



MEATH JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 - 2026



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1. INTRODUCTION

The main aim of Co Meath Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is to provide a forum where Meath County Council and the senior Garda Officers responsible for the policing of Meath, with the participation of the local Oireachtas & Elected Members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting policing in the county.

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 – Section 36(2) - states that *'The JPC's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority administrative area and in particular to –*

(a) keep under review –

(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and (ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,

(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,

(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area,

(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhood.

(e) Co-ordinate the activities of local policing for a

(f) A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility

The Department of Justice and Equality issued revised guidelines governing the operation of

Joint Policing Committees in August 2014. Meath's Joint Policing Committee has been re-established following the Local Elections of May 2019, in accordance with these guidelines and the following is a breakdown of the representation on the committee:

- 15 Elected Members of Meath County Council;
- 10 Oireachtas Representatives;
- 2 Local Authority Officials (Chief Executive is an ex-officio member);
- 2 Senior Garda Officers;
- 5 community and voluntary sector representatives nominated by the PPN
- 2 community representatives nominated by Later Life Network and Comhairle na nÓg

As provided for in the Guidelines, each JPC must prepare an Annual Work Plan and a 6-Year Strategic Plan. The inaugural plan covered the period 2015-2020 and this new Strategic Plan covering the period 2021 – 2026 builds on the works carried out through the inaugural plan and aims to strengthen and develop the role of the Joint Policing Committee in matters affecting the policing of Meath County Council's administrative area.

The Six Year Strategic Plan is designed to link with the Local Economic and Community Plan for the County. Each year an Annual JPC Work Plan will be prepared which will include objectives derived from the Strategic Plan 2021 -2016 and relevant Annual Policing Plans as prepared by An Garda Síochána.

The JPC Work Plan serves as a statement of our intentions with regard to the manner in which we will address the relevant issues in accordance with our functions as set out in Section 36(2) Garda Síochána Act, 2005 as shown above.

In seeking to achieve the objectives outlined in this Strategic Plan, we will strive to ensure that County Meath is developed and enhanced in line with the mission statements of both Meath County Council and An Garda Síochána.

Meath County Council Mission Statement

“Meath County Council will drive the economic, social, cultural and environmental improvement of our county to enhance the quality of life of the people of Meath

An Garda Síochána Mission Statement

“An Garda Síochána: Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte – Keeping People Safe”

Councillor Francis Deane

Chairperson Meath Joint Policing Committee

Jackie Maguire,

Chief Executive, Meath County Council

Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy

An Garda Síochána, Meath/Westmeath Policing District

2. BACKGROUND

Joint Policing Committees were introduced under the Garda Síochána Act 2005 as a mechanism for identifying and addressing policing issues where adopting a partnership approach between An Garda Síochána, the Local Authority and the community is desirable to achieve favourable outcomes.

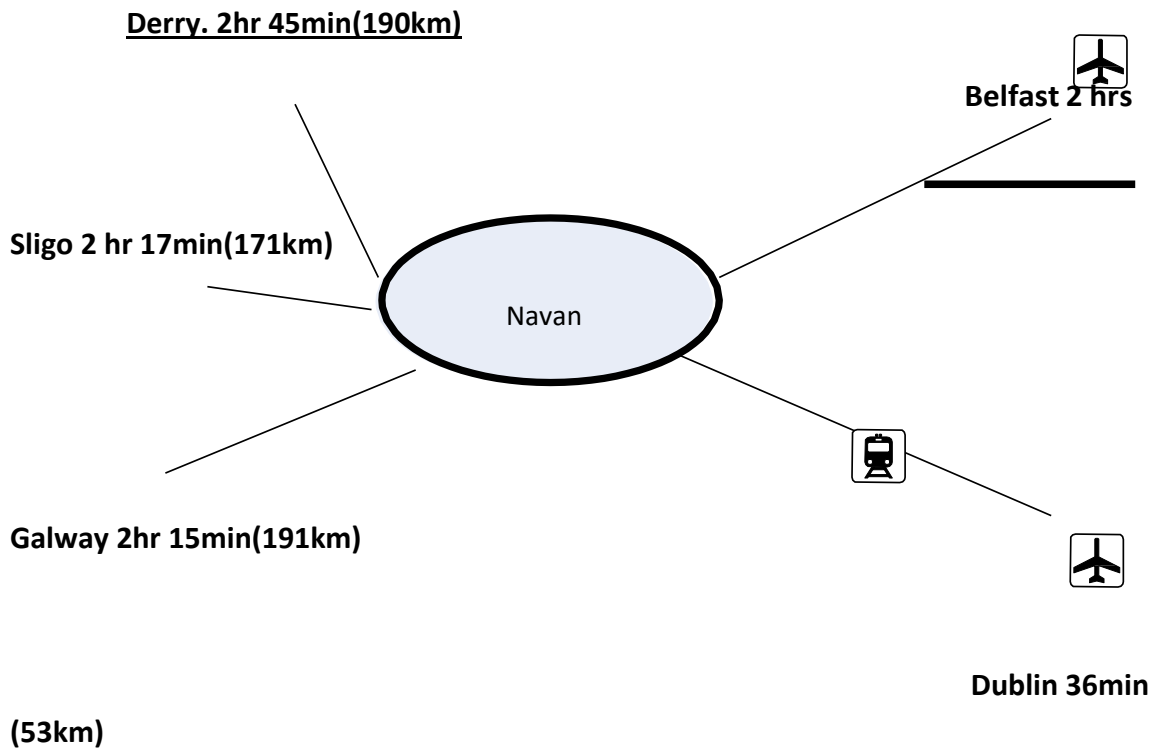
JPC's are guided by a set of Guidelines issued jointly by the Depts of Justice Equality & Law Reform and Environment, Community & Local Government. The Guidelines were revised following the 2014 Local Elections, and the new Guidelines focus on the achievement of actions and adding value to the work of the various partner organisations.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to set out in detail the functions, composition and operation of Joint Policing Committees in accordance with the Garda Síochána Act 2005. The Act (section 36) provides for the establishment of a JPC in each local authority administrative area. The purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where a local authority and the senior Garda officers responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area. It is intended that the JPCs are partnerships which are co-operative in nature and operate in accordance with the minimum of formality to identify, raise awareness of and find solutions for issues impacting on, or causing concerns for, the local community. Through the work of the JPC both partners – the local authority and the Garda Síochána - along with Oireachtas members and community interests have the opportunity to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life of the community. It is essential that the JPC takes a strategic approach to its work so that issues arising can be dealt with in a considered and properly coordinated manner.

