

# JPC Annual Report 2021

County Wexford  
Joint Policing Committee

Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council



An Garda Síochána

# ANNUAL REPORT

## ON THE OPERATION OF THE WEXFORD JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

County Wexford  
Joint Policing Committee

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

As the chairperson of the County Wexford Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2021 Annual Report. The report details the main activities of the committee during another year in which normal public life was affected by ongoing restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation and co-operation on policing and crime issues between the Gardaí, the Local Authority, community representatives, relevant agencies and elected public representatives.

The JPC held four meetings during 2021, Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 Meetings were held online with a return to open meetings in September and December 2021 in line with public health guidance and advice. With an arranged public JPC meeting scheduled for November, unfortunately deferred due to COVID-19 restrictions, to be revisited in 2022.

I wish to record my appreciation to Chief Superintendents Ferry and Pettit and their Garda colleagues for their valued service. I also acknowledge the participation and input of the members of the JPC and their continuing support.

I would like to thank outgoing members of the committee for their participation and efforts over the past year, with Mr Jer O'Mahony and Mr. Declan McPartlin stepping down from the committee.

Finally, I wish to thank the Community Section of Wexford County Council for the ongoing facilitation and support of this valuable forum.

Councillor Michael Whelan

Chairperson of the County Wexford Joint  
Policing Committee.



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## **INTRODUCTION**

The following is a report on the work of the County Wexford Joint Policing Committee for 2021. The Joint Policing Committee (JPC) aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities, elected local representatives and relevant agencies. The committee facilitates the participation of the community/voluntary sectors in this regard through its membership profile.

The Annual Report 2021 sets out how Wexford Joint Policing Committee carried out its functions for this period in accordance with Section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the Joint Policing Committee guidelines.

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## **ROLE OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

The legislative framework for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act of 2005.

Section 36(2) provides that the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area. The act refers specifically to the following matters.

- Keep under review
  - a) The levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behavior (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs) &
  - b) The underlying factors that contribute to these issues.
  
- Advise the local authority and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions and do everything feasibly possible to improve the safety and quality of life, to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behavior.
  
- Arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authorities' administrative area.
  
- Establish in consultation with the local Garda Superintendent and specific neighborhoods, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the JPC.
  
- Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora.

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## KEY ITEMS - JPC DURING THE YEAR

1. Regular engagement and communication with An Garda Síochána in the Wexford Division regarding crime analysis, crime prevention and community policing in the County.
2. Upgrades to community CCTV systems in the towns of Wexford, Gorey, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Bunclody approved by JPC and to proceed to grant application stage in 2022.
3. Wexford County Council (Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places) Bye Laws 2020, as approved by JPC in 2020, proceeded through the public consultation process and were adopted by the Council on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, becoming effective from 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
4. Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit who replaced Denis Ferry as Chief Superintendent for County Wexford attended the September JPC meeting.
5. Interaction with the Municipal Districts: Municipal Districts continued to hold quarterly meetings with local Gardaí and to provide the JPC with a report of matters discussed, highlighting any issues where additional support may be needed.
6. Submissions invited from JPC members in respect of An Garda Síochána's Strategy Statement 2022-2024
7. Continued to address workloads from the JPC Annual Work Plan 2021 including set up of the Gorey/Kilmuckridge Policing Fora, FDYS Detached Youth Work / Pop up Youth Café and Community Text Alert Schemes.

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## PRESENTATIONS MADE TO JPC IN 2021

Presentations were made to the JPC during the year on the following subjects:

- Municipal District Reports & Chief Superintendent's Reports (Each meeting)
- Upgrades to community CCTV systems (Each meeting)
- Implementation of JPC Annual Work Plan (Each meeting)
- Community Preparedness Plan. Trial rollout in the Enniscorthy Municipal District. (March)
- FDYS Detached Youth Work / Pop up Youth Café (May)
- Garda Youth Awards (May & September)
- LA16 Fatal Collision Reporting Form Mechanism (September)
- JPC Annual Report 2020 (September)



*Joint Policing Committee took place on the 13th September 2021, on 'The Street' County Hall. This meeting was the first opportunity for the JPC members to meet in person throughout the Covid period. Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit presented the division report answering questions from the members present.*



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## CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

At each of the meetings, the Chief Superintendent presented a report to the members of Wexford JPC, setting out the detailed quarterly crime statistics for the Division items including

### Preventative Policing –

- Policing Demand
- Arrests and Searches
- Crime Patrolling and Checkpoints
- Review of Traffic Policing
- Public Order Offences
- Drugs Summary

### Operational Policing –

- Burglary
- Property Crime
- Theft
- Robbery
- Assaults
- Traffic Collisions
- Sexual Offences

Community Engagement – COVID 19. To approx. July 2021.

