



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



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**COUNTY GALWAY**

**JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018**

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## **Message from the Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee**

As Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2018 Annual Report. The Report details the work of the Committee in delivering on the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021 and is an important means of communicating the role and work of the Committee.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation, cooperation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, the Local Authority, Community Representatives and the Elected Local Representatives. During 2018, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work, in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

The JPC convened on four occasions during 2018 including its Annual Public Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Gort, the Municipal District of Loughrea. Public meetings offer an excellent opportunity for local communities to participate and engage in relation to general policing matters affecting the policing of the County of Galway and in particular policing matters affecting their areas.

The work of the three sub-committees during 2018, continued to afford the JPC the opportunity to progress strategic objectives of the 6 Year JPC Strategic Plan. I wish to acknowledge the work of the Chairs and members of the Sub-Committees for their work during 2018.

I wish to record my appreciation to the An Garda Síochána team led by Chief Superintendent Tomás Curley and the Galway County Council team led by Mr. Alan Farrell, A//Director of Service on behalf of the Chief Executive (interim) Mr. Kevin Kelly, for their very valued contributions to the work of the Committee.

I would like 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 County Council for the administration of the Committee.

**Cllr. Peter Roche**  
**Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee**

## INTRODUCTION

Section 35 of Garda Síochána Act, 2005 provides for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees (JPC). The County Galway Joint Policing Committee was established in 2009.

The County Galway JPC committee comprises 34 members representing Galway County Council (elected members and officials), members of the Oireachtas in the county, An Garda Síochána and the Community and Voluntary sector.

The JPC's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of Galway County Council's administrative area, and to keep under review:

- the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behavior in that area, and
- the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behavior in the area

County Galway JPC has a Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2021 which contains four high-priority objectives contributing to the improved safety and quality of life in the community.

This Annual Report 2018 outlines how the County Galway Joint Policing Committee carried out its function for this period in compliance with section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the revised Joint Policing Committee guidelines of 2014.

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**ITEM 1: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS FOR 2018**

<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. Identify the feedback received from the local Authority /Gardaí</b>
<p><b>Illegal Dumping &amp; Littering Awareness Sub Committee:</b></p> <p>To Support and Promote awareness of litter management plans and initiatives, the negative impact of illegal dumping and littering and to promote and advise the public on the importance of reporting incidents of illegal dumping and littering.</p>	<p><b>1. Illegal Dumping:</b> The Sub Committee considered and identified black spot dumping areas with 7 areas being identified to focus on the eradication of illegal dumping in 2018.</p> <p>Clean ups in the high-risk areas, identified by the Sub Committee, were undertaken with CCTV cameras installed to deter further illegal dumping.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>2. CCTV:</b> The installation of boxes containing cameras and additional empty decoy boxes on poles in isolated areas to combat illegal dumping is required.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>3. Fast food waste:</b> The Committee worked with Mr. Pat McDonagh, proprietor of Supermacs fast food restaurant, regarding the issue of packaging of the food produce and how to reduce same. The initiative saw the creation of Green Teams in each</p>	<p><b>1. &amp; 2.</b> Funding to be sought from the Dept. of Communications, Climate Action &amp; Environment for cameras and equipment to monitor illegal dumping taking place across the County.</p> <p>Full engagement from communities required to facilitate clean ups in areas.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>The Sub Committee need to work in co-operation with the Environment Enforcement Team to achieve this aim.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>3.</b> Engagement is required by Fast Food outlets to continue the roll out of this initiative in other fast-food establishments.</p>	<p><b>1. &amp; 2.</b> Galway County Council's Environment Section were successful in receipt of grant funding of €82,000 to undertake clean ups and install CCTV.</p> <p>Recommendation that some funding be allocated to community groups to organise clean-ups.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>The Environment Enforcement Team worked with the Sub Committee in the selection of high risk areas for illegal dumping and the installation of CCTV.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>3.</b> Supermacs were commended in their support for this significant initiative and the support for their community. It was said that this initiative showed</p>