Conversely, the business of a JPC cannot be progressed by simply having an exchange of views on relevant Garda or local authority reports. It is imperative that local issues are addressed collectively and strategically and in this regard each JPC must have strategic plans which are focused on achieving coordinated actions to support enhanced policing and crime prevention. This Strategic Plan is produced in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department of Justice and the Department of the Housing, Planning & Local Government.

3. DEMOGRAPHICS & GEOGRAPHY OF MEATH

County Meath is located in the North East of Ireland, in the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Area and occupies an area of 230,000 Hectares (888 sq. miles) and has a population of 195,044 (2016 Census). The County is strategically located and very accessible with road, rail and air links to the major cities of Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Sligo and Galway.



3.1 Key demographic facts in relation to Diversity in County Meath:

- The census of 2016 gives a figure of 195,044, including a dramatic increase in inward migration to the county. Meath is now one of only 5 counties in the state which has a population higher than its pre-famine peak.
- Approximately half of all Meath residents (49.9%) were born elsewhere in Ireland, and the remaining 15.4% were born abroad. The county's population density was 83.2 people/km² in 2016, making it one of just 7 counties in the state with a population density above the national average (69.1 people/km²)
- Meath also ranks 6th in the country by per capita disposable income, at €20,493

or 95.8% of the State average

- Meath is predominantly an urban county, although a large percentage of its residents live in rural areas. According to the 2016 Census, 58.9 percent of the county lived in urban areas, and the remaining 41.1 percent live in rural areas.
- In 2016, 8.1 % of the county's population was reported as younger than 5 years old, 23.8 % were between 5 and 19, 57.5 % were between 20 and 65, and 10.6 % of the population was older than 65. 4,328 people (2.2 %) were over the age of 80.
- Females made up 50.44 % of the population, with women outnumbering men by approx. 1,300. Ashbourne is the 3rd youngest large town in Ireland following the 2016 census.
- There are 7,812 one-parent households in Meath; **85% lone mothers, 15% lone fathers**. One-parent families make up 20.2% of all households in Meath.
- On 30th November 2018 the annual count of traveller families recorded 453 Traveller families residing in the County. The majority of households (66%) were located in Navan, followed by Trim (9.9%). In terms of Accommodation Type, 343 families were in a form of tenancy (social/private), while 76 households were deemed to be sharing with families, and a further 24 households were recorded as residing on un-authorised sites.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 – 2020

The Meath JPC was re-established in Co Meath following receipt of the revised guidelines in 2015 and was originally made up of 32 from the prescribed membership and chaired by Cllr Alan Tobin and Cllr Trevor Golden from 2015-2019 and following the local elections in 2019 and general election in 2020 the membership grew to 36 members and has been chaired by Cllr Francis Dean from 2019 to date.

The JPC signed off on the above plan at the JPC Meeting held in February 2016 with the setting up of 3 No sub committees under the main objectives of the Plan as follows

1. Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Chair Cllr Eimear Fergusson then Cllr Gillian Toole

2. Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour:

Cllr Maria Murphy then Cllr Alan Lawes

3. Road Safety and Improved Driver Behaviour:

Chair Cllr Alan Tobin then Cllr David Gilroy

The 3 sub committees are made up of a cross section of reps from the Community, Meath County Council and Garda and have met regularly and arranged reports to the main JPC on a quarterly basis from 2016 to 2021.

Some of the achievements of the JPC over the period of the last plan would be as follows:

1. 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 was arranged during 2016.
2. Later Life Network arranged County wide roadshows in Q2/Q3/Q4 in the 6 Municipal Districts during 2017 where older people were invited to attend workshops on many topics which included crime awareness and prevention advice provided by AGS. Availability of the Pobal Initiative on Personal Alarm Devices information was delivered at these workshops.
3. Cultur Organisation gave a presentation to the JPC on crime experienced in Minority communities.
4. Leaflets advising communities of new 30KPH Speed limits under MCC Speed limit Bye laws in estates in each Municipal District circulated via the PPN network in 2017 / Q2

and Q4. 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.

