



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



## Roscommon Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

### Annual Report 2021




## Message from the Chairperson of Roscommon Joint Policing Committee

As Chairperson of Roscommon Joint Policing Committee (JPC) I welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2021. The report details the work of the committee in delivering on its work during 2021 and is an important means of communicating the role and work of the committee.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation, cooperation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Roscommon County Council, Community Representatives and Elected Local Representatives. During 2021, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

I want to record my appreciation to An Garda Síochána and acknowledge the excellent level of participation by the elected and community representatives on the Committee and to each member of the JPC for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank Roscommon County Council for the administration of the Committee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tom Crosby', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'Councillor Tom Crosby'.

Councillor Tom Crosby

Chairperson of Roscommon Joint Policing Committee

## Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report on the operation of the Roscommon Joint Policing Committee (JPC) for 2021. This report has been prepared in the context of the Joint Policing Committee Amended Guidelines 2014 jointly issued by the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government and in specific accordance with Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

## Background

Section 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area.

## Functions of a JPC

The functions of a JPC set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, state the following:

'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, and in particular to –

- (a) Keep under review –
  - i. The levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and
  - ii. The factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area.
- (b) Advise the Local Authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,
- (c) Arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area,
- (d) Establish, in consultation with the local Garda Superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and
- (e) Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora under paragraph (d) or otherwise'.

Section 37(1) also provides:

'A Local Authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility.'

**ITEM 1:**

**Progress made in implementing the JPC’s work programme for the year 2021**

**High Level Goal 1 of the 2016-2021 Roscommon Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP): Build and support vibrant local communities and a strong sense of place:**

The Joint Policing Committee support relevant initiatives undertaken by Town Teams ad liaised with the LCDC on key issues:

- Community Activities Fund launched in Q1 of 2022 to support groups in disadvantaged area
- Invite issued to Town Teams on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to advise them that a Community Guard is available to discuss topics that they may feel is beneficial to their group or town.
- A tender has been secured so that work on the Migrant Strategy can move ahead

**High Level Goal 7 of the 2016-2021 Roscommon Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP): Promote Social Inclusion by reducing poverty and alleviating disadvantage, ensuring that all individuals living in county Roscommon feel included, valued and respected.**

The JPC set out to develop three Age Friendly flagship initiatives across the county in 2021

- Age Friendly Care Packs as part of the Government’s Keep Well Campaign were delivered in March/April 2021.





Amanda Scanlon, Age Friendly Programme Manager, Roscommon County Council was delighted to present Sinead Kelly, Manager of Cloverhill Nursing Home with Acorn Age Friendly Tablets as part of the Government's Community Resilience Funding under the Keep Well Campaign.



- Age Friendly Acorn Tablet devices were delivered to Nursing Homes throughout the County in Feb/Mar 2021.
- A Walkability study was carried out on 2nd June 2021 on part of a loop of Roscommon Town in conjunction with the Older People's Network.
- Gardaí Roscommon and Castlerea Districts continue to be proactive in the area of drugs as drug related incidents are on the increase. Roadside drug testing is being carried out and more staff members have now been trained in this area.
- All victims of domestic incidents are receiving a call back from the investigating member within seven days and the details of the visit are being recorded on the PULSE system.
- A register of 'Vulnerable Persons' in Roscommon District has now been created and all persons on the register have been assessed in relation to their needs. This register was of great assistance during Covid-19 restrictions.
- A review of the CCTV System in Roscommon Town is currently underway as there was disruption to the system during the development work in the town centre.
- A number of High Visibility Mountain Bike patrols were performed in the rural villages and towns in the Roscommon and Castlerea Districts.
- The winners of the 2020 Annual Road Safety Poster Competition were presented with their prizes in November. This was the 10th year of the competition that is organised jointly by Roscommon Community Policing Unit and Roscommon County Council. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 there was no competition in 2021.

