



**WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

**2019**

# 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

## Westmeath Joint Policing Committee Meetings held in 2019.

In 2019 the Westmeath Joint Policing Committee was chaired by Cllr Paddy Hill. The Westmeath Joint Policing Committee scheduled four Committee meetings in 2019. The 2019 JPC meetings were held on the following dates:

- **Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**, @ 11am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.
- **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**, @ 11am in the Athlone Civic Offices, Athlone
- **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019**, @10am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.
- **Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, @10am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar

Westmeath JPC hosted two **Public Meetings in 2019:**

Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 1 o'clock following the JPC Committee Meeting in Athlone Civic Offices, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 12 o'clock following the JPC Committee Meeting in Áras an Chontae, Mullingar, Co Westmeath

All meetings of Westmeath JPC are held in public, however the above two meetings invited submissions from the public and allowed members of the public to participate in the meeting which was well attended.

## **Westmeath Joint Policing Committee Membership 2019:**

<b>Westmeath County Council Representatives</b>	
Cllr Paddy Hill – Chair	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Michael O'Brien (January to May)	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Emily Wallace	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Paul Hogan (January to May)	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Bill Collentine	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Tom Farrell	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Andrew Duncan	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Frankie Keena	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Frank McDermott	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Sorca Clarke (January – May)	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr John Dolan	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Ken Glynn	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr John Shaw (January – May)	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Aengus O'Rourke (Jan – May)	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Liam McDaniel (appointed in May)	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Michael Dollard (appointed in May)	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Cllr Hazel Smyth (appointed in May)	<b>Elected Representative</b>

Cllr Denis Leonard (appointed in May)	Elected Representative
<b>Westmeath County Council Officials</b>	
Mr Pat Gallagher	Chief Executive
Mr Pat Keating	Mullingar Municipal District Manager
Ms Jacqueline Finney	Athlone Municipal District Manager
<b>An Garda Síochána</b>	
Mr Peter Duff (January – July)	Chief Superintendent
Mr Fergus Healy (October – present)	Chief Superintendent
Mr Alan Murray	Superintendent – Mullingar Division
Mr Shane Cummins (January – April)	Superintendent – Athlone Division
Mr Aidan Minnock (July – present)	Superintendent – Athlone Division

### Community Representatives

Mr Pat Grimes	Dalton Park (RAPID), Mullingar
Mr Des Sheridan (January – July)	Mullingar District of Trade Councils
Ms Sheena Lawless (January – July)	Battery Heights (RAPID) Athlone
Ms Kathleen Grennan	Rosemount Tidy Towns
Ms Marie Reddin	Ashdale/Woodlands Grove Residents Association
Mr Dave Raftis	Kinnegad Combined Community Employment Scheme Ltd
Mr Michael Mulvey (October – present)	Independent People with Disabilities
Ms Joyce Furlong (October – present)	Athlone Streetwise

### Oireachtas Members

Deputy Peter Burke	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Robert Troy	Oireachtas Member
Senator Aidan Davitt (Jan-July)	Oireachtas Member
Senator Gabrielle McFadden	Oireachtas Member
Senator Paul Daly	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Kevin Moran (Oct – present)	Oireachtas Member

## Changes in Membership in 2019:

Chief Superintendent Peter Duff represented the Garda Commissioner on the Westmeath JPC up until October 2019. The newly appointed Chief Superintendent, Fergus Healy, attended the October 2019 meeting and the subsequent JPC Meetings of the Westmeath JPC.

Following the Local Elections in May 2019, the following Members were appointed to the newly formed Westmeath Joint Policing Committee:

At the First Annual Meeting of Westmeath County Council, held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Hill declared the following Members to the County Westmeath Joint Policing Committee: Cllrs. McDaniel, Hill, Keena, Collentine, Dollard, Smyth, Glynn, Leonard, Dolan, McDermott, Duncan, Wallace and Farrell.

Mr Michael Mulvey of *Independent People with Disabilities* and Ms Joyce Furlong from *Athlone Streetwise* were nominated by the PPN to the Westmeath JPC.

Both Community Representatives, Mr Mulvey and Ms Furlong attended their first JPC Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

## **Item No. 1:**

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

- The Chief Superintendent, Peter Duff / Fergus Healy 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.
- **Crime Prevention:** The JPC received a presentation on *Crime Prevention* at our January 2019 JPC Meeting by Sergeant Paddy Guinan, Crime Prevention Officer, Westmeath Division.
- **Muintir na Tire:** The JPC received a presentation by Mr Conor O'Leary (Development Officer for Eastern Region) on *Community Alert*.
- **PPN Report:** At each of the Westmeath JPC Meetings Ms Annette Barr Jordan / Ms Brigid Geoghegan or a Community Representative presented the PPN Report to the JPC Members.

## **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. Commencement of Westmeath JPC Strategic Work Plan 2020-2025 preparations took place.
3. Westmeath Public Participation Network

During the month of September 2019 the Westmeath PPN sought submissions from its over 700-member groups. The PPN requested to have the following prioritised for action by Westmeath JPC in its workplan for the new term of the Committee:

- Road Safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Drugs and Drug Dealing.

**4. JPC Public Meeting:**

Westmeath JPC held two public open meetings in Athlone on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in the Athlone Civic Centre, Athlone, Co Westmeath and in Mullingar on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in Westmeath County Council, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.

Signed:

Paddy Hill 13-7-20

Cllr Paddy Hill, Chair of Westmeath JPC