



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes
County Meath Joint Policing Committee

14th December 2020 in the Solstice Arts Center Navan

In Attendance:

Chairperson: Cllr Francis Deane

County Council Members: Maria Murphy, Gillian Toole, Noel French, Tom Behan, Paul McCabe, Trevor Golden (Z)

Oireachtas Members: Dep Darren O Rourke, Dep Peadar Toibin (Z) Cllr Elaine McGinty as obs for Sen Annie Hoey

An Garda Síochána: Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy

County Council Officials: Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon(Z)

Community & Voluntary Sector: Conor O Leary, Bernard Kenny John Tobin,

Co-ordinator: Eugene Farrelly SSO

Apologies: Min D English , Min H McEntee, Min T Byrne, Sen R Doherty , Cllr A Tobin, Cllr A O'Neill, , B Comerford, J Maguire

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Confirmation of Minute of Meeting held on 14th September 2020</u> The Minutes of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Gillian Toole seconded by Cllr Maria Murphy</p>



2. Matters arising and Correspondence

Cllr Gillian Toole raised the matter of her undertaking to draft a letter regarding the treatment of Sharps Boxes with the HSE and informed that as she is involved in the National Representative body of Pharmacists, this matter is receiving attention in that forum at present. While she had undertaken to look at a trial of the text alert scheme discussed at the September JPC Meeting she had been in discussion with Community Dept and they had agreed to look at a comparative scheme in the new year on a wider basis and she is happy to go along with that.

Notice of Motion from Cllr McGinty

Cllr McGinty outlined her interest in the See Something say Something Text Alert Scheme that she has seen in operation in Fingal Co Co which is a system of posters with the contact number for the local garda station whereby citizens can contact if witnessing acts of anti - social behaviour or other crimes in the area.

Barry Lynch , DOS informed that a number of different initiatives are being examined on a County wide basis ,with an analysis and costing of same to be looked at in line with increased budgetary pressures for 2021.He informed that he hoped to have a worked up proposal for the JPC at the next meeting.

3. To Receive a Report on Garda Operations during Covid 19 pandemic

Chief Super Healy informed the Committee that three distinct Garda Programmes were underway from Saturday 18th December running through to 6th January whereby aspects of enforcement were being addressed under the Government Covid Control Agenda namely:

- **Wet Pub Trade**
- **Restaurant Trade**
- **Retail Trade**

He informed that particular attention would be focussed on South Meath Area where prevalence of the pandemic was greater and advised all Cllrs to advise people to keep vigilant for spread of the virus after New Years .

To receive an update from AGS on Crime Statistics for Co Meath .

4.

Meath Division Crime Statistics at 26th January 2020

Crime category	2020 YTD	No of Detections YTD	Diff	% Change	Div Detect Rate
Property crime	1,835	476		-14%	-4%
Burglary (non aggravated)	317	51		-25%%	34%
Theft from Vehicles	330	46		-20%	15%
Theft of Vehicles	123	12		-12%	9%
Theft from Shop	493	245		-5%	-13%
Theft of Other Property	403	81		-16%	-17%



Crimes against the person	458	177		-11%	16%
Drugs (sale & supply)	99	87		-5%	55%
Drugs (possession)	311	288		7%	-8%

Meath Roads Policing

Category	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	Change	% Change
Fatalities	8	6	+2	+33%
Fatal Collisions	7	6	+1	+16%
Serious injury collisions	41	42	-1	-2%
Minor injury Collisions	93	120	-27	-22.5%
Driving while Intoxicated incidents	284	261	+23	+9%
MIT Checkpoints	406	1294	-788	-61%
Vehicles Seized	971	1197	-226	-19%

Community Engagement

- Community Engagement since onset of Pandemic - focus on assisting vulnerable and isolated members of community.
- Assisting with deliveries of medication, supplies etc. to those needing assistance
- Text Alert system in operation
- Youth Awards Scheme – 2021 Awards took place in Kells on 19th October 2020
- Other normal Community Engagement activities e.g. meetings/school visits – adversely impacted during Covid-19 pandemic
- Divisional Facebook page (Meath Crime Prevention) – 41,000 followers
- Divisional Instagram Account being piloted – 1,315 followers
- Weekly Garda Crime Desk on LMFM Radio reaching circa 35,000 local persons

Resources – Meath Division

- 350 Sworn Garda Members (All Ranks) (from 341)
- 131 Ashbourne District (from 130)
- 114 Navan District (from 110)
- 46 Kells District (from 42)
- 59 Trim District (from 59)
- 16 Divisional Roads Policing (*includes 4 seconded trainees*) (from 15)
- 12 Reserve Members (from 12)
- 44 Civilian Support Staff (from 43)
- 16 Garda Stations (same)



Chair Deane thanked Fergus for his comprehensive presentation and then opened it to the floor for comments or queries on the content of the report.

Members who made contributions were: Cllr Tom Behan, Cllr Noel French, Dep Darren O'Rourke, Cllr Gillian Toole, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr McCabe and Conor O'Leary on various topics such as: Hospitality sector and Covid, outdoor drinking, drug dealing continuing outdoors, drunken and drug driving stats increased greatly in 2020, speeding on back roads, Mandatory Intoxication Testing, Navan Garda Station adequacy for number of garda. Discussion also took place on the ongoing amalgamation of Meath/Westmeath Policing District, the involvement of the garda in running Virtual Text Alert Meetings in Kells during Covid and the prevalence of elder and domestic abuse in the crime stats for 2020. COL informed of a pilot project underway by Muintir na Tíre in two areas to set up Vulnerable Persons register via the text alert groups and hopes to bring an update to the next Sub Committee Meeting.