In June 2021 the Castlerea District Community Policing Unit focussed improving the quality of life for fifteen(15) elderly persons residing in the Castlerea District through the provision of €30 worth of phone credit which it was anticipate afforded them financial support to increase their contact with their family and friends. The concept and development of this initiative arose from the interagency links created on the Roscommon County Council Community Forum and will be brought to fruition by collaboration between An Garda Síochána and the ALONE organisation. Funding to the value of €450 worth of phone credit was secured from Vodafone Ireland, via ALONE, and distributed to residents of the Castlerea District. A number of photographs of our community members receiving their donated phone credit are included hereunder.



### **GARDA YOUTH AWARDS**

Last year Roscommon & Longford County Councils co-sponsored the Roscommon/Longford Garda Youth Awards. This initiative celebrates outstanding young people between the ages of 13 and 21 years who by their efforts and/or presence have made their schools/communities a better place to live in. There are four separate categories for nominations namely:

- Individual - Where a young person makes a positive contribution to their community, making it a better place to live. The winner of this category was Rebecca Osgood Daly, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon.
- Group - Where two or more persons make a positive contribution to their community, making it a better place to live. The winner of this category was - 'A Classic for Kids Cancer' - Andrew Jordan, Jack Beirne & Mark Rogers, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.)
- Special Achievement - Where a person has overcome difficult circumstances, defied all the odds and whose commitment deserves recognition. This Special Achievement was awarded to Kyle Casey, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon.
- Community Safety – where a person or persons, through a crime prevention or safety initiative/innovation, have made their community a safer place to live. (This Community Safety category was awarded to WYLD Youth Group, Longford.)



Inspector David Cryan, Roscommon Garda Station, Cllr Joe Murphy, Roscommon County Council, Rebecca Osgood Daly, Garda Angela Mullooly, Strokestown Garda Station.

The four category winners went on to represent the Roscommon/Longford Division at the National Awards where our representatives in the Group category won the National Award for 2021. These three young men from Strokestown –Jack Beirne, Mark Rogers and Andrew Jordan ‘A Classic for Kids Cancer’ after buying and restoring a 1956 Massey Ferguson 20 Tractor and raffling it in aid of Childhood Cancer Foundation Ireland. The fundraising effort raised over €64,000 for the charity.



Annual Garda Youth Awards

## **ITEM 2:**

### **Key achievements of the JPC during 2021 and why they are significant:**

- The Divisional Immigration Unit came into being on the 01/02/2021. This new unit is mobile and more proactive role in immigration matters such as stopping, searching, inspection of immigration documents and the execution of deportation and removal orders. The unit consists of one Garda Sergeant and three Gardaí.
- From “The Future of Policing in Ireland” - a government driven initiative - Mayo/Roscommon/Longford is a new division. The model overview has 4 functional areas: - Community Engagement, Crime, Performance Assurance and Business Services.

In May 2022 Roscommon & Castlerea Community Policing members conducted a dedicated outreach programme to engage with communities through conducting a series of dedicated high visibility beat/mountain-bike patrols in various towns and villages. The operation was to ensure that a high visibility mountain bike patrol was conducted in each area supplemented by other Community Policing members who simultaneously conducted a high visibility beat patrol and/or school visit or visits with elderly/vulnerable persons in that area.

This operation resulted in various members from the Roscommon & Castlerea District working collaboratively over specified dates to conduct outreach mountain bike, beat patrols and community engagements across the county. Consequently the villages of Arigna, Keadue, Knockvicar, Cootehall, Boyle, Croghan, Elphin, Ballinagare, Frenchpark, Cloonfad, Ballinlough, Castleplunkett, Ballintubber, Strokestown, Roosky, Tarmonbarry and Tulsk were visited in the Castlerea District. Also in the Roscommon District, the following villages were patrolled Dysart, Four Roads, Ballyforan, Castlecoote, Athleague, Lecarrow, Portrun and Mote Park.



Garda Owen Moore, Garda Martin Coyle and Garda Tania Duffy patrolling in Frenchpark.



