

OFFALY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2020 AND 2021



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 2020 AND 2021 AND LIST OF MEMBERS

The Offaly Joint Policing Committee had proposed to hold 4 meetings, including a Public Meeting in 2020. However with the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020 it was not possible to adhere to this schedule. In accordance with the National Public Health Safety Measures introduced by the Government, the JPC agreed to suspend their meetings. By Quarter 3, 2020, with the relaxation of the Measures it was possible to hold these meetings again, with JPC members attending remotely or in-person in the Council Chamber in Áras an Chontae, with adequate social distance measures in place. It was agreed that there were unnecessary risks associated with holding a Public Meeting at this time, and it was agreed to defer this meeting until 2021.

At the outset of the Pandemic, the Offaly Community Response Forum was established to help the vulnerable members of society as the Government introduced a lock-down across the Country. Participants included Offaly County Council, the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Offaly Local Development, the Volunteer Centre, Local Link, Civil Defence, the Public Participation Network, Age Friendly Network and the GAA. The links to other organisations established through the JPC proved invaluable in this Forum.

In September 2020, the JPC established pilot Estate Management Interagency Group in Tullamore, to deal with issues of Anti-Social Behaviour. The Group comprised of Elected members from Tullamore Municipal District, Senior Gardai and Senior Officers of the Local Authority. Ms. Sharon Kennedy, Director of Services for Housing reports back to the JPC on the work of this Group, as required. This Group was expanded in 2021 to include Elected members from Birr and Edenderry MD's.

A further wave of Covid – 19 swept the country in late 2020 and continued into the early months of 2021. In accordance with the Public Health Safety Measures it was agreed not to hold in-person meetings. Following consideration by the Chairperson and the Director of Services it was agreed to reconvene the JPC meetings in May 2021 with all members attending remotely. Consideration was also given to the JPC Work Plan 2015 – 2020 and it was agreed to extend this Plan for a further 12 months until Q1:2022.

1. 2 JPC meetings were held in 2020 on:

- i. 24th February 2020
- ii. 4th September 2020

2. 3 JPC meetings were held in 2021 on:

- i. 31st May 2021
- ii. 4th October 2021
- iii. 6th December 2021

3. Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick continued in the role of Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee throughout this period.

4. Attendance Record 2020:

	ORGANISATION OF WHICH MEMBER	TITLE	No. OF JPC MEETINGS ATTENDED
John Carroll	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
John Clendennen	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Neil Feighery,	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	0
Eddie Fitzpatrick	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Mark Hackett	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Declan Harvey	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	1
John Leahy	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Frank Moran	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	0
Tony McCormack	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Robert McDermott	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	0
Sean O'Brien	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Peter Ormond	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Ken Smollen	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
<i>Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy*</i>	Former Oireachtas Member	T.D.	----
Pippa Hackett	Oireachtas Member	Senator	1 (Reps)
Barry Cowen	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Carol Nolan	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Brian Stanley *	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Cathal Berry *	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Charles Flanagan *	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Sean Fleming *	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Anna Marie Delaney	Offaly County Council	Chief Executive	2
<i>Frank Heslin **</i>	Offaly County Council	Director of Services	1 of 1
Ann Dillon **	Offaly County Council	Acting Director of Services	2
John Scanlon	An Garda Síochaná	Chief Superintendent	1
Thomas Mullarkey	An Garda Síochaná	Superintendent	1
Pat O'Callaghan	An Garda Síochaná	Superintendent	1
Vincent Bermingham	Community Representative		0
Mary Delaney	Community Representative		0
Mary Margaret Martin	Community Representative		2
Jane Simms	Community Representative		0

** Changes in the Dáil Constituencies in the 2016 General Election; saw Laois and Offaly become separate constituencies, with Offaly having three T.D's representing Offaly in the Oireachtas. Further changes in Dáil Constituencies, in the 2020 General Election, saw Laois and Offaly rejoined and the Laois based Oireachtas members, Brian Stanley, Charles Flanagan, and Sean Fleming were invited to attend the JPC meetings. Deputy Cathal Berry represented a portion of Offaly, in the environs of Portarlinton, that was transferred to Kildare South Constituency and he was also invited to attend the JPC meetings. Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy was not re-elected in the General Election held in February 2020.*

Senator Pippa Hackett continued to serve on Seanad Eireann.

