

OFFALY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Adopted by the Offaly JPC - 27th February 2023

Mission Statement

“To foster safe and secure communities in the county.”

Strategic Goals:

- **Communications**
- **Community Policing & Rural Isolation**
- **Crime Prevention**
- **Road Safety**
- **Public Safety**

Core Values:

- **Work in genuine partnership to deliver for the people of Offaly**
- **Honesty & Integrity**
- **Public Interest**
- **Accountability**
- **Active participation**
- **Respect**

RECORD OF MEETINGS HELD IN 2019 AND LIST OF MEMBERS

1. 4 JPC meetings were held in 2019 on:
 - i. 25th February 2019
 - ii. 22nd July 2019
 - iii. 7th October 2019 (*Public Meeting*)
 - iv. 2nd December 2019

2. Name of Chairperson: Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick

3. A public meeting was held on 7th October 2019 in the St Bridget's Social Club, Garryhinch, Portarlinton, County Offaly.

Following the Local Elections held on 24th May 2019, the newly elected Council nominated 13 of the incoming members to serve on the Joint Policing Committee at its Annual Meeting held on 7th June 2019. At the first meeting of the JPC held on 22nd July 2019, Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick was elected as Chairperson of the Committee and Cllr. Declan Harvey was elected as Vice-Chairperson of the JPC.

In February 2019, CCTV legislation was amended to appoint local authorities as Data Controllers. Community CCTV Groups would be the owners and operators of the systems, and was to be overseen by a Federation of Group CCTV Owners. A data processor would be assigned by the Federation and would process data in agreement with the Data Controller – Offaly County Council. Only the Data Processor could access the footage and could also provide access to the Gardai. The community CCTV groups would be responsible for the day to day maintenance and operation of the system and Offaly County Council would monitor compliance and provide training.

4. Attendance Record 2019:

	ORGANISATION OF WHICH MEMBER	TITLE	No. OF JPC MEETINGS ATTENDED
<i># Noel Bourke</i>	Offaly County Council	Former Co. Councillor	0 of 1
John Carroll	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
John Clendennen	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
<i># Noel Cribbin</i>	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	1 of 1
<i># Neil Feighery,</i>	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	1 of 3
Eddie Fitzpatrick	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	4
<i># John Foley</i>	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	0 of 1
<i># Pippa Hackett,</i>	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2 of 2
<i>## Mark Hackett</i>	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	1 of 1
Declan Harvey	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
<i># Brendan Killeavy</i>	Offaly County Council	Former Co. Councillor	0 of 1
John Leahy	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
<i># Sean Maher</i>	Offaly County Council	Former Co. Councillor	1 of 1
Frank Moran	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	1
Tony McCormack	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	1
<i># Robert McDermott</i>	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3 of 3
<i># Sean O'Brien</i>	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2 of 3
Peter Ormond	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	0
<i># Ken Smollen</i>	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3 of 3
Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	1
Barry Cowen	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Carol Nolan	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Anna Marie Delaney	Offaly County Council	Chief Executive	4
Frank Heslin	Offaly County Council	Director of Services	4
Mary Flynn Kenny	Offaly County Council	Acting S.E.O. Corporate Services	4
John Scanlon	An Garda Síochaná	Chief Superintendent	1
Thomas Mullarkey	An Garda Síochaná	Superintendent	3
Pat O'Callaghan	An Garda Síochaná	Superintendent	1
Vincent Bermingham	Community Representative		2
Mary Delaney	Community Representative		1
Mary Margaret Martin	Community Representative		4
Jane Simms	Community Representative		2

Former Cllrs Noel Burke, Brendan Killeavy, Sean Maher, failed to be re-elected in the Local Elections. The Council did not nominate Cllr. Noel Cribbin, or Cllr John Foley to serve on the incoming JPC.

At its Annual Meeting held on 7th June 2019, the members nominated the following Elected Members to serve on the Joint Policing Committee; Cllrs , John Carroll, John Clendennen, Neil Feighery, Eddie Fitzpatrick, Pippa Hackett, Declan Harvey, John Leahy, Tony McCormack, Robert McDermott, Frank Moran, Sean O'Brien, Peter Ormond, and Ken Smollen

Following the appointment of Cllr Pippa Hackett to Seanad Eireann, Cllr Mark Hackett was co-opted to replace her on the Council and the JPC in December 2019

Inspector Kieran Keyes attended the July and December meetings of the JPC. Inspector Adrian Farrelly attended the October and December meetings of the JPC.

Ms Bridie Costello Hynes, PPN Resource Worker attended all the JPC meetings.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2015 – 2020