5. Review and update of the JPC Website in line with the Councils full web-site review carried out in 2018 Q3/Q4 and received presentation on Property Marking Machine which was received in Meath in December 2020.
6. JPC received a visit from Commissioner Harris at the December 2019 Meeting where he outlined the new structure of the organization whereby Meath and Westmeath were grouped together for operational purposes.
7. The JPC received presentations on CCTV Extension proposal for Navan, Make Way Day, Role of the incoming JPC and from Later Life Network and 3rd Age Group.
8. Presentation on reduction in Crime Figures due to Covid 19 and new arrangements around AGS process during same, received at each JPC Meeting from Chief Superintendent Healy during 2020.
9. Community CCTV Policy for Co Meath adopted at the February 2020 JPC Meeting
10. Presentations taken from the North East Drugs Task Force and on Substance Use Service for Teens (SUST) in the North East Counties in September 2020.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Each JPC must establish a steering group, consisting 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 will be 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

- Chairperson Francis Deane,
- Vice Chair Maria Murphy,
- Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy,
- Barry Lynch Director Of Services Housing, Community & Library, Arts & Culture
- Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Section

5. AN GARDA SIOCHANA'S DATA ON CRIME IN MEATH

Meath Garda Division is currently undergoing a modernisation programme of change in keeping with the recommendations contained within in the Report of the 'Commission on the Future of Policing' in Ireland, which itself was adopted by Government in December 2018.

The amalgamation of Meath and Westmeath Divisions into a single Garda Division with a Divisional Headquarters situated in Mullingar will see the introduction of a new command structure serving Counties Meath and Westmeath. This modernisation programme will bring about operational and administrative efficiencies that will enable the enhancement of frontline services throughout both Counties. In Meath there are 16 Garda Stations, four (4) of which are operating on a twenty-four hour (24) basis, serving a population of circa 200,000 people. All Garda members are committed to their tasks, particularly during the recent Covid-19 pandemic period.

The Data contained within Table 1 'Crime Trends in Meath 2019 & 2020 represents the enumeration of the statistics for the years 2019 and 2020 respectively. In interpreting the data, regard should be had to the following:

- Contrary to public perception, the actual level of crime in the county is relatively low and is not increasing at any noticeable rate
- Offending is decreasing under the various categories of crime related to Assault Causing Harm, Minor Assaults, Theft (other), Theft from vehicle, property crime, crime against the person and criminal damage
- Thefts from shops, burglaries and robberies remain relatively static year to date but are decreasing over the five year period 2015-2020
- A number of burglaries of commercial premises have been prevented by Garda intervention, with those responsible being mobile organised Crime Gangs from other regions
- There has been significant increase in Drug Detections with circa €5million worth of illicit drug seizures within the county, which is an unfortunate trend which continues to rise
- Significant Garda resources have been expended on the Policing of the Covid-19 pandemic with strong Community Engagement from all Members assigned to the County.

TABLE No. 1 – CRIME TRENDS IN MEATH 2019 & 2020

Crime Trends in Co Meath	2019	2020
<i>Fatal Road Collisions</i>	7	8
<i>Rape of a female</i>	47	44
<i>Rape Section 4</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Sexual Assault</i>	80	87
<i>Assault Causing Harm</i>	643	575
<i>Harassment, stalking, Treats</i>	17	33
<i>Assault Minor</i>	400	317
<i>Robbery from the Person</i>	22	18
<i>Burglary</i>	557	392
<i>Robbery from Establishment/institution</i>	14	12
<i>Theft of M.P.V.</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Unauthorised Taking (Vehicle)</i>	192	155
<i>Theft from Person</i>	22	18
<i>Theft from Shop</i>	634	594
<i>Handling/Possession of Stolen Property</i>	41	35
<i>Theft (other)</i>	574	462
<i>Theft from Vehicle</i>	505	383
<i>Theft of a Pedal Cycle</i>	62	99
<i>Falsification of Accounts</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Forgery/ False Instrument Offences</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Fraud Deception</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Possession of Drugs for Sale and Supply</i>	117	119
<i>Simple Possession</i>	344	405
<i>Property Crime</i>	2650	2181
<i>Arson</i>	41	45
<i>Crime Against the Person</i>	643	575
<i>Assault Causing Harm</i>	119	100
<i>Criminal Damage (not arson)</i>	590	546
<i>Drunkenness offences</i>	124	154
<i>Driving while intoxicated</i>	291	318

6. STRATEGIC PLAN – RATIONALE

This Strategic Plan takes cognizance of the following documents:

- Garda Policing Plans for Meath for 2021
- The priorities highlighted by the National Policing Plan
- An Garda Síochána Diversity and Integration Strategy 2019 – 2021 and any subsequent iteration of this strategy
- The Meath LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan)
- The Mid-East Regional Homelessness Strategy
- The National Drugs Strategy 2017 – 2025, which lists the inclusion of drug-related issues in a central way in the work of the JPC's as an action aimed at reducing supply

7. MEATH JPC MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Meath Joint Policing Committee is:

-
- ***To work in partnership to make Co. Meath a safer place to work, live and visit.***
-

8. MEATH JPC STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In the preparation of the JPC 6-Year Strategic Plan the Members identified the following key strategic priorities for inclusion in the Plan. The strategic priorities reflect the concerns of the JPC and the broader community and encompass 6 key themes. The implementation of the Strategic Priorities for the JPC is formulated by the identification of key objectives relating to each strategy. The format adopted is that each Strategic Priority will have a number of key objectives to be delivered over the life-time of the Plan as detailed below. The JPC will over-see the implementation and delivery of the strategic objectives and a progress report will be prepared on an annual basis. Under each objective, key actions have been identified and have been assigned to a lead agency, a number of objectives will be delivered in a collaborative partnership approach by a number of the stakeholders.

