



# Meath County Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2022



Chief Superintendent John Dollard joined Meath Joint Policing Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022



Meath/Westmeath Garda Division



## Introduction

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Section 35 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees (JPC). The Meath Joint Policing Committee was established in 2015 and new guidelines for Joint Policing Committees were issued by the Policing Authority in 2022.

## Role of the Joint Policing Committee

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The Purpose of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC):

Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 (the Act) provides for the establishment of a JPC in each Local Authority administrative area. The purpose of a JPC is to provide a forum where a Local Authority and Senior Gardaí, responsible for policing the area, along with Oireachtas Members and community interests can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life of the community.

Strategic Approach: In accordance with national JPC guidelines the focus of the JPC's work is "strategic" rather than "operational". The JPC is required to develop a six-year Strategic Plan linked appropriately with the Local and Economic Community Plan for the area. Meath JPC adopted its new Strategic Work Plan 2021– 2026 in February 2022.

## Steering Committee

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The Meath JPC Steering Committee consists of the chairperson of the JPC, a representative of

An Garda Síochána and the Chief Executive of the local authority or a person nominated by him or her. The function of the steering group is to facilitate the efficient functioning of the JPC and in particular to ensure that it retains a clear focus on strategic and collaborative action. It will also arrange procedures for the appointment of any new or replacement members, draw up the agenda and arrange documentation for meetings, be the point of contact for co-operation and joint action with other JPCs and with any subcommittees of the JPC.

Membership of the Co Meath JPC Steering Committee is:

- Cllr Francis Deane, Chairperson
- Cllr Maria Murphy, Vice Chair
- John Dollard, Chief Superintendent
- Barry Lynch, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Cultural Development
- Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Section



## Meath JPC Strategic Priorities

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Following the adoption of the 6-year Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026 the JPC Members identified the following key strategic priorities.

1. Communication and promotion of greater awareness of the role of the Joint Policing Committee
2. Promotion of Safe Communities in Meath particularly in rural areas.
3. Crime Prevention
4. Road Safety
5. Public Safety
6. Protecting and engaging our Youth

The strategic priorities reflect the concerns of the JPC and the broader community and encompass the 6 key themes. The JPC over-see the implementation and delivery of the strategic objectives as outlined in the strategic plan. Under each objective, key actions have been identified and have been assigned to a lead agency and a number of objectives will be delivered in a collaborative partnership approach by a number of the stakeholders.

### 1. Meath Joint Policing Committee Meetings - 2022

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Meetings were held in Navan & Ratoath with 5 meetings held as follows:

- 21st February 2022 By Zoom.
- 23rd May 2022 Solstice Arts Centre, Navan
- 19th September 2022 Buvinda House, Navan
- 13th October 2022 Public Meeting held in the Venue Theatre, Ratoath
- 12th December 2022 Ardboyne Hotel, Navan



## 2. Presentations

In addition to strategy development work, the JPC also received presentations on and considered other relevant policing matters, such as:

Presentation	Presented By	Meeting
County Crime Statistics: Levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Co Meath	Chief Supt Fergus Healy/ Chief Supt John Dollard	Feb/May/Sept & Dec 2022
Adoption of Annual Report	Fiona Fallon SEO	February 2022
Presentation of Fatal Collision Reporting	Inspector Peter Gilsenan	Feb/May/Sep & Dec 2022
Presentation on DRIVE Initiative (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement)	Andy Ogle – Co- Ordinator (North-East Regional Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce)	February 2022
Update on CCTV Scheme for Navan	Fiona Fallon SEO	September 2022
JPC Sub-committee quarterly report to JPC	Angie Mitchell SSO	May/Sept & Dec 2022
Presentation on New JPC Guidelines issued by The Policing Authority	Fiona Fallon SEO	December 2022



### 3. Membership of County Meath Joint Policing Committee

Sector	Committee Member	Sector	Committee Member
*An Garda Siochana (2)	Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy/John Dollard (From Sep 2022)  Superintendent Dermot Drea (2022)	Oireachtas Members (all)	Minister Damien English TD Minister Helen McEntee TD Minister Thomas Byrne TD Senator Shane Cassells Peadar Tobin TD Johnny Guirke TD Senator Sharon Keogan Senator Annie Hoey Darren O Rourke TD
MCC Elected Members (15)	Chair: Cllr Francis Deane Vice Chair: Cllr Maria Murphy Cllr Gillian Toole Cllr Noel French Cllr Deirdre Geraghty Smith Cllr Alan Lawes Cllr Paul McCabe Cllr Trevor Golden Cllr Eddie Fennessy Cllr Aisling O Neill Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons Cllr Alan Tobin	PPN/Community & Voluntary Sector (7)	Vacant (PPN/Comm Rep) Bernard Kenny (Core Navan) Ronnie Owens (North Meath Development Association) Conor O'Leary (Muintir na Tire) Bill Commerford (AGR) Tinu Achioya (Cultúr)

