



Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Report for year ended 31st December, 2018



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Chair and Vice Chair.

Councillor Jim Ruttle is the Chair of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee since July, 2014 and Councillor Irene Winters is the vice-chair.

Operating Guidelines

Revised Guidelines for Joint Policing Committees issued by the Department of Justice and Equality, dated the 29th August, 2014 were circulated to the committee and the following requirements were noted:-

1. The committee will operate at County level, following the abolition of the 4 Town Councils
2. The preparation of a six year Strategic Work Plan
3. The preparation of annual work plans
4. The submission of an Annual Report (no later than 3 months after the end of each year).
5. The requirement to put in place a communications strategy

Establishment of the JPC Steering Group

The JPC steering group is established comprising, Councillor Jim Ruttle, Chair, Chief Superintendent John P. Quirke and Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer, Wicklow County Council (Chief Executive's nominee).

Wicklow County Council Joint Policing committee Six Year Strategic Plan 2016-2021

Wicklow County Council adopted the WCC Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategic plan, 2016 - 2021 at Council meeting held on the 3rd of October, 2016 which was formally launched at a public meeting held in Roundwood on the evening of the 2nd of November, 2016. The Plan was prepared to enable the Joint Policing Committee take a genuine strategic and collaborative approach to policing issues in County Wicklow and to strengthen the strategic alignment of JPCs with other relevant County Plans and structures.

The Four key themes identified within the Plan, following wide stakeholder consultation and which will continue to inform the key objectives for the JPC's annual work plan for 2018 are:

- (1) Policing Communities
- (2) Tackling Crime in Rural Areas;
- (3) Drug Prevention
- (4) Communications.

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Work Plan

The JPC Work Plan, 2018 is contained within the 6 Year Strategic Plan and set out hereunder within this report.

Working groups to advance the activities of the JPC

Four working groups have been set up to advance the activities of the JPC and roll out the agreed four key areas within the Plan. This structure was identified as a step to achieve successful implementation of the 6 year Strategic Plan. Each working group has appointed a Chair to oversee the work of the committee and is supported by An Garda Síochána, representatives from Wicklow County Council. Contributions from the community sector and local stakeholder agencies is key to the success of the groups in implementing and reporting on the annual work plans

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2016 - 2021

Strategic Priority 1: Policing Communities

OBJECTIVES	BY WHOM	TIMEFRAME
1. Establish Sub Committee to oversee JPC Objective: Policing Communities	CWJPC	Complete
2. Develop a strong community collaborative response and work collectively to improve quality of life and enhance community policing	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/WCC/HSE/PPN/Chambers of Commerce/Business Forums/Local Development Agencies/Community Groups/Local Clubs	Ongoing through the work of the Sub committee. Regular meetings/liaison between the Gardai and Tenant Liaison Officer, WCC in tackling anti social behaviour. Quarterly meetings at MD level.
3. Support the roll out of the 'Purple Flag' initiatives in our Towns to develop safe night time economies	CWJPC/WCC/CWETT/Chambers of Commerce/An Garda Siochana	Ongoing
4. Support the provision of CCTV for Wicklow and Arklow Towns	CWJPC/WCC/An Garda Siochana/Chambers of Commerce/Business forums	CCTV approved by the JPC for Arklow, July, 2017. Approved by the Department January 2018. CCTV System approved by the JPC for Blessington at meeting of the 3 rd of December 2018

5. Work collaboratively to support a safe environment for Older People	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/Older Persons Network/WCC	Ongoing collaboration with Wicklow Network for Older People. Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy.
<p>Older Persons National Convention at Druids Glen: The National Older Persons convention was held in the Druids Glen Hotel on the 8th and 9th of November, 2018. 5 delegates from each county were represented including the Chair of the Older Persons Council (OPC) the County Age Friendly programme manager and 3 members of the OPC. On the morning of the 8th there were information stands which included representation from An Garda Siochana. The event was extremely successful and hugely supported.</p>		
6. Work collaboratively to assist young people to engage positively with An Garda Siochana	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/An Comhairle Nog/WCC	Ongoing
7. Support the Annual Garda Youth Awards (inaugural presentation held in 2016)	An Garda Siochana/JPC	Ongoing: Wicklow Garda Youth Awards 2017 held on 9 th February, 2018 in the Arklow Bay Hotel. The Annual 2018 awards announced in December, 2018 for presentation on the 8 th of February 2019.
8. Support Estate Management Initiatives and supports to Tenant/Resident Associations	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/WCC	Ongoing: Garda Crime prevention Officer is collaborating with WCC
9. Support and participate in An Garda Siochana's Schools Education Programme to create awareness of and assist young people in dealing with issues such bullying, alcohol and substance abuse, personal safety, cyber bullying etc.	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana	Ongoing: Schools Programme being delivered throughout the County