Progress Report considered at the JPC Meeting held on 24th February 2020

Objectives	By Whom	Time Frame
OBJECTIVE 1: COMMUNICATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt, publish and launch the Strategic Work Plan 	JPC / OCC	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a public Joint Policing Committee meeting 	JPC	Held in October 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote school education programme 	OCC / Garda Síochána	Community and Culture staff supports Comhairle na nÓg. The members of Comhairle na nÓg occasionally attend the Monthly County Council meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Communication Strategy to inform the general public and the community sector about the Joint Policing Committee e.g. newspapers, local radio campaign, PPN newsletter, and www.offaly.ie website 	Sub Group – Garda Síochána / PPN / OCC	Public meeting held in October 2019 was well attended by members of the public and widely reported in the local press. The JPC agreed in 2019 that quarterly meetings will be held in public and that the Press would be invited to attend these meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange appropriate training for the all JPC Members 	OCC / JPC	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure meeting's Agenda include a report from the Gardaí and Offaly County Council 	OCC / Garda Síochána	Reports from An Garda Síochána and Council were provided at each meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate JPC input to policy submissions as appropriate 	JPC / OCC	The Offaly JPC will forward submissions to the Policing Authority, and participate in national policy surveys, as appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise a Safer Communities Seminar 	Sub Group – Garda Síochána / PPN / OCC	An Garda Síochána and Council continue to work closely with local communities, through the PPN Forum

OBJECTIVE 2: COMMUNITY POLICING and RURAL ISOLATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the establishment of Community Alert Groups throughout the county 	Garda Síochána / PPN	On-going, quarterly Community Watch network meeting held in Áras an Chontae.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the co-ordination of Community Alert areas 	Garda Síochána / PPN / OCC	On-going through the work of the Community Watch network meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of Community Text Alerts 	JPC	On-going through the Community Watch Network. Currently in the region 73 groups in the scheme at present. Updates on the use, uptake and costs associated with Community Text Alert systems were reviewed in 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the retention of a Garda presence in rural areas 	JPC	Additional Gardaí appointed and assigned to the Laois/Offaly division in 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of Offaly County Council and Garda representatives in the Community Development structures and initiatives emanating from the SICAP and RAPID Programmes in disadvantaged areas. 	Garda Síochána / PPN	Participation in these initiatives continued during 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2015 	OCC in conjunction with JPC.	Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy adopted by Offaly County Council 18 th Jan. 2016.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine adopted Estate Management strategies and initiatives with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach between Offaly County Council, Garda Síochána and HSE 	OCC / Garda Síochána / HSE	Updated Estate Management Policy adopted by Offaly County Council on 17 th January 2017.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Estate Management Committees / Resident Associations 	OCC / Garda Síochána	The County Council and Municipal Districts, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, continue to support the work of Residents Associations and Management Committees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	OCC/ PPN / JPC	On-going liaison with Garda Community Policing unit, with Garda representatives attending the Comhairle AGM.

OBJECTIVE 3: CRIME PREVENTION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement measures to combat serious crime 	Garda Síochána	On-going. Anti-Drug unit established.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives 	All	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing CCTV systems in the County 	All	The new Department of Justice and Equality Community Based CCTV grant systems was examined by the JPC. Gardaí are liaising with community groups applying for the grant. In February 2019, CCTV legislation was amended to appoint local authorities as Data Controllers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any areas where additional street lighting is required. 	OCC / Garda Síochána	During 2019 Offaly County Council continued its programme of upgrading street lighting with LED units. Additional funding for street lighting provided for in the 2020 Council Budget.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of licensing, night time closing hours of entertainment and fast food outlets in the context of late night street disorder 	All	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active engagement of community policing with local community groups including briefing of PPN on Crime Prevention initiatives. 	Garda Síochána / OCC	The PPN network met regularly during 2019. The PPN provide an update at JPC meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement initiatives to address re-offending particularly young people. 	Garda Síochána	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with the Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (MRDAFT) 	JPC	The Council is represented on the MRDAFT.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide comprehensive support for victims of crime including victims of domestic and sexual violence. 	Garda Síochána	On-going

OBJECTIVE 4: ROAD SAFETY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Road Traffic legislation and enforcement 	Garda Síochána	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Safety Committee to make regular reports to J.P.C. 	Garda Síochána / OCC	Reports were made to the JPC during the year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure traffic management issues are reported in the local media etc. 	Garda Síochána / OCC	Notice of road closures and diversions are advertised in the local media and on the Council's social media portals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Road Safety Education and Awareness initiatives 	Garda Síochána / OCC	An Garda Síochána / OCC worked in close conjunction with the RSA to deliver Awareness initiatives in 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Road Safety Education programmes in schools and youth communities 	Garda Síochána / OCC	<p>An Garda Síochána / OCC worked in close conjunction with the RSA to deliver Awareness initiatives in 2019.</p> <p>Continued support to School Warden Programme.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a review of speed limits across the county with a particular emphasis on housing estates. 	OCC	Following a countywide review of speed limits the members adopted the revised speed limits and they came into effect on 19th January 2018. These reviews were ongoing during 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Working Group to examine the Public Lighting networks across the County in respect of Road Safety. 	All	<p>Working Group to be established and report back in Q2, 2020.</p> <p>Due to lack of resources this Working Group was not yet established.</p>

OBJECTIVE 5: PUBLIC SAFETY

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop protocols in respect of Public Events between the Gardaí and Offaly County Council	Garda Síochána / OCC	There is on-going liaison between An Garda Síochána and O.C.C. for major public events, including GAA fixtures, Tullamore Show etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine the Public Lighting Network with a view to improving public safety	OCC	During 2019 Offaly County Council continued its programme of upgrading street lighting with LED units.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop protocols for addressing anti-social activity in public open space areas and parks.	OCC	The Council and An Garda Síochána continue to work together to develop protocols to deal with this issues as they arise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of existing Offaly County Council Bye-Laws	OCC	On-going