



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

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 19, Training Room, Buvinda House**

**In Attendance:**

**Chairperson:** Cllr Trevor Golden then 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

**Oireachtas Members:** Thomas Byrne TD, Peadar Tobin TD, Alan Boyce for Regina Doherty, Shane Cassells TD

**An Garda Síochána:** Chief Superintendent Fergus Healey, Supt Sean Farrell

**County Council Officials:** Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon

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

**Co-ordinator:** Eugene Farrelly SSO

**Apologies/Absent:** Alan Tobin, Jackie Maguire CE, Minister D. English TD, Minister H. McEntee TD , Sen Ray Butler, Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Salome Maher-Bordello, John Tobin, David Gilroy, Bill Commerford

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b><u>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</u></b></p> <p>Outgoing Chair Trevor Golden thanked the members for their support for his term as chair for the past number of years and appreciated the body of work completed over the 5 year term of the last JPC.</p> <p><b>He then sought nominations for Chair from the Councillors present:</b></p> <p>Cllr Francis Deane proposed by Cllr N French and seconded by Cllr M Murphy. No other nominations were made and Cllr Deane was deemed elected.</p> <p>The role of chair passed to Cllr Dean who was congratulated on his election and joined the members in thanking Cllr Golden for his stewardship of the Committee.</p>



	<p><b>Cllr Deane sought nominations for the role of Vice Chair from the Councillors present:</b> Cllr Maria Murphy was proposed by Cllr N French and seconded by Cllr D O'Rourke, no other nominations were made and Cllr Murphy was deemed elected.</p> <p>Chair Deane congratulated Cllr Murphy on her election and trusted they would work well together over the term of the new JPC. All members then introduced themselves in turn and were welcomed to the committee by the Chair.</p>												
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Presentation on the Role of the JPC</u></b> Eugene Farrelly introduced himself as liaison officer to the JPC and would be liaising with the members regarding forthcoming matters being dealt with at the Co Meath JPC. He delivered a short power-point presentation dealing with pertinent matters relating to the operation of the JPC including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Representative role of the 4 main pillars of and partnership approach of the JPC</b></li> <li>• <b>Steering Committee of Chair &amp;VC ,Chief Super &amp;Supt, B Lynch &amp; F Fallon</b></li> <li>• <b>JPC Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020</b></li> <li>• <b>JPC Standing Orders 2015</b></li> <li>• <b>JPC Annual Report 2018 and Work Plan 2019</b></li> <li>• <b>JPC Sub Committees</b></li> </ul> <p>Chair Deane thanked Eugene for his informative presentation and suggested that if any matters arise for clarification contact Eugene for same. EF informed the Committee that the Sub Committees would be re-established before the next JPC Meeting and he would be contact individual members who may be interested in joining one of the following 3 sub-committees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Order and Anti Social Behaviour JPC Sub-Committee</li> <li>2. Community Safety and Crime Prevention JPC Sub Committee</li> <li>3. Road Safety and Improved Driver Behaviour JPC Subcommittee</li> </ol> <p>He also informed the Committee of the forthcoming Make Way Day event taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> September in the main towns of the County with a launch on Thursday morning at 10.30 at Kennedy Road Plaza.</p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b> Email from Cllr D O Rourke re Area re structuring, CCTV and Text Alert Groups. Email from Policing Authority re meeting of JPC Chairs and Chief Executives on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct at 10.00am Email from Cllr A Lawes re policing in Navan viz ASB, Drugs, Youth Diversion Programme Email from Cllr Paul McCabe re merger of Meath and Westmeath Districts Email from Gary Doggett from Extern seeking to present to JPC – to be invited to Roads Sub Committee Email from Conor O Leary regarding availability of Carbon Monoxide Alarms from Muintir na Tire</p> <p>The Chief Superintendent responded to the matters raised regarding general policing matters and in particular the proposed merger of the two counties outlining the following population/Garda statistics:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 1892 1533 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th>District</th> <th>Population</th> <th>Ratio of Garda/Pop</th> <th>Current Garda</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Meath</td> <td>198,000</td> <td>650/1</td> <td>336No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Westmeath</td> <td>80,000</td> <td>420/1</td> <td>240No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	District	Population	Ratio of Garda/Pop	Current Garda	Meath	198,000	650/1	336No	Westmeath	80,000	420/1	240No
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He confirmed that the location of the Divisional HQ was not yet known and that there would be 5/6 Superintendants covering the enlarged Division which would have greater administrative backup by non Garda staff. He informed that the transition would take 3-4 years to complete and that the role of Superintendants would change from covering a geographical area to an operational model covering Community Policing, Crime or Quality Assurance. Chief Healey gave an outline of how the YDP operates in that suitable candidates are recommended for same by the Garda National Youth Diversion Office in Dublin. He also informed that it was a challenge to accommodate the number of Gardai based in Navan within the current station and prefab extensions have had to be installed at the rear of the building.