Strategic Priority 2: Tackling Crime in Rural Areas		
OBJECTIVES	BY WHOM	TIMEFRAME
1. Establish the Sub Committee to oversee JPC Objective: Tackling Crime in Rural Areas	CW JPC	Complete
2. Develop an awareness raising campaign around the importance of self-vigilance on how to minimise risk of theft to one's own property and personal safety (<i>link in with Communications sub-committee</i>)	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/CWP/	Ongoing – Public Information days being conducted on a quarterly basis. Presentation made by Select DNA to sub committee and JPC in 2018
3. Develop a programme to address isolation and security fears among older/vulnerable people in both urban and rural areas e.g. ' <i>Operation Conversation</i> ' or a ' <i>Befriending Programme</i> '	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana	Ongoing – Work commenced on Older Persons Register. Age Champions appointed in An Garda Siochana
As part of the Rural Crime Initiative An Garda Siochana are piloting a new initiative with the IFA in Wicklow to reduce the fear of burglary and thefts from farms in isolated areas. A Garda contact person has been nominated in each Garda District for IFA members. The initiative was launched in Woodenbridge, Arklow, Co. Wicklow in February, 2019.		
4. Support the Tus Tourism Ambassadors Project throughout the County	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/CWP	Ongoing

5. Promote and encourage establishment of Community Text Alert Systems and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana	Ongoing and new schemes set up in 2018
6. Work with representatives from relevant agencies/organisations etc to address the issue of Dog Control in the Uplands	CWJPC/WCC/An Garda Siochana/Wicklow Uplands/ISPCA	Ongoing – IFA/National Game Council

Strategic Priority 3: Tackling Drugs – Supply Reduction

OBJECTIVES	BY WHOM	TIMEFRAME
1. Establish Sub Committee to oversee JPC Objective: Tackling Drugs – Supply Reduction (Expand objective to include Alcohol)	CWJPC	Complete
2. To highlight the issue of drug related intimidation from the lower level to the most serious with a view to devising appropriate and sustainable local responses to the issue.	CWJPC/ECDTF/SWRTATF	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bray Garda Drugs Unit established in October, 2018 • Garda Inspector appointed to liaise with families subjected to intimidation
3. Promote Garda Confidential Line, create awareness of the benefits of reporting incidences to the Gardai (<i>link in with Communications sub-committee</i>)	An Garda Siochana/CWJPC	Ongoing item discussed at JPC public meetings

Strategic Priority 4: Communication		
OBJECTIVES	BY WHOM	TIMEFRAME
1. Prepare, adopt, publish and Launch the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee 6 year Strategic Plan	Wicklow County Council/WCC JPC	Complete
2. Prepare and adopt the CWJPC Annual Report	Wicklow County Council/WCC JPC	Prepared annually
3. Establish Sub Committee to oversee JPC Communication Objective	WCC JPC	Ongoing
4. Develop a Communications Strategy to inform the general public and the community sector of the work of the JPC (see stakeholder recommendations)	Communications Sub Group of JPC	Quarter 2 2019
5. Develop an awareness raising campaign around the importance of self-vigilance on how to minimise risk of theft to one's own property and personal safety (<i>link in with Tackling Rural Crime sub-committee</i>)	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana/	Ongoing – Use of public media to get safety messages across. Regular item on East Coast Radio
6. Arrange and host two public meetings per annum at various locations in County Wicklow concerning matters affecting the policing of the County	CWJPC	Ongoing – Rathdrum 24 th October, 2018 and Arklow 18 th April, 2018

