

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL



COUNTY KILDARE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Message from the Chairperson | 3 |
| Introduction | 4 |
| Membership of County Kildare JPC. | 5 |
| Meetings of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee | 6 |
| CCTV sub-committee | 8 |
| Text Alert Working Group..... | 8 |
| An Garda Síochána and Municipal Districts councillors | 9 |
| APPENDIX 1 | 10 |
| APPENDIX 2 | 12 |
| APPENDIX 3 | 13 |

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

Message from the Chairperson

As the chairperson of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2021 Annual Report. The report details the main activities of the committee during another year in which normal public life was seriously affected by ongoing restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

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, relevant agencies and elected public representatives.

The JPC held four meetings during 2021 and all were held online. The committee expects to return to open meetings early in 2022 in line with public health guidance and advice.

The committee was honoured to welcome Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to its annual public meeting in December and his contribution was greatly appreciated.

I wish to record my appreciation to Chief Superintendent Scanlan and his Garda colleagues for their valued service. The dedication of An Garda Síochána was again evident throughout 2021 and they have the full support of members of the JPC and the wider council in this regard. I also acknowledge the input of the members of the JPC and their continuing support. Finally, I wish to thank the Community Section of Kildare County Council for the ongoing facilitation and support of this valuable forum.

Councillor Fintan Brett

Chairperson of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

March 9th, 2022

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

Introduction

The following is a report on the work of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee for 2021.

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, elected local representatives and relevant agencies. The committee facilitates the participation of the community/voluntary sectors in this regard through its membership profile.

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”.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

Membership of County Kildare JPC.

| Kildare Joint Policing Committee Members | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Name: | Representing: |
| 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 Cearúil | Elected Member |
| Cllr. Chris Pender | Elected Member |
| Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin Healy | Elected Member |
| Cllr. Anne Connolly | Elected Member |
| Cllr. Bill Clear | Elected Member |
| Cllr. Colm Kenny | Elected Member |
| Dep. Catherine Murphy | Oireachtas Member |
| Dep. Reada Cronin | Oireachtas Member |
| Dep. Seán Ó Feargháil | Oireachtas Member |
| Dep. Patricia Ryan | Oireachtas Member |
| Dep. Martin Heydon | Oireachtas Member |
| Dep. Bernard Durkan | Oireachtas Member |
| Dep. James Lawless | Oireachtas Member |
| Dep. Cathal Berry | Oireachtas Member |
| Sen. Mark Wall | Oireachtas Member |
| Sen. Fiona O'Loughlin | Oireachtas Member |
| Sen. Vincent P. Martin | Oireachtas Member |
| Peter Carey ¹ | Kildare County Council |
| Sonya Kavanagh ² | Kildare County Council |
| Chief Supt. John Scanlon | An Garda Síochána |
| Supt. Oliver Henry | An Garda Síochána |
| Maura Littlewood | 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 |
| John Daly | Public Participation Network |

NOTE: There are 37 members of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee: 15 Local Authority members; 11 Oireachtas members; 2 members of An Garda Síochána; 2 Local Authority officials and 7 members from the community/voluntary/agency sector.

¹ Retired September 2021. Replaced as interim CE by Sonya Kavanagh.

² Replaced by Marian Higgins as Director of Services, September 2021.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

Meetings of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

2021 meetings of the committee

The JPC Committee met three times in 2021 as follows:

1. Monday 1st March
2. Monday 14th June
3. Monday 6th September
4. Monday 6th December

All four quarterly meetings were held online due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

See Appendix 1 for attendance details.

Policing Reports

Chief Superintendent John Scanlan and his team 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.

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

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris gave an overview of the new policing model to the committee at the December annual public meeting, and this was well received. The issue of Garda numbers in County Kildare and in particular its effect on community policing remains a serious concern for the JPC members and it was raised with Commissioner Harris both directly at the meeting and in several questions submitted to him in advance. A follow-up letter was sent to him on the issue thereafter.

Other areas of concern mentioned regularly at meetings were issues around substance abuse, excessive speeding and general roads traffic matters, domestic violence issues and newer criminal activities such as cyber-bullying and internet fraud.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

Specific presentations and reports

In addition to the Policing Reports, the JPC hosted several presentations and received updates in line with the objectives of the JPC's adopted Strategic Plan³.

| Item | Strategy Element | Comment |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Community text alert (Standing item) | Objective 2 | Tender competition complete. Award pending. |
| Community Safety Partnerships S. Kavanagh, Director of Services | n/a | JPC advised on planned introduction of CSPs and status of pilot projects. |
| Muintir na Tíre Conor O'Leary Development Officer | Objective 2 | Focus on strengthening communities' abilities to prevent crime. |
| Community CCTV (Standing item) | Objective 3 | Consultant to be appointed to Clane pilot project. |
| Older Persons Council Monica Corcoran | Objective 7 | Comprehensive presentation on background, role and activities of the OPC. |
| Domestic Violence Supports Lorrain Rowan, Teach Tearmainn Sgt. Diarmuid Lalor, Protective Services Unit | Objective 9 | Details of practical, effective supports available to victims. Formation, role, and functions of the PSU. |

³ See Appendix 2.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

CCTV sub-committee

Co. Kildare JPC has one dedicated sub-committee whose role is to assist with the implementation 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 Kildare County Council 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.

