



*County Meath
Joint Policing Committee*

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ANNUAL REPORT 2016



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Annual report of the County Meath Joint Policing Committee 2016

1. Summary of progress in implementing the JPC's work programme

The overall purpose of the Co Meath JPC is to work in partnership to make Meath a safer place to work, live and visit.

An Garda Síochána, Meath County Council and the community living in the County, have a shared responsibility for creating a safe and clean environment. The importance of personal safety as a key contributor to quality of life is recognised by the JPC.

The JPC strategic plan provides a structured and integrated approach to achieving social, economic and environmental wellbeing of all those that work, live and visit Co. 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 next six years.

The priority issues for the Co. Meath JPC have been identified as the following and these are consistent with the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 and the Age Friendly Strategy 2017-2020 that have been adopted by the Council.

- To Increase Perceptions and Experience of Community Safety
- To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups
- To Expand and Strengthen the Community Infrastructure

The Members of the JPC in 2016 were as follows:

Chairperson	Councillor Alan Tobin
Vice-Chairperson	Councillor Trevor Golden
Councillors	Gillian Toole Francis Deane Sharon Tolan Dr Claire O'Driscoll Eimear Ferguson Wayne Harding Caroline Lynch Joe Fox Ronan McKenna Sean Drew Maria Murphy David Gilroy Joe Reilly Padraig Fitzsimons
Gardaí	Fergus Healy, Chief Superintendent

	Michael Devine, Superintendent
Oireachtas Members	Damien English TD Regina Doherty TD Helen McEntee TD Thomas Byrne TD Shane Cassells TD Peadar Tobin TD
Community & Voluntary Representatives	Jim Matthews Carol O' Flaherty Bernard Kenny Tom Fitzpatrick Conor O'Leary Angela Murphy Jessica Bennett/Eboni Burke (shared)
Officials	Barry Lynch, Director of Services Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer
Co-ordinator	Eugene Farrelly

The position of the Chief Superintendant for Meath District was vacant for a period of time in 2016 with the Chief Superintendant for Wicklow covering this district in the interim. This position was filled on a permanent basis in the latter part of 2016. The committee welcomed the appointment of Chief Superintendant Fergus Healy to Meath and looked forward to working constructively together and addressing the actions contained in the six year strategy.

During 2016 the following committee meetings were held:

4th February 2016

21st April 2016

20th July 2016

6th September 2016

28th November 2016

A public meeting was held on the 4th October 2016

At the February 2016 meeting the committee approved the 6 year strategic plan and agreed that an annual review of the plan should occur thereafter.

It was agreed by the JPC to set up working groups to deliver on the objectives of the strategy. A key achievement in 2016 was the setting up of the following 3 subgroups under each priority issue identified in the strategy. Each group was chaired by a councillor of the JPC.

- Community Safety and Crime Prevention- Chaired by Cllr E Ferguson
- Road Safety and Improved Driver Behaviour- Chaired by Cllr A Tobin
- Public Order and Anti Social Behaviour-Chaired by Cllr M Murphy

The subgroups met on three occasions to progress the objectives under the 6 year plan:

Wednesday 25th May 2016

Wednesday 22nd June 2016

Wednesday 14th September 2016

The following actions have been achieved or are being progressed.

- **Develop a means to identify priority locations for targeted intervention based on evidence of need.**

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention subgroup invited An Garda Síochána Crime Prevention Officer to a meeting to discuss progress on the proposed CCTV system for Duleek and Donore area. A discussion of text alert/neighbourhood schemes in the county took place with a view to seeking more groups to get involved.

This links with an action in the Age Friendly strategy in which the An Garda Síochána Crime Prevention Officer is targeting rural areas such as marts, post offices and the newly formed Public Participation Network of community groups.

- **To support and coordinate the activities of Community/Text Alert groups within the County.**

Late 2016 the Duleek/Donore Community CCTV committee submitted an application to the commissioner for a proposed scheme in which the JPC approved this scheme. Similarly a text alert scheme was also set up in estates in north Navan in 2016.