*** Mr Frank Heslin, retired from Offaly County Council in March 2020 and Ms. Ann Dillon acting Director of Services replaced him on the JPC.*

Inspector Adrian Farrelly represented Superintendent Pat O'Callaghan at the February meeting of the JPC. Superintendent John Lawless represented Chief Superintendent Scanlon at the September meeting of the JPC and he was joined by Inspector Ollie Baker and Sergeant Graham Kavanagh, Crime Prevention Officer, Laois /Offaly Division at this meeting.

Ms Sharon Kennedy, Director of Services, attended the JPC meeting held in September 2020

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

5. Attendance Record 2021:

	ORGANISATION OF WHICH MEMBER	TITLE	No. OF JPC MEETINGS ATTENDED
John Carroll	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
John Clendennen	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Neil Feighery,	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Eddie Fitzpatrick	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Mark Hackett	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Declan Harvey	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
John Leahy	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Tony McCormack	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Robert McDermott	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Frank Moran	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	0
Sean O'Brien	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Peter Ormond	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Ken Smollen	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Pippa Hackett	Oireachtas Member	Senator	2 (Reps)
Barry Cowen	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Carol Nolan	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Brian Stanley	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Cathal Berry	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Charles Flanagan	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Sean Fleming	Oireachtas Member	T.D.	0
Anna Marie Delaney	Offaly County Council	Chief Executive	3
Mark Connolly *	Offaly County Council	Head of Finance /Director of Services	3
Ann Dillon **	Offaly County Council	S.E.O. Community and Culture	1 of 1
Evan Fennell **	Offaly County Council	S.E.O. Corporate Services	3
John Scanlon	An Garda Síochaná	Chief Superintendent	1
Thomas Mullarkey	An Garda Síochaná	Superintendent	0 of 3
Pat O'Callaghan	An Garda Síochaná	Superintendent	0 of 3
Mary Delaney ***	Community Representative		1 of 1
Fergus McDonnell ***	Community Representative		2 of 2
Liam Carty ***	Community Representative		1 of 2
Penny Rowe ***	Community Representative		2 of 2

** Mr. Mark Connolly Head of Finance / Director of Service was assigned responsibility for Corporate Services and was nominated by the Chief Executive to serve on the Joint Policing Committee.*

*** Mr. Evan Fennell replaced Ms. Ann Dillon as Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.*

Superintendent C. Furlong represented Superintendent Pat O'Callaghan at the May meeting of the JPC; he also represented Chief Superintendent Scanlon at the October meeting of the JPC. Superintendent Eamonn Curley represented Chief Superintendent Scanlon at the December meeting of the JPC. Inspector Ollie Baker represented Superintendent Thomas Mullarkey at the May and October meetings of the JPC. Inspector Alan Kerin attended the December meeting of the JPC.

Sergeant Graham Kavanagh, Crime Prevention Officer, Laois /Offaly Division attended each JPC meeting in 2021.

**** Following Elections for PPN nominees to the Joint Policing Committee Ms. Penny Rowe, Mr. Fergus McDonnell and Mr. Liam Carty were nominated to serve on the Committee from May 2021. Ms. Mary Delaney attended the May meeting as the election of her replacement had been delayed. Mr Vincent Bermingham and Ms. Jane Simms stepped down from their position on the Committee in advance of the May meeting.*

Ms. Mary Margaret (June) Martin unfortunately passed away in early 2021.

Ms Sharon Kennedy, Director of Services, attended the JPC meeting held in May 2021

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

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2015 – 2020

It was decided to extend the Work Plan 2015 – 2020 for a further 12 months until Q1:2022

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	No public meeting held in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid – 19 Pandemic.
<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	The JPC agreed in 2019 that quarterly meetings will be held in public and that the Press would be invited to attend these meetings. The JPC meetings are widely reported in the local press.
<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 meetings.
<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 There were ongoing reviews of Text Alert systems during 2020/2021.
<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 as resources allow.
<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 2020 The Gardai, PPN and County Council participated in the Community Response Forum established during the Covid 19 Pandemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2015 	OCC in conjunction with JPC.	Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020-2026 was adopted by Offaly County Council on 20 th September 2020. An Estate Management Interagency Group was established in September 2020.
<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 20 th September 2020 An Estate Management Interagency Group was established in September 2020.
<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.
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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. Four Community CCTV Schemes were considered and progressed during 2020 / 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any areas where additional street lighting is required. 	OCC / Garda Síochána	During 2020/2021 Offaly County Council continued its programme of upgrading street lighting with LED units. Additional funding for street lighting provided for in the Council Budgets for these years.
<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 2020/2021. 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 2020/2021.
<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 2020/2021.</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 2020/2021.
<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 2020/2021 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