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

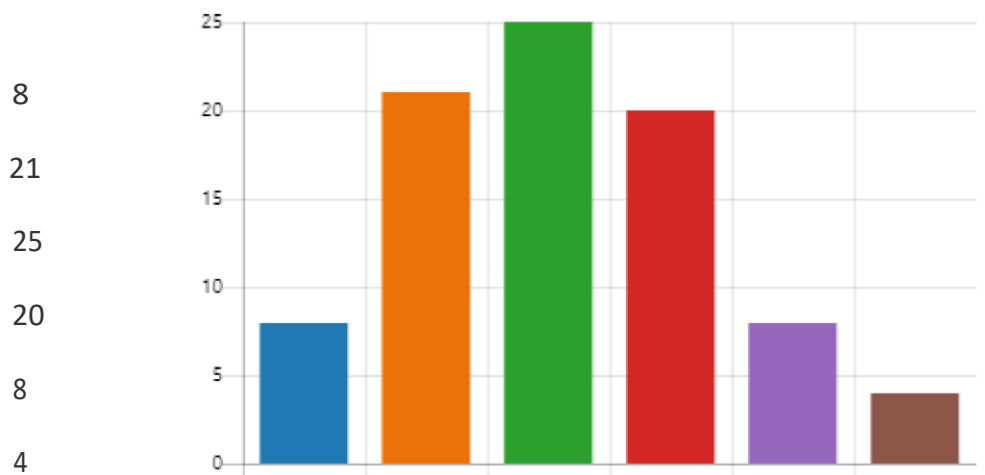
8.1 Meath Strategic Plan – On line Survey

The JPC Staff published a notice of its intention to review its current Strategic Plan and with that in mind arranged a short survey which ran from 1st to 31st July 2021, with notices published in the local press and all social media platforms. Over 80 persons responded to the survey with half of same publishing comments as to how the current policing strategy might be improved, a record of which is attached at Appendix 3 to this Document.

The following are statistical responses to the questions asked in the survey:

1. Please give your Age profile by ticking one of the following:

- 18 - 30
- 31 - 40
- 41 - 50
- 51 - 60
- 61 - 70
- 70+

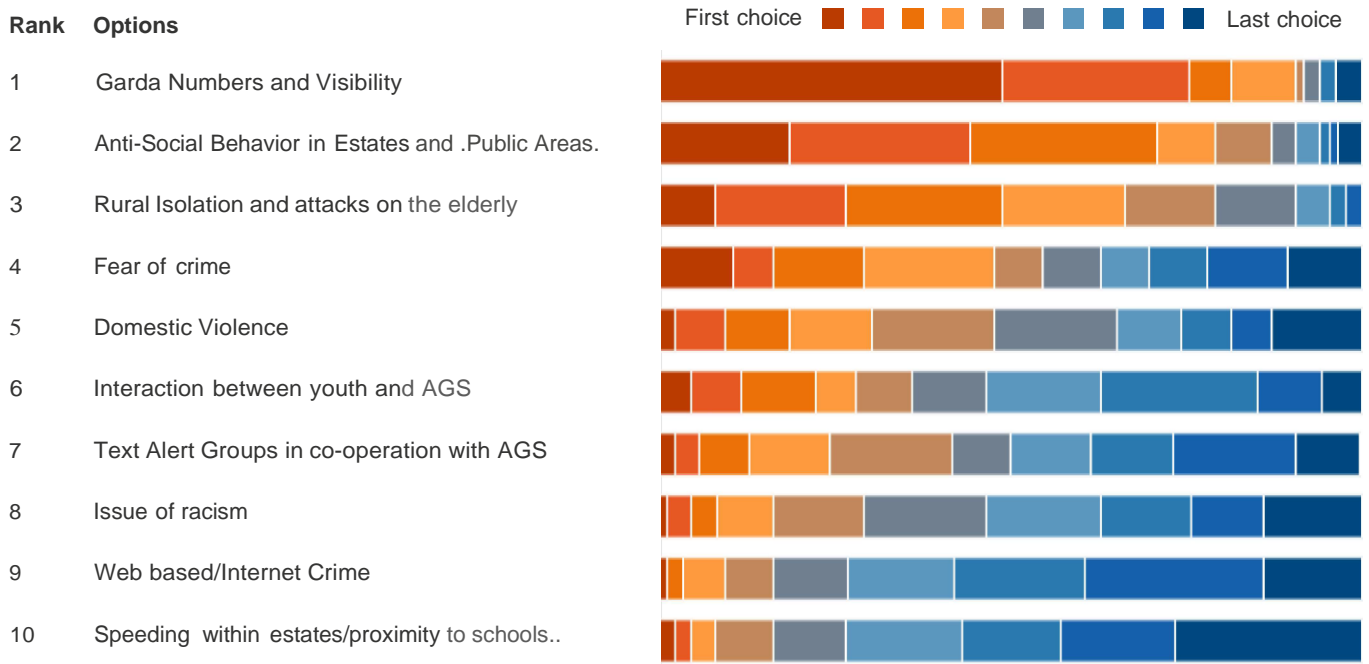


2. Please indicate your gender:

● Woman	44
● Man	38
● Non-binary	0
● Prefer not to say	4

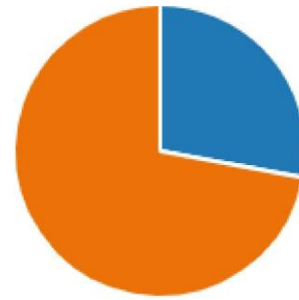


3. What are the most important areas the Strategy should focus on?
(please drag the options below up or down to rank in order of importance 1,2,3,4,5 etc)



