



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA



Áras an Chontae,
Cora Droma Ruisc.
3rd January 2022

Re: Annual Report of Leitrim Joint Policing Committee 2022

Dear Member,

The Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is required to submit a report to the full Council on its activities for the previous year in accordance with Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act no later than 3 months after the end of each year. A copy of the report must also be furnished to the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Garda Commissioner. Outlined below is a summary of the progress achieved by the JPC in implementing the JPC Work Programme together with a summary of the key achievements of the JPC for 2022 and details of the public meeting of the JPC.

Item No. 1 – Summary of Progress implementing JPC's Work Programme.

- Both Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána continued to be significant stakeholders in the early part of 2022 in the Leitrim COVID-19 Community Response Forum.
- Both Leitrim County Council, An Garda Síochána along with other state agencies formed the Leitrim Ukrainian Crisis Response Forum. Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána have provided leadership and worked alongside other agencies and the community and voluntary sector to welcome and integrate refugees from Ukraine into communities across Leitrim.
- The activities of An Garda Síochána and the Joint Policing Committee were promoted on an ongoing basis through the social media channels of both Leitrim County Council & Sligo/Leitrim Garda. The local media carried reports on all JPC Meetings.
- Approval was given by the JPC to the design proposal for Phase 2 of Carrick-on-Shannon Community CCTV.
- With COVID-19 restrictions lifted, An Garda Síochána resumed property marking events. A successful event was held in Drumkeeran in November and Garda Síochána also began to carry out one-off marking events, often on farm settings, when and as requested by farmers or business owners.
- Funding was secured in the latter half of the year to develop a county wide system to cater for alerts such as Garda Alerts, Weather Alerts, Major Emergency Alerts, Council alerts and community alerts.
- JPC members received updates on general policing issues and statistics in relation to reported crimes in the county.

- In October, the JPC members received a presentation from the Department of Justice, on the Local Community Policing Partnerships, which are currently being piloted 3 local authority areas.
- School Visits: Representatives from Leitrim County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority attended secondary schools and delivered interactive Road Safety awareness education and training to 2nd level students. An Garda Síochána visited primary schools across the county and gave talks on road safety and internet safety.

Item No. 2: Three key achievements of the JPC during the year.

1. The JPC received a presentation on the design proposal for the extension to the Carrick-on-Shannon CCTV scheme and agreed to support the extension of the scheme which will see additional camera installed to cover newly developed areas of the town centre as well as the river front. As well as assisting with public order the new camera will provide enhanced coverage of the riverside area which will be beneficial in situations that occur along the river, such as search and rescue operations.
2. The Leitrim Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2026 was developed during the year and officially launched in November 2022. The vision of the strategy is to develop an inclusive, equitable county in which older people can live full, active, healthy lives. The objectives and actions contained in the strategy for the next 5 years will ensure that Leitrim will continue to grow as an Age Friendly County and value the older members of our society.
3. Following consultation with community stakeholders a design for a county wide alert system was prepared and funding streams to enable its development and implementation were extensively explored. Funding was secured through the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's, Public Service Innovation Fund, to develop the system, which will broadcast Garda, Weather, Major Emergency, Council and community alerts to the mobile phones of users who register to receive these alerts. Following a tendering process Pinpoint Alerts Ltd were selected to develop a system, based on the MapAlert software package, to meet the agreed requirements of the stakeholders. Development work is at an advanced stage, and it is intended to launch the application known as "*Leitrim Alerts*" at a JPC meeting in quarter 1 2023, followed by rollout thereafter to existing Community Alert Groups.

Item No. 3 – Public Meetings hosted by the JPC during the year.

Section 36(2) (c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a JPC is, inter alia, to 'arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area'. To facilitate and encourage public engagement, Leitrim JPC continues to bring the public JPC meeting to different areas of the county. This year the public meeting took place in the Manorhamilton municipal district. The Public Meeting of the JPC was held on Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 7 p.m. in The Rainbow Ballroom of Romance, Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim. The focus of

the meeting was “**Community Safety**”. Public notification of the meeting issued in the local press, on Leitrim County Council’s website and on Leitrim County Council’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter social media channels. The public were invited to attend and to submit questions for consideration at the meeting.

Superintendent Barry Doyle, from the National Community Engagement Bureau, Garda HQ, delivered a presentation on An Garda Síochána’s Community Safety Plan. Supt. Doyle focused his presentation on Crime Prevention and how individuals, businesses and the Local Authority can work with the Gardaí to deter anti-social behaviour and prevent crime in communities. He informed the meeting that the Gardaí will shortly be launching two new apps, The Garda Property App, which will assist the Gardaí in reuniting victims of theft with stolen property, and the “See Something, Say Something” app which is an anonymous text service to alert the Gardaí to suspicious activity.

Sergeant Cara Kiernan, Crime Prevention Officer with An Garda Síochána for County Leitrim delivered a presentation on SARA – An Garda Síochána’s problem solving model of crime prevention. By working with community stakeholders, the Gardaí use the Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment approach to identify problems and find community led solutions to crime prevention. Sgt Kiernan gave an example how a community in Sligo are using this model in recent months.

Item No. 4. – Road Safety Awareness programme for Schools

Following disruption due to COVID-19 in the previous two years a renewed focus took place in 2022 in delivering a road safety campaign to 2nd level students. In the early part of the year a successful TikTok Mic Drop competition was held which invited participants to create your own song/rap focussing on sharing the road safely.

In the 2nd half of the year, representatives from Leitrim County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority attended secondary schools and delivered interactive Road Safety awareness education and training to students. The use of the interactive equipment was well received by the students and their teachers. The campaign was backed up through coverage on social media and the local press. An Garda Síochána also visited primary schools across the county and gave talks on road safety and internet safety.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Quinn
Director of Services,
Housing, Corporate Services, Community
& Cultural Services