## **Crime: Castlerea District - Crime prevention initiatives:**

### **Thefts from MPV**

There had been a decrease in the number of Thefts from MPV's reported in the Castlerea District over the last five years i.e. year (number of incidents reported) -2016 (40), 2017 (45), 2018(30), 2019(18) and 2020(18). However bearing cognisance to the various lockdowns experience since the Covid-19 pandemic and in particular for the Level 5 restriction periods from personal observations and anecdotal evidence more and more people are availing of the opportunity to exercise within the permitted 5 kilometres from their place of residence. As a result Gardaí in Castlerea District noted a significant increase in the number of people using local amenities to exercise including parks, woodlands, lakeshores, walking trails etc. Given the geographical location of such amenities outside of the towns/villages it often necessitated individuals driving their vehicle to the location where they are to exercise. As a result the increased number of vehicles been parked up, sometimes in remote locations and left unoccupied for extended periods provided more vehicles and greater opportunities for criminals to potentially commit or attempt to commit a theft from the vehicles in question.

In a proactive measure Castlerea Community Policing Unit conducted a crime prevention initiative in March providing relevant advices at the following locations throughout the District:

- The Demense, Castlerea
- Lake O Flynn, Ballinlough
- Castlerea Playground, Castlerea
- Errit Lake, Ballaghaderreen
- Secret Village, Ballaghaderreen
- Playground, Ballaghaderreen
- Roosky Village
- Tarmonbarry Marina
- Kilglass Lake
- Strokestown House, Strokestown
- Lough Key, Forest Park
- Celtic Chieftain & Doon Shore, Boyle
- Finn Lough/Bluebell Woods, Boyle/Knockvicar
- Knockranny Woods, Keadue
- Arigna Village & Mines
- Keadue Playground
- Cavetown Lake, Boyle
- Boyle Pleasure Grounds, Boyle
- Boyle Marina, Boyle

This was a successful crime prevention operation which was very well received by the residents of the various communities encountered over the course of the initiative. The attached pictures were taken at a number of locations and show members of the community getting involved in out crime prevention day of action against theft from MPV's and associated general advices in terms of vehicle safety.

## Boat Security

With the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated travel restrictions and inability to travel overseas for holiday periods, last year the number of people opting for staycation holidays was greater than ever seen before. Over the August Bank Holiday weekend the Community Unit conducted dedicated patrols at local amenity sites and the number of people who are choosing to take their break on the waterways using private boats or renting same from commercial enterprises was clearly evident. As the Shannon waterway flows through the Castlerea District there are a large number of marinas and piers where boats were moored either permanently or on a temporary basis. Some of these locations are isolated in areas and others while near to towns and villages required the inhabitants to leave the boat to avail of services, attend shops or participate in holiday activities. Bearing this in mind and with the increased purchasing of private boats and associate trailer equipment the potential for thefts from or of boats, boat engines or boating equipment significantly increased. In addition this cohort of new boat owners benefitted from security advises regarding their property as did the renting cohort in terms of general safety and security advice. The operation consisted of high visibility patrols both mobile and beat at relevant locations in order to garner information and provide advises and distribute a dedicated crime prevention leaflet at the mooring location receptions, speaking with boat owners/renters and through the various angling clubs in the District. Some of the locations visited included:

- Lake O'Flynn, Ballinlough Castlerea
- Errit Lake, Ballaghaderreen Ballaghaderreen
- Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle
- Doon Shore, N61 Boyle
- Cavetown Lake, Boyle Boyle
- Rooskey Village, Roosky
- Cootehall Marina, Cootehall
- Kilglass Lake, Roosky
- Kilmore, Strokestown



Castlerea Community Poling delivering Boat Security advises at Carnadoe Pier.

## **Property Marking Event in Strokestown**

A large property marking event was held in Strokestown on the evening of the 13.10.2021. This was supported by the members of the Roscommon District Community Policing Unit and invaluable assistance was provided to An Garda Síochána by members of the local community in notifying people of the event and in the co-ordination of the efforts on the evening in question. Several different types of property were marked using the property marking equipment including large items such as trailers, agricultural machinery, feeders, fencers and a range of tools and gardening equipment. Joe Murphy, Ceann Comhairle of Roscommon County Council provided valued support on the evening and the assistance of the County Council and their resources with this initiative once again was indicative of a successful collaboration between An Garda Síochána, Roscommon County Council and the local community in Strokestown. A number of events like this occurred throughout the county.