	<p>Supermacs outlet who work to reduce littering outside Supermacs outlets. As part of the initial phase of Supermacs <i>Glan agus Glas</i> (Clean and Green) initiative were the use of 100% recyclable cups; paper straws to replace plastic straws; biodegradable burger wrapping and the introduction of dispensers for sachets and napkins.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>4. Garda Checkpoints:</b> The Enforcement team from the Council’s Environment Section, in conjunction with the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA), have set up a Multi-Agency Committee to combat illegal waste activities for the West Region. The first project to be considered was the setup of Roadside check points, to be carried out in consultation with the Gardaí.</p>	<p>-----</p> <p><b>4.</b> The Gardaí gave commitment to participate in a significant number of Garda checkpoints in areas that have been identified as prone to illegal dumping.</p>	<p>that the Sub Committee of the JPC was focused in cleaning up their communities.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>4.</b> Garda checkpoints to be rolled out on an on-going basis which would further strengthen the message that illegal dumping /fly tipping would no longer be tolerated either by the County Council or by An Garda Síochána.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><i>Any feedback on the activities undertaken in 2018 will continue to be reflected in the 2019 Action Plan to further progress the initiatives commenced.</i></p>
<p><b>Education &amp; Awareness – School Programme:</b></p> <p>To promote, Education and Awareness Programmes for schools on personal</p>	<p><b>1. Personal Safety</b> A ‘Home Safety Presentation’ which was held on 9th April 2018, in conjunction with the Education and Awareness JPC Sub Committee, Gort Neighbourhood Watch and An Garda Síochána, in Gort. This informative evening where a member of An Garda Síochána addressed the group and gave advice on personal safety and</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Members of the JPC expressed concern over the increase in burglaries but commended the work of the Community and Text Alert Schemes in rural areas.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> The Gardaí advised that the Crime Prevention Officer was available to undertake talks in areas on request and this commenced with the event in Gort.</p>

<p>safety, road safety, bullying, illegal substance abuse, and underage drinking.</p>	<p>An Garda Síochána's Crime Prevention Officer also addressed the members of the public present.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2. Road Safety</b> The Committee, NUI Galway Student's Union and An Garda Síochána co-ordinated a high visibility event to mark 'National Be Safe Be Seen Day', on the shortest and darkest day of the year, 21st December 2018. This 'Be Safe, Be Seen Day' event aimed to remind people of the importance of wearing high visibility material when out walking, cycling or motorcycling and encourages the students and the public to do so throughout the year, but especially on the shortest day of the year and during the winter months. To mark this day, hundreds of high visibility vests were distributed to students attending the college, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3. Illegal Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking</b> An initiative called 'Risky Business' took place on 11<sup>th</sup> December in Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal in conjunction with the Western Region Drug &amp; Alcohol Task Force. The main aim of this interactive Workshop was to enable TY students to examine various aspects of teenage life and encourage them to work collaboratively to reduce some of the risk-taking behaviours in their lives and take a positive outlook on teenage life. It also aimed to equip them with a</p>	<hr/> <p><b>2.</b> Members of the JPC expressed concern over walkers on the roads not wearing hi-vis jackets and said that legislation is required to make compulsory over time that anyone walking should wear a hi-vis jacket.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3.</b> The 'Risky Business' workshop arose from where a member of the JPC had said that the delivery of a presentation on 'Illegal Substance Abuse' at schools would be of benefit to students but explained that on liaison with An Garda Síochána, was advised that this type of presentation could only be</p>	<hr/> <p><b>2.</b> A recommendation was drafted by the Sub Committee on <b>Crime Prevention and Personal Safety</b> and sent to the Minister for Transport, Tourism &amp; Sport that it be compulsory that road users: walkers, runners, cyclists, should wear a hi-vis jacket.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3.</b> An Garda Síochána said that support would be given to initiatives to support illegal substance abuse and underage drinking</p> <p>Consideration to be given in 2019 for a presentation be given at an appointed School/College in conjunction with An Garda Síochána on</p>
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	<p>broad range of personal and social skills; to provide accurate age-appropriate, developmentally and culturally appropriate information; to enable young people to make informed, healthy and responsible choices and to provide a safe forum for open discussion of their opinions and issues that are appropriate and relevant to them.</p>	<p>delivered to parents or teachers.</p>	<p>the topic of Cyber Bullying.</p> <p><i>Any feedback from the Minister / other will be considered and reflected in the 2019 Action Plan to further progress the initiatives commenced.</i></p>
<p><b>Crime Prevention/ Personal Safety</b></p> <p>To increase awareness of crime prevention for communities , business, house holders and individuals.</p>	<p><b>1. Crime Prevention / CCTV</b> The Sub Committee and the Council sought to upgrade some of the community based CCTV cameras in Council estates to better enhance their ability to operate at night and this decision was based on the careful scrutiny of existing cameras over the last 2 years and having received feedback from various stakeholders, the Gardaí etc.</p> <p>Revised Data Protection Regulations, which came into effect on 25th May 2018, have implications for CCTV.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>2. Personal Safety</b> The Sub Committee discussed the wearing of hi vis jackets being made compulsory for all walkers, runners, cyclists.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> The JPC Committee concurred that CCTV was very effective in preventing and detecting ASB and crime, and there have been successful prosecutions as a result of CCTV.</p> <p>Awareness Training on the revised Data Protection Regulations required for JPC Committee members.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>2.</b> A recommendation to be drafted by the Sub Committee on Crime Prevention and Personal Safety</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Three sites which operate community based CCTV were upgraded in 2018 – Tirboy, Parkmore &amp; Gilmartin Road, Tuam. Galway County Council acquired redaction software package which would allow the Council to redact data where required to comply with the legislation</p> <p>Data Protection Awareness training was provided to JPC Members on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>2.</b> A recommendation was drafted by the Sub Committee and sent to the Minister for Transport,</p>