Barry Lynch SEO advised that the JPC had agreed at the last meeting to proceed with the extension of the existing CCTV scheme for Navan and that Fiona Fallon was leading a team on the planning for and procurement of additional cameras for extension of the scheme to Johnstown. The matter of the CCTV Policy is presently at draft stage pending GDPR and legal advices being considered and that the policy would be brought before the full JPC as early as possible. He informed that the Data Commissioner was carrying out CCTV audits in the 31 Counties and the result of the one for Meath is awaited which may feed into the Policy Framework.

Members noted the responses provided on the matters raised and made their own contributions as appropriate.

**4 Adoption of Minute of Meeting of 29th April 2019**

The minutes of the above meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Maria Murphy, seconded by Cllr Frances Deane

**5 Public Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The Members noted the notice circulated regarding the annual Public Meeting to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> October and that submissions had been invited from the public which closes on Friday next however that reminder adverts would appear running up to the date inviting written submissions in advance.

**6. To receive an update from AGS on Crime Statistics for Co Meath .  
Meath Division Crime Statistics at 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

Crime category	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	Diff	% Change	Div Detect Rate
Property crime	1732	1768	-36	-2%	15%
Burglary (non aggravated)	328	391	-63	-16%	6%
Theft from Vehicles	329	246	+83	+34	4%
Theft of Vehicles	119	111	+8	+7%	4%
Theft from Shop	426	487	-61	-13%	37%
Theft of Other Property	411	429	-18	-4%	11%
Crimes against the person	381	366	+ 15	+ 4%	20%
Drugs ( sale & supply)	89	43	+46	+206%	20%
Drugs (possession)	286	198	+88	+144%	



### Meath Roads Policing

Category	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	Change	% Change
Fatalities	4	3	+1	+33%
Fatal Collisions	4	3	+1	+33%
Serious injury collisions	23	22	+1	5%
Minor injury Collisions	113	109	+4	4%
Driving while Intoxicated incidents	171	203	-32	-16%
MIT Checkpoints	1012	1006	+6	+0%
Vehicles Seized	992	890	+102	+11%

### Community Engagement

- Meath Division Youth awards 2019 launched for 9<sup>th</sup> October closing date
- 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 – 34,271 followers now
- Divisional Instagram Account being piloted -765 followers
- Weekly Garda Crime Desk on LMFM Radio reaching 35,000 local persons
- Open day planned at Trim Garda Station

### Resources – Meath Division

- 336 Sworn Garda Members (All Ranks) ( from 317)
- 116 Ashbourne District (from 124)
- 105 Navan District (from 99)
- 41 Kells District (from 41)
- 59 Trim District (from 53)
- 15 Divisional Roads Policing (*includes 4 seconded trainees*) (from 14)
- 13 Reserve Members (from 11)
- 38 Civilian Support Staff ( from 36)
- 16 Garda Stations (same)
- 58 Vehicles in Divisional Fleet (from 54)



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**AOB and next Meeting Date**

Next JPC Meeting date confirmed as 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Members raised the following queries which were responded to by AGS and officials present:

- **CLlr M Murphy:** What impacts will the enlarged district of Meath/Westmeath have on existing JPC Committees/LMETBs/HSE Areas
- **Dep T Byrne:** Not clear how the new district will affect the division of Garda resources across two counties and notes disquiet in Garda representative bodies
- **Dep S Cassells :** As new District will cover some 200 km from Ratoath to Athlone where will the Roads Policing unit be stationed.
- **CLlr A Lawes :** Can the current Garda Stats be released to the Committee and major issue with accommodation at Navan Station
- **C O Leary :** Can the Committee get an update on the Text Alert and Community Alert Groups in the County for the next meeting including the number of engagements by AGS with same and number of texts processed and when will the Policing Plan be open for submissions.
- **CLlr Geraghty Smith :** When will the CCTV Policy be presented to the committee
- **Deputy P Tobin :**Would like to see release of the current Garda stats as presented to the meeting and how can we improve the effectiveness of the JLO/YDP System.
- **CLlr N French:** Concerned about the growing problem of anti social behaviour in Trim and ramps being sought to calm traffic in residential areas.
- **CLlr F Deane :** Recent pedestrian crossing table at Scoil Muire on Brews Hill very effective in slowing traffic and same needed at St Pauls NS entrance on Rathaldron Road
- **R Owens :** Very concerned about speeding and dangerous driving at junctions (donuts)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

CLlr Francis Deane