



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



---

**COUNTY GALWAY**

**JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>Message from the Chairperson of Co. Galway JPC Committee</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Joint Policing Sub-Committees Membership</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Item 1 – Summary of Progress</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Item 2 – Key Achievements 2019</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Item 3 – Public Meeting</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Item 4 – Record of Meetings held in 2019 and Members Attendance</b>	<b>11</b>

## **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 2019 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.

Throughout the past year, the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) continued to play a valuable role in providing strategic linkages and strong channels of communication between An Garda Síochána, Galway County Council and the wider community in matters of policing and safety.

The JPC also provided a level of local democratic oversight of the Gardaí's work within County Galway through the forum it provides to elected representatives and those representing community and voluntary organisations to raise matters of local concern.

The JPC convened on four occasions during 2019 including its Annual Public Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in the Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam. 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.

Significant progress has been made on achieving our strategic objectives and I would like to thank the members of the JPC and its Sub Committees for their work during 2019.

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. Jim Cuddy,  
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 35 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

This Annual Report 2019 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.

---

## **GALWAY COUNTY JPC MEMBERSHIP 2019**

<b>GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Cathaoirleach of JPC)	Elected Representative
Cllr. Peter Roche	Elected Representative
Cllr. James Charity	Elected Representative
Cllr. Moggie Maher	Elected Representative
Cllr. Joe Byrne	Elected Representative
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Elected Representative
Cllr. Karey McHugh	Elected Representative
Cllr. Andrew Reddington*	Elected Representative
An Comh. Pádraig Mac An Iomaire*	Elected Representative
Cllr. PJ Murphy*	Elected Representative
Cllr. Shelly Hertereich-Quinn*	Elected Representative
Cllr. Liam Carroll*	Elected Representative
An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin*	Elected Representative
Cllr. Gerry King*	Elected Representative
Cllr. Colm Keaveney*	Elected Representative
Alan Farrell	A/DOS, Corporate Services
Marian Donohue	SSO, Corporate Services
<b>AN GARDA SÍÓCHÁNA</b>	
Thomas Curley	Chief Superintendent
Sean Glynn	Superintendent
Damien O'Flannacháin	Superintendent
Declan Rocke	Inspector
Finbarr Philpott	Inspector
Des Beirne	Inspector
Michael Walsh	Sergeant
Sinead Cunniffe ^	Sergeant
<b>MEMBERS OF THE OIREACHTAS</b>	
Deputy Anne Rabbitte	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Catherine Connolly	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Noel Grealish	Member of the Oireachtas
<b>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
Tom Madden	Duggan Park Development Committee
Aodán MacDonncha	Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéil
Pat Flanagan	Loughrea Active Retirement Group
Gerard Larkin	Abbey Muintir na Tíre
Gerard Costello	Monivea Community Alert
Martin Ward #	Western Traveller & Intercultural Development
Aileen Heverin #	Galway Age Friendly Older Persons Council

### **2019 CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (Post Local Elections held in May 2019)**

\* Newly appointed Elected Representatives to the JPC following the Local Elections held in May 2019.

# Newly appointed members from the Public Participation Network to the JPC Meeting Post Local Elections.

^ Sgt. Sinead Cunniffe, An Garda Síochána, replaced Sgt. Peter Conlon.

Cllr. Jim Cuddy replaced Cllr. Peter Feeney as Chair of the JPC at meeting of 30th September 2019.

## **JPC Steering Group**

The County Galway Joint Policing Steering Group comprises of the JPC Chair Cllr. Jim Cuddy, the Chief Superintendent Thomas Curley and Mr. Alan Farrell, A/Director of Services, representing the Chief Executive (Interim).

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

The following are the JPC Sub-Committees as agreed by the County Galway Joint Policing Committee during 2019 to progress the strategic objectives of the 6 Year JPC Strategic Plan:

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

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

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

## **JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

1. Illegal Dumping and Littering
2. Education and Awareness – Schools Programme
3. Crime Prevention/Personal Safety
4. Communication Strategy

The 2019 Work Plan was based on the current Guidelines and Code of Practice which apply to JPCs and the associated strategies and expected outcomes set out in the six-year Strategic Plan.

**ITEM 1: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS FOR 2019**

<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<b>Summarise the action taken and the progress made</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>
<b>Illegal Dumping and Littering</b>	<p>The Illegal Dumping &amp; Littering Awareness Sub Committee identified one high risk area in each Municipal District for a clean-up with CCTV cameras installed to deter further illegal dumping.</p> <p>The Illegal Dumping &amp; Littering Awareness Sub Committee continued to work 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 <i>Glan agus Glas</i> (Clean and Green) initiative was rolled out by Supermacs 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>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>Engagement required by Fast Food outlets to continue the roll out of this initiative in other establishments and examine in 2020 a pilot to examine littering outside premises.</p>	<p>Galway County Council's Environment Section were successful in receipt of grant funding to undertake clean ups and install CCTV.</p> <p>Recommendation that some funding be allocated to community groups to organise clean-ups.</p> <p>Supermacs were commended in their support for this significant initiative and the support for their community. It was said that this initiative showed that the Sub Committee of the JPC was focused in cleaning up their communities.</p>
<b>Education &amp; Awareness – School Programme &amp; Crime Prevention/ Personal Safety</b>	<p>The Education and Awareness/Crime Prevention Personal Safety Sub Committee together with the Council's Roads Safety Officer, held events during Road Safety Week to promote road and personal safety.</p> <p>The JPC received a presentation on Crime Prevention/Awareness by Sgt. Mick Walsh, Galway Crime Prevention Officer.</p>	<p>The JPC needs to continue to promote public and schools' awareness of road and personal safety and the effects of illegal substances abuse.</p>	<p>Ongoing collaboration needed between all relevant agencies.</p> <p>Consideration to be given in 2020 to awareness on Cyber Bullying.</p>

## ITEM 2: KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2019

### Achievement 1/2019

During 2019, the Illegal Dumping & Littering Sub-Committee continued to address the issue of illegal dumping.

The Sub Committee continued to work collaboratively with Supermacs Fast Food restaurant on 'Glan agus Glas' (Clean and Green) initiative. The initiative by Supermacs aimed to introduce 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 "A Cleaner, Greener, Galway", a new anti-dumping awareness campaign 'It's Not in Our Nature – Is it in Yours?' #stopandumpáil #stopthedumping was rolled out for the Connacht Ulster Waste Region to create awareness around illegal dumping.

The aim of this collective and shared campaign is to generate maximum awareness amongst the people of Galway and surround areas 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.



### Achievement 2/2019

In accordance with the strategy to promote and advise the public of the importance of road safety, the Education & Awareness Sub Committee/Crime Prevention & Personal Safety in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the Council's 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.

The aim of the event was to encourage all pupils to wear their high visibility vests when walking or cycling to school.

Scoil An Chroí Naofa, Ballinasloe, took part in the initiative and on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019, pupils in 1<sup>st</sup> Class were given a Road Safety Awareness talk by the Council's Road

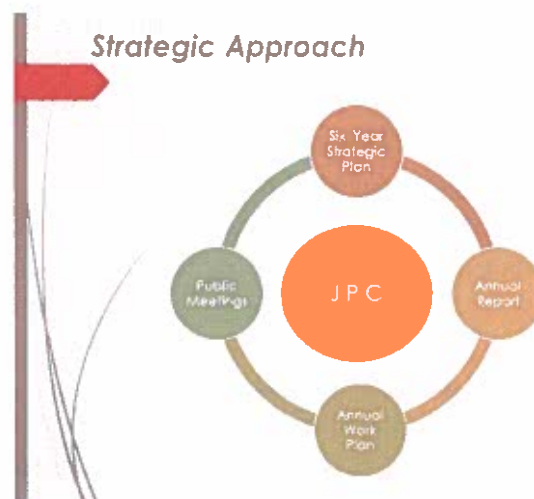


Safety Officer, Ms. Deirdre Caulfield, and Garda Inspector Conor Madden. The topics of walking, cycling, use of seat belts, travelling by car and bus was included. The pupils also took part in a walk from the school around the town wearing their high visibility vests, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority. Ms. Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer, advised the pupils on the Safe Cross Code – STOP. WAIT. LOOK. LISTEN! It is hoped that by highlighting road safety awareness to the young children, that they will see the importance of being visible at all times.