		to be sent to the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport that it be compulsory that road users: walkers, runners, cyclists, should wear a hi-vis jacket, with a lead in time of 2 years and a start date of the 1st of Jan 2020.	Tourism & Sport that it be compulsory that road users: walkers, runners, cyclists, should wear a hi-vis jacket.  <i>Any feedback from the Minister / other will be considered and reflected in the 2019 Action Plan to further progress the initiatives commenced.</i>
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**ITEM 2: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2018**

**Achievement 1/2018**

**'Glan agus Glas' Supermacs Initiative**

During 2018, the ***Illegal Dumping & Littering Sub-Committee*** led on an initiative '***Glan agus Glas'*** (*Clean and Green*) which was a collaborative approach to anti-litter by Galway County Council working together with Supermacs Fast Food restaurant.

The initiative launched earlier this year by Supermacs saw the creation of Green Teams in each Supermacs fast food outlets who work to reduce littering outside Supermacs outlets. Other changes as part of the initial phase of this 'Glan agus Glas' (Clean and Green) initiative was the use of 100% recyclable cups; paper straws to replace plastic straws; biodegradable burger wrapping and the introduction of dispensers for sachets and napkins.

To support Galway County Council's ongoing "*A Cleaner, Greener, Galway*" campaign a radio and newspaper campaign was launched in conjunction with the Environmental Enforcement Team of Galway County Council with a message stating that if one dumps illegally one will be prosecuted.

The aim of this collective and shared campaign is to generate maximum awareness amongst the people of Galway with a view to ultimately eliminating litter and illegal dumping from Galway's environment and eradicating the need for clean ups. Thus creating "a cleaner, greener, Galway" for everyone to enjoy.

This action was significant as Galway being in 2018 - *Galway, European Region of Gastronomy* - and the movement closer to its designation as *Galway 2020 European Capital*

of Culture, it is the aim of Galway County Council to show the ultimate in local authority leadership by having “a cleaner, greener Galway” for Galwegians and visitors alike.

### Achievement 2/2018

In accordance with the strategy to promote and advise the public of the importance of road safety, the **Education & Awareness Sub Committee** in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Officer, in line with the Road Safety Plan 2017-2020, assisted in highlighting road safety awareness to all the importance of being visible at all times through its many programmes held throughout the year to include the ‘National Be Safe Be Seen Day’ campaign.



This high visibility event held in conjunction with NUI Galway Student’s Union to mark ‘National Be Safe Be Seen Day’, on the shortest and darkest day of the year, 21st December 2018 aimed to remind people of the importance of wearing high visibility material when out walking, cycling or motorcycling and encourages the public to do so throughout the year, but especially on the shortest day of the year and during the winter months. To mark the day, high visibility vests were distributed to students attending the college, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority and this initiative aims to encourage students who walk or cycle to college to be visible and to arrive safely.