The Chief Superintendent highlighted many issues including key crime statistics, resources available to the Gardai, emerging trends and patterns of crime, public order, anti-social behavior and the misuse of alcohol and drugs.

Members of the JPC regularly highlighted areas of local concern and issues raised were dealt with by the Chief Superintendent.

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## **PROPOSED PUBLIC JPC MEETING**

A public JPC meeting was scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. It was intended that the discussion would focus on Strategic Goal 1 of the Wexford Joint Policing Committee 6-year Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021: *Crime Prevention & Community Safety - Development of community text alert throughout Co. Wexford.*

Members of the Muintir na Tíre voluntary community organisation had been invited to participate as part of a joint initiative with the JPC.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting was deferred. We hope to revisit this initiative in 2022.

## **APPENDIX 1**

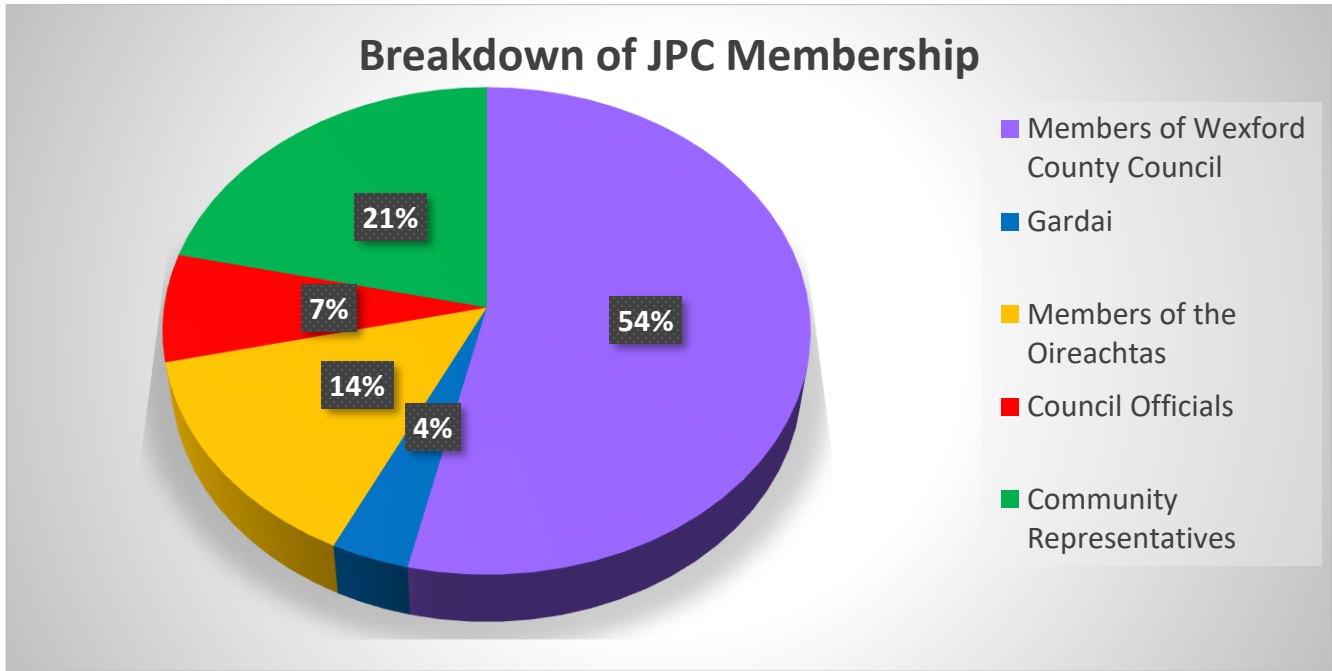
Meetings of the Joint Policing Committee were held on the following dates:

- 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Held virtually.
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Held virtually.
- 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Held in person with appropriate social distancing.
- 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Held in person with appropriate social distancing.