4. Have you been the victim of crime in the past 5 years?

● Yes	24
● No	62



5. If you answered yes above and wish to specify the type of crime you were a victim of please do so below:

23

Latest Responses

Responses

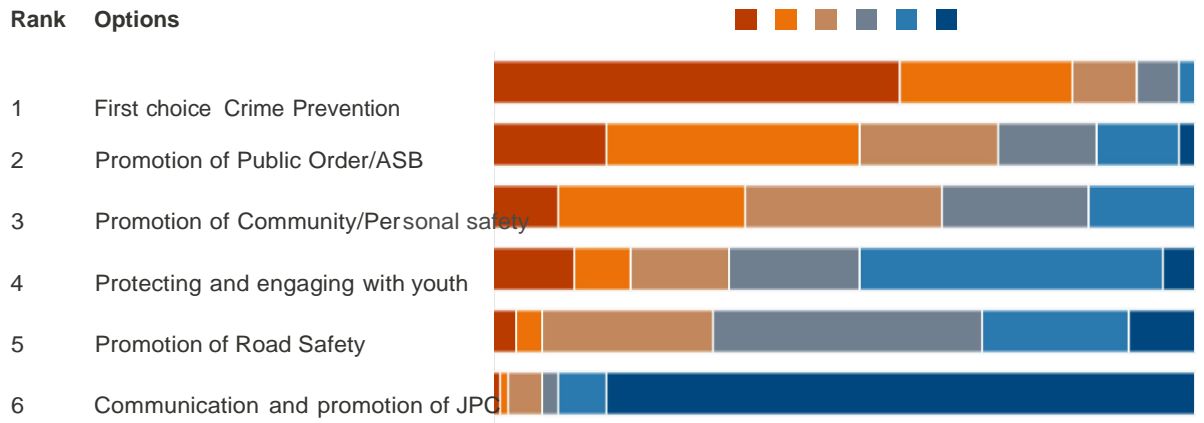
Theft

6. Are you happy with the outcome of the investigation?

● Yes	44
● No	42



7. What should be the strategic priorities of the JPC 2021-2025 (please rank below in order of importance 1,2,3,4,5 etc)



8.3 Survey Summary

Under Question 3: What are the most important areas the Strategy should focus on?

The survey shows the following: [Table No 2](#)

Topics	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
AGS Numbers/Visability	48.8 %	26.7 %	5.8%	9.3%	1.2%	2.3%	0%	2.3%	0%	3.5%
ASB	18.6 %	25.6 %	26.7 %	8.1%	8.1%	3.5%	3.5%	1.2%	1.2%	3.5%
Attacks in Rural	8.1%	18.6 %	22.1 %	17.4	12.8 %	11.6 %	4.7%	2.3%	2.3%	
Fear of Crime	10.5 %	5.8%	12.8 %	18.6 %	7.0%	8.1%	7.0%	8.1%	11.6 %	10.5
Dom Violence	2.3%	7.0%	9.3%	11.6 %	17.4 %	17.4 %	9.3%	7.0%	5.8%	12.8
Youth Interaction	4.7%	7.0%	10.5 %	5.8%	8.1%	10.5 %	18.3 %	22.1 %	9.3%	5.8%
Text Alert	2.3%	3.5%	7.0%	11.6 %	17.4 %	8.1%	11.6 %	11.6 %	17.4 %	9.3%
Racism	1.2%	3.5%	3.5%	8.1%	12.8 %	17.4 %	16.3 %	12.8 %	10.5 %	14%
Web Crime	1.2%	0	2.3%	5.8%	7%	10.5 %	15.1 %	18.6 %	25.6 %	14%
Speeding	2.3%	2.3%	0	3.5%	8.1%	10.5 %	16.3 %	14%	16.3 %	26.7 %

Under Question 7: What should be the strategic priorities of the JPC 2021-2026
(please rank below in order of importance 1,2,3,4,5 etc)

Table No 3

Topics	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Crime Prevention	58.1%	24.4%	9.3%	5.8%	2.3%	0%
Public Order/ASB	16.3%	36%	19.8%	14%	11.6%	0%
Comm/Personal Safety	9.3%	26.7%	27.9%	20.9%	15.1	0%
Youth Engagement	11.6%	8.1%	14%	18.6%	0%	0%
Road safety	3.5%	3.5%	24.4%	38.4%	20.9%	9.3%
Promotion of the JPC	1.2%	1.2%	4.7%	2.3%	7%	83.7%

Summary of Results.

The following can be extrapolated from the above:

- The Public view of the priorities for the JPC for 2021-2016 would be Crime Prevention, followed by Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour, followed by Community Safety, followed by Road Safety and Youth Engagement.
- This largely matches with the responses under Question 3 above which places Garda Numbers and Visibility high for attention, followed by Anti-Social Behaviour, Rural Area Crime, Fear of Crime, Domestic Violence and Text Alert, Racism and Youth Interaction followed by Internet Crime and Speeding.

