



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

MONAGHAN JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Presented for approval at Co Monaghan
JPC meeting on 28 February 2023

Message from the Chairperson of Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee

I welcome the publication of County Monaghan's Joint Policing Committee Annual Report for 2022. The report details the work of the Committee over the past 12 months and is an important means of communicating and highlighting the role and work of the Committee.

The overarching aim of the Joint Policing Committee is to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Monaghan County Council and the elected representatives and to facilitate the participation of the community and voluntary sectors in the committee.

As with previous years, the Joint Policing Committee continued to take a strategic approach to its work in addressing local issues collectively and strategically. JPC Sub Committee structures are in place to cater for the differing needs and focuses of the county.

County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee held four meetings during 2022. The first meeting was held in the Garage Theatre, Monaghan, to allow for social distancing, with the remaining 3 meetings being held in our Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Monaghan.

I would like to thank the members of our main Joint Policing Committee and the Sub Committees for their continued work and dedication during 2022 and also acknowledge the contribution of members who left the committee in 2022 and welcome new members who have joined in their place. Thanks also to the members of An Garda Síochána who attend our meetings.

I acknowledge the excellent level of participation by the elected and community representatives on the Committee and to all members of the committee for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC, also, I wish to thank the Gardai for their cooperation and openness with the committee and to Monaghan County Council staff for their administrative support.

We, as a committee, were deeply saddened by the untimely loss of fellow committee member, Marion Donnelly, in December 2022. We will keep Marion and her family in our thoughts and prayers.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to the local press who attend all our meetings and have been a powerful ally in getting our message out to the public; for this we are grateful.

Cllr Brian McKenna
Chairperson, County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee

Background and legislative framework

The County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee was first established in 2009. It is made up of representatives from Monaghan County Council (elected members and officials), members of the Oireachtas in the county, An Garda Síochána and the Community and Voluntary sector.

The functions of the Joint Policing Committees are set out in Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states: '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 authority's administrative area'.

The Annual Report for 2022 outlines how County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee carried out its function for this period in compliance with section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the revised Joint Policing Committee guidelines.

The JPC continued to run the following initiatives during 2022:

Property Marking

According to Property Marking Ireland, there are now 41 machines operating in 21 Local Authority areas.

Monaghan County Council purchased the first machine in the country and facilitated the start of the scheme for the country. An Garda Síochána, through their Community Policing Units, continued to carry out property marking events, marking for businesses around the county, throughout the year.

Community Alerts

The country's first county-wide text alert initiative grew to 4,900 subscribers during 2022. A review of the scheme carried out in the summer found that:

- 74% signed up to receive crime alerts affecting their area
- 26% signed up to groups where they could keep an eye out for alerts near a loved one
- Almost half of those who subscribed hoped to receive news from their local community through the service
- while almost 30% expected to receive information from Monaghan County Council and on crime prevention.

In response to this feedback, when the contract with the current service provider expired at the end of 2022, it was decided to bring the Garda text alert service together with the Council's text alert service, so that the public can receive alerts from the gardai, their local community and the Council all from one handy subscription. This new service will be launched at the first JPC meeting in 2023.

Changes in Membership in 2022

There were a number of changes to the membership of our JPC in 2022, namely:

Monaghan County Council: Carmel O'Hare, A/Director of Services, replaced Cathal Flynn, Director of Services

Community Representatives: Edel Fitzsimmons and Michael Watters were replaced by Edita Vaitkaitiene and Marion Donnelly in August 2022. Sadly, Marion Donnelly passed away in December 2022.

An Garda Síochána: Supt Ronan Carey replaced Supt Gareth Walsh.

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
	High priority objectives	
1	Policing Communities	<p>The following update was provided at the December Mtg:</p> <p>A joint presentation was given to the CCTV Advisory Group in Dublin on Friday 02 December, on the Monaghan Town CCTV application, consisting of the installation of 43 cameras at 17 different locations in the town. The Advisory Group will now make their recommendation to the Garda Commissioner and a decision will issue by end of January/beginning of February 2023. Following this, Monaghan County Council will hopefully be in a position to engage in a tendering process. Work is also progressing on CCTV schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.</p>
2	Crime Prevention	<p>Monaghan Community Alerts</p> <p>In autumn 2022 Komeer, the service provider which sent out the texts, notified the Council that it would be exiting the market, and so a new service provider was sought.</p> <p>From here on, Monaghan Community Alerts, the stand-alone service which issued Garda alerts, will be amalgamated with Monaghan County Council's Alerts, which provides alerts related to Council activity, such as road closures, flooding etc.</p> <p>The new service will be known as 'Monaghan Alerts'.</p> <p>We expect the Garda Alerts feature to be live in early February 2023. A promotional campaign will run at that time to inform the public of the move from Komeer and how to join the new service.</p>
3	<p>Crime Prevention</p> <p>Work towards eliminating violence and aggression in Monaghan society, particularly that related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse 	<p>The JPC highlighted the issue of domestic abuse during the month of December.</p> <p>The manager of Tearmann Domestic Abuse Services was allocated time on the agenda of the December meeting of the JPC to 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. Thanks to the presence of the local media, at the meeting, the information was picked up and carried widely in the local press in the weeks around Christmas.</p>

	Other Objectives	
	To use the high media profile of the JPC to raise public awareness of issues of high priority in the county	The main meeting of the JPC, which is well attended by the press, serves as a platform to give publicity to various issues which the JPC would like to get out into the public domain.
	To be an effective voice	Adhering to Dept requirement that the JPC assumes responsibility for ensuring that LA16 fatal collision reports are returned to the Dept.

