



Meath County Joint Policing Committee

Annual Report for the year 2021



Property Marking Machine training day in Summerhill 16th October 2021



New Meath/Westmeath Garda Division



Introduction

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 following the introduction of new JPC Guidelines by the Minister for Justice in August 2014.

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 Authorities administrative area. The Population of County Meath from the last census taken in 2016 stood at 195,044 an increase of 6% from the previous census figure.

At a meeting held on the 4th of February 2016 the Meath Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was formally adopted. In addition, the JPC also adopted its strategic Plan 2021-2026 at its meeting held on 13th December 2021.

1. JPC Meetings 2021

Meetings were held in Navan with 4 meetings held as follows:

- **8th March 2021** By Zoom.
- **24th May 2021** By Zoom
- **15th October 2021** By Zoom
- **17th November 2021** Public Meeting held via Zoom platform
- **13th December 2021** By Zoom



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	March 2021 May 2021 October 2021 December 2021
Presentation on Covid 19 Occurrences in Co Meath and measures employed by AGS regarding same.	Chief Supt Fergus Healy	March 2021 May 2021
JPC Sub-Committee Quarterly Report to JPC	Eugene Farrelly SSO	March 2021 May 2021
Presentation on cctv in Navan	Fiona Fallon SEO	March 2021
Presentation of Fatal Collision Reporting	Michael Finnegan RSO	March 2021
Adoption of Annual Report 2020	Eugene Farrelly SSO	March 2021
Presentation on the draft JPC Strategic Plan 2021-2026.	Eugene Farrelly SSO	October 2021 December 2021



3.Membership of County Meath Joint Policing Committee

<p>An Garda Siochana (2)</p>	<p>Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy Superintendent Dermot Drea</p>	<p>Oireachtas Members (all)</p>	<p>Minister Damien English TD Minister Helen McEntee TD Senator Regina Doherty Minister Thomas Byrne TD Senator Shane Cassells Peadar Tobin TD Johnny Guirke TD Senator Sharon Keogan Senator Annie Hoey Darren O Rourke TD</p>
<p>MCC Elected Members (15)</p>	<p>Chair: Cllr Frances 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 Ashling O Neill Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons Cllr Alan Tobin Cllr Tom Behan Cllr David Gilroy Cllr Yemi Adenuga</p>	<p>PPN/Community & Voluntary Sector (7)</p> <p>Meath County Council (2)</p>	<p>John Tobin (Later Life Network) Bernard Kenny (Core Navan) Ronnie Owens (North Meath Development Association) Conor O'Leary (Muintir na Tire) Bill Commerford (AGR) Salome Maher (Comhairle na nOg) Tinu Achioya (Cultur) Barry Lynch DOS Fiona Fallon SEO</p>

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



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

The JPC strategic plan provides a structured and integrated approach to achieving social, economic and environmental wellbeing of all those that work, live and visit Co. 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 Co. Meath JPC have been identified as the following and these are consistent with the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2020 and the Age Friendly Strategy 2017-2020 that have been adopted by the Council.

- Crime Prevention – to reduce the levels of crime in Co. 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 Co. Meath
- Road Safety – to reduce road accidents and fatalities



Meath Garda Crime Statistics 2015-2021

Category	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Property Crime	1520	2181	2,650	2,673	3,025	2,228	2,956
Burglary (not aggravated)	313	392	557	603	789	578	858
Robbery from establishment/Institution	3	12	14	14	21	14	24
Crime against the Person	506	575	643	570	512	472	505
Robbery from the Person	10	18	22	13	15	15	26
Theft from the Person	9	18	29	27	24	21	54
Theft from Vehicle	227	383	505	402	534	431	564
Theft/U/T of vehicle	124	155	192	172	150	137	222
Theft from Shop	564	594	634	708	641	461	508
Theft of other property	591	462	574	627	692	466	568
Road User Fatalities	13	7	7	7	9	12	8
Drug Possession	382	405	344	66	71	46	32
Drug for Supply	104	119	117	309	280	245	196



5. Reports from the JPC Sub Committees 2021

At the February 2016 JPC meeting the committee approved the 5-year Strategic Plan and agreed that an annual review of the plan should occur thereafter. It was also agreed to set up working groups to deliver on the objectives of the strategy. The following 3 sub- committees were set-up under each priority issue identified in the strategy and chaired by a Councillor of the JPC

- **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 – Chaired by Cllr Alan Lawes**

Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour Sub Committee

Chair: Cllr Alan Lawes

Members: Inspector Declan Power, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Aisling O Neill, Cllr Eddie Fennessy, Bernard Kenny, Tinu Achioya

The PO & ASB Sub Committee met 2 times over the course of 2021 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 ASB incidents reported to the County	PO &ASB/JPC
Monitor MCC's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, and preventative measures to be explored	Report received from MCC on the incidence of ASB in tenancy and the trend over the last 3 years.	PO &ASB/JPC
Work in partnership to divert children and young people from antisocial behaviour, including assessment of current Garda youth related services	-no School visits occurred post February 2021 due to Covid -19 Restrictions	PO &ASB/JPC
Work in partnership to ensure that young people engage positively with the justice system	D Power gave regular updates on the Youth Diversion Programme in Laytown and Navan.	PO &ASB/JPC



Community Safety and Crime Prevention Sub Committee

Chair: Cllr Gillian Toole

Members: Superintendent Martina Noonan, Sgt Dean Kearns, Cllr Francis Deane, Cllr Noel French, Conor O’Leary, John Tobin, Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Ronnie Owens

The CS & CP Sub Committee met 2 times over the course of 2021 and considered the following Actions under the Strategic Plan:

Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
Develop and adopt a CCTV Policy for Co Meath	CCTV Policy paper was adopted at the February Meeting of the JPC with first project being extension of the Navan Scheme to Johnstown.	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 3rd Age for Older Persons 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	Promotion of engagement between Comhairle na nÓg and Later Life Network unable to take place due to Covid-19 Restrictions in 2021.	CS &CP/JPC
Increase awareness and implementation of crime prevention measures	Programme of Crime Prevention advisory clinics by AGS suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions during 2021.	CS &CP/JPC
Initiate a series of preventative programmes enhancing older people’s safety	Komeer Text Alert Scheme examined by the Sub Committee with other options examined.	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 Padraig Fitzsimons, Bill Commerford, John Tobin.

The RS & IDB Sub Committee met 2 times over the course of 2021 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	Report on the incidence of crime taken at the March Meeting on: Control of Horses/Dogs Littering offences/Traffic violations from MCC /AGS	RS & IDB/JPC
Develop Estate Management Initiatives and supports to Tenant/Resident Associations	Meetings held with Reps from Maudlin Vale Res Assoc on ongoing ASB issues arising in their estate.	RS & IDB/JPC

6. Public Meeting 2021

Due to Covid -19 restrictions, the JPC Public Meeting was arranged over the zoom platform on 17th November 2021 with over 25 people in attendance. There were 10 No questions either submitted in advance or on the night on subjects such as:

- ❖ Policing levels in Enfield
- ❖ Visible policing (on the beat) needed in Kells to address increasing Anti Social Behaviour
- ❖ Increased threat to business in Navan from Youths in the town
- ❖ How to control the number of cars illegally parked in cycleways
- ❖ Vigilantism in Kells Town
- ❖ Procedure for applying for CCTV public coverage
- ❖ Is there a Sub Committee devoted to Road Safety Issues?
- ❖ Speed Limits in Housing estates
- ❖ Domestic Abuse incidents during Covid 19 Lockdowns
- ❖ Gender breakdown in Meath Division



7.County Meath JPC Work Plan 2022

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 SP 21-26 as adopted at December 2021 JPC	AGS/JPC
1.2	Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives.		JPC
1.3	Promote the awareness of reporting all incidents of crime.		JPC
2.1	Develop protocols in respect of Public Events between the Gardai and Meath County Council and HSE	As per Objective 2 in SP 21-26 as adopted at December 2021 JPC	AGS/JPC/HSE
2.2	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social activity in public open space areas.		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 SP 21-26 as adopted at December 2021 JPC	An Garda Síochána/JPC/Muintir na Tire
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.		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,	As per Objective 4 in SP 21-26 as adopted at December 2021 JPC	An Garda Síochána/MCC



	PSV/taxi, pedestrian/pedal cyclist. Participation in European Tispol- operations including alcohol/drugs, speed, seatbelt, truck/bus/commercial vehicle.		
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 SP 21-26 as adopted at December 2021 JPC	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 SP 21-26 as adopted at December 2021 JPC	An Garda Síochána/JPC/North East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF)
5.2	Engagement with the School Liaison Officer promoting internet safety among parents and teenagers.		An Garda Síochána/HSE/LMETB
6.1	Promotion of the JPC through Meath County Council's website www.meath.ie and the local media	As per Objective 6 in SP 21-26 as adopted at December 2021 JPC	MCC/JPC