Sector	Committee Member	Sector	Committee Member
	<b>ClIr Tom Behan</b> <b>ClIr David Gilroy</b> <b>ClIr Yemi Adenuga</b>	<b>*Meath County Council (2)</b>	<b>Barry Lynch DOS</b> <b>Fiona Fallon SEO</b>

*\*(The JPC members from An Garda Síochána and Meath County Council may be accompanied to meetings by other Garda officers and personnel as appropriate)*



**Retirement of Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy in June 2022 pictured alongside JPC Chairperson ClIr Francis Deane and Director of Services Barry Lynch (Meath County Council)**





## 4. Summary of progress in implementing the JPC’s work programme

The JPC strategic plan 2021 – 2026 provides a structured and integrated approach to achieving social, economic and environmental wellbeing of all those that work, live and visit county Meath.

In this strategy three strands inform the work of the JPC, namely educational/awareness work, prevention and enforcement. The strategy outlines general aims, so that the JPC can be flexible to adapt to changing priorities and good practice over the term of the Plan.

The priority issues for the County Meath JPC have been identified as the following and these are consistent with the current Local Economic and Community Plan and Age Friendly Strategies that have been adopted by the Council.

- Crime Prevention – to reduce the levels of crime in County Meath
- Community/Personal Safety– to increase people’s sense of security in their communities and ensure that they can undertake their daily activities in a safe manner
- Promoting Public Order – to reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour and public disorder in County Meath
- Road Safety – to reduce road accidents and fatalities

### Meath Garda Crime Statistics 2017-2022

Category	* 2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Property Crime	2144	1520	2181	2,650	2,673	3,025
Burglary (not aggravated)	379	313	392	557	603	789
Robbery from establishment/Institution	7	3	12	14	14	21
Crime against the Person	579	506	575	643	570	512
Robbery from the Person	14	10	18	22	13	15
Theft from the Person	17	9	18	29	27	24

Category	* 2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Theft from Vehicle	265	227	383	505	402	534
Theft/U/T of vehicle	136	124	155	192	172	150
Theft from Shop	617	564	594	634	708	641
Theft of other property	440	591	462	574	627	692
Road User Fatalities	7	13	7	7	7	9
Drug Possession	267	382	405	344	66	71
Drug for Supply	68	104	119	117	309	280

*\*(The next quarterly (Q4 2022) Recorded Crime Statistics are due to be published on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023)*

## 5. Reports from the JPC Sub Committees 2022

The Meath JPC agreed to set up working groups to deliver on the objectives of the Strategic Plan. The following 3 subcommittees were set-up under each priority issue identified in the strategy and chaired by a Councillor of the JPC:

- Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour – Chaired by Cllr Edward Fennessy
- Community Safety and Crime Prevention – Chaired by Cllr G Toole
- Road Safety and Improved Driver Behaviour – Chaired by Cllr D Gilroy





## Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour Sub Committee

Chair: Cllr Edward Fennessy

Members: Inspector Declan Power, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Aisling O'Neill, Cllr Alan Lawes, Bernard Kenny, Tinu Achioya

The PO & ASB Sub Committee met 3 times over the course of 2022 and considered the following Actions under the Strategic Plan:

Objective	Outcome	Sub Committee/JPC
Ensure that proper attention and seriousness is given to Anti-Social Behaviour.	Update received on ASB incidents reported to the County. Specific engagement with An Garda Síochána and Bus Eireann re: reported antisocial behaviour incidents	PO &ASB/JPC
Monitor MCC's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, and preventative measures to be explored	Report received from MCC on the incidents of ASB in tenancy	PO &ASB/JPC
Work in partnership to divert children and young people from antisocial behaviour, including assessment of current Garda youth related services	School visits were carried out throughout 2022. Plan for 2023 to liaise with Youth Groups to help deter ASB and to promote awareness in relation to drug misuse	PO &ASB/JPC
Work in partnership to ensure that young people engage positively with the justice system	AGS gave regular updates on the Youth Diversion Programmes in Meath	PO &ASB/JPC

## Community Safety and Crime Prevention Sub Committee

Chair: Cllr Gillian Toole

Members: Superintendent Martina Noonan/Inspector Alan Roughneen, Cllr Francis Deane, Cllr Noel French, Conor O'Leary, Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Ronnie Owens

The CS & CP Sub Committee met 3 times over the course of 2022 and considered the following Actions under the Strategic Plan:



Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
Develop and adopt a CCTV Policy for Co Meath	Community CCTV Policy adopted in February 2020. Extension of the Navan CCTV scheme has progressed with part VIII planning permission approved during 2022. Application to Garda Commissioner to be submitted in 2023	CS &CP/JPC
Pursue the introduction of the Crime Ambassador programme in Co Meath	Distribution of Leaflet on the Age Well Programme being promoted by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Age for Older Persons to be arranged	CS &CP/JPC
Develop and support joint programmes/activities between older people and the younger population to encourage cross generational support and trust including the extension of 'The Way We Were' programme	Engagement between Comhairle na nÓg took place in 2022 and work plan is in place. Engagement with Meath Older People's Council to recommence in 2023	CS &CP/JPC
Increase awareness and implementation of crime prevention measures	Programme of Crime Prevention advisory clinics by AGS took place in 2022	CS &CP/JPC
Initiate a series of preventative programmes enhancing older people's safety	Text Alert Schemes examined by the Sub Committee with other options examined. Various Community Alert meetings by AGS took place in 2022	CS & CP/JPC