3 key achievements of the JPC during 2022:

Largy College's Young Social Innovators 2021 class's RACE project

Largy College's Transition Year students visited the JPC to present their award-winning anti-racism work and ask the JPC to assist in keeping the work alive after the students move on. The JPC agreed to adopt the students' project, called RACE, and to work toward developing it into a toolkit which could be used to deliver anti-racism awareness workshops in schools throughout the county.

Community Safety Innovation Funding

On the back of the promise made to the Largy College students, Monaghan Joint Policing Committee made a funding application to the Dept of Justice's new Community Safety Innovation Fund and was delighted to receive funding of €65,000 to facilitate the roll out of RACE over a two-year period. The Largy students will remain involved in helping to develop the toolkit and its design in year one, while year two of the programme will focus on training peer educators in every secondary school so that they have the tools and confidence to go out and organise anti racism awareness activities in their schools and communities.

The funding will also cover the cost of holding a Community Safety Seminar which focuses on Women's Safety. This will be organised to coincide with the 11 Days of Activism Against Violence against Women, which takes place in December.

This is a very exciting opportunity for Monaghan County Council to be associated with two innovative events which have the potential to make a real impact on their respective target audiences.

The draft County Monaghan Road Safety Plan 2023 to 2024 was presented to the members in October 2022, by our Road Safety Officer, Mr Adrian O'Sullivan:

The plan is the first of three action plans covering the period 2023 to 2030. The purpose of the action plan is to co-ordinate a multi-agency road safety policy and implementation at county level. It aims to deliver at a local level the national road safety strategy objective of reducing deaths by 15% and serious injuries by 10% by 2024.

The actions which are based on the principles of the 'Safe System Approach' place an emphasis on the shared responsibility amongst those who design, build, manage and use the roads and vehicles to prevent or reduce collision impacts, and those who provide post-crash response to mitigate injury. For the plan to be successful a coordinated approach between Monaghan County Council, An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Road Safety Authority and other relevant stakeholders is required. By working together and with the support of the community and road users taking responsibility for their own behaviour, we can improve safety on our road.

Since the establishment of the County Monaghan JPC, it has been monitoring the level of diesel laundering in the county. While 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, the JPC raised concerns with Revenue & Customs, in 2022, as the number of incidents continued to rise.

In December 2022, representatives from Revenue attended the JPC Mtg to speak to the committee on the issue of diesel washing. The purpose of inviting Revenue to the meeting was to gain a fuller understanding of how Revenue is working to control the illegal fuel trade, and to explore any potential in the solutions which had been discussed to the issue at previous JPC meetings. As some of the information divulged during the discussion might be helpful to those carrying out diesel laundering activities, the JPC absolutely did not wish to aid criminality in any way, a very detailed and useful discussion was held 'in Committee' following the briefing from the Revenue Commissioners.

Details of public meetings held during the year

No public meetings were held in 2022 due to Covid situation

Record of members and meetings held during the year

4 Meetings: 22 February, 21 June, 10 October, 13 December

Attendance of Members:

Name	Organisation	Number of meetings attended (4 meetings held in 2022)
Cllr Raymond Aughey	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Cathy Bennett	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Aidan Campbell	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Colm Carthy	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Aoife McCooley	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Richard Truell	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Sean Gilliland	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Noel Keelan	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr David Maxwell	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Hugh McElvaney	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Brian McKenna	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Pat Treanor	Monaghan County Council	4
Ms. Edel Fitzsimons Replaced by Edita Vaitkaitiene (June 2022)	Community Rep	0 2
Mr. P.J. Harte	Community Rep	1
Mr. Michael Watters Replaced by Marion Donnelly (June 2022)	Community Rep	0 3
Ms Linda Moore	Community Rep	4
Ms Siobhan McKenna	Community Rep	3
Mr Alan Johnston	Community Rep	3
Chief Supt. Alan McGovern	An Garda Síochána	2
Supt. Ronan Carey	An Garda Síochána	4
Supt. Pat O'Connell	An Garda Síochána	4
Insp Kenneth Coughlan	An Garda Síochána	0
Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D.	Oireachtas	0
Senator Robbie Gallagher	Oireachtas	0
Matt Carthy, T.D.	Oireachtas	0
Mr. Cathal Flynn, Director of Service	Monaghan County Council	2
* Ms. Carmel O'Hare, A/Director of Service	Monaghan County Council	2
Ms. Carol Lambe	Monaghan County Council	4

*Joined the JPC in October 2022

In attendance at meetings as administrative support to the Committee:

Liz Brannigan	Monaghan County Council	4
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