



Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Report for year ended 31st December, 2017

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 takes 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

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
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
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. Assistance with organising National Seminar

		for November 2018
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
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	CWJPC/An Garda	Ongoing – Public Information

on how to minimise risk of theft to one's own property and personal safety (<i>link in with Communications sub-committee</i>)	Siochana/CWP/	days being conducted on a quarterly basis
3. Develop a programme to address isolation and security fears among older/vulnerable people in both urban and rural areas e.g. 'Operation Conversation' or a 'Befriending Programme'	CWJPC/An Garda Siochana	Ongoing – Work commenced on Older Persons Register. Age Champions appointed in An Garda Siochana
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 2017
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	CWJPC/ECDTF/SWRTATF	Ongoing – Garda Inspector

serious with a view to devising appropriate and sustainable local responses to the issue.		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 agenda at Public JPC 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	Done
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 4 2018
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 - Dunlavin, 9 th May 2017 Bray, 18 th October 2017
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ITEM 1

Summary of progress in implementing the JPCs work programme

	Strategic objectives	Summary of the actions taken and the progress achieved during the year and any significant difficulties which were encountered	Advice given by the JPC to the local authority/Garda – identify specific recommendations made.	Results of advice/recommendations Feedback received from the local authority/Gardai
1	Policing Communities	The committee met 3 times during 2017.	Items Discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a strong Collaborative Response • Purple Flag • CCTV for Arklow • Safe Environment for Older People • An Garda Siochana's Schools Education Programme • Youth Cafes • Annual Garda Youth Awards • Support of Estate Management Initiatives 	Work Plan 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Awards • Senior Citizen's Gathering • Encouraging collaboration between citizens, public and voluntary organisations.
2	Tackling Crime	Garda resources assigned by the	Actions agreed:	Progress to date:

	in Rural Areas	Chief Superintendent. Administrative support assigned by Wicklow County Council. Cllr. G. O Neill appointed as Chairman. Annual work plan agreed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To meet with Muintir na Tire to discuss text group sizing and neighbourhood watch scheme 2. To seek more information re. pendants 3. To engage with key stakeholders in WCC regarding animal controls and welfare (including dog controls) 4. To aim to work with Tus Tourism Ambassadors Project and to request information from them to see how we can work in partnership 5. Develop database of elderly persons 	Group working on an ongoing basis with Community Alert Development Officer, Muintir Na Tire to develop the actions agreed.
3	Prevention of Substance abuse	The committee met twice in 2017. Garda resources assigned by the Chief Superintendent. Administrative Resources assigned by Wicklow County Council.	Actions agreed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To invite SWRDTF (South West Regional Drugs Task Force, the ECRDTF (East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force and BLDTF (Bray Local Drugs Task Force) to present on the work and projects supported 	Progress to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from Co-ordinator of East Coast Regional Drugs Task force • Report from An Garda Siochana with regard to Drugs Crimes in County Wicklow presented
4	Communications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint presentation made to the Public Participation Network – 23rd October, 2017, by Wicklow County Council and An Garda Siochana on the work of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee 2. Press release issued following Public meeting October, 2017 		

Advice given by the JPC to the local authority/Garda – identify specific recommendations made:

1. Overview of the Wicklow Division 2017 YTD figures (difference and % change) covering the following areas.

- 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.

2. Presentation: Age Friendly Strategy, 2017 to 2022 : Theme Safety and Security

- Presented by Ms. Richella Wood, Community Cultural and Social Development Wicklow County Council and by Chief Superintendent John P. Quirke.
- An Garda Siochana Wicklow Division Older Persons Register Form highlighted

3. Presentations: Wicklow County Council and Bray Municipal District: Anti Social Behaviour and proposals for tenancy sustainment/support 2018 covering the following areas:-

- Working together within the community
- Liaising with Residents in Local Authority Estates
- Engagement with Community Gardai
- Engagement with older residents

- Housing Allocations
- Dealing with complaints
- Committees in place
- Anti social behaviour legislation
- Tenancy agreements
- Nature of complaints
- Application of the legislation
- Sharing of complaints
- Control of Horses

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 Arklow Town Team

In July, 2017 the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee approved the application from the Arklow Town Team for the provision of CCTV system. 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 to 4 times are 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 are comprise representatives from the elected members and community groups. The committees are open to contributions from local stake holders 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 Dunlavin on the 9th of May, 2017 and in Bray on the 18th of October, 2017, which were by members of the community and local stakeholder organisations. The

Superintendent for the Areas made a power point presentation on relevant matters and among the issues raised and discussed were: Illegal substances, Illegal Dumping, Attacks by roaming dogs, Weekend cyclists and dangers raised, Alert Alarms for Older People living on the own, crimes in rural areas and speeding cars.

An Garda Siochana Youth Awards 2017

The Wicklow Garda Youth Awards (now in their third year) were launched in October, 2017. 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 want to acknowledge, recognise and reward through the Garda Youth Awards. The 2017 presented in February, 2018 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.

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

Dunlavin 9 th May, 2017	<p><u>Issues Raised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uplands – cyclists issues • Crime in rural areas • Wild Deer in the uplands • Opposition to lamping regulation • Update on proposed garda station closures • Illegal notices on lamp-posts ‘cash for cars’
Bray 18 th October 2017	<p><u>Issues raised</u></p> <p>Garda visibility Dog fouling Halloween season Drug dealing Text alert system and its benefits Garda reserves – excellent resource Effects of crime – personal experience Combating anti social behaviour – Gardai, Local authority and community</p>

ITEM 4 – Record of meetings held in 2017 and list of members: Total number of JPC meetings held in the year = 3

Date of each meeting:-

9th January 2017	7th July 2017	4th December 2017
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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	2
5	Cllr. Gerry Walsh	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	3
6	Cllr Irene Winters	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	0
7	Cllr. Shay Cullen	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	3
8	Councillor Steven Matthews	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	3
9	Councillor Mary Kavanagh	Wicklow County Council	Elected member	3
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	2
13	Cllr. Daire Nolan	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	0
14	Cllr. Joe Behan	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	3
15	Cllr. M. O Connor	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	1
16	Deputy John Brady	Oireachtas Member	TD	2
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	1

21	Sean Malone	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	3
22	John Smith	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	2
23	Liz Ferris	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	1
24	Ann Halpin	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	0
25	Ann Lyons	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	1
26	Brendan Gilroy for Evelyn Cawley (July, 2017)	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	2
27	Alice O Donnell (September, 2017)	Public Participation Network	Community Representative	1
28	John P. Quirke	*An Garda Siochana	Chief Superintendent	3
29	Patrick Ward	An Garda Siochana	Superintendent	3
30	Frank Curran Chief Executive (Sept, 2017 (B Doyle Jan –Sept 17)	Wicklow County Council	Chief Executive	3
31	Lorraine Gallagher	Wicklow County Council	Senior Executive Officer	3
32	Cllr Edward Timmins, Cathaoirleach – ex officio	Wicklow County Council	Elected Member	0

* 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 14th May, 2018.