



Meath County

Joint Policing Committee

Annual Report 2023



Members of Meath Joint Policing Committee

Introduction

Section 35 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees (JPC). The Meath Joint Policing Committee was established in 2015 and new guidelines for Joint Policing Committees were issued by the Policing Authority in 2022.

Role of the Joint Policing Committee

The Purpose of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC):

Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 (the Act) provides for the establishment of a JPC in each Local Authority administrative area. The purpose of a JPC is to provide a forum where a Local Authority and Senior Gardaí, responsible for policing the area, along with Oireachtas Members and community interests can consult, discuss and 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. Meath JPC adopted its new Strategic Work Plan 2021– 2026 in February 2022.

Steering Committee

The Meath JPC Steering Committee consists of the chairperson of the JPC, a representative of An Garda Síochána and the Chief Executive of the local authority or a person nominated by him or her. The function of the steering group is to facilitate the efficient functioning of the JPC and in particular to ensure that it retains a clear focus on strategic and collaborative action. It will also arrange procedures for the appointment of any new or replacement members, draw up the agenda and arrange documentation for meetings, be the point of contact for co-operation and joint action with other JPCs and with any subcommittees of the JPC.

Membership of the Co Meath JPC Steering Committee is:

- Cllr Francis Deane, Chairperson
- Cllr Maria Murphy, Vice Chair
- John Dollard, Chief Superintendent
- Barry Lynch, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Cultural Development
- Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Section



Meath JPC Strategic Priorities

Following the adoption of the 6-year Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026 the JPC Members identified the following key strategic priorities.

1. Communication and promotion of greater awareness of the role of the Joint Policing Committee
2. Promotion of Safe Communities in Meath particularly in rural areas.
3. Crime Prevention
4. Road Safety
5. Public Safety
6. Protecting and engaging our Youth

The strategic priorities reflect the concerns of the JPC and the broader community and encompass the 6 key themes. The JPC over-see the implementation and delivery of the strategic objectives as outlined in the strategic plan. Under each objective, key actions have been identified and have been assigned to a lead agency and a number of objectives will be delivered in a collaborative partnership approach by a number of the stakeholders.

Meath Joint Policing Committee Meetings - 2023

Meetings were held in Navan & Bettystown with 4 meetings held as follows:

- 20th February 2023 Ardboyne Hotel, Navan
- 15th May 2023 Buvinda House, Navan
- 21st September 2023 Public Meeting held in the Village Hotel, Bettystown
- 11th December 2023 Ardboyne Hotel, Navan



Presentations

In addition to strategy development work, the JPC also received presentations on and considered other relevant policing matters, such as:

Presentation	Presented By	Meeting
County Crime Statistics: Levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Co Meath & New Garda Operating Model for Meath/Westmeath Garda Division	Chief Supt John Dollard	Feb/May/Sept & Dec 2023
Adoption of Annual Report	Fiona Fallon SEO	February 2023
Presentation of Fatal Collision Reporting	Inspector Peter Gilsean	Feb/May/Sep & Dec 2023
JPC Sub-committee reports to JPC	Angie Mitchell SSO	Feb/May & Dec 2023



Membership of County Meath Joint Policing Committee

Sector	Committee Member	Sector	Committee Member
*An Garda Siochana (2)	Chief Superintendent John Dollard Superintendent Martina Noonan	Oireachtas Members (all)	Minister Helen McEntee TD Minister Thomas Byrne TD Damien English TD Peadar Tobin TD Johnny Guirke TD Senator Shane Cassells Senator Sharon Keogan Senator Annie Hoey Darren O'Rourke TD
MCC Elected Members (15)	Chair: Cllr Francis Deane Vice Chair: Cllr Maria Murphy Cllr Gillian Toole Cllr Noel French Cllr Deirdre Geraghty Smith Cllr Alan Lawes Cllr Paul McCabe Cllr Trevor Golden Cllr Eddie Fennessy Cllr Helen Meyer Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons Cllr Alan Tobin	PPN/Community & Voluntary Sector (7)	Vacant (PPN/Comm Rep) Bernard Kenny (Core Ireland) Ronnie Owens (North Meath Development Association) Conor O'Leary (Muintir na Tire) Bill Commerford (AGR) Tinu Achioya (Cultúr) Barry Lynch DOS Fiona Fallon SEO



Sector	Committee Member	Sector	Committee Member
	<p>Cllr Tom Behan</p> <p>Cllr David Gilroy</p> <p>Cllr Yemi Adenuga</p>	<p>*Meath County Council (2)</p>	

**(The JPC members from An Garda Síochána and Meath County Council may be accompanied to meetings by other Garda officers and personnel as appropriate)*

Summary of progress in implementing the JPC’s work programme

The JPC strategic plan 2021 – 2026 provides a structured and integrated approach to achieving social, economic and environmental wellbeing of all those that work, live and visit county Meath.