9. PUBLIC SECTOR DUTY

In implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, this Strategy has been developed within, and checked against, the parameters of the Meath County Council Equality and Human Rights Values Statement and the MCC Assessment of Equality and Human Rights Issues, as relevant to the functions addressed by the Strategy.

This Framework was reviewed by the Steering Committee and there was agreement to utilise it for the purpose of this Strategy and the Public Sector Duty. A working document was created which tailored this overall Framework, so as to represent the specific nature of this Strategy and acted as an aid to the Steering Group in its consideration of the Public Sector Duty.

The identified equality and human rights issues pertinent to this Strategy, drawn from the MCC Assessment of Equality and Human Rights Issues, are set out in Appendix 4, categorised under the equality and human rights values of Dignity, Inclusion, and Democracy as set out and defined in the MCC Values Statement.

This established the centrality of these three values for the work of the JPC. The statements of process for these three values, identified in the MCC Values Statement, will therefore serve as benchmarks for any review or discussion of performance in implementing this strategy. These are:

Statement of Process for Dignity: Meath County Council works in a manner that all service users and staff are treated equally and with respect, where each individual is valued, and particular attention is given to those most excluded in society.

Statement of Process for Inclusion: Meath County Council works in a manner that engages with and acknowledges the diversity of groups in society and makes adaptations to respond to the needs that arise from this diversity of service users and staff.

Statement of Process for Democracy: Meath County Council works in a manner that enables meaningful participation in decision-making processes, with these processes characterised by clarity, engagement and accountability.

These MCC documents established the foundation from which the Steering Committee has regard, in carrying out its function, to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect human rights. The Steering Committee was mindful of the principal of intersectionality, and the Strategy seeks to serve and resource the diversity of all people across the full range of groups covered by the Public Sector Duty.

At draft Strategy stage, the Steering Committee completed a review to ensure that the equality and human rights issues identified for the Strategy had been addressed through the actions identified.

In implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, this Strategy has been developed within, and checked against, the parameters of the Meath County Council Equality and Human Rights Values Statement as relevant to the functions addressed by the Strategy.

This Framework was reviewed by the Steering Committee and there was agreement to utilise it for the purpose of this Strategy and the Public Sector Duty. A working document was created which filtered this overall Framework, so as to represent the specific nature of this Strategy and acted as an aid to the Steering Group in its consideration of the Public Sector Duty.

The identified equality and human rights issues pertinent to this Strategy are outlined in Appendix 4, categorised under the equality and human rights values of Dignity, Inclusion, Social Justice, Democracy and Autonomy.

These documents established the foundation from which the Steering Committee has regard, in carrying out its function, to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect human rights for persons with a disability. The Steering Committee was mindful of the principal of intersectionality, and the Strategy seeks to serve and resource the diversity of all people across the full range of groups covered by the Public Sector Duty.

At draft Strategy stage, the Steering Committee completed a review to ensure that the equality and human rights identified for the Strategy had been addressed through the actions identified, and also to determine as to whether there were any further equality and human rights issue of relevance to the Strategy.

Specifically, Strategic Objective 1 Crime Prevention and Strategic Objective 6 Communication and Promotion of Greater Awareness of the Role of the Joint Policing Committee and the supporting actions are key to addressing the equality and human rights identified.

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY POLICY

In line with the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland, the Department of Justice has been developing a new national Community Safety policy which will feed into the development of a new Policing and Community Safety Bill. It is intended that the Bill will redefine the functions of An Garda Síochána to include community safety. However, as the Commission recognised, community safety is not just the responsibility of An Garda Síochána. There is a role for other agencies of Government, such as health and social services, as well as other sectors of society. The proposed legislation will place an obligation on relevant departments, State agencies and local authorities to cooperate with An Garda Síochána in delivering community safety.

- **What Community Safety is**

Community safety is about people being safe and feeling safe in their community. It is much wider than crime or fear of crime. It can include activities like responsiveness of emergency services, mental health issues, educational work with young people, drug prevention, alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, youth crime, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and the built environment. Responses need to be community-specific and will require a range of different services, for example strengthening youth services or increasing street lighting. Improving community safety requires a multi-sectoral approach, strong inter-agency collaboration and engagement from the community.

A review of this JPC Strategic plan will be required when the above system comes into place following its 2 year trial period in 3 Local Authority Areas.

11. MEATH JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-26 -STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1 – CRIME PREVENTION		
	Supporting Actions	Led by
1.1	Operation Thor – Disrupt the activities of highly mobile Organized Crime Gangs , targeting private houses and business premises for Burglaries.	An Garda Síochána
1.2	Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives	JPC
1.3	Promote the awareness of reporting all incidents of crime.	JPC
1.4	Reduce assaults with/possession of offensive weapons in public through to roll out of “ Operation Soteria “	An Garda Síochána
1.5	Active engagement of community policing with local community groups including briefing of PPN on Crime Prevention initiatives by Crime Prevention Officer and ensuring and enabling an approach that is responsive to the specific needs of the identified groups for the Public Sector Duty.	An Garda Síochána / MCC/JPC
1.6	Liaise with the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDTF)	JPC
1.7	Newly formed Divisional Protective Services Bureau to provide comprehensive support for victims of crime including victims of domestic and sexual violence.	An Garda Síochána
1.8	Identify crime and trend patterns in relation to the farming sector liaising with farming groups and Promoting the Property Marking Scheme and Crime Prevention Advice at Marts/Agricultural Shows.	An Garda Síochána/JPC
1.9	Roll out of Costal Watch Strategy to Enhance collaboration with national policing and security partners	An Garda Síochána/JPC
1.10	Support and keep under review the roll out of the An Garda Síochána Diversity and Integration Strategy 2019 to 2021, and any subsequent iteration of this strategy, in the County.	JPC/ Garda Síochána

