

OFFALY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

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 2022 AND LIST OF MEMBERS

In accordance with a resolution adopted by the member of Offaly County Council, all meetings of the Council and its sub-committees continued during 2022 using a hybrid model, with some attendees having the option of attending a meeting in-person or remotely. The JPC held 4 meetings in 2022 using the hybrid model. No Public Meeting of the JPC was held in 2022.

The JPC extended an invitation to Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris to attend a meeting, which he accepted. He attended the first JPC meeting of 2022, held on 28th February 2022.

Ashling Murphy lost her life in a random attack in the afternoon of 12th January 2022, as she jogged along the Grand Canal Greenway, near Tullamore. The local communities in Tullamore, County Offaly and across Ireland were shocked and dismayed to hear of the murder. In responding to these events the Members adopted a Motion at the February meeting of the County Council which called on the Council to *“undertake a study of women and girl’s safety in the public realm in order to identify the factors that make women and girls and other genders at risk of gender based violence, feel safe and unsafe in public spaces in County Offaly”*. It was agreed that this study would be undertaken by JPC.

At its February meeting the JPC established a sub-Group to conduct this study. The sub-Group comprised of 2 members of the PPN, 2 representatives of an Garda Síochána, 2 elected Members and a senior official of Offaly County Council. The sub-Group ensured it was gender balanced. Following a number of meetings, the sub-Group agreed to conduct an online survey to gauge public opinion in relation to Safety in public spaces in Offaly, to run during July 2022. In June 2022, the Group arranged an Offaly Safety Day with further survey’s being conducted with members of the public. The sub-Group held further stakeholder consultation with representatives of the Offaly Domestic Violence Support Service (ODVSS), the Midlands LGBTQ+, Childrens and Young Peoples Service Committee (CYPSC), Offaly Traveller Movement (OTM) and Tullamore Rape Crisis Centre (TRCC) in October. A Report and Recommendations based on the sub-Groups findings was prepared and presented to the JPC at its meeting held in December.

1. 4 JPC meetings were held in 2022 on:

- i. 28th February 2022
- ii. 15th June 2022
- iii. 24th October 2022
- iv. 5th December 2022

2. Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick continued in the role of Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee throughout 2022.

3. Attendance Record 2022:

	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	4
Neil Feighery,	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Eddie Fitzpatrick	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	4
Mark Hackett	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Declan Harvey	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
John Leahy	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	2
Tony McCormack	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	1
Robert McDermott	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Frank Moran	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	1
Sean O'Brien	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Peter Ormond	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	4
Ken Smollen	Offaly County Council	Co. Councillor	3
Pippa Hackett	Oireachtas Member	Senator	3 (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
Evan Fennell	Offaly County Council	S.E.O. Corporate Services	4
John Scanlon	An Garda Síochaná	Chief Superintendent	1
Eamonn Curley	An Garda Síochaná	Superintendent	4
Dermot Lawlor	An Garda Síochaná	Inspector	2
Alan Kerin	An Garda Síochaná	Inspector	4
Ollie Baker	An Garda Síochaná	Inspector	2
Barry Collins	An Garda Síochaná	Inspector	1 of 1
Fergus McDonnell	Community Representative		4
Liam Carty	Community Representative		1
Penny Rowe	Community Representative		2
Seamus O'Rourke **	Community Representative		3

Changes in the Garda structure in late 2021 saw Superintendent Eamonn Curley, Inspector Alan Kerin, Inspector Dermot Lawlor, Inspector Ollie Baker, and Inspector Barry Collins invited to serve on the JPC. Inspector Kieran Keyes attended the February meeting of the JPC. Sergeant Graham Kavanagh, Crime Prevention Officer, Laois /Offaly Division attended 2 JPC meetings in 2022.

*** Following Elections for PPN nominees to the Joint Policing Committee Mr. Seamus O'Rourke was nominated to serve on the Committee from February 2022.*

Ms. Sharon Kennedy, Director of Service attended JPC meetings as appropriate, during 2022.

Mr. Brian Pey, Administrative Officer, Community and Culture and Ms Bridie Costello Hynes, PPN Resource Worker attended all the JPC meetings in 2022.

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 2022 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 2022.
<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 2022 The Gardai, PPN and County Council participate in the Community Response Forum, established during the Covid 19 Pandemic, this Forum now coordinates the community response to assist the people of Ukraine
<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.

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. Five Community CCTV Schemes were at the Pre-Planning (2 No) or Planning (3 No) stage in 2022. Two further CCTV Schemes, in housing estates in Tullamore, are being established.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any areas where additional street lighting is required. 	OCC / Garda Síochána	During 2022 Offaly County Council continued its programme of upgrading street lighting with LED units. Additional funding for street lighting provided for in the 2022 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 2022. 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 2022.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Road Safety Education programmes in schools and youth communities 	Garda Síochána / OCC	An Garda Síochána / OCC worked in close conjunction with the RSA to deliver Awareness initiatives in 2022. Continued support to School Warden Programme.
<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 2022.
<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	Working Group to be established and report back in Q2, 2020. Due to lack of resources this Working Group was not yet established.

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 2022 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