



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

2018

**Westmeath Joint
Policing Committee
Annual Report**



Introduction:

Westmeath Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is a partnership between Westmeath County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Community. The membership comprises of senior Local Authority Officers, senior Garda Officers, Elected Representatives, Oireachtas Members and Representatives of Community & Voluntary groups.

The Westmeath Joint Policing Committee is intended to be a forum for discussion and a means of building confidence, trust and safety in the county. In doing this, the Westmeath JPC seeks to prioritise key community policing policy issues and identify initiatives which will contribute to improved community policing, prevention and reduction of future crime in County Westmeath.

Role of the Joint Policing Committee:

The Purpose of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC):

As set out in *Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005*, and the amendments to this Act In 2014, the main purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where the Local Authority and Garda, responsible for policing the area, consult with Oireachtas Members and community interests who can make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life of the community.

Strategic Approach:

In accordance with national JPC guidelines the focus of the JPC's work is "*strategic*" rather than "*operational*". The JPC is required to develop a six year Strategic Plan linked appropriately with the Local and Economic Community Plan for the area. County Westmeath JPC adopted its Strategic Work Plan 2015 – 2020 in April 2015. The plan sets out five strategic goals:

- 1) Inclusive Consultation
- 2) Community Policing
- 3) Crime prevention and victim support
- 4) Public Safety
- 5) Road Safety

A number of objectives and actions are linked to each goal.

Membership of JPC:

Each JPC is made up of:

- Chairperson – Local Authority Representative
 - Garda Officers nominated by the Commissioner
 - Local Authority Representatives
 - Members of the Oireachtas for the area.
 - Local Authority Officials
 - Community / Voluntary Sector Representatives
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Westmeath Joint Policing Committee Meetings held in 2018.

In 2018 the Westmeath Joint Policing Committee was chaired by Cllr Frank McDermott. The Westmeath Joint Policing Committee scheduled four Committee meetings in 2018. The 2018 JPC meetings were held on the following dates:

- **Monday, 15th January 2018**, @ 11am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.
- **Monday, 16th April 2018**, @ 11am in the Athlone Civic Offices, Athlone
- **Monday, 16th July 2018**, @10am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.
- **Monday, 15th October 2018**, @10am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar

Westmeath JPC hosted a **Public Meeting on Monday, 16th April 2018 at 1 o'clock following the JPC Committee Meeting** in Athlone Civic Offices, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. All meetings of Westmeath JPC are held in public, however this meeting invited submissions from the public and allowed members of the public to participate in the meeting which was very well attended.

Westmeath Joint Policing Committee Membership 2018:

Westmeath County Council Representatives	
Cllr Michael O'Brien	Elected Representative
Cllr Paddy Hill	Elected Representative
Cllr Emily Wallace	Elected Representative
Cllr Paul Hogan	Elected Representative
Cllr Bill Collentine	Elected Representative
Cllr Tom Farrell	Elected Representative
Cllr Andrew Duncan	Elected Representative
Cllr Frankie Keena	Elected Representative
Cllr Frank McDermott - Chair	Elected Representative
Cllr Sorca Clarke	Elected Representative
Cllr Ken Glynn	Elected Representative
Cllr John Shaw	Elected Representative
Cllr Aengus O'Rourke	Elected Representative
Westmeath County Council Officials	
Mr Pat Gallagher	Chief Executive
Mr Declan Leonard	Mullingar Municipal District Manager
Mr Pat Keating	Athlone Municipal District Manager
An Garda Síochána	
Peter Duff	Chief Superintendent
Alan Murray	Superintendent – Mullingar Division
Shane Cummins	Superintendent – Athlone Division

Community Representatives	
Pat Grimes	Dalton Park (RAPID), Mullingar
Des Sheridan	Mullingar District of Trade Councils
Sheena Lawless	Battery Heights (RAPID) Athlone
Kathleen Grennan	Rosemount Tidy Towns
Marie Reddin	Ashdale/Woodlands Grove Residents Association
Dave Raftis	Kinnegad Combined Community Employment Scheme Ltd

Oireachtas Members	
Deputy Peter Burke	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Robert Troy	Oireachtas Member
Senator Aidan Davitt	Oireachtas Member
Senator Gabrielle McFadden	Oireachtas Member
Senator Paul Daly	Oireachtas Member

Changes in Membership in 2018:

Chief Superintendent Kevin Gralton represented the Garda Commissioner on the Westmeath JPC up until October 2017. The newly appointed Chief Superintendent, Peter Duff, attended the January 2018 meeting and the subsequent JPC Meetings of the Westmeath JPC in 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr Ken Glynn and seconded by Cllr Tom Farrell, the JPC Members unanimously elected Councillor Paddy Hill as Chairman of the Westmeath JPC in July 2018.

Item No. 1:

Summary of Progress in implementing the JPC's Work Programme:

- The Chief Superintendent, Mr Peter Duff at each of the Westmeath JPC Meetings presented an overview of the key policing priorities for the Westmeath Divisions, including quarterly crime analysis, crime prevention, national and international security, community policing measures and organisational development and capacity improvement.
- **Road Safety:** The JPC received a presentation on Road Safety at our January 2018 JPC Meeting where Mr Colm Smith, Road Safety Officer for Westmeath County

Council presented the "Westmeath Road Safety Action Plan 2016-2020" to the Members.

- **Criminal Assets Bureau:** The JPC received a presentation by Chief Superintendent Patrick Clavin on the operation of the CAB.
- **PPN Report:** Following consultation with the JPC Members and the Community Representatives on the JPC it was agreed that a "PPN Report" would be listed as a standing JPC Agenda Item going forward.

Item No. 2:

Key achievements of the JPC during the year:

1. Regular engagement and communication with An Garda Síochána in Westmeath Division (encompassing Athlone and Mullingar Districts) regarding crime analysis, crime prevention and community policing in the County.

2. **Westmeath Public Participation Network -**

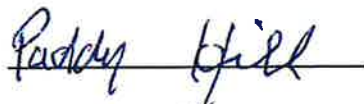
The Westmeath PPN Annual Report 2018 to the Westmeath Joint Policing Committee addressed the following eight actions which were highlighted and completed during 2018 with two ongoing actions for completion:

- **8 Completed Actions:**
 - Protocol for use of Mobile camera for littering being drafted by WCC
 - Hosting of Intimidation Training by MRDATF, WCC, WCD and RAPID.
 - Clean up of black spot area
 - Erection of 30km signs in all housing estates
 - Additional Community Garda
 - Annual clean ups in conjunction with LA by RAPID Areas
 - Youth Community established in LA estate by MRYS
 - WCC Tenants handbook circulated to all county council estate homes
- **2 Ongoing Actions**
 - National CCTV programme
 - Sale of drugs etc online

3. **JPC Public Meeting:**

Westmeath JPC held a public open meeting in Mullingar on the 16th April 2018 in the Athlone Civic Centre, Athlone, Co Westmeath.

Signed:



Cllr Paddy Hill, Chair of Westmeath JPC