1.11	Enable reporting of hate speech and hate crime by members of the identified groups for the Public Sector Duty, with particular attention to new legislation developed and to be developed in this field.	JPC/Garda Síochána
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OBJECTIVE 2 – PUBLIC ORDER AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

	Supporting Actions	Led by
2.1	Develop protocols in respect of Public Events between the Gardai and Meath County Council and HSE	Garda Síochána / MCC/HSE
2.2	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social activity in public open space areas.	Garda Síochána / MCC
2.3	Consider introduction of Byelaws in the context of promoting public safety	JPC/MCC
2.4	Work with external stakeholders to extend the community CCTV in Navan and other urban centers	Garda Síochána / MCC/JPC

OBJECTIVE 3 – PROMOTION OF SAFE COMMUNITIES IN CO. MEATH

	Supporting Actions	Led by
3.1	Promote the availability of new technology to establish Community Text Alert Groups throughout the County, re-energise existing groups.	An Garda Síochána/JPC/Muintir na Tire
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.	An Garda Síochána/Muintir na Tire
3.3	Consider initiatives to increase community interaction between the elderly and the Gardai e.g. members of An Garda Síochána to call to specific organizations to assist members of the public	An Garda Síochána/MCC/Muintir na Tire
3.4	Participate on the Age Friendly Alliance and work towards alleviating the fear of crime amongst the elderly.	An Garda Síochána/MCC
3.5	Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Ensure implementation of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy in Council Housing Estates	Meath County Council
3.6	Continue to support adopted Estate Management Strategies and initiatives with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach between Meath County Council, An Garda Síochána and HSE where particular circumstances arise.	MCC / An Garda Síochána / HSE
3.7	Carry out review of existing Neighborhood Watch /Community Text Alert Schemes and promote greater crime prevention and security awareness, promoting community engagement with the property marking scheme, and fraud prevention.	An Garda Síochána/JPC/Muintir na Tire
3.8	Meath Garda District to actively participate in Garda National Community Relations Bureau roll out of their “Supporting Safer Community “ campaigns and “Crime Prevention Days of Action” .	An Garda Síochána/JPC

3.9	Meath County Council and An Garda Síochána to work in partnership to develop an inter-agency approach in managing and resolving repeated incidences of anti-social behaviour on estates.	An Garda Síochána/MCC
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OBJECTIVE 4 – ROAD SAFETY

	Supporting Actions	Led by
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.	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.	An Garda Síochána/MCC
4.3	Ensure traffic management issues relating to traffic congestion and the impact of special events on the flow of traffic are reported in the local media in a timely manner to minimize disruption.	An Garda Síochána / MCC
4.4	Continue to support, develop and introduce Road Safety Education and Awareness initiatives in association with the RSA, Meath County Council and Garda National Traffic Bureau.	An Garda Síochána / MCC/RSA
4.5	Continue to support Road Safety Education Programme with specific focus on pre-schools, Primary schools, Secondary schools and youth communities in the County.	An Garda Síochána / MCC/LMETB
4.6	Adoption of the various Speed Limits across the county and including all housing estates taken in charge by Meath County Council and enforcement of speed limits across the county. Continue on-going consultation and review of parameters of speed zones with Roads and Transportation Department of Meath County Council.	An Garda Síochána/MCC
4.7	Carry out review of collision prone zones in the County on a quarterly basis with An Garda Síochána Roads Policing Unit and Area Engineers from the Road and Transportation Department at Meath County Council.	An Garda Síochána/MCC

4.8	Coordinate the implementation of Road Safety Strategy by engaging with Road Safety Authority, Meath Co Council, Department of Social Welfare, HSA, Department of Agriculture and other relevant stakeholders.	An Garda Síochána/RSA/MCC
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OBJECTIVE 5 – PROTECTING AND ENGAGING WITH OUR YOUTH

	Supporting Actions	Led by
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.	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.	An Garda Síochána/HSE/LMETB
5.3	Promotion of school education programme “ Use Your Brain Not Your Fists ” by Meath Community Policing	An Garda Síochána/HSE/LMETB
5.4	Liaison with the North East Regional Drugs Task Force in regard to the awareness of the perils of drug and alcohol abuse/misuse amongst our young people.	An Garda Síochána/HSE/LMETB
5.5	Increase awareness of the safe use of social media sites.	JPC/ An Garda Síochána
5.6	Liaison with Meath Juvenile Liaison Officer to identify young person’s most at risk of re-offending and promote the benefits of Restorative Justice through the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme .	An Garda Síochána

5.7	Consider initiatives to address juvenile abuse of intoxicants. Monitor junior discos to prevent abuse of intoxicants	North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDTF)/ An Garda Síochána
5.8	Consider the introduction of a Youth Diversion Project having regard to the evidence-based data in relation to young offenders.	An Garda Síochána

OBJECTIVE 6 – COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION OF GREATER AWARENESS OF THE ROLE OF THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