An area of concern to a number of Councillors was the incidents of motorists speeding through pedestrian crossings in Dunshaughlin and Ashbourne when peds are using same. A number of near misses had happened in the last few months that should be addressed. A discussion on the proceeds of crime was discussed on foot of a notice of motion passed on same at the December Council Meeting. Cllr Toole informed that a motion had been passed at the recent December meeting for the Minister for Justice to review the Proceeds of Crime Act so that confiscated funds from drug convictions could be dispersed to worthwhile rehabilitation and drug awareness programmes in the County of origin. The matter of recent incidents of ASB in Kells Town and a serious armed robbery in Nobber and stolen All Ireland Medals which are understood have had been solved were brought up.

CS Healy informed the meeting that 4 New Inspectors being appointed to Meath District and a new squad of technically advanced vehicles for roads policing with latest speed recording technology had been acquired. He informed that there had been a lot of inter-agency tie in with LA/HSE/Civil Defence/Major Emergency Plan, Coroners Office during Covid with permanent checkpoints on Motorways, ongoing contact with LA engineering staff and road safety officer on risk areas for motoring accidents. There is a slight increase in staff levels on 2019 allowing for retirements and incoming new recruits with training for same largely happening on the job paired up with experienced gardai. On the new amalgamated district he informed that the headquarters is Mullingar with 3 distinct Areas based on population as follows, each having a population of c100,000 people under the supervision of a Detective Inspector:

- **North Meath**
- **South Meath**
- **Westmeath**

He informed that a new Protected Service Unit is being set up in a property beside Slane Garda Station and that further admin grades such as Principal Officer are being installed in Q1 2021. He advised that if members are aware of incidents at pedestrian crossings these should be reported to the local garda station in particular at school crossings. He also informed that a new Crime Call Management System had gone live on Friday last and removed Meath calls from the Eastern Regional Call Center due to number of Dublin calls coming in.

Chair Deane thanked Chief Supt Healy for his report and responses to members who were satisfied with the responses received to the matters raised.



Report from the 3 Sub Committees

Eugene referred to the written report as circulated last week where the work of the 3 sub-committees was outlined in detail as follows:

Community Safety and Crime Prevention:

The Report outlined the main

Chair thanked Eugene for his report and opened the discussion to the floor:

Members who made contributions were: Cllr Noel French, Senator Sharon Keogan, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Tom Behan, Ronnie Owens, Cllr Gillian Toole and Chief Super Healy, all of whom spoke in favour of the initiative and that it should be moved forward for implementation. Gillian Toole as Chair of the Sub-Committee outlined the further benefits of the app in comparison to the paper-based systems around sign-ups for Text Alert and informed the Sub Committee had mandated her to put a proposal to the JPC as follows:

The CS&CP Sub Committee recommend to the JPC that the scheme be examined further by way of applying a suitable budget to trial the System in the Ratoath Municipal Area through the later months of the year and that a Report on the outcome be brought to the December Meeting of the JPC.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr Noel French and agreed.

Public Order and ASB

Eugene outlined the main items in the report and in particular the item on the availability of the offices of Core Meath to create opportunities for volunteerism of youths in Navan and environs to participate in useful programmes like training and outdoor pursuits such as gardening, photography etc.

Bernard outlined further to the JPC the further longer term plans of his voluntary body who had also been heavily involved in food banks for schools and citizens during the Covid period. He invited any of the members to engage with the office in Meath Enterprise Centre on any similar programmes they would be interested in initiating.

Roads and Improved Driver Behaviour

Eugene outlined the main items in the Report including the 5 No deaths on Co Meath Roads to date in 2020.

The Chair acknowledged the work the Sub Committees are undertaking and thanked all for their participation .



4 To receive a Presentation from Andy Ogle on the North East Drugs Task Force.

The Chair introduced Andy to the JPC and handed over to him to make his presentation .Andy thanked the JPC for allowing him the opportunity to outline the work of the Drugs Task Force in the North East. The Chair thanked Andy for his interesting presentation which was very thought provoking

To receive a Presentation from Philip James on SUST

Chair then introduced Philip James Co-Ordinator for Substance Abuse for Teens in the Louth Meath Area. Philip thanked the Chair and JPC for getting the chance to outline the challenges of working in this area and commenced his presentation.

Chair thanked both Andy and Philip for their very interesting presentations and then opened it to the floor for contributions.

Contributions were made by: Cllr French, Cllr Toole, Cllr Murphy , Cllr Golden ,Deputy J Guirke ,Ronnie Owens, Cllr Tom Behan and Senator Sharon Keogan.

Matters discussed included: Where is the money coming from, TV advertising campaign should be initiated to counter the drugs culture, seeing as drug deaths now outnumber road deaths in the County ,mental health, drugs and suicide links, lack of targeted garda resources ,lack of male role models ,death of youths in Navan from ODs recently, long waiting list for Macdars drug programme in Trim, drug use now a common sight in main towns and parks in the county ,drinking at 13yo is often the gateway to moving onto cannabis and harder drugs use in later teens.

Andy and Philip responded to all contributions in a satisfactory manner and thanked the JPC for hearing their presentation and for their interest in the subject.

5 AOB and next Meeting Date

Cllr Toole raised the issue of Sharps Boxes being available in all 99 pharmacys in the County and that the HSE should be supporting the cost of providing the service and she volunteered to draft a letter to issue from the JPC on the subject.

Next JPC Meeting dates confirmed as 14th December with the Public meeting proposed for 7th October in Ratoath MD now **deferred due** to the continuing Covid 19 pandemic.

The Chair thanked all for their attendance and closed the Meeting



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



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Signed: _____

Chairperson
CLr Francis Deane

Date: _____