## Road Safety and Improved Driver Behaviour Sub Committee

Chair: Cllr David Gilroy

Members: Inspector Peter Gilsenan, Michael Finnegan Road Safety Officer, Cllr Alan Tobin, Cllr Trevor Golden, Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons, Bill Commerford.



The RS & IDB Sub Committee met 3 times over the course of 2022 and considered the following Actions under the Strategic Plan:

Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
Work to improve the perception of community safety among local communities via increased civic participation	Foster and promote a positive road safety attitude across local communities – receive presentations on Control of Horses//Traffic violations from MCC /AGS. RSA Shuttlebus to attend various locations in Meath in 2023	RS & IDB/JPC
Develop Estate Management Initiatives and supports to Tenant/Resident Associations	Encourage Residents Associations to join with local Text Alert Groups to increase coverage across the County. Tie in with PPN Secretariat in joint promotion programme. Plan to promote Road Safety in 2023 to include refugees	RS & IDB/JPC

## 6. Public Meeting 2022

A public meeting was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in Venue Theatre, Ratoath, Co Meath.

Questions were submitted in advance of and on the night of the meeting and were responded to by Chief Superintendent John Dollard and his team and revolved around community policing, levels of crime, road traffic issues.

The public in attendance were invited to raise issues and the following were discussed:

- Antisocial Behaviour in Navan Town Centre
- The need for visible policing in Navan town and Ratoath Village to address increasing Antisocial Behaviour
- Garda Numbers assigned to each division in County Meath
- Statistics in relation to policing at Dunboyne Garda station
- Speeding and aggressive driving on the Dunboyne to Maynooth Road and other locations
- Antisocial Behaviour, drug taking and intimidation in various locations around Ratoath
- Lighting and CCTV in Ratoath Village
- The use of Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO's)
- The refurbishment of Laytown Garda Station



- The Text Alert Scheme
- Garda Youth Diversion Programmes in County Meath

## 7. County Meath JPC Work Plan 2023

Obj. No	Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
1.1	Operation Thor – Disrupt the activities of highly mobile Organized Crime Gangs, targeting private houses and business premises for Burglaries.	As per Objective 1 in Strategic Plan 21-26	AGS/JPC
1.2	Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives.	As per Objective 1 in Strategic Plan 21-26	JPC
1.3	Promote the awareness of reporting all incidents of crime.	As per Objective 1 in Strategic Plan 21-26	JPC
2.1	Develop protocols in respect of Public Events between the Gardai and Meath County Council and HSE	As per Objective 2 in Strategic Plan 21-26	AGS/JPC/HSE
2.2	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social activity in public open space areas.	As per Objective 2 in Strategic Plan 21-26	AGS/MCC
3.1	Promote the availability of new technology to establish Community Text Alert Groups throughout the County, re-energise existing groups.	As per Objective 3 in Strategic Plan 21-26	As per Objective 3 in Strategic Plan 21-26

Obj. No	Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
3.2	Promote awareness of the vulnerability of older people in the community particularly those living alone, ensuring that they are identified by local gardai who will engage with them providing reassurance.	As per Objective 3 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/JPC/Muintir na Tire
4.1	Implementation of Road Traffic legislation and enforcement, participation in National Roads Policing Operations to include various operations including school bus, seatbelt, motorcyclist, mobile phone, learner permit, PSV/taxi, pedestrian/pedal cyclist. Participation in European Tispol-operations including alcohol/drugs, speed, seatbelt, truck/bus/commercial vehicle.	As per Objective 4 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/MCC
4.2	Road Safety Working Together Group comprised of An Garda Síochána, Meath Co Council, HSA, RSA and TII to make annual reports to J.P.C.	As per Objective 4 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/MCC
5.1	Develop a programme in conjunction with Comhairle na nÓg, local schools and youth groups to assist young people in dealing with issues such as crimes against children, bullying (incl. Cyber bullying), alcohol and substance abuse with attention to ensure the specific needs in this area of young people from the identified groups for the Public Sector Duty are identified and addressed as part of this programme.	As per Objective 5 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/JPC/North East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF)
5.2	Engagement with the <b>School Liaison Officer</b> promoting internet safety among parents and teenagers.		An Garda Síochána/HSE/LMETB



Obj. No	Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
6.1	<b>Promotion of the JPC</b> through Meath County Council's website <a href="http://www.meath.ie">www.meath.ie</a> and the local media	<b>As per Objective 6 in Strategic Plan 21-26</b>	<b>MCC/JPC</b>