

*Annual Report for Kilkenny County Council
Joint Policing Committee for Year 2019*



Introduction

Section 36(2) of the Act provides that a Joint Policing Committee (JPC)'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 An 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) coordinate the activities of policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.

Kilkenny County Joint Policing Committee's Work Programme for 2019

<i>ISSUES</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>PERSONS RESPONSIBLE</i>	<i>PROGRESS ACHIEVED</i>
<i>Crime Statistics, Traffic and Road Safety.</i>	<i>Update provided through the year with statistics on Crime, Traffic and Road Safety.</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Burglary (Not Aggravated) down 74% since 2013 (Less than 1 per week for some periods).</i> • <i>Theft from shop – reduction of incidents from 579 (1st half of 2015) to 347 (1st half of 2019).</i> • <i>Theft from Vehicle – up 30% on last year but an improvement since 2014.</i> • <i>Theft from persons – reduction of 50% across the County.</i> • <i>Drug offences – search, arrest and detection rates up. Incidents of arrest for sale and supply are at the highest rate since 2016.</i> • <i>Public order offences down</i>
<i>New Garda Initiatives to address specific areas</i>	<p><i>An Garda Síochána plan to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) open a dedicated unit to deal specifically with the area of criminality, rape and human trafficking, sexual and domestic assault.</i> <i>b) Proceed with Civilisation Initiative</i> <i>c) Open a Victim and Community Officer</i> 	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Divisional Protected Service unit opened on 4th March, 2019 and manned by 2 Sergeants and 10 guards.</i> • <i>Front desk in Gardai Stations in Kilkenny now staffed by civilians</i> • <i>Victim and Community Office opened 2 days a month.</i>

<p><i>Community Engagement</i></p>	<p><i>Meetings convened throughout County Kilkenny as part of collaborative engagement with community</i> <i>Listen to Community needs</i> <i>Action local concerns</i></p>	<p><i>An Garda Síochána supported by Kilkenny County Council</i></p>	<p><i>Four (4) Community engagement were held around the County.</i> <i>Three (3) Operation held - Thor, Project Storms.</i></p>
<p><i>CCTV</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Supporting communities in setting up their CCTV systems</i> <i>• Provide additional CCTV in City and identify funding.</i> 	<p><i>An Garda Síochána and Kilkenny County Council</i></p> <p><i>An Garda Síochána and Kilkenny County Council</i></p>	<p><i>Agreed in principle to approve the application for Community CCTV system in Urlingford. Kilkenny County Council will act as Data Controller and will house equipment in the Library in Urlingford.</i></p> <p><i>Kilkenny County Council has confirmed funding of €100,000 annually for the next 4 years. An Garda Síochána will continue to seek funding from the Department.</i></p>
<p><i>Operation City Safe</i></p>	<p><i>Initiative to support Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce for purple flag accreditation status for Kilkenny City with the support of Kilkenny County Council and to reduce the rate of assaults in Kilkenny</i></p>	<p><i>Chamber of Commerce, An Garda Síochána and Kilkenny County Council</i></p>	<p><i>Safe socialising programme undertaken by Gardai. Kilkenny County Council & Gardai implementing Alcohol & Park Bye Laws. Retrofit programme on improving public lights continued in 2019. Reductions in assaults causing harm and minor assaults incidents in Kilkenny City. In comparison with national figures where assaults have risen, Kilkenny has seen a reduction of 27% since 2017.</i> <i>Ongoing discussions with Chamber of Commerce to achieve purple flag accreditation.</i></p>

<i>Youth Achievement Awards</i>	<i>Awards to celebrate outstanding young people between 13 and 21 years of age</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>11 awards were presented at the inaugural Carlow/ Kilkenny Youth Achievement Awards in Hotel Kilkenny. The awards recognise the good work being done by young people throughout the communities.</i>
<i>Local Joint Policing Partnerships</i>	<i>Piloting of Local Policing Partnerships in Municipal Areas of Castlecomer and Piltown.</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána and Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Engagement with Elected Representatives, Community and Social Groups. Partnership was launched in Castlecomer in Q2 and Piltown in Q4. 2019.</i>
<i>Operation Sweeper</i>	<i>Initiative to address the problem of a core group of juveniles who travel on bicycles into the city centre and engage in low level public order offences.</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>2 Sergeants working alongside 10 trained garda bicycle riders targeting these small number of youths. Each Garda has been assigned one adolescence to manage with an expected outcome of rehabilitation.</i>

Public Meeting

Kilkenny County Joint Policing Committee held 1 public meeting on 2nd December 2019 in Piltown, County Kilkenny.

Record of Meetings held in 2019 and list of members

The total number of JPC meetings held in the year was 5.

<i>Dates of meetings</i>	<i>23/01/2019</i>	<i>27/03/2019</i>	<i>04/10/2019</i>	<i>02/12/2019</i>	<i>02/12/2019 (Public)</i>
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Name of Chairperson: Cllr. Fidelis Doherty.

New Chairperson Appointed in October 2019: Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick.

<i>NAME OF MEMBER</i>	<i>ORGANISATION OF WHICH MEMBER</i>	<i>TITLE</i>	<i>NO OF JPC MEETINGS ATTENDED</i>
<i>Cllr. Maurice Shortall</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>2/2</i>
<i>Cllr. David Kennedy</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>2/2</i>
<i>Cllr. Melissa O'Neill</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/2</i>
<i>Cllr. Tomás Breathnach</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/5</i>
<i>Cllr. Patrick O'Neill</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/5</i>
<i>Cllr. Michael Doyle</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>0/2</i>
<i>Cllr. Fidelis Doherty</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>2/5</i>
<i>Cllr. David Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>2/2</i>
<i>Cllr. Pat Dunphy</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>5/5</i>
<i>Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/5</i>
<i>Cllr. Michael McCarthy</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/5</i>

<i>Cllr. Joe Malone</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/2</i>
<i>Cllr. Patrick McKee</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>0/2</i>
<i>Cllr. Eamon Aylward</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>0/2</i>
<i>Cllr. Ger Frisby</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/2</i>
<i>Cllr. Deirdre Cullen</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/3</i>
<i>Cllr. Michael Delaney</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>3/3</i>
<i>Cllr. Martin Brett</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>3/3</i>
<i>Cllr. Denis Hynes</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/3</i>
<i>Cllr. Joe Lyons</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>3/3</i>
<i>Cllr. Andrew McGuinness</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/3</i>
<i>Chief Supt. Dominic Hayes</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>Chief Superintendent</i>	<i>5/5</i>
<i>Supt. Derek Hughes</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>	<i>2/2</i>
<i>Supt. Gerard Egan</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>	<i>1/2</i>
<i>Supt. Carmel Banville</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>	<i>3/3</i>
<i>Ms. Mary Mescal</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary Forum</i>		<i>0/2</i>
<i>Ms. Breda McDonald</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary Forum</i>		<i>0/2</i>
<i>Mr. John Hayes</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary Forum</i>		<i>0/2</i>
<i>Ms. Helena Power</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary Forum</i>		<i>1/3</i>
<i>Mr. Samual Morgan</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary Forum</i>		<i>0/3</i>
<i>Ms. Colette Byrne</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>3/5</i>
<i>Mr. Tim Butler</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Director of Services</i>	<i>5/5</i>
<i>Ms. Anne Maria Walsh</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	<i>5/5</i>
<i>Ms. Teresa Mahon</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Staff Officer</i>	<i>5/5</i>