### **Achievement 3/2018**

In relation to the strategic objective addressing crime prevention and personal safety, a 'Home Safety Presentation' was held on 9th April 2018, in conjunction with the Joint Policing Committee, Gort Neighbourhood Watch and An Garda Síochána, in Gort.

There was a large attendance at this informative evening where a member of An Garda Síochána addressed the group and gave advice on personal safety and An Garda Síochána's Crime Prevention Officer also addressed the members of the public present. Reflective material was circulated also to make road users more visible. The initiative was a huge success and it is hoped that it will encourage other towns to undertake this Presentation.



### **Achievement 4/2018**

During 2018, the Joint Policing Committee received briefings to aid delivery on the strategic objectives as detailed in the JPC Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021.

The **Crime Prevention/Personal Safety** sub-committee advised the Committee that new data protection regulations, which came into effect on 25th May 2018, would have implications for CCTV and a Data Awareness training workshop was held for the County Galway Joint Policing Committee.

Chief Supt. Patrick Clavin, Chief Bureau Officer, Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) presented a briefing to the Members on the Criminal Assets Bureau which was established in 1996 with its aim is to identify the criminally acquired assets of persons and to take the appropriate action to seize these assets. He confirmed that CAB was a separate statutory body that worked alongside An Garda Síochána, Dept. of Revenue, Dept. of Social Protection and Dept. of Justice.



## **Achievement 5/2018**

The three sub-committees of the JPC (*Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness – School Programme Sub-Committee and Crime Prevention/Personal Safety Sub-Committee*), continued in 2018 to deliver on the strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021.

The key actions and projects initiated and undertaken by each of the three Committees in 2018 are outlined in the table above entitled **Item 1 Summary of Progress for 2018**.

### **ITEM 3: PUBLIC MEETING HOSTED BY THE JPC DURING THE YEAR.**

The 2018 County Galway JPC public meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in O'Sullivan's Hotel, Gort. Members of the public were invited to this meeting with up to 60 persons attending on the night.

The Agenda included the following items:

Education & Awareness:

- ⇒ Misuse of Illegal Substances
- ⇒ Road Safety (Speeding, Mobile Phone Usage, Drink/Drug Driving)
- ⇒ Bullying
- ⇒ Underage Drinking

Illegal Dumping & Littering

- ⇒ County Galway 'Cleaner, Greener Galway' initiative
- ⇒ Reporting incidents of illegal dumping & littering

Crime Prevention/Personal Safety

- ⇒ Community Watch Text Alert Schemes
- ⇒ CCTV/Anti-Social Behaviour/Vandalism
- ⇒ Support for the victims of crime

Questions to be considered by the Joint Policing Committee were also invited from the public prior to the meeting on general policing matters affecting the policing of the County of Galway.

Some of the following topics were also raised and discussed at the Meeting:

- Crime in the area and the benefits of text-alert, community alert and neighbourhood watch schemes to assist in crime detection/prevention.
- Traffic speed on towns streets and increased Garda presence on M18 required.
- Anti-social behaviour and public drinking on the streets.
- Illegal dumping and the necessity for the installation of CCTV cameras at strategic locations to prevent illegal dumping.
- Unauthorised encampments and roaming horses.
- The importance of wearing hi-vis jackets and the promotion of same to all, not just school going children.
- Drugs for sale or supply in Schools.

Cllr. Peter Roche, Chairperson of the JPC, thanked all who attended the meeting and who raised concerns/issues and acknowledged that the JPC Public meetings provide an excellent opportunity for the public to engage with the local authority and the Gardaí in matters relating to the general policing of the county.

**ITEM 4: RECORD OF MEMBERS AND MEETINGS HELD DURING THE YEAR.**

The total number of JPC meetings held in the year 2018 were as follows\*:

5 <sup>th</sup> February Regular Meeting	30 <sup>th</sup> April Regular Meeting	9 <sup>th</sup> July Regular Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> October Regular Meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> November Public Meeting Loughrea MD
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<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Regular Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Public Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018</b>
Chief Supt.	Thomas	Curley	An Garda Síochána	2	1
Sgt.	Peter	Conlon	An Garda Síochána	3	1
Supt.	Ernie	Whyte	An Garda Síochána	1	-
Supt.	Aidan	Foley	An Garda Síochána	0	1
Supt.	Sean	Glynn	An Garda Síochána	4	1
Supt.	Damien	Ó'Flannacháin	An Garda Síochána	1	1
Supt.	Seán	Colleran	An Garda Síochána	1	-
Sgt.	Mick	Walsh	An Garda Síochána	1	-
Sgt.	Peter	Fitzmaurice	An Garda Síochána	0	1
Garda	Stephanie	Moylan	An Garda Síochána	1	-
Garda	Ger	Naughton	An Garda Síochána	0	1
Insp	Declan	Rock	An Garda Síochána	1	-
1. Cllr.	James	Charity	Galway Co. Co.	2	1
2. Cllr.	Michael	Maher	Galway Co. Co.	3	1
3. Cllr.	Malachy	Noone	Galway Co. Co.	1	-
4. Cllr.	Michael	Connolly	Galway Co. Co.	4	1
5. Cllr.	Aidan	Donohue	Galway Co. Co.	3	1
6. Comh.	Seosamh	O Cualain	Galway Co. Co.	4	-
7. Cllr.	Tom	Healy	Galway Co. Co.	3	-
8. Cllr.	Eileen	Mannion	Galway Co. Co.	2	-
9. Cllr.	Noel	Thomas	Galway Co. Co.	3	-
10. Cllr.	Joe	Byrne	Galway Co. Co.	4	1
11. Cllr.	Shaun	Cunniffe	Galway Co. Co.	1	-
12. Cllr.	Mary	Hoade	Galway Co. Co.	4	1
13. Cllr.	Donagh	Killilea	Galway Co. Co.	-	-
14. Cllr.	Peter	Roche	Galway Co. Co.	4	1
15. Cllr.	Frank	Kearney	Galway Co. Co.	3	1

Mr.	Tom	Madden	Community/Voluntary	-	-
Mr.	Aodán	Mac Donncha	Community/Voluntary	4	1
Mr.	Gerard	Costello	Community/Voluntary	3	1
*Mr.	Pat	Flanagan	Community/Voluntary	1	1
*Mr.	Gerard	Larkin	Community/Voluntary	1	1
Ms.	Frances	O'Reilly	Community/Voluntary	-	-
Ms.	Cathy	Ni Ghoill	Community/Voluntary	-	-
Deputy	Noel	Grealish	Oireachtas	1	-
Deputy	Anne	Rabbitte	Oireachtas	4	1
Deputy	Catherine	Connolly	Oireachtas	2	-
Mr.	Alan	Farrell	Galway Co. Co.	2	1
Ms	Marian	Donohue	Galway Co. Co	4	1

*\*Mr. Gerard Larkin, replaced Ms. Janette Slattery in October 2018*

*\*Mr. Pat Flanagan, replaced Mr. Brent Kelly in October 2018*

**NOTE:** The Community /Voluntary members are drawn from the Public Participation Network and represent the following, Duggan Park Development Committee, Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéal, Monivea Community Alert, Loughrea Active Retirement, Abbey Community Development Association, The Older Persons Council, Comharchumann Forbartha Arann.

### **JPC Steering Group**

The County Galway Joint Policing Steering Group comprises of the JPC Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Roche, Mr. Alan Farrell representing the Chief Executive (Interim), and the Chief Superintendent Thomas Curley.

## **GALWAY COUNTY JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEES**

The following is the membership of the JPC Sub-Committees as agreed by the County Galway Joint Policing Committee to progress strategic objective 1, 2, and 3 of the 6 Year JPC Strategic Plan: 4 Councillors, 3 Oireachtas Members, 1 Garda, and 2 Community representatives, Chaired by a Councillor and facilitated by Council staff. Meetings of the sub-committees are held quarterly.

The Sub- Committees are as follows:

### ***Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub-Committee***

To Support and Promote awareness of litter management plans and initiatives, the negative impact of illegal dumping and littering and to promote and advise the public on the importance of reporting incidents of illegal dumping and littering.

### ***Education & Awareness – School Programme Sub-Committee***

To promote, Education and Awareness Programmes for schools on personal safety, road safety, bullying, illegal substance abuse, and underage drinking.

### ***Crime Prevention/Personal Safety Sub-Committee***

To increase awareness of crime prevention for communities, business, house holders and individuals.

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