*The public JPC meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 was deferred as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.*

## APPENDIX 2 – JPC MEMBERSHIP 2021 (On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021)

Name	Organisation/Sector
Clr Michael Whelan, Chairman	Wexford County Council
Clr Pat Barden	Wexford County Council
Clr Pip Breen	Wexford County Council
Clr Aidan Browne	Wexford County Council
Clr Ger Carthy	Wexford County Council
Clr Jim Codd	Wexford County Council
Clr Mary Farrell	Wexford County Council
Clr John Hegarty	Wexford County Council
Clr Garry Laffan	Wexford County Council
Clr George Lawlor	Wexford County Council
Clr Bridin Murphy	Wexford County Council
Clr Barbara A Murphy	Wexford County Council
Clr Fionntan O'Suilleabhain	Wexford County Council
Clr Frank Staples	Wexford County Council
Clr Joe Sullivan	Wexford County Council
Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit	An Garda Síochána
Deputy Johnny Mythen TD	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Paul Kehoe TD	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Verona Murphy TD	Member of the Oireachtas
Senator Malcolm Byrne	Member of the Oireachtas
Mr. Tom Enright	Chief Executive, Wexford County Council
Ms. Carolyne Godkin	Director of services, Wexford County Council
Ms. Margaret Earle, IFA	Community & Voluntary Representative
Mr. Tommy Byrne FAB	Community & Voluntary Representative
Mr. Dan Kennedy PPN	Community & Voluntary Representative
Mr. Tony Clyne PPN	Community & Voluntary Representative
Ms. Margaret Quinn	Community & Voluntary Representative
Mr. Paul Walsh National Treasurer (victim rights alliance)	Community & Voluntary Representative



Administrative Support to the Joint Policing Committee was provided by:

- Mr. Paul L'Estrange, Chief Officer (to May meeting)
- Mr. Ger Mackey, Chief Officer (from September meeting)
- Mr. Claude Clancy, Administrative Officer.
- Ms. Anne Marie Laffan, Staff Officer.

### **APPENDIX 3 – STEERING GROUP 2021**

- Cllr Michael Whelan, Chairman of the JPC
- Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive, Wexford County Council
- Chief Superintendent Denis Ferry (to May meeting)
- Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit (from September meeting)
- Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of services, Wexford County Council

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## **APPENDIX 4 – CODE OF PRACTICE**

### **1 Joint Policing Committees – Code of Practice.**

#### **1.1**

Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) are intended to be a forum for discussion and a means of building confidence and trust, thereby bringing communities together through a process with which all participants feel comfortable. A JPC should engage with local community groups to the greatest degree possible. Such groups are an important resource in tackling the issues addressed by the JPC.

#### **2. Operation**

It is recognized that JPCs should be allowed to develop their own agendas and approaches, since one size does not fit all. Nevertheless, JPCs should have regard to the following principles and approaches in their operation:

#### **2.1**

A JPC should be strategic. It should not be a forum for addressing matters of detail. It should set priorities and be action oriented.

#### **2.2**

It should draw up an annual work programme, which would include realistic targets and indicators to measure implementation. The work programme should set out tasks for each stakeholder in the JPC.

#### **2.3**

It should not become a “talking shop”. Discussion of issues should be outcome focused and, in this context, should be of a constructive nature. An excessive amount of meeting time should not be spent on questions and speeches. An oral report or presentation and related questions should last for no longer than 15 minutes. (See paragraph 15.11 of the Guidelines).

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## 2.4

A JPC should aim at developing a cross sectoral strategy and building consensus. Meetings should focus on delivering a partnership approach and not on question and answer sessions directed particularly at any one set of participants. A JPC should not concentrate on presentations and crime statistics.

## 2.5

While the Garda and local authority partnership is central to the effective operation of the JPC, it is essential that there is a collective approach to assigning and accepting responsibility. JPC members should indicate what they will contribute to its work. All stakeholders have a role to play.

## 2.6

Possible issues a JPC could focus on are: illegal drugs; CCTV; public order; anti-social behavior; underage drinking; drinking in public places; consideration of drink licensing applications; vandalism; safer neighborhoods; estate management (including tenancy enforcement and public lighting); youth diversion; traffic management; planning of major events attracting large crowds, eg. fleadhanna; casual trading; litter; community-based crime prevention initiatives. Consideration of issues should be data and research based – it should not be emotion based.

## 2.7

JPCs should be pro-active in making constructive inputs in relation to District and Divisional policing plans and relevant local authority plans and initiatives. JPCs should also support local Garda management and local authority management in relation to any relevant consultation which may arise with respect to Garda or local authority plans.

## 2.8

A JPC should focus on outcomes. It should make recommendations, eg. suggest varying bye-laws or changes to policies and regulation, and set out the reasons for its recommendations.

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## 2.9

Each item on the agenda of a meeting should have an action outcome. Provision should be made at an early point on the agenda of each meeting for a review of the status of implementation of recommendations made at the previous or earlier meetings.