	Supporting Actions	Led by
6.1	Promotion of the JPC through Meath County Council’s website www.meath.ie and the local media	MCC/JPC
6.2	Develop a Communication Strategy to inform the general public and the community sector about the Joint Policing Committee e.g. newspapers, local radio campaign, social media, PPN newsletter, and www.meath.ie	Garda Síochána / MCC/JPC
6.3	Facilitate JPC input to policy submissions as appropriate	JPC /MCC
6.4	Host a public Joint Policing Committee meeting each Year to 2026 with appropriate advertising/social media etc.	JPC
6.5	Convene and facilitate an annual ‘Policing and Diversity Forum’ with civil society organisations representative of the identified grounds for the Public Sector Duty, to consider progress made and issues arising	JPC

APPENDIX 1 – MEMBERSHIP OF MEATH JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE 2019-2024

Local Authority	Local Authority Elected Members	Oireachtas Elected Members	Local Authority Officials	An Garda Síochána	Community
Counties with 40 Member	15	10	2	2	7
	Chair: Cllr Frances 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 Ashling O Neill Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons Cllr Alan Tobin Cllr Tom Behan Cllr David Gilroy Cllr Yemi Adenuga	Minister Damien English Minister Helen McEntee TD Senator Regina Doherty Minister Thomas Byrne TD Senator Shane Cassells Peadar Tobin TD Johnny Guirke TD Senator Sharon Keogan Senator Annie Hoey Darren O Rourke TD	Barry Lynch DOS Fiona Fallon SEO	Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy Superintendent Dermot Drea	John Tobin (Later Life Network) Bernard Kenny (Core Navan) Ronnie Owens (North Meath Development Association) Conor O’Leary (Muintir na Tire) Bill Commerford (AGR) Salome Maher (Comhairle na nOg) Tinu Achioya (Cultur)

APPENDIX 2 – COMMUNITY ALERT AREAS

Meath Text Alert Groups

Number of Text Alert Schemes **82**

Total Number of Subscribers **9274**

Text Alert Scheme	Station	District	Text Alert Scheme	Station	District
Abbeygrove	Navan	Navan	Foxboro	Ashbourne	Ashbourne
Alderbrook	Ashbourne	Ashbourne	Foxlodge Woods	Ashbourne	Ashbourne
Ashbourne	Ashbourne	Ashbourne	Fyanstown	Kells	Kells
Ashbourne South	Ashbourne	Ashbourne	Gilbertstown Longwood	Longwood	Trim
Athboy	Athboy	Kells	Gormanstown	Laytown	Ashbourne
Athlumney Abbey	Navan	Navan	Graigs Lane	Navan	Navan
Athlumney Village	Navan	Navan	Hawthorns	Ashbourne	Ashbourne
Athlumney Wood	Navan	Navan	Johnstown	Navan	Navan
Balreask	Navan	Navan	Julianstown	Duleek	Ashbourne

Beaufort Abbey	Navan	Navan	Kentstown	Navan	Navan
Beaufort Place	Navan	Navan	Kilbride	Dunboyne	Ashbourne
Beechmount	Navan	Navan	Kilbride Rd	Ashbourne	Ashbourne
Blackcastle	Navan	Navan	Kilcloone	Dunboyne	Ashbourne
Blackcastle Abbey	Navan	Navan	Kileen Dunsany	Dunshaughlin	Ashbourne
Blackcastle Lodge	Navan	Navan	Kilmainham	Kells	Kells
Boardsmill	Trim	Trim	Lagore	Dunshaughlin	Ashbourne
Bohermeen	Navan	Navan	Larchfield	Dunboyne	Ashbourne
Boyerstown	Navan	Navan	Leighsbridge	Navan	Navan
Broadmeadow Vale	Ashbourne	Ashbourne	Limekilm	Navan	Navan
Bru na Habainne	Navan	Navan	Lobinstown	Nobber	Navan
Bush	Dunshaughlin	Ashbourne	Meath Hill	Nobber	Navan
Carlanstown, Kilbeg	Kells	Kells	Millbrook Apts	Navan	Navan
Carnaross	Kells	Kells	Millfarm	Dunboyne	Ashbourne
Carranstown	Ballivor	Trim	Milltree Park	Ashbourne	Ashbourne
Castlejordan/Ballinabrackey	Longwood	Trim	Moylagh	Oldcastle	Kells
Castlevew	Navan	Navan	Moynalty	Kells	Kells

Clonkeen Residents Assoc	Ashbourne	Ashbourne	Moynalvey	Summerhill	Trim
Clonmagadden	Navan	Ashbourne	Nobber	Nobber	Nobber
Deepeforde	Duleek	Navan	Oristown/Gibstown	Navan	Navan
Donaghmore	Navan	Ashbourne	Proudstown Rd	Navan	Navan
Drumbaragh - Cloncat	Kells	Navan	Rackenstown	Ashbourne	Ashbourne
Drumconrath	Nobber	Kells	Rathcairn	Athboy	Kells
Duleek	Duleek	Navan	Rathmoylon	Summerhill	Trim
Dunboyne Southwest	Dunboyne	Ashbourne	Rockfield Kells	Kells	Kells
Dunshaughlin	Dunshaughlin	Ashbourne	Rossnaree	Navan	Navan
Elm View Close	Navan	Ashbourne	Silverlawns	Navan	Navan
Ferndale	Navan	Navan	Skane Valley	Summerhill	Trim
		Navan	Skryne	Dunshaughlin	Ashbourne
			Smaremore	Nobber	Navan
			Stamullen	Laytown	Ashbourne
			Summerseat	Dunboyne	Ashbourne
			Tara Ct	Navