

Annual Report 2021

Monaghan Joint Policing Committee



Presented for approval at Co Monaghan JPC meeting on 22 February 2022

Annual Report of Monaghan Joint Policing Committee for year: 2021

Overview

2021 was once again a difficult year in which to carry out the work of the JPC, as the Covid pandemic made coming together to meet difficult. However, we persevered, and by hiring a large theatre as a venue for our committee meetings, were able to achieve some semblance of normality whilst observing social distancing rules.

Naturally, the public meeting element of our workplan was again unachievable due to Covid restrictions. But overall, we were able to keep an active schedule of work and retain a high profile in the local press, for which we are grateful.

Projects

The JPC continued to run the following initiatives during 2021:

Property Marking:

As community groups were not able to organise local events due to covid restrictions, An Garda Síochána stepped up and made use of their new Community Policing Units to get out and about with the property marking machine, marking for businesses around the county. The JPC organised public events in each of the five towns during the summer months, with communities providing a suitable venue such as a car park, and the local authority arranging crowd control with barriers etc to ensure social distancing, whilst An Garda Síochána carried out the property marking.

  

An Garda Síochána
Carrickmacross Community Engagement Unit in association with
Carrickmacross Emmets Football Club

PROPERTY MARKING EVENT

Sunday 8th August 2021 from 12pm to 3pm at Carrickmacross Emmets
Football Grounds, Donaghmoynne Road, Carrickmacross.



Marking your property with your **EIRCODE** will ensure that if your property is stolen and located, we will be able to have your property returned to you.

Queries to Carrickmacross Community Engagement Unit: carrickmacross.community@garda.ie
or Contact Tracy or Fiona at Carrickmacross Garda Station on 042-9690190.

Social distancing will be in place. Please ensure you know your Eircode



Monaghan Community Alerts:

The county-wide community alert scheme now has over 4,800 users. The Gardai sent out 160 messages through the service, which is now in its third year.

The scheme continues to have success in combating rural crime. In one case, an alert put out via the app to keep a look out for a distinctive trailer not only caused the trailer to be abandoned on the roadside, but resulted in a subscriber identifying the trailer as being missing and phoning in its location to the gardai.

CCTV Steering Committee

The CCTV Committee is still awaiting the outcome of an application made in 2020 to the Garda Commissioner for a new CCTV scheme for Monaghan town. Work is progressing on a submission for a CCTV scheme for Carrickmacross. A public consultation event is planned for early 2022.

ITEM 1 – Summary of progress in implementing the JPC’s work programme

	Strategic Objectives	Summary of actions taken & progress achieved during the year, and any significant difficulties which were encountered	Summary of advice given by the JPC to local authority/Gardai, specific recommendations made	Results of advice given – feedback received from LA/ Gardai
	High priority objectives			
1	Policing Communities Co-ordinate community events into an overall Migrant Integration Strategy	Migrant Integration Officer now in place in Monaghan County Council. Community events were difficult to organise during 2021 due to Covid restrictions. However, some initiatives have taken place, including the establishment of a Monaghan Sanctuary Runners group, and the participation of the children of St Patrick’s Direct Provision Centre in National Play Day.	n/a	n/a
2	Crime Prevention Map the location of all defibrillators & support those who are trained in their use	Registration form co-designed with National Ambulance Service, and set up as a Laserfiche form on Monaghan County Council’s website. Initiative launched at the July meeting of the JPC. When complete in early 2022, Monaghan County Council will produce a map showing the location of all AED’s. The JPC will review to determine whether there are any areas which are inadequately covered. If there are, the JPC will work to improve coverage in those areas. It is intended also to start a county library of equipment based on the needs identified from the respondents to the survey. This will provide practical support to AED groups going forward.	n/a	n/a

3	<p>Crime Prevention Work towards eliminating violence and aggression in Monaghan society, particularly that related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse • Misuse of alcohol 	<p>The JPC highlighted the issue of domestic abuse during the month of December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monaghan Co Co arranged to illuminate its public buildings in orange, to support the global 'orange the world' campaign, during the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women. - Photos were taken of local figures from local support organisations which victims of domestic abuse were likely to encounter should they choose to reach out for help. The idea being to make it a little less daunting to ask for help, when you know the name and face of the person on the other end of the phone. - The local newspaper devoted a whole page to the photos and editorial - This was followed by giving the manager of Tearmann Domestic Abuse Services space on the agenda of the December meeting of the JPC so that she could speak about how domestic violence escalates around Christmas time, and how family and friends can help a person they suspect may be a victim of abuse. With all press present at the meeting, the information was picked up and carried widely on local media. 		
	Other Objectives			
	To use the high media profile of the JPC to raise public awareness of issues of high priority in the county	Local media attended the JPC meetings and gave prominent coverage to all issues covered for a number of weeks following the meetings		
	To be an effective voice	Adoption of Dept requirement that the JPC assumes responsibility for ensuring that LA16 fatal collision reports are returned to the Dept.		

ITEM 2 – Highlight 3 key achievements of the JPC during the year & explain why they are considered to be significant

Continuing to meet on a regular schedule was an achievement in and of itself during 2021!
Much of the significant action took place ‘off the pitch’ this year. For An Garda Siochana, it was a year of change, with the introduction of Community Policing Units and the Garda Divisional Protective Services Units. The Community Policing Units have been working closely with Council staff, particularly on facilitating the delivery of a service to vulnerable members of the public through the Community Call helpline. While this work was not directed through the JPC, the closer connections forged between Council and Gardai in the process of working together on the Community Call initiative will no doubt pay dividends for the JPC going forward.
The Garda Victim Services Office made a presentation to the JPC on their work during 2021. Already, the work of the Office is having an impact on the crime statistics for the county, with the number of crimes being reported increasing – showing an increasing confidence amongst victims of crime in the justice system and in how they will be treated as their complaint is pursued.
The JPC has been monitoring the level of diesel laundering in the county since its establishment. It welcomed the introduction of biological markers by Customs a few years ago, which saw a marked reduction in the number of incidents of diesel wash dumping in the county. However, 2021 has seen these incidents begin to rise again. It would appear that the fuel laundering industry has caught up with the technology and is now able to counteract the biomarkers. The JPC’s taking note of the increase in the levels of diesel wash and alerting Customs to the need to update their technology may save the Exchequer millions of Euro in lost revenue, as well as prevent a potential environmental catastrophe somewhere in Co. Monaghan.

ITEM 3 –Details of public meetings held during the year

No public meetings held in 2021 due to Covid 19 pandemic.

ITEM 4 – Record of members and meetings held during the year

Total number of meetings held:

4 Meetings: 23 March, 22 June, 5 October, 14 December
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Attendance of Members:

Name	Organisation	Number of meetings attended (4 meetings held in 2021)
Cllr Raymond Aughey	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Cathy Bennett	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Aidan Campbell	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Colm Carthy	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Aoife McCoey	Monaghan County Council	1

Cllr Richard Truell	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Sean Gilliland	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Noel Keelan	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr David Maxwell	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Hugh McElvaney	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Brian McKenna	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Pat Treanor	Monaghan County Council	4
Ms. Edel Fitzsimons	Community Rep	1
Mr. P.J. Harte	Community Rep	4
Mr. Michael Watters	Community Rep	0
Ms Linda Moore	Community Rep	4
Ms Siobhan McKenna	Community Rep	3
Mr Alan Johnston	Community Rep	3
Chief Supt. Aidan Glacken	Garda	3
*Chief Supt. Alan McGovern	Garda	1
Supt. Gareth Walsh	Garda	3
Insp Kenneth Coughlan	Garda	1
Supt. Pat O'Connell	Garda	4
Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D.	Oireachtas	0
Senator Robbie Gallagher	Oireachtas	0
Mr. Cathal Flynn, Director of Service	Monaghan County Council	4
Ms. Carol Lambe	Monaghan County Council	4

* Replaced Chief Supt Glacken in Q4 2021

In attendance at meetings as administrative support to the Committee:

Carmel Thornton	Monaghan County Council	2
Mary McGarvey	Monaghan County Council	4
* Liz Brannigan	Monaghan County Council	1

*Joined Corporate Services in November 2021