## **Operation Thor**

During the month of November and indeed following through the remainder of the duration of Operation Thor members of the community policing unit in Castlerea took a proactive approach to promote the crime prevention message in the communities conducting high visibility Thor patrols whilst out an about across the district. Community members have provided advices regarding the "Lock Up and Light Up" initiative in person and through contact with elderly/vulnerable persons by phone. Operation Thor is a multi-strand anti-crime initiative which was promoted through a range of actions including:

- Crime Prevention and Protecting Communities - Members promoted the "Lock Up Light Up campaign" within their communities especially through those visited as part of our elderly/vulnerable person's network. One positive feedback story which related to our visits to one particular elderly lady living alone in an isolated rural area in northwest Roscommon is that she has become somewhat of a crime ambassador for the area as owing from her link with the community policing unit other people living in that area are now in touch with her regarding issues that they are concerned about and they have also commented to her that they feels a greater sense of security in seeing the patrol car calling in and out to her as she lives on a secondary road which would not often be patrolled other than for members visiting her home.

In addition a community member participated by invitation in an online meeting with the Irish Heart Foundation Stroke and their members on Monday the 1st of November 2021 and advises were provided in terms of Older Persons advises on keeping safe and home security.

- Working in Partnership – Castlerea and Roscommon Community Policing Unit made direct contact with a representative of each community alert, text alert and neighbourhood watch schemes in the District on the basis of maintaining contact and interacting with external stakeholders to reassure them of the continued support of An Garda Síochána to all in the community and to seek any submissions that they may have in terms of the formation of the Policing Plan for the District for 2022. 3 Community alert meetings were held online with Boyle, Castlerea and Roscommon Community Alerts

- **Education & Awareness: Schools Visits:** In terms of education and awareness a number of school visits at both primary and secondary school level under the schools programme were undertaken and all community members trained
- **Social media:** The Light up Lock Up Campaign materials were forwarded to the respective social media networks including Real Boyle, Boyle Today, Castlerea.ie, Ballaghaderreen Facebook Page etc.
- **Significant upgrade** carried out to the CCTV system in Castlerea and CCTV Scheme at final stage in Ballaghaderreen.
- **Continued support** being offered to the elderly and vulnerable via the Message in a Bottle Campaign which encourages people to keep personal and medical details on a standard form in a common place so that it is easily accessed by the Emergency Services on entering your home in emergency situation.

# Message in a Bottle

## WHAT IS IT?

The Scheme is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - the fridge.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

In the event of a sudden accident or illness while at home, the first emergency service on the scene will be alerted to the bottle by the labels placed on the inside of your front door and the outside of the fridge door.

## WHO WILL BENEFIT?

- Paramedics
- An Garda Síochána
- Fire Fighters
- Older People
- People not in good health
- People living alone
- People with critical conditions/allergies
- People with disabilities



## WHERE DO I OBTAIN THE BOTTLE FROM?

- An Garda Síochána Roscommon
- Roscommon Lions Club
- Roscommon County Council

## WHO CAN HELP TO COMPLETE THE FORM?

Family, friends, carers, Social Services, and the voluntary sector can help you to complete the form.

