convened online in response to the refugee crisis emerging because of the war in Ukraine. Intensive work had been underway across Government preparing a humanitarian response to the needs of the thousands of Ukrainian people who had arrived in Galway city, as well as planning and preparing to receive and support the large numbers of further people that arrived. Throughout 2022 the Forum continued to meet to work together in the delivery of services for Ukrainian refugees relocating to Galway city. The role of the Forum is to coordinate the community-led response in the provision of local assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees as they are accommodated in Galway city. Supplementing the supports and services being provided by government agencies at a local level, the purpose will be to ensure effective communication and information sharing in the coordination of local community and

voluntary actions in providing community supports to the new Ukrainian communities. Galway City JPC received regular updates and communication as relevant on the ongoing work to coordinate local responses to the Ukraine crisis.

### 9.3 Policing Authority Annual JPC Event

Cllr. Níall McNelis, Chairperson of the JPC and Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive of Galway City Council attended the seventh annual meeting with the Policing Authority, which was held in person during September 2022.

The meeting included an input from Garda Commissioner Drew Harris, and the official launch of the new JPC Guidelines. During 2022 these guidelines were developed by the Policing Authority as part of its statutory role in relation to Joint Policing Committees, replacing all previous guidelines, which are now withdrawn.

The Authority believes that JPCs have significant potential as a forum through which communities can engage with matters affecting the policing of their area and work cooperatively to tackle those issues affecting them. These guidelines set out in some detail the purpose and function of JPCs. They provide information for JPC members and the community as to how the committee's work.

The Community Response to Domestic Abuse, Western Regional Network hosted their first National Domestic Violence Conference on Friday, 18th November in the Harbour Hotel, Galway. Various keynote speakers attended, talking about a range of initiatives at a local level.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**"A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE"**  
**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL NETWORK**

**FRIDAY 18th NOVEMBER**  
Harbour Hotel, Galway  
Registration 10am; Conference finishes at 3pm

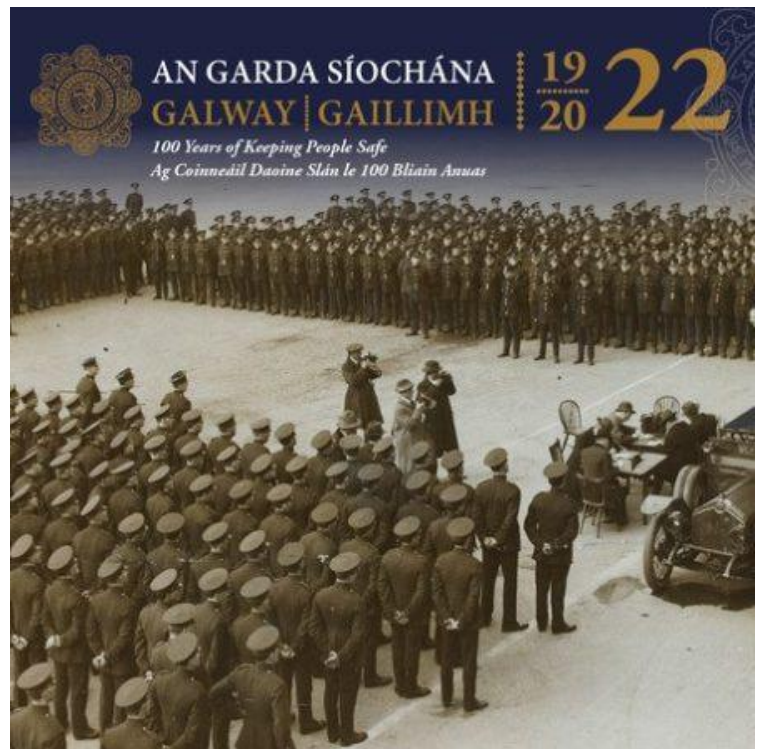
**Keynote Speaker: DON HENNESSY**  
Author of *How He Wins*

**Afternoon Panel Discussion - Moderator: Deputy Catherine Connolly**  
Barbara Condon, *Ruhama*  
Ana Heagney, *Offaly Domestic Violence Support Services*  
Bermie Quinn, *Dundalk Outcomers*  
Tessa Collins, *Payee Point*  
Sarah Benson, *Women's Aid*  
Mary McDermott, *Safe Ireland*  
Detective Inspector Adrian Kinsella,  
*Garda National Protective Services Bureau*

**To register please book through Eventbrite**

This exhibition gives an insight into the founding of An Garda Síochána and how An Garda Síochána developed its own style of policing in Ireland since the foundation of the state.

It shows the changing roles and evolving codes of conduct of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years, which do not only manifest themselves in the training and behaviour of the members of the force but also in their gender and cultural backgrounds, their uniforms and their equipment.





