

# KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL



## COUNTY KILDARE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

### ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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## **Message from the Chairperson**

As the newly elected chairperson of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2019 Annual Report. The report details the main activities of the committee throughout the year, with the election of a new committee being a highlight during the year.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation and co-operation on policing and crime issues between the Gardaí, the local authority, community representatives and elected public representatives. During 2019, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work while also addressing local issues.

The JPC held three meetings during 2019 including its Annual Public Meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2019 in the Town Hall, Newbridge in the Municipal District of Kildare/Newbridge. Public meetings offer an excellent opportunity for local communities to participate and engage in relation to matters affecting the policing of County of Kildare and any local policing matters affecting their area.

I wish to record my appreciation to Chief Superintendent Scanlan (and C.S. Sutton previously) and his Garda colleagues for their valued contributions. I acknowledge also the input of each member of the JPC and their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC. I would like to thank the Community Section of Kildare County Council for the ongoing administration of the committee.

Finally, I want to thank the former members of the 2014-2019 Joint Policing Committee for their service and I wish them all well in their future endeavours. I hope our new committee can build successfully on the foundations laid.

**Councillor Fintan Brett**

**Chairperson of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee**

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

## **Introduction**

The following is a report on the work of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee for 2019.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee (JPC) aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and elected local representatives and facilitate the participation of the community/voluntary sectors in this regard.

The function of the JPC is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, 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”.

## **Membership of County Kildare JPC to June 2019.**

### **Local Authority Elected Members**

*Martin Miley Jnr. MCC – Chairperson*  
*Aoife Breslin MCC – Vice Chairperson*  
*Padraig McEvoy MCC*  
*Fintan Brett MCC*  
*Ivan Keatley MCC*  
*Morgan McCabe MCC*  
*Paul Ward MCC*  
*Carmel Kelly MCC*  
*Michael Coleman MCC*  
*Tim Durkan MCC*  
*Anne Breen MCC*  
*Íde Cussen MCC*  
*Mark Lynch MCC*  
*Anthony Larkin MCC*  
*Suzanne Doyle MCC*

### **Oireachtas Elected Members**

*Deputy Catherine Murphy*  
*Deputy Fiona O’ Loughlin*  
*Deputy Sean O’ Fearghail*  
*Deputy Martin Heydon*  
*Deputy Bernard Durkan,*  
*Deputy James Lawless*  
*Deputy Frank O’ Rourke*  
*Senator Anthony Lawlor*

### **Local Authority Officials**

*Peter Carey, Chief Executive KCC*  
*Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services*

### **An Garda Síochána**

*Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton*  
*Superintendent Declan McCarthy*

### **Community/Voluntary Sector**

*Monica Byrne, Kildare Older Persons’ Council,*  
*Michael Farrell, Comhairle na nÓg*  
*Conor O’ Leary, Muintir na Tíre*  
*Steven Joyce, SW Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force*  
*Patrick Balfe, Public Participation Network (PPN)*  
*Emma Berney, Kildare Children & Young People’s Services Committee*  
*Sean Darcy, Celbridge Community Council*

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**Membership of County Kildare JPC from June 2019.**

<b>Kildare Joint Policing Committee Members</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Cllr. Fintan Brett (Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Aoife Breslin (Vice Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy	Elected Member
Cllr. Ivan Keatley	Elected Member
Cllr. Tim Durkan	Elected Member
Cllr. Brian Dooley	Elected Member
Cllr. Ciara Galvin	Elected Member
Cllr. Nuala Killeen	Elected Member
Cllr. Bernard Caldwell	Elected Member
Cllr. Naoise Ó'Ceairúil	Elected Member
Cllr. Chris Pender	Elected Member
Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin-Healy	Elected Member
Cllr. Anne Connolly	Elected Member
Cllr. Bill Clear	Elected Member
Cllr. Vincent P. Martin	Elected Member
Dept. Catherine Murphy	Oireachtas Member
Dept. Frank O'Rourke	Oireachtas Member
Dept. Seán Ó'Fearghaíl	Oireachtas Member
Dept. Fiona O'Loughlin	Oireachtas Member
Dept. Martin Heydon	Oireachtas Member
Dept. Bernard Durkan	Oireachtas Member
Dept. James Lawless	Oireachtas Member
Sen. Anthony Lawlor	Seanad Member
Peter Carey	Kildare County Council
Sonya Kavanagh	Kildare County Council
Chief Supt. John Scanlon	An Garda Síochána
Supt. Oliver Henry	An Garda Síochána
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Comhairle na nÓg
Conor O'Leary	Muintir na Tíre
Steven Joyce	SWRDATAF
Emma Berney	CYPSC
Monica Cox	Kildare Older Persons' Council
Michael Corcoran	Public Participation Network
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Public Participation Network

**NOTE:** *There are 34 members of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee: 15 Local Authority members; 8 Oireachtas members; 2 members of An Garda Síochána; 2 Local Authority officials and 7 members from the community/voluntary sector.*

## **Meetings of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee**

### **2019 meetings of the committee**

The JPC Committee met three times in 2019<sup>1</sup> as follows:

1. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019
2. Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019
3. Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019– Annual Public Meeting

*See Appendix 1 for further details.*

### **Policing Reports**

Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton presented an overview of the key policing activities for the Kildare Divisions at each of the Kildare JPC Meetings, including quarterly crime analysis, crime prevention and community policing measures, road traffic statistics and details of Garda resources. (C.S. Scanlon took over this role for the annual public meeting in December).