ITEM 1**Summary of progress in implementing the JPCs work programme**

- Ongoing meetings between the 5 Municipal District of County Wicklow and an Garda Siochan to discuss issues relevant to the Municipal Districts.
- Working group 1 Policing communities met on 4 occasions: areas considered;- Developing a strong collaborate response, roll out of CCTV systems to Greystones and Wicklow Town, providing a safe environment for older people.
- Representation of An Garda Siochan to ‘The Arklow Town Team)
- Community based CCTV tender process for Arklow complete
- Community based CCTV approved by the JPC for Blessington
- Plans underway to submit a CCTV system for Greystones (Public Consultation process commenced)
- Press releases issued to the Local Press following public meeting highlighting the work of the Joint Policing Committee
- Provision of community alert signs for Greystones
- Presentation by Selecta DNA to sub-committee: Tackling crime in rural areas

Advice given by the JPC to the local authority/Garda – identify specific recommendations made:**1. Overview of the Wicklow Division 2018 YTD figures (difference and % change) covering the following areas and presented by the Chief Superintendent John Quirke**

- Property Crime – Divisional Overview
- Robbery of an Establishment/Institution
- Robbery from a person
- Aggravated Burglary
- Burglary (not aggravated)
- Theft from a person
- Theft from Vehicle
- Theft of other property
- Theft/Unauthorised taking of vehicle
- Theft/Unauthorised taking of pedal cycle
- Theft from shop
- Crimes against the person – divisional overview
- Rape of a male or female
- Assault causing harm
- Minor assault
- Criminal damage
- Public order and other social code offences
- Possession of drugs for personal use
- Possession of drugs for sale or supply
- Cultivation or manufacture of drugs

- Traffic – Divisional overview
- Other issues.

Presentation delivered by Detective Chief Superintendent Patrick Clavin, Crime Assets Bureau (CAB)

- What is CAB and how it is working to recover the proceeds of crime based in the community
- CABs statutory objectives
- How CAB officers work as a team
- Resources – trained Garda as Asset Profilers
- How the community can assist to identify the assets which people accumulate from criminal conduct
- How CAB investigates
- Types of criminal conduct investigated by CAB
- Contact Details.

2. Presentation: An Garda Síochána Cyber Bullying

- What is cyber bullying
- Signs that may indicate cyber bullying
- Consequences of Cyber bullying
- Garda Schools Programme
- Garda Advice to Children
- Seeking Help and Support

ITEM 2. – Highlight three key achievements of the JPC during the year and give reasons why these are considered to be significant

1. CCTV for Blessington

In December, 2018, the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee approved the application for the provision of CCTV system for Blessington. The key objectives of the scheme are to enhance existing policing provision within the community, to assist in the prevention and reduction of local crime, disorder and anti-social activity and to increase community involvement in the provision of legitimate, integrated responses to prevent and reduce crime in local areas in association with appropriate areas.

2. Operation of four working groups to implement objectives of the 6 year plan

Working groups have been set up to implement the objectives of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing 6 year Plan under the 4 key areas identified:

- (1) Policing Communities
- (2) Tackling Crime in Rural Areas;
- (3) Drug Prevention
- (4) Communications.

These groups meet approximately 3/4 times a year. Each committee has a Chair and the administrative support is provided by an official of Wicklow County Council. The committee is supported by representatives from An Garda Siochana and comprise representatives from the elected members and community groups. The committees are open to contributions from local stakeholders outside of the JPC such as Muintir na Tire, The uplands Council and the Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

3. Holding of public meetings

The value of public meetings organised by the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committees cannot be underestimated. The holding of public meetings by the JPC in various locations throughout County Wicklow are seen as key to bringing the work of the committee closer to the community. A public meeting of the JPC was held in Arklow on the 18th of April, 2018 and in Rathdrum on the 24th of October, 2018. Both meetings were attended by members of the community and local stakeholder organisations. The Superintendent for the respective areas made a power point presentation on relevant matters and among the issues raised and discussed were: Illegal substances, instances of illegal dumping, incidents of attacks by roaming dogs, weekend cyclists and dangers presenting, alert alarms for older people living on their own, crimes in rural areas and speeding cars.

An Garda Siochana Youth Awards 2018

The Wicklow Garda Youth awards is now in its fourth year. This initiative recognises the great work being carried out by young people in many communities throughout County Wicklow and is something that An Garda Siochana wishes to acknowledge, recognise and reward through the Garda Youth Awards. The 2018 awards took place in the Park View Hotel in Newtown, Co. Wicklow on the 8th of March, 2019 and are sponsored by the Wicklow County Partnership and is identified in the 6 year Strategic Plan as a strategic priority objective.

