

***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***  
***County Meath Joint Policing Committee***

***9th December 19, Restaurant , Buvinda House***

**In Attendance:**

**Chairperson:** Cllr Francis Deane

**County Council Members:** Maria Murphy, Gillian Toole, Noel French, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Trevor Golden, Eddie Fennessy, Darren O'Rourke, David Gilroy, Alan Tobin, D Geraghty-Smith.

**Oireachtas Members:** Thomas Byrne TD, Peadar Tobin TD, John Dollard for Regina Doherty, Shane Cassells TD, Alison Finnegan for Min Helen McEntee, Minister Damien English

**An Garda Síochána:** Commissioner Drew Harris, Chief Super Dermot Mann, Chief Superintendent Fergus Healey, Superintendent Sean Farrell

**County Council Officials:** Jackie Maguire Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Eugene Farrelly

**Community & Voluntary Sector:** Ronnie Owens, Conor O'Leary, Tinu Achioya, Bernard Kenny, Jim Matthews, Bill Commerford,

**Councillors:** Sean Drew, Emer Tobin ,G O,Connor, W Harding, S Tolan, S Keogan, S Reilly, S Bray, D O Reilly, S McKee, T Behan, N Souhan, J Fox, P Meade, A Smith, D McCabe

**Apologies/Absent:** Yemi Adenuga, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Salome Maher-Bordello,

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b><u>Welcome by Chair of the JPC</u></b></p> <p>Chair Francis Deane welcomed Commissiones Harris, Chief Super Mann,Chief Super Healey and warmly thanked the Commissioner in accepting the invitation from Meath JPC to address the assembled JPC and members of the full Council who also wished to hear more details about the Policing Plan for Meath Westmeath Division. He informed the meeting that the format of the meeting would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Update on crime stats from Chief Super Healy</li><li>• Discussion of local matters raised in advance of the meeting</li><li>• Presentation from the Commissioners Office</li><li>• Questions and answers with Comissioner Harris.</li></ul>

2 Date for next Meeting : Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 2.30PM

3 Update on Crime Statistics from Chief Super Healy

**Meath Division Crime Statistics at 9th December 2019**

Crime category	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	Diff	% Change	Div Detect Rate
Property crime	2476	2474	+2	0%	16%
Burglary (non aggravated)	507	547	-40	-7%	6%
Theft from Vehicles	468	376	+92	+24%	7%
Theft of Vehicles	174	156	+18	+12%	6%
Theft from Shop	598	650	-52	-8%	39%
Theft of Other Property	559	594	-35	-6%	11%
Crimes against the person	558	515	+ 43	+ 8%	21%
Drugs ( sale & supply)	57	101	-44	-56%	21%
Drugs (possession)	310	327	-17	-5%	

**Meath Roads Policing**

Category	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	Change	% Change
Fatalities	6	5	+1	+20%
Fatal Collisions	6	5	+1	+20%
Serious injury collisions	35	32	+3	+9%
Minor injury Collisions	154	158	-4	-3%
Driving while Intoxicated incidents	258	281	-23	-8%
MIT Checkpoints	1,462	1,388	+74	+5%
Vehicles Seized	1,289	1,371	-82	-6%

**Community Engagement**

- Meath Division Youth awards 2019 held on 6<sup>th</sup> November
- Christmas Community Engagement day in Trim on 6<sup>th</sup> December
- Winter Soccer Leagues in Ashbourne and Navan Districts.
- Emergency Services Day held on 24<sup>th</sup> August in O Mahonys with large attendance
- Open Day held in Trim GS on 15<sup>th</sup> June with large attendance
- Engagement with Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- Attendance at Community Events throughout year, Crime Prevention stands operated etc.
- Probationary guards involved in Community Projects during training
- Text Alert system in operation across Division

- Navan Community Policing Unit regular engagement with Flexibus service and Navan Meals on Wheels
- Garda clinics at Mosney Reception Centre
- Ongoing local liaison with the Irish Refugee Protection Programme
- Garda Schools Programme – visits to schools in all Districts
- Meath Crime Prevention Facebook Page – sustained growth – 34,609 followers now
- Divisional Instagram Account being piloted -886 followers
- Weekly Garda Crime Desk on LFM Radio reaching 35,000 local persons

**Resources – Meath Division**

- 322 Sworn Garda Members (All Ranks) ( from 336)
- 121 Ashbourne District (from 116)
- 101 Navan District (from 105)
- 43 Kells District (from 41)
- 57 Trim District (from 59)
- 15 Divisional Roads Policing (*includes 4 seconded trainees*) (from 15)
- 11 Reserve Members (from 13)
- 43 Civilian Support Staff ( from 38)
- 16 Garda Stations (same)
- 55 Vehicles in Divisional Fleet (from 58)

**Submitted Questions on the following topics were discussed.**

- CCTV planned for Johnstown in 2020 must go through an approval procedure in the Comissioners Office and the Duleek scheme has been recently audited by the DC Office with his recommendations being considered.
- Agricultural equipment being stolen in North Co Dublin and North Meath -detectives working on leads in the 2 divisions .
- JLO Scheme -4 officers in the division assigned to JLO work
- Christmas Driving Campaign launched with road and speed check-points across the County
- Weather conditions have also been challenging and carefull driving needed
- CS Healy will be dividing his time between Mullingar and Navan Offices  
Superintendents will have different roles under the new policing operation
- i.e Community Engagement/Performance Mgt and Oversight/Crime Investigation across the District/
- Civilian Officer to Ast Principal Officer beefed up in the District
- 5 gardai assigned to Laytown /Duleek Stations in 2020
- Ratoath has a pop of 12K now and deserves its own station with only 1 community garda assigned to the town -high crime rate -seeking to create a mobile police service to move around the towns in South Meath.

**4**

**Presentation by Commissioner Drew Harris**

- Present structure is over 100 years in place and not fit for purpose any more and the following issues raised from the floor
- Anti -Social Behaviour and speeding -more gardai needed
- Recent gangland murder in Bettystown -fear in the community -needs better staffed GS for 23,000 population and garda with CPD 1 competency
- Withhold convicted crims passport and DL
- Illegal parking a problem in town centers and in disabled parking spaces
- How does the OPW decide which garda stations will be listed for upgrade/replacement.
- Association of Meath with Louth Districts -particularly overspill of gangland crime from Drogheda into East Meath area recently -will there be cross-over garda operations and intelligence gathering involved.
- Navan GS not fit for purpose and when to have it extended/replaced -over 100 garda assigned there
- Phone calls and email not being picked up in NGS is this going to be improved in 2020
- Bus service to Dublin has suffered from ASB
- Are the Pilot Sites fully evaluated for resources needed to be applied under the new Plan
- 70 Text Alert Sites in Meath staffed by volunteers -will a Superintendent be assigned duty to liaise with same and advise on the operation of same with assigned resources.
- Drugs and Alcohol addictions a huge issue for the District .
- Need to have full clarification of who should be the Data Control Officer in CCTV schemes and not the present lack of clarity around same.

**Chairman Francis Deane thanked the Commissioner for his informative presentation and the assembled Councillors for their questions on the day.**

**This completed the business of the meeting.**