An Garda Síochána, Crime Prevention Officer is working with the Older persons and also linking into the Age Friendly programme in developing a buddy programme whereby an older person will encourage another older person to sign up to a local text alert scheme or community group.

- **Develop and support joint programmes/activities between older people and the younger population to encourage cross generational support and trust including the extension of 'The Way We Were' programme.**

The members of the crime prevention and community safety subgroup are working with Comhairle na nÓg to develop ideas for intergenerational projects. This activity is also being

progressed by the Older Persons Forum and the young people's committee Comhairle na nÓg under the Age Friendly strategy. Projects are currently being discussed for 2017.

- **Increase awareness and implementation of crime prevention measures**

The crime prevention sub-group at a meeting were informed by An Garda Síochána, Crime Prevention Officer on awareness updates on crime prevention measures which included Community Safety Week, visiting post offices specifically in rural areas and working with rural communities through the IFA. The group were advised that Facebook updates is proving very popular.

- **Ensure that proper attention and seriousness is given to rural Anti Social Behaviour.**

An Garda Síochána are proactively working with communities to register to a text alert, community alert or neighbourhood watch scheme. Along with the Community Guard and Crime Prevention Officer who are available to communities, a new victims support service office opened in 2016 to support the public.

- **Revision of MCC's Anti Social Behaviour Policy, and preventative measures to be explored.**

This policy was reviewed and discussed with An Garda Síochána and adopted by the Council in June 2016.

- **Revision of existing Bye Laws in operation in the County and the examination of Bye Laws in operation elsewhere, including aspects pertaining to enforcement, with a view to assessing their effectiveness as a tool in counteracting public disorder and replication of good practice operating elsewhere where appropriate**

The subgroup on Anti Social Behaviour discussed how the parks and playground bye-laws could be rolled out county wide. However the administrative process and resource requirement is currently being assessed for the implementation.

- **Promote the Road Safety message, including awareness of the dangers, and address careless behaviour.**

The Road Safety and Improver Driver behaviour group looked at the road safety message in a number of areas such as the new speed limit bye-laws in housing estates, liaising with the Road Safety Officer and Gardaí on walking and cycling safety campaign on rural roads.

The Road Safety Officer with the Gardaí and the Road Safety Association continued to roll out safety and awareness presentations to groups and schools which has resulted in a reduction of fatalities throughout the year.

The cycle safety programme is co-ordinated by Meath Sports Partnership and rolled out with the support of the Road Safety Authority to promote safe cycling for primary school classes

in Meath. This programme provides safe cycle training for classes from 3rd through to 6th class and continues to be very popular.

The council commenced the roll out programme of speed limit signage installation in housing estates across the county in 2016 and will continue in 2017.

- **Support an environment where older people's sense of security is enhanced through befriending and other initiatives.**

An Garda Síochána will continue to work with Age Friendly Alliance members, Older Persons Forum/Laterlife network and groups on the Public Participative Network (PPN) in order to reach people in both urban and rural communities to roll out talks on personal home safety and security.

An Garda Síochána will also continue to promote information on safety and security using a multiple range of media to ensure that everyone will have an opportunity to hear up to date information.

A public meeting was held on the 4th October 2016 in Ashbourne.

The questions submitted prior to the meeting related to parking bye-laws in Ashbourne, management of the linear park scheme in Ashbourne and if the Community Alert scheme is still active in the town.

An Garda Síochána advised that they are seeking advice on the legislation that is currently in place and if this is sufficient to issue fines or if bye-laws are required.

The public in attendance were then invited to raise issues and the following were discussed:

- Victims of crime
- Selling alcohol to the under-aged
- Garda stations under resourced and some are not fit for purpose
- Setting up of text alert schemes
- Increase in Cyber crime
- CCTV for areas with urban crime
- Increase frequency of the Traffic Speed monitoring vans in county to deter speeding
- Removal of driver licence for mobile use crime
- Increase in the possession of drugs.
- School in Duleek up for an RSA award for developing phone pouches for parents.
- Are garda reserves a good thing or liability.

The committee and sub-groups will continue to meet and progress the actions in the strategy plan in 2017.

END