### Achievement 3/2019

Following the local elections in May 2019, several newly appointed Elected Members joined the Galway County Joint Policing Committee. A briefing was arranged for the JPC, by Sgt. Patrick Conway, Garda National Crime Prevention Unit, on the functions and role of the Galway County Joint Policing Committee including Best Practice, Procedures for Tabling Questions, Communications and the role of the Steering Group; following which he invited questions from the members.



### Achievement 4/2019

The sub-committees of the JPC (*Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness – School Programme and Crime Prevention/Personal Safety Sub-Committee*), continued in 2019 to deliver on the strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021.

### **ITEM 3: PUBLIC MEETING**

The 2019 County Galway JPC public meeting was held on 4th November 2019 in the Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam. Members of the public were invited to this meeting with up to 50 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**

- ⇒ 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 necessity for the installation of CCTV cameras at strategic locations to assist in crime detection/prevention.
- The need additional Garda resources especially in rural Garda Stations.
- Anti-social behaviour/vandalism in local park.
- Misuse of illegal substances and drug epidemic.
- Traffic speed on village and towns streets and on approach to N84.
- The importance of wearing hi-vis jackets.
- Illegal dumping.

Cllr. Jim Cuddy, 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 MEETINGS HELD DURING 2019 AND MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

The JPC meetings held in the year 2019 were as follows:

11 <sup>th</sup> February Regular Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> April Regular Meeting	30 <sup>th</sup> September Regular Meeting First meeting post Local Elections	4 <sup>th</sup> November Public Meeting Tuam Municipal District
--	---	---	---

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL		No. of Meetings attended
Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Chair of JPC)*	Elected Representative	2*
Cllr. Peter Roche	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. James Charity	Elected Representative	3
Cllr. Moggie (Michael) Maher	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Joe Byrne	Elected Representative	1
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Karey McHugh*	Elected Representative	2*
Cllr. Andrew Reddington*	Elected Representative	2*
An Comh. Pádraig Mac An Iomaire*	Elected Representative	2*
Cllr. PJ Murphy*	Elected Representative	1*
Cllr. Shelly Herterech-Quinn*	Elected Representative	2*
Cllr. Liam Carroll*	Elected Representative	2*
An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin*	Elected Representative	2*
Cllr. Gerry King*	Elected Representative	2*
Cllr. Colm Keaveney*	Elected Representative	1*
Alan Farrell	A/DOS, Corporate Services	3
Marian Donohue	SSO, Corporate Services	2
<b>AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA</b>		
Thomas Curley	Chief Superintendent	4
Damien O'Flannacháin	Superintendent	4
Aidan Foley	Superintendent	1
Sean Colleran	Superintendent	1
Declan Rocke	Inspector	3
Finbarr Philpott	Inspector	2
Des Beirne	Inspector	1
Michael Walsh	Sergeant/Crime Prevention Officer	2
Sinead Cunniffe ^	Sergeant	2^
Peter Conlon ^	Sergeant	2^
<b>MEMBERS OF THE OIREACHTAS</b>		
Deputy Anne Rabbitte	Member of the Oireachtas	2
Deputy Catherine Connolly	Member of the Oireachtas	2
Deputy Noel Grealish	Member of the Oireachtas	-
<b>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
Tom Madden	Duggan Park Development Committee	3
Aodán MacDonncha	Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéil	4
Pat Flanagan	Loughrea Active Retirement Group	-
Gerard Larkin	Abbey Muintir na Tíre	4
Gerard Costello	Monivea Community Alert	3
Martin Ward #	Western Traveler & Intercultural Dev.	1#
Aileen Heverin #	Galway Age Friendly Older Persons Council	1#

\* Newly appointed Elected Representatives to the JPC following the Local Elections held in May 2019.

# Newly appointed members from the Public Participation Network to the JPC Meeting post local elections.

^ Sgt. Sinead Cunniffe, An Garda Síochána, replaced Sgt. Peter Conlon.