*This Scheme is supported by:*



## Message in a Bottle – Roscommon & Castlerea Districts

The 'Message in a Bottle' project is an initiative whereby the individual records pertinent details regarding their emergency information, next of kin, key holders etc. and relevant medical information on a standardised template and this is placed in a bottle which is stored in the individuals fridge. There are three stickers that are placed on the inside of the front door, back door and in the door of the fridge which signals to the emergency services that the individual has participated in the initiative and that all relevant information has been recorded and is stored in the fridge for emergency personnel that may attend at the home. The project has been organised by Roscommon Joint Policing Committee, Roscommon Lions Club and An Garda Síochána in conjunction with Roscommon County Council's Age Friendly programme and Roscommon Older People Network. The "Message in a Bottle" initiative was the focus of a targeted operation in the county in Quarter 3 of 2021. The initiative was received very positively within the Roscommon and Castlerea Districts and efforts with regard to same have been undertaken by Community Policing members in their respective areas of responsibility. The initial focus of our campaign focussed on those whom individual members, based on their local knowledge and personal experience believe could benefit most from the initiative. Many of these people were called to individually by the members who spent time with them in completing the form and further reassuring those individuals that An Garda Síochána are here to help and support our communities and increase their quality of life within those communities. Roscommon and Castlerea Community Policing Unit, Roscommon County Council and the lions Club all distributed the Message in a Bottle packs to individuals and some community groups e.g. Ballintubber active age, Roscommon Branch of Irish Wheelchair Association etc. Garda Stations continue to have a stock of the Message in a Bottle capsules in the public office of the stations and members of the public can call into the stations to discuss the idea and collect a bottle if they so wish.



- LA16 Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure in place - used to collect data at collision sites where fatality is involved in order to make information readily available for making safety improvements.

**ITEM 3:**

**Public Meeting:**

There was no public meeting hosted in 2021.

**Record of meetings held in 2021 and list of members.**

Please enter the total number of JPC meetings held in the years 2021:

Meetings took place (via Microsoft Teams) on:

- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021
- 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Name of Chairperson: Councillor Tom Crosby:

NAME OF MEMBER	ORGANISATION OF WHICH MEMBER	NO. OF JPC MEETINGS ATTENDED
Cllr. Tom Crosby (Chairperson)	Roscommon County Council	4
Cllr. Orla Leyden <b>(No longer a member)</b>	Roscommon County Council	1
Cllr. Marty McDermott <b>(Replaced Cllr. Orla Leyden)</b>	Roscommon County Council	3
Cllr. John Naughten	Roscommon County Council	3
Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice	Roscommon County Council	3
Cllr. Liam Callaghan	Roscommon County Council	1
Cllr. John Cummins	Roscommon County Council	3
Cllr. Joe Murphy	Roscommon County Council	3
Cllr. Laurence Fallon	Roscommon County Council	4
Cllr. Anthony Waldron	Roscommon County Council	3
Cllr. Donal Kilduff	Roscommon County Council	2
Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher	Roscommon County Council	4
Cllr. Nigel Dineen	Roscommon County Council	0
Cllr. Tony Ward	Roscommon County Council	0
Senator Aisling Dolan	Seanad Éireann	4
Deputy Denis Naughton	Dáil Éireann	2
Mr Tim Dolan	Business Community	0
Mr Bernie Kearney	Muintir na Tíre	4
Luke Stephens	Comhairle na nOg	4
Caroline Haran	Cloonshanville Cemetery Committee (PPN)	3
Felicia Loughrey	Vita House Services (PPN)	3
Chief Superintendent Tony Healy <b>(Retired July 2021)</b>	An Garda Síochána	2
Chief Superintendent Raymond McMahon <b>(Replaced T. Healy)</b>	An Garda Síochána	2
Superintendent Fran Nicolson	An Garda Síochána	3
Superintendent Tom Colsh	An Garda Síochána	3
Inspector David Cryan	An Garda Síochána	4
Garda John O'Connor	An Garda Síochána	4
Detective Inspector John Costello	An Garda Síochána	2



Inspector Adrian Flynn (For Superintendent Tom Colsh)	An Garda Síochána	1
Sergeant Kenneth Duggan	An Garda Síochána	1
Assistant Principle Mary B. Gildea <b>(Invited by Chief Superintendent Tony Healy to meeting of 10/05/2021)</b>	An Garda Síochána	1
Mr Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive	Chief Executive, RCC	0
Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services	Director of Services, RCC	0
Pat Murtagh	Senior Executive Officer	1