## 2.10

The following is a template for JPC agendas:

1. Minutes of previous meeting
2. Progress on implementation of JPC annual work plan and actions agreed at previous meetings
3. Reports by An Garda Síochána and local authority representatives, followed by questions on reports
4. Discussion on specific topics
5. Actions agreed
6. Date of next meeting
7. Any other business

## 2.11

Minutes of each meeting shall be submitted for confirmation as an accurate record at the next following ordinary meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting. Responsibility for preparing the minutes should be assigned to a specified person.

## 2.12

Following each JPC meeting, information should circulate to members, setting out the issues discussed; the actions to be taken and by whom; a target date for completion; and the date, time and place set for the following meeting (paragraph 15.6 of the Guidelines). This could be facilitated by circulating an updated version of the JPC work plan based on the template in Appendix 2.

## 2.13

JPC and local authority council meetings should not be held so close together

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that there is a risk of their agendas and consequent discussions becoming intertwined. When scheduling meetings of the JPC, regard should be had to scheduled meetings of other bodies in which members are involved.

## 2.14

While JPCs should have the flexibility to adapt to particular local circumstances (paragraph 1.7 of the Guidelines), it is desirable that they work as far as possible to similar standards.

## 3. Training

### 3.1

Training should be on a collective basis. It should give participants a thorough knowledge of the potential of the JPCs and the role and responsibilities of members, thereby enabling them to operate the JPCs to their full potential and in the spirit of partnership.

3.2 Training of chairpersons is particularly important, as they have a central role in the efficient and effective conduct of meetings. Training should be given inter alia in how to act effectively as facilitator of committees and smaller groups.

## 4. Joint Co-operation

JPCs are encouraged to bear in mind on an ongoing basis the provisions of section 13 of the Guidelines and, if they consider it appropriate to do so, cooperate and perform joint actions.

## 5. Communications

### 5.1

A communications strategy is an essential element of the work of JPCs, as indicated in the template in Appendix 2. This strategy must include communications with the public in relation to the work of the JPC and also



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communications with other local fora.

## 5.2

To raise awareness and support for the work of the JPC full use should be made of existing networks available to Garda and local authority members. Engagement with local community networks should also be maximised to increase the effectiveness of partnership approaches and to prevent duplication of efforts among the various local stakeholders.

## 5.3

This approach may include the production of a periodic JPC newsletter and JPCs should make full use of opportunities to publicise their work through local press and radio and through the use of on-line communications, including social networks.

## APPENDIX 5 – STRATEGIC SIX YEAR PLAN

### Wexford JPC Six Year Strategic Plan 2016-2021

	Strategic Objectives (Derived from the LECP and which the JPC considers that it can add significantly to achieve the objectives)	Summary of Strategy/Action to be pursued in relation to each Strategy/Action	Lead Agency/Key partners	Measurable outcomes
	<b>High Priority Objective</b>	<b>Strategy/Actions</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Crime Prevention &amp; Community Safety</b>	<p>Development of community text alert throughout Co.Wexford</p> <p>Public awareness meeting</p> <p>Multi-agency partnerships, planning and responses.</p> <p>Building Community Resilience</p>	<p>Gardaí</p> <p>Local Communities</p> <p>Text Alert</p> <p>PPN</p>	<p>Number of Community Text Alert Schemes in place. Reduction in crime</p>
	Sub Themes			
1.1	Rural Crime			
1.2	Community Gardaí			
1.3	Support for crime victims including those affected by domestic violence			
1.4	Community Resilience			
<b>2</b>	<b>Reduction in Anti- Social Behaviour</b>			
	Sub Themes			
2.1	Estate Management	Establishment of local policing fora in areas of concern	Gardaí	Reduction in anti-social behaviour in

	2.2	Youth engagement	Design of safe community space	Relevant local agencies	designated areas
	2.3	Community Engagement	Liaise with stakeholders such as the Vintners Association, managers of late night entertainment venues, late night food outlets, taxi drivers, security industry.	Local Communities	
	2.4	Restorative Justice Projects			
	2.5	Youth Diversion			
		<b>High Priority Objectives</b>	Putting in place comprehensive county wide consumption and misuse of alcohol byelaws.  Community Education Programme	Wexford County Council  Gardaí	Reduction in alcohol & drug related crimes
3.		<b>Misuse of alcohol &amp; drugs &amp; related crime</b>			
		<b>Sub Themes</b>			
	3.1	Community Agency Supports			
	3.2	Education programmes			