

*Annual Report for Kilkenny County Council  
Joint Policing Committee for Year 2020*



Approved by Kilkenny Joint Policing Committee on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## *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 2020

<i>ISSUES</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>PERSONS RESPONSIBLE</i>	<i>PROGRESS ACHIEVED</i>
<i>Crime Statistics, Traffic and Road Safety.</i>	<i>Updates provided throughout the year with statistics on Crime, Traffic and Road Safety.</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Burglary (Not Aggravated) down from 2019.</li> <li>•Theft from shop – down by 30%.</li> <li>•Theft from Vehicle – down 50% on last year.</li> <li>•Theft from other property – reduction of 35% across the County.</li> <li>•Drug offences – arrest for possession sale/supply down from 2019.</li> <li>•Drunkenness offences down from 2019 but public order offences up due to Covid</li> </ul>
<i>New Garda Initiatives to address specific areas</i>	<p><i>An Garda Síochána</i></p> <p>a) <i>Operation Homesafe</i></p> <p>b) <i>Operation Phonesafe</i></p> <p>c) <i>Operation Sweeper</i></p>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Operation was launched to strengthen the close working relationship between the Gardai and communities in City. The operation involved calling door to door to offer advise but had to be postponed because of Covid.</li> <li>•Operation to educate schools and young people around intimate photo sharing, organised fights and inappropriate viewing(illegal material).</li> <li>•Operation involving undercover Gardai on bicycles observing criminal activity and making arrests for drug selling, sulkie racing and robberies.</li> </ul>

<p><i>Community Engagement</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meetings convened throughout County Kilkenny as part of collaborative engagement with community</li> <li>● Listen to Community needs Action local concerns.</li> <li>● Role of engagement changed during the pandemic</li> </ul>	<p><i>An Garda Síochána supported by Kilkenny County Council</i></p>	<p><i>Two (2) out of four (4) Local Policing Partnerships established and meetings held. Kilkenny and Callan/Thomastown delayed due to Covid restrictions .</i></p> <p><i>Two (2) Operations held - Thor, Project Storms.</i></p> <p><i>Gardai delivered meals, collected prescriptions and maintained constant contact with community groups and businesses during Covid pandemic.</i></p>
<p><i>CCTV</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supporting communities in setting up their CCTV systems</li> <li>● Provide additional CCTV in City and identify funding.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Kilkenny County Council and An Garda Síochána</i></p> <p><i>Kilkenny County Council and An Garda Síochána</i></p>	<p><i>CCTV system in Urlingford was officially signed off by the Garda Commissioner and progressed to tender.</i></p> <p><i>JPC endorsed request for installation of 20 additional cameras in Kilkenny City, under the Control of the Garda Síochána Kilkenny. JPC approved the transfer of 4 cameras on the Hebron Road from the control of Kilkenny County Council to the control of an Garda Síochána.</i></p>
<p><i>Operation City Safe</i></p>		<p><i>An Garda Síochána, Kilkenny County Council and Chamber of Commerce</i></p>	<p><i>Safe socialising programme continued to be undertaken by Gardai. Focus changed under lockdown as night time activity curtailed. Antisocial behaviour taking place in housing estates and laneways increased.</i></p>
<p><i>Youth Achievement Awards</i></p>	<p><i>Awards to celebrate outstanding young people between 13 and 21 years of age</i></p>	<p><i>An Garda Síochána</i></p>	<p><i>Carlow/Kilkenny 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Achievement Awards launched in May 2020. The awards recognise the good work being done by young people throughout the communities. However due to Covid, virtual</i></p>

			<i>awards took place on a County level in Quarter 4.</i>
<i>Local Joint Policing Partnerships</i>	<i>Launch of Local Policing Partnerships in Municipal Areas of Callan/Thomastown and Kilkenny.</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána and Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Engagement with Elected Representatives, Community and Social Groups had to be postponed because of Covid.</i>
<i>Establishment of Drug Task Awareness Group</i>	<i>Initiative to coordinate a multiagency approach to get the anti-drug message across to all following concerns in relation to increased drug activity in Kilkenny.</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council, An Garda Síochána, HSE, Schools and Regional Drug Taskforce</i>	<i>JPC supported the establishment of the Drug Awareness Steering Group and agreed that all the different stakeholders must work together to fight the scourge of drug through education, engagement, support and partnership. Membership of group identified. No meetings held due to Covid restrictions.</i>
<i>Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020-2025</i>	<i>Strategy provides framework for all agencies to work together in dealing with the problems of anti-social behaviour in Council Estates.</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council, An Garda Síochána and HSE</i>	<i>The JPC role involves information sharing, identifying trends and understanding the part played by all the agencies. The Gardai will support through the courts and the seeking of ASBO's (Anti-Social Behaviour Orders)</i>

## *Public Meeting*

Kilkenny County Joint Policing Committee did not hold a public meeting in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic restrictions.

## *Record of Meetings held in 2020 and list of members*

The total number of JPC meetings held in the year was 4. (2 meetings held remotely via MS Teams)

Name of Chairperson: 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. Tomás Breathnach</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Patrick O'Neill</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Michael Doyle</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>2/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Fidelis Doherty</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>3/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Denis Hynes</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>2/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Pat Dunphy</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Michael McCarthy</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>2/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Joe Malone</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>1/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Deirdre Cullen</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Michael Delaney</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Martin Brett</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Denis Hynes</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>2/4</i>

<i>Cllr. Joe Lyons</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Cllr. Andrew McGuinness</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Elected member</i>	<i>3/4</i>
<i>Chief Supt. Dominic Hayes/Padraig Dunne</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>Chief Superintendent</i>	<i>3/4</i>
<i>Supt. Derek Hughes</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Supt. Sean O'Mara</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Inspector Anthony Farrell</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Ms. Colette Murphy</i>	<i>Community &amp; Voluntary Forum</i>		<i>2/4</i>
<i>Ms. Helena Power</i>	<i>Community &amp; Voluntary Forum</i>		<i>3/4</i>
<i>Mr. Samual Morgan</i>	<i>Community &amp; Voluntary Forum</i>		<i>3/4</i>
<i>Ms. Marion Acreman</i>	<i>Kilkenny Chambers</i>		<i>3/3</i>
<i>Mr. Anthony Morrisson</i>	<i>Vintners Assoc.</i>		<i>2/3</i>
<i>Ms. Colette Byrne</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Mr. Tim Butler</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Director of Services</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Ms. Anne Maria Walsh</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	<i>4/4</i>
<i>Ms. Teresa Mahon</i>	<i>Kilkenny County Council</i>	<i>Staff Officer</i>	<i>4/4</i>