A pilot scheme for Community CCTV is being prepared for Clane and a tender competition to appoint a consultant to advise the group has been completed by the local community council. It is hoped that the Clane project could be a useful template for other groups wishing to introduce CCTV schemes in their own areas.

Text Alert Working Group

A small informal working group was set up to investigate the setting up of a countywide message alert system to replace the numerous stand-alone systems currently in place. All five municipal districts of Kildare County Council allocated local property tax funding to resource the proposed new scheme. Following extensive preparatory work, the scheme went to tender in June 2021. A final decision on awarding the tender is pending.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

An Garda Síochána and Municipal Districts councillors

Locally based representatives of An Garda Síochána meet with members of each of the five Municipal Districts and the JPC community and agency representatives. These meetings take place on a quarterly basis linked to the formal JPC meetings. This process continued in 2021 (via online meetings). 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.

The essential role of An Garda Síochána as frontline community support was again in evidence in 2021 and continued to receive favourable comment from all elected members throughout the year at meetings.

MD meetings dates 2021

| | Athy | Clane/Maynooth | Celbridge/Leixlip | Naas | Kildare/Newbridge |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Q.1 | 15 th Feb. | 5 th Feb. | 19 th Feb. | 9 th Feb. | 17 th Feb. |
| Q.2 | 17 th May | 7 th May | 21 st May | 11 th May | 19 th May |
| Q.3 | No meetings took place. | | | | |
| Q.4 | 15 th Nov. | 22 nd Oct. | 22 nd Oct. | 8 th Nov. | 11 th Nov. |

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

APPENDIX 1

Record of members and meetings held 2021

Number of meetings held: Four

Dates of meetings: 1st March; 14th June; 6th September; 6th December.

| Name of members (and title) | Organisation represented | Number of meetings attended |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Steering Group | | |
| Chairperson | | |
| Cllr. Fintan Brett | | 4 |
| Ch. Supt. John Scanlan | An Garda Síochána | 1 |
| Sonya Kavanagh ⁴ | Kildare County Council | 4 |
| Marian Higgins ⁵ | Kildare County Council | 2 |
| Vice-chairperson | | |
| Cllr. Aoife Breslin | | 4 |
| | | |
| Elected Members | | |
| Cllr. Padraig McEvoy | | 4 |
| Cllr. Ivan Keatley | | 2 |
| Cllr. Tim Durkan | | 4 |
| Dep. Catherine Murphy | | 1 |
| Dep. Reada Cronin | | 2 |
| Dep. Séan Ó Fearghaíl | | 0 |
| Dep. Cathal Berry | | 0 |
| Dep. Martin Heydon | | 3 |
| Dep. Bernard Durkan | | 2 |
| Dep. James Lawless | | 0 |
| Dep. Patricia Ryan | | 2 |
| Sen. Fiona O'Loughlin | | 3 |
| Sen. Mark Wall | | 2 |
| Sen. Vincent Martin | | 2 |
| Cllr. Brian Dooley | | 4 |
| Cllr. Ciara Galvin | | 3 |
| Cllr. Nuala Killeen | | 4 |
| Cllr. Bernard Caldwell | | 4 |
| Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil | | 4 |
| Cllr. Chris Pender | | 4 |
| Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin Healy | | 3 |
| Cllr. Anne Connolly | | 4 |
| Cllr. Bill Clear | | 2 |
| Cllr. Colm Kenny | | 4 |

Cont'd on next page.

⁴ Two meetings as Director of Services, two as interim Chief Executive.

⁵ Appointed as acting Director of Services September 2021.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

| Name of members (and title) | Organisation represented | Number of meetings attended |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Peter Carey ⁶ | Chief Executive KCC | 2 |
| Supt. Oliver Henry | An Garda Síochána | 3 |
| Conor O'Leary | Muintir na Tíre | 3 |
| Steven Joyce | SWRDATAF | 4 |
| Maura Littlewood | Comhairle na nÓg | 3 |
| Emma Berney | CYPSC | 3 |
| Monica Cox | Older Person's Council | 4 |
| John Daly | PPN | 2 |
| Michael Corcoran | PPN | 4 |

⁶ Retired September 2021.
JPC Annual Report 2021

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

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, agencies and elected public representatives.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

APPENDIX 3

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

Further information on joint policing committees is available at:

www.kildarejointpolicing.ie

www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Joint_Policing_Committees

www.policingauthority.ie/en/joint-policing-committees

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