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee congratulates An Garda Siochana for this fantastic initiative and looks forward to its continued success into the future.

Older Persons National Convention at Druids Glen: The National Older Persons convention was held in the Druids Glen Hotel on the 8th and 9th of November, 2018. 5 delegates from each county were represented including the Chair of the Older Persons Council (OPC) the County Age Friendly programme manager and 3 members of the OPC. On the morning of the 8th there were information stands which included representation from An Garda Siochana. The event was extremely successful and hugely supported.

ITEM 3 – Public meetings hosted by the JPC during the year

Arklow 18 th April, 2018	<p><u>Issues Raised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime committed by the youth • Drugs and crime – Drugs task force called for Arklow • Multi agency approach on the M11 – hold up of cars going to work • Detection rates of crime • Dog control • Anti social behaviour on Estates, both Private and Local Authority Estates. • Traffic issues on a stretch of road at Maghreamore, Wicklow
Rathdrum 24 th October, 2018	<p><u>Issues raised</u></p> <p>Mis use of drugs Request for drugs task force to be set up in Arklow Garda numbers Roadside ditches and overhanging trees Speeding cars Theft from oil tanks Traffic Call for CCTV for Rathdrum RAVE and Cider Parties Incidents of gorse fire Dog attacks on sheep Break-ins to cars at walking route car parks Break-ins to jeeps at marts</p>

ITEM 4 – Record of meetings held in 2018 and list of members: Total number of JPC meetings held in the year = 3 (additional to the 2 public meetings held)

Date of each meeting:-

5th February, 2018	2nd July 2018	3rd December 2018
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Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Membership

Name of Chairperson: Cllr. J. Ruttle.

Number of Members: 15 elected members, 7 community representatives, 5 members of the Oireachtas, 2 Gardai and 2 Wicklow County Council officials

	Name of Member	Organisation of Which member	Title	Meetings attended
1	Cllr Vincent Blake	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	3
2	Cllr. Gail Dunne	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	2
3	Cllr Tommy Annesley	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	1
4	Cllr. Tom Fortune	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	3
5	Cllr. Gerry Walsh	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	3
6	Cllr Irene Winters	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	2
7	Cllr. Shay Cullen	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	1
8	Councillor Steven Matthews	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	2
9	Councillor Mary Kavanagh (replaced by Cllr. B. Thornhill on 12 th March, 2018)	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	1
10	Cllr. James Ruttle (Chair)	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	2
11	Cllr. Gerry O Neill	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	2
12	Cllr. Mary McDonald	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	1
13	Cllr. Daire Nolan	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	3
14	Cllr. Joe Behan	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	3
15	Cllr. M. O Connor (Replaced by Cllr. Dermot O Brien on)	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	0 0
16	Deputy John Brady	Oireachtas Member	TD	0
17	Deputy Simon Harris, Minister for Health	Oireachtas Member	TD	0

18	Deputy Stephen Donnelly	Oireachtas Member	TD	0
19	Deputy Andrew Doyle	Oireachtas Member	TD	1
20	Deputy Pat Casey	Oireachtas Member	TD	0
21	Sean Malone	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	1
22	John Smith resigned February 2018 replaced by Godfrey O Byrne	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	0 1
23	Liz Ferris	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	3
24	Ann Halpin	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	1
25	Ann Lyons	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	0
26	Brendan Gilroy	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	1
27	Alice O Donnell	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	3
28	John P. Quirke	*An Garda Siochana	Chief Superintendent	3
29	Patrick Ward	An Garda Siochana	Superintendent	2
30	Frank Curran Chief Executive	Wicklow County Council	Chief Executive	3
31	Lorraine Gallagher	Wicklow County Council	Senior Executive Officer	3
32	Cllr Pat Vance Cathaoirleach – ex officio	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	2

* Also in attendance at JPC meetings are the Superintendents of the Baltinglass and Wicklow Districts and other relevant Garda Officers as the Chief Superintendent considers appropriate.

End.

Agreed at Wicklow County Council meeting held on Monday the 1st of April, 2019