

# JPC Annual Report 2022

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 2022

County Wexford  
Joint Policing Committee

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

As Chairperson of the County Wexford Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2022 County Wexford Joint Policing Committee Annual Report. The Report details the work that the Committee have undertaken throughout the year and it is an important means of communicating the role and work of the Committee.

Throughout the past year, society has largely returned to normal following the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst this is a welcome development, it has brought with it challenges for An Garda Síochána. The JPC continued to play a valuable role in providing strategic linkages and strong channels of communication between An Garda Síochána, Wexford County Council and the wider community in meeting these challenges.

The JPC held four meetings during 2022. The Quarter 1, 2 and 3 meetings were held in person, with hybrid facilities available for those unable to attend in person. The Quarter 4 meeting in December was held jointly with County Wicklow JPC and was held in person only. As Chairperson I was proud to welcome members of the Wicklow JPC to county Wexford and I look forward to developing this partnership to reflect the recent changes to the Garda Operating framework for both counties.

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

Finally, I wish to thank the Community Section of Wexford County Council for the ongoing facilitation 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 2022. 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 2022 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. Presentation and discussion on Community Policing, Drugs mis-use and cybercrime.
3. Bi-annual reporting on the JPC LA16 mechanism, for reporting fatal road accidents.
4. Joint meeting with Wicklow JPC, during which the New Operating Model for the Wicklow/Wexford Garda division was discussed.
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. Continued to develop agreed strategic workloads from the JPC annual workplan including the Policing Fora, Youth Work Programmes and Community Alert Schemes.

## **PRESENTATIONS MADE TO JPC IN 2022**

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

- Municipal District Reports & Chief Superintendent's Reports (Each meeting)
- Implementation of JPC Annual Work Plan (Each meeting)
- Drugs mis-use by Cornmarket and Addiction Counselling (March)
- Crime Prevention (July)
- LA16 Fatal Collision Reporting Form Mechanism (March & July)
- JPC Annual Report 2021 (July)
- CCTV Update (October)

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- Community Policing (October)
  - New Garda Operating Model for the Wexford & Wicklow district (December)
  - Cybercrime (December)

## **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

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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## JOINT MEETING WITH WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JPC

A joint meeting was held between the Wexford and Wicklow JPCs at the Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.



*Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit presenting on the New Operating Model for the Wexford / Wicklow division at the joint meeting of Wexford and Wicklow JPCs*

During this meeting, the new Operating Model for An Garda Síochána, as it would be implemented in the Wexford/Wicklow Garda division was discussed. The new Operating Model has come about as a result of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland. It will see a greater number of Gardaí on frontline duty, with greater supports made available from national and regional resources, enhanced divisional policing, greater accountability and improved performance measuring.



In addition, a presentation on the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau took place at this meeting. Trends on phishing, ransomware and cyber security breaches, as well as measures from the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau to combat these trends, and practical steps that could be taken by end users to reduce their vulnerability, were discussed.

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## **APPENDIX 1**

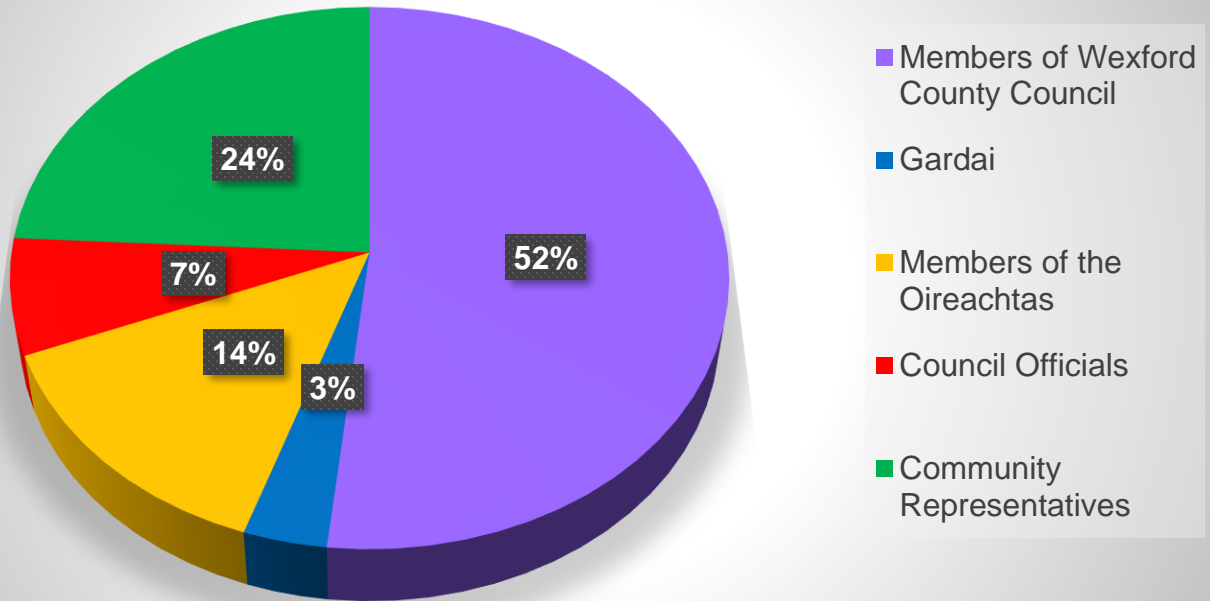
Meetings of the Joint Policing Committee were held on the following dates. Except where stated, all meetings were hybrid meetings, held in person, but with Microsoft Teams and Teleconferencing facilities for those not available to attend in person:

- 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Joint meeting with Wicklow JPC. In person only.

## APPENDIX 2 – JPC MEMBERSHIP 2022 (On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation/Sector</b>
Cllr Michael Whelan, Chairman	Wexford County Council
Cllr Pat Barden	Wexford County Council
Cllr Pip Breen	Wexford County Council
Cllr Aidan Browne	Wexford County Council
Cllr Ger Carthy	Wexford County Council
Cllr Jim Codd	Wexford County Council
Cllr Mary Farrell	Wexford County Council
Cllr John Hegarty	Wexford County Council
Cllr Garry Laffan	Wexford County Council
Cllr George Lawlor	Wexford County Council
Cllr Bridin Murphy	Wexford County Council
Cllr Barbara A Murphy	Wexford County Council
Cllr Fionntan O’Suilleabhain	Wexford County Council
Cllr Frank Staples	Wexford County Council
Cllr 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. Carolyn 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, Muintir na Tíre	Community & Voluntary Representative
Mr. Paul Walsh, Victim’s Rights Alliance	Community & Voluntary Representative
Mr. Paul Delaney, Cornmarket Project	Community & Voluntary Representative

## Breakdown of JPC Membership



Administrative Support to the Joint Policing Committee was provided by:

- Mr. Ger Mackey, Chief Officer, LCDC (up to the March meeting)
- Ms. Dymphna O'Connor, Chief Officer, LCDC (from the July meeting onwards)
- Mr. Claude Clancy, Administrative Officer
- Ms. Tara Farrell, Senior Staff Officer
- Mr. Ronan Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer

### APPENDIX 3 – STEERING GROUP 2022

- Cllr Michael Whelan, Chairman of the JPC
- Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive, Wexford County Council
- Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit
- 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.



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## 2.13

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

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## 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 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.

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## **APPENDIX 5 – REVISED JPC GUIDELINES (*September 2022*)**

[Policing Authority JPC Guidelines Final for Web.pdf \(policingauthority.ie\)](#)