# Appendices



## Appendix 1: Summary of Progress in Implementing the JPC's Work Programme

### Strategic Goal 1: To Promote the Safety of All Road Users in Galway City

	Strategic Objectives	Summarise the actions taken, and the progress achieved during the year and any significant difficulties which were encountered	Summarise the advice given by the JPC to the local authority / Gardaí	Results of advice / Recommendations
1	Ensure effective speed controls are in place in the City – with a focus on the Driver Feedback Signs	The installation of new Driver Feedback Signs was being restricted in 2022 due to the large number (approximately 60) of existing Driver Feedback Signs already erected in the city.	Maintaining existing approx. 60 Driver Feedback Signs in place.	Task Completed
2	Promote alternative to the car transport system.	A range of projects and plans have been made and commenced across the city: Cycle Bridge; BusConnects Galway; Pedestrian & Cyclist Walkway; Galway City Cycle Network/ Active Travel Schemes; Permeability Upgrade; Permeability Projects; Pedestrian Crossings; Safe Routes to School; Footpath Renewal	Ensure adequate maintenance of existing projects and progress plans for new projects as outlined.	Task Completed and still ongoing
3	Protect and support pedestrian, cyclists, and people with disabilities.	A number of events took place as part of Road Safety Week in October 2022, including a 'Light up your Life' message for all road users with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists, promoted during December 2022.	Promotion of road safety campaigns directly on website and social media, Road Safety Week, Bike Week, Check it Fits Campaign; Eye Health: Eyes on the Road etc.	Task Completed

### Strategic Goal 3: To Reduce and Prevent Anti-Social Behaviour in Galway City

	<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<b>Summarise the actions taken, and the progress achieved during the year and any significant difficulties which were encountered</b>	<b>Summarise the advice given by the JPC to the local authority / Gardaí</b>	<b>Results of advice / Recommendations</b>
1	Examine the safety and access in housing estates relative to anti-social behaviour	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing- our HELO has done excellent work in Sliabh Rua Estate during 2022, with some funding from the JPC
2	Support Crime Prevention through environmental design of housing estates	Submission made on the Draft Galway City Development Plan in 2021 by JPC Sub Committee 3. Superintendent of Performance Assurance, Garda North-western Regional Headquarters has arranged a meeting with external stakeholders who wish to contribute to the Galway Divisional Policing Plan 2023.	Submission complete	Ongoing-to provide feedback and contribute towards the 2023 policing plan's development, To continue work with Resident Committees in Estates.

3	Produce a simple leaflet to inform people where and how to report anti-social behaviour e.g., for Council Housing, Parks, for Private Rentals, Gardaí	<p>To hear an update from the Citizen Information Centre</p> <p>GCC Tenancy Handbook updated in 2021, in consultation with JPC Subcommittee 3</p> <p>GCC Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy being updated, in consultation with JPC Subcommittee 3</p>	<p>Update received.</p> <p>Handbook updated.</p> <p>Strategy updated</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete, but handbook is a live document, and will be revisited annually.</p> <p>Complete, but strategy is a live document and will be updated as need be</p>
4	Work in partnership with Agencies and organisations to divert children and young	Organise Workshops with Foróige & Youth Work Ireland including Galway City Comhairle na nÓg	Workshop took place	Completed in 2022 but can be revisited yearly
5	Increase liaison with student's unions, colleges, landlords and residents to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour	<p>Students Union representative(s) joined JPC Subcommittee 3 during 2021</p> <p>Gardaí to provide advice to students on college campus.</p> <p>Distribute leaflets on how to report anti-social behaviour to property management companies</p>	<p>Representatives joined.</p> <p>Advice provided on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Leaflets distributed</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete, but can be revisited yearly.</p> <p>Complete, can be revisited yearly</p>



## Strategic Goal 4: To Devise and Support Community Engagement Models of best practice in Galway City

Strategic Objectives -	Origin (Garda Policing Plan, Local authority plan, JPC members)	Summary of actions to be taken	Name of JPC s sub-Committee	Timescale for action
Continue initiative to support elderly and vulnerable people.	JPC Subcommittee	Ongoing	Community Gardaí Galway City Council Galway Age Friendly Alliance	Complete
Support the re-establishment of regular meetings between ethnic minorities and the Garda Ethnic Liaison Officers.	JPC Subcommittee	Map out a calendar of events taking place in 2022 and participate & support these events e.g. Africa Day, Social Inclusion week, World Refugee Day.	Community Gardaí Galway City Council Galway City Community Network	Complete
Hold at least one JPC meeting in each of the local communities during the lifetime of the plan.	JPC Subcommittee	Propose to have next public meeting to take place in GMIT	Galway City Council	Complete
Provide support and assistance to Claddagh Watch to prevent loss of lives.	JPC Subcommittee	Join a patrol to see what it involved and what they do once safe to do so.	Community Gardaí	2023
To carry out various actions in communities to help, support and bring awareness to local members.	JPC Subcommittee	Clean ups, Sports Street League and Bike Safety Initiative	Community Gardaí Galway City Council Galway Age Friendly Alliance Galway City Community Network Ethnic Minorities	Complete