The Chief Superintendents and their colleagues responded to questions on the policing reports from members of the committee at each meeting as required.

The issue of Garda resources in County Kildare (*Objective 1 of the 2016-2021 JPC Strategic Plan*) remains an issue of ongoing concern for the JPC, particularly with the recent expansion of the Garda division to incorporate counties Laois and Offaly. The escalating drug addiction problem came to the forefront in 2019 also and several committee members called for a dedicated drugs policing unit either for the county or for some of the larger towns. There were also requests for dedicated community Gardaí in several locations. Chief Superintendent Scanlon assured the members at the December meeting that he had access to all the resources he required.

**NOTE: Copies of all policing reports, annual reports, minutes of meetings and details of events etc. are available for consultation at:**

[www.kildarejointpolicing.ie](http://www.kildarejointpolicing.ie)

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<sup>1</sup> There was no meeting in June due to local elections.

## *County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2019*

### **Specific presentations and reports**

In addition to the Policing Reports, the JPC received several presentations and updates at each of its meetings in line with the objectives of the JPC's adopted Strategic Plan<sup>2</sup>.

<b>March</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Strategy Element</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Drug Debt Intimidation Report	Objective 4	
Crime Prevention Mechanism – Property Marking	Objective 2	Property marking machine purchased by council using LPT funds for use by trained Gardaí and community activists
Kildare County Alcohol Oversight Committee “No Alcohol or Substance Allowed” Initiative	Objective 4	Initiative rolled out for 2019 Junior Certificate results night with local transport providers
Road Safety presentation	Objective 6	Update on current initiatives
Community CCTV data sharing	Objective 2	Presentation on how KCC's data protection protocol will meet data protection requirements
Understanding how the Criminal Assets Bureau links with local Gardaí using trained asset profilers.	Objective 8	

<b>September</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Strategy Element</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Briefing on background and purpose of Kildare Joint Policing Committee	Objective 8	For new committee after 2019 local elections
Briefing and nomination of a chairperson to Multi-Agency Drug Litter committee	Objective 4	Cllr. Pender nominated
Update on Property Marking machine and Text Alert scheme	Objective 2	Current text alert system no longer fit for purpose
Update on Community CCTV	Objective 2	Issues of funding and data protection concerns identified (national) KCC CCTV protocol drafted

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 2.

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<b>December- Annual Public Meeting</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Strategy Element</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Meeting theme: 'Working Together Against Substance Abuse'	Objective 4	
Guest Speaker: Philly McMahon, Dublin senior footballer	Objective 4	Philly works with young people and prisoners to educate them on how to make life choices that exclude drug use
Supports for communities Lisa Baggot, South Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	Objective 4	Lisa gave a comprehensive overview of the various services that are available and explained the role of the agency
Update on community-based CCTV schemes	Objective 2	Funding post-2019 still to be clarified Amending legislation to address data issues possibly required

### **CCTV sub-committee**

Co. Kildare JPC has a dedicated sub-committee to assist with the rollout of Community CCTV schemes as envisaged by the national scheme announced in 2017. The sub-committee is chaired by Cllr. Aoife Breslin. In addition to nominated JPC members, this committee includes relevant Garda personnel and KCC staff members working in this area.

Kildare County Council has agreed to act as data controller for proposed CCTV feeds. Accordingly, it has prepared a CCTV specification for groups to use to ensure any systems to be installed will be compatible with existing and future traffic management infrastructure. The sub-committee has endorsed this document. Several community groups have expressed interest in installing schemes and are working closely with An Garda Síochána to finalise their applications. Whilst no CCTV schemes have been installed to date, it is hoped that applications will be submitted to the Department of Justice and Equality in 2020.

## **An Garda Síochána and Municipal Districts councillors**

Locally based representatives of An Garda Síochána meet with members of each of the five Municipal Districts on a quarterly basis in advance of the formal JPC meetings and this process continued in 2019. Discussions at this local level can and does help eliminate problems such as anti-social behaviour and damage to public property. Councillors will often have access to information that An Garda Síochána may not have or they may be in contact with residents more frequently. Councillors regard these meetings as a vital part of their engagement with An Garda Síochána.

The members of each Municipal District have stressed the importance of these meetings being held without press or public attendance. The members believe that the formats of these meetings are beneficial as they are an informal exchange of essential information at a local level.

### **MD meetings dates 2019**

	<i>Athy</i>	<i>Clane/Maynooth<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Celbridge/Leixlip</i>	<i>Naas</i>	<i>Kildare/Newbridge</i>
Q.1	18/02	01/03	15/02	19/02	20/02
Q.2	<i>No meetings due to local elections</i>				
Q.3	15/07	19/07	19/07	16/07	17/07
Q.4	18/11	01/11	15/11	19/11	20/11

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<sup>3</sup> Note change to name of municipal district due to boundary realignments for 2019 local election.

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**APPENDIX 1**

**Record of members and meetings held 2019**

Number of meetings held: Three

Dates of meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> March; 2<sup>nd</sup> September; 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Name of members (and title)	Organisation represented	Number of meetings attended
Steering Group		
<b>Chairperson</b> Cllr. Martin Miley <sup>4</sup>		1
<b>Chairperson</b> Cllr. Fintan Brett		2
Ch. Supt. Brian Sutton	An Garda Síochána	1
Ch. Supt. John Scanlan <sup>5</sup>	An Garda Síochána	1
Sonya Kavanagh	Kildare County Council	3
<b>Vice-chairperson</b> Cllr. Aoife Breslin		3
<b>Members</b>		
Cllr. Padraig McEvoy		3
Cllr. Ivan Keatley		1
Cllr. Tim Durkan		0
Dep. Catherine Murphy		1
Dep. Frank O'Rourke		0
Dep. Séan Ó'Feargháil		0
Dep. Fiona O'Loughlin		1
Dep. Martin Heydon		2
Dep. Bernard Durkan		1
Dep. James Lawless		0
Sen. Anthony Lawlor		1
Peter Carey	Chief Executive KCC	3
Supt. Declan McCarthy <sup>6</sup>	An Garda Síochána	1
Supt. Oliver Henry	An Garda Síochána	2
Michael Farrell	Comhairle na nÓg	0
Conor O'Leary	Muintir na Tíre	3
Steven Joyce	SWRDATAF	2
Emma Berney	CYPSC	2

<sup>4</sup> Cllr. Miley did not contest the local elections in June 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Chief Superintendent Sutton transferred during 2019 and was replaced by Ch. Supt. Scanlan.

<sup>6</sup> Supt. McCarthy transferred during 2019 and was replaced by Supt. Henry.

**Record of members and meetings held 2019 (contd.)**

***Members from June 2019<sup>7</sup>***

<b>Name of members (and title)</b>	<b>Organisation represented</b>	<b>Number of meetings attended</b>
Cllr. Brian Dooley		1
Cllr. Ciara Galvin		0
Cllr. Nuala Killeen		1
Cllr. Bernard Caldwell		1
Cllr. Naoise Ó'Ceairúil		0
Cllr. Chris Pender		2
Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin Healy		2
Cllr. Anne Connolly		2
Cllr. Bill Clear		0
Cllr. Vincent Martin		0
Monica Cox	Older Person's Council	2
Michael Corcoran	PPN	2

***Members to June 2019<sup>8</sup>***

<b>Name of members (and title)</b>	<b>Organisation represented</b>	<b>Number of meetings attended</b>
<i>Cllr. Morgan McCabe</i>		1
<i>Cllr. Paul Ward</i>		0
<i>Cllr. Michael Coleman</i>		1
<i>Cllr. Carmel Kelly</i>		0
<i>Cllr. Anne Breen</i>		1
<i>Cllr. Ide Cussen</i>		1
<i>Cllr. Mark Lynch</i>		0
<i>Cllr. Anthony Larkin</i>		1
<i>Cllr. Suzanne Doyle</i>		1
<i>Monica Byrne</i>	Older Persons' Council	0
<i>Patrick Balfe</i>	PPN	0
<i>Sean Darcy</i>	Celbridge Community Council	1

<sup>7</sup> These members could have attended two meetings only.

<sup>8</sup> These persons were either not re-elected in June 2019 or were not nominated to the new committee and therefore could have attended one meeting only.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2016-2021**

The plan was adopted in June 2016. The plan's primary goal is to support safer communities by focusing on nine strategic objectives to support enhanced policing and crime prevention.

These objectives are:

1. Garda resources.
2. Crime prevention – assignment of Gardaí to specialist posts such as Community Gardaí, drugs specialists etc.
3. Anti-social behaviour and street crime.
4. Misuse of drugs, alcohol and related crime.
5. Wildlife protection and cruelty to animals.
6. To increase public safety of newly designed roads and developments across Kildare – An Garda Síochána and Kildare County Council working in partnership.
7. To liaise with older people in the county through the Older Person's Council.
8. To strengthen the relationship between An Garda Síochána and the local community.
9. To support the local implementation of the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation and co-operation on policing and crime issues between the Gardaí, the local authority, community representatives and elected public representatives.

**APPENDIX 3**

**Annual Public Meeting 2019**



**Some of the JPC committee members in attendance at the Annual Public Meeting.**



**Guest speaker Philly McMahon addresses the audience at Annual Public Meeting**

**APPENDIX 4**

**Further information on joint policing committees is available at:**

[www.kildarejointpolicing.ie](http://www.kildarejointpolicing.ie)

[www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Joint\\_Policing\\_Committees](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Joint_Policing_Committees)

[www.policingauthority.ie/en/joint-policing-committees](http://www.policingauthority.ie/en/joint-policing-committees)

<https://www.garda.ie/en/Crime-Prevention/Community-engagement/>