In this strategy three strands inform the work of the JPC, namely educational/awareness work, prevention and enforcement. The strategy outlines general aims, so that the JPC can be flexible to adapt to changing priorities and good practice over the term of the Plan.

The priority issues for the County Meath JPC have been identified as the following and these are consistent with the current Local Economic and Community Plan and Age Friendly Strategies that have been adopted by the Council.

- Crime Prevention – to reduce the levels of crime in County Meath
- Community/Personal Safety– to increase people’s sense of security in their communities and ensure that they can undertake their daily activities in a safe manner
- Promoting Public Order – to reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour and public disorder in County Meath
- Road Safety – to reduce road accidents and fatalities



Garda Report & New Garda Síochána Operating Model

At each of the Joint Policing Committee meetings throughout 2023, the Chief Superintendent presented a report to the members of Meath JPC, setting out the detailed quarterly crime statistics for the Meath Divisions including:

- Burglary
- Property Crime
- Theft
- Robbery
- Assaults
- Traffic Collisions
- Sexual Offences
- Public Order Offences
- Drugs Summary
- Policing Demand
- Arrests & Searches
- Crime Patrolling and Checkpoints
- Review of Traffic Policing

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 behaviour 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 and his team of Superintendents.

At the December meeting, the Chief Superintendent gave a presentation to the JPC on the New Garda Síochána operating Mode in the Meath/Westmeath Division that became operational in November 2023. The new Operating Model came about as a result of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland. Under the new Meath/Westmeath Divisional Structure, the Divisional Headquarters is located in Athlumney House, Navan. There are a number of Functional Areas within the new Division: Community Engagement, Crime, Performance Assurance and Business Services. Each Functional Area is led by a Superintendent, with the exception of the Business Services Functional Area which is being led by an Assistant Principal.

The former Districts and District Headquarters have been replaced by Community Engagement Functional Areas.

Meath has 2 Community Engagement (CE) Functional Areas spanning the Division, namely:

- Meath North CE Area, Headquarters Navan, headed by Superintendent Martina Noonan
- Meath South CE Area, Headquarters Ashbourne, headed by Superintendent Yvonne Murphy

The remaining functional areas are:

- Performance Assurance
- Crime
- Business Services



An Garda Síochána is changing in order to provide a greater focus on community policing based on local needs consistent with the objective of “Keeping People Safe”.



Members of An Garda Síochána’s Meath/Westmeath Division Senior Management Team and representatives from the various Staff of the Functional Areas following the launch of the New Garda Síochána Operating Model in November 2023.

Reports from the JPC Sub Committees 2023

The Meath JPC agreed to set up working groups to deliver on the objectives of the Strategic Plan. The following 3 subcommittees were set-up under each priority issue identified in the strategy and chaired by a Councillor of the JPC:

- Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour – Chaired by Cllr Edward Fennessy
- Community Safety and Crime Prevention – Chaired by Cllr G Toole
- Road Safety and Improved Driver Behaviour – Chaired by Cllr D Gilroy

Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour Sub Committee

Chair: Cllr Edward Fennessy

Members: Inspector Michael O’Keeffe, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Alan Lawes, Cllr Helen Meyer, Bernard Kenny, Tinu Achioya

The PO & ASB Sub Committee met 3 times over the course of 2023 and considered the following Actions under the Strategic Plan:

Objective	Outcome	Sub Committee/JPC
Ensure that proper attention and seriousness is given to Anti-Social Behaviour.	Update received on ASB incidents reported to the County in 2023.	PO & ASB/JPC
Monitor MCC’s Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, and preventative measures to be explored.	Report received from MCC on the incidents of ASB in tenancy. Plan for consultation workshop with various Stakeholders to take place in April 2024 in relation to preventing and deterring ASB.	PO & ASB/JPC
Work in partnership to divert children and young people from antisocial behaviour, including assessment of current Garda youth related services.	School visits were carried out throughout 2023. 15,000 leaflets and 100 posters were delivered to all Meath secondary schools, 19 Youth Groups and 5 Youth reach groups in Meath warning youths of the negative effects of nitrous oxide. Successful initiative between Youth Work Ireland Meath and the Mens Shed Navan was carried out in 2023, supported by Meath County Council Housing Section. 50 young people took part in installing flower beds, grass cutting and general clean up in Council estate over the summer months.	PO & ASB/JPC
Work in partnership to ensure that young people engage positively with the justice system.	Juvenile Liaison Officers gave regular detailed updates on the Youth Diversion Programmes being carried out in County Meath.	PO & ASB/JPC
Develop Estate Management Initiatives and supports to Tenant/Resident Associations.	Residents Associations encouraged to join with local Text Alert Groups to increase coverage across the County in conjunction with Meath PPN. New Council tenants encourage by Tenant Liaison Team to participate in existing Residents Associations or to set up new Residents Associations for New estates.	RS & IDB/JPC

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Sub Committee

Chair: Cllr Gillian Toole

Members: Inspector Alan Roughneen, Cllr Francis Deane, Cllr Noel French, , Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Ronnie Owens, Conor O'Leary

The CS & CP Sub Committee met 3 times over the course of 2023 and considered the following Actions under the Strategic Plan:

Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
Develop and adopt a CCTV Policy for Co Meath.	Following receipt of Part VIII planning permission in 2022, the application for the extension of the Navan CCTV scheme to be submitted to the Garda Commissioner in early 2024.	CS &CP/JPC
Pursue the introduction of the Crime Ambassador programme in Co Meath.	Continued promotion of the Age Well Programme by 3 rd Age for Older Persons	CS &CP/JPC
Develop and support joint programmes/activities between older people and the younger population to encourage cross generational support and trust.	Engagement between Comhairle na nÓg took place in 2023 and work plan is in place. Engagement with Meath Older People's Council continued throughout 2023. Age Friendly Alliance I.T. initiative continued throughout 2023 between Transition Year Students and Older Person Groups. North East Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force and Youth Work Ireland Meath staff attended sub Committee meetings throughout 2023.	CS &CP/JPC
Increase awareness and implementation of crime prevention measures.	Programme of Crime Prevention advisory clinics by AGS took place in 2023. Property Marking carried out by AGS throughout 2023 and various members of AGS trained in the use of the Property marking machine throughout 2023. 47K followers on Meath Crime Prevention Facebook page with regular updates posted.	CS &CP/JPC



Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
Initiate a series of preventative programmes enhancing older people's safety.	Text Alert Schemes reestablished in 2023. Various Community Alert meetings by AGS took place in 2023. Throughout 2023 AGS gave various talks to older persons groups on personal safety and safety in the home.	CS & CP/JPC

Road Safety and Improved Driver Behaviour Sub Committee

Chair: Cllr David Gilroy

Members: Inspector Peter Gilsenan, Michael Finnegan Road Safety Officer, Cllr Alan Tobin, Cllr Trevor Golden, Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Tom Behan, Cllr Paul McCabe, Cllr Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Bill Commerford.

The RS & IDB Sub Committee met 3 times over the course of 2023 and considered the following Actions under the Strategic Plan:

Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
Work to improve the implementation of Road Traffic legislation and enforcement.	Foster and promote a positive road safety attitude across local communities – receive presentations on Control of Horses//Traffic violations from MCC /AGS. RSA Shuttlebus attended various schools and locations across Meath in 2023. Road Safety Signage Initiative rolled out in 2023 in association with Meath GAA with the erection of Road Safety Signage in various GAA grounds across the County. Road Safety promoted in 2023 within the Refugee Community.	RS & IDB/JPC
Work to improve Road Safety.	Meetings of the Road Safety Working Together Group took place in 2023, comprising members of An Garda Síochána Meath County Council, Health & Safety Authority, Road Safety Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Continued on-going consultation and review of parameters of speed zones with Transportation Department, Meath County	RS & IDB/JPC



	<p>Council continued in 2023. Review of collision prone zones in the County carried out on a quarterly basis with An Garda Síochána and Meath Road Policing Unit and Area Engineers from the Transportation Department of Meath County Council.</p>	
<p>Road Safety Education and Awareness.</p>	<p>Road Safety Education and Awareness initiatives in association with RSA, Meath County Council and Garda National Traffic Bureau carried out in 2023 and Road Safety Education Programme continue throughout 2023 with specific focus on primary schools, secondary schools and youth groups in the County. New Road Safety Strategy to be published by Meath County Council in early 2024.</p>	



Pictured at the launch of the Road Safety Signage initiative in September 2023, were John Kavanagh, Meath GAA County Board Chairman and members of the Meath JPC subcommittee on Road Safety & Improved Driver Behaviour.



Engagement with the Community - JPC Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on the 21st September 2023 in Village Hotel, Bettystown, Co Meath.

In advance, and in line with the guidelines, members of the public were invited to submit their views in the form of questions on general policing matters affecting the policing of County Meath. A total of 8 written questions were received in advance and a number of other questions were taken during the meeting, all of which were responded to by Chief Superintendent Dollard and his team and revolved around community policing, levels of crime, road traffic issues. The following items were discussed:

- Antisocial Behaviour in the East Meath Area including Scrambler Gangs and Antisocial Behaviour in Navan Town Centre including complaints and concerns from Navan Retailers
- The need for visible policing in East Meath and Navan Town to address increasing Antisocial Behaviour
- Garda Resources and
- Speeding and requests for traffic calming measures
- The enforcement of parking regulations and illegal parking and the reporting process
- The refurbishment of Laytown Garda Station
- Community Policing
- The Text Alert Scheme



Meath JPC Public Meeting at the Village Hotel, Bettystown, Co Meath – Thursday 21st September 2023



County Meath JPC Work Plan 2024

Obj. No	Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
1.1	Operation Thor – Disrupt the activities of highly mobile Organized Crime Gangs, targeting private houses and business premises for Burglaries.	As per Objective 1 in Strategic Plan 21-26	AGS/JPC
1.2	Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives.	As per Objective 1 in Strategic Plan 21-26	JPC
1.3	Promote the awareness of reporting all incidents of crime.	As per Objective 1 in Strategic Plan 21-26	JPC
2.1	Develop protocols in respect of Public Events between the Gardai and Meath County Council and HSE	As per Objective 2 in Strategic Plan 21-26	AGS/JPC/HSE
2.2	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social activity in public open space areas.	As per Objective 2 in Strategic Plan 21-26	AGS/MCC
3.1	Promote the availability of new technology to establish Community Text Alert Groups throughout the County, re-energise existing groups.	As per Objective 3 in Strategic Plan 21-26	As per Objective 3 in Strategic Plan 21-26
3.2	Promote awareness of the vulnerability of older people in the community particularly those living alone, ensuring that they are identified by local gardai who will engage with them providing reassurance.	As per Objective 3 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/JPC/Muintir na Tire



Obj. No	Objective	Description	Sub Committee/JPC
4.1	Implementation of Road Traffic legislation and enforcement, participation in National Roads Policing Operations to include various operations including school bus, seatbelt, motorcyclist, mobile phone, learner permit, PSV/taxi, pedestrian/pedal cyclist. Participation in European Tispol- operations including alcohol/drugs, speed, seatbelt, truck/bus/commercial vehicle.	As per Objective 4 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/MCC
4.2	Road Safety Working Together Group comprised of An Garda Síochána, Meath Co Council, HSA, RSA and TII to make annual reports to J.P.C.	As per Objective 4 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/MCC
5.1	Develop a programme in conjunction with Comhairle na nÓg, local schools and youth groups to assist young people in dealing with issues such as crimes against children, bullying (incl. Cyber bullying), alcohol and substance abuse with attention to ensure the specific needs in this area of young people from the identified groups for the Public Sector Duty are identified and addressed as part of this programme.	As per Objective 5 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/JPC/North East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF)
5.2	Engagement with the School Liaison Officer promoting internet safety among parents and teenagers.	As per Objective 5 in Strategic Plan 21-26	An Garda Síochána/HSE/LMETB
6.1	Promotion of the JPC through Meath County Council's website www.meath.ie and the local media	As per Objective 6 in Strategic Plan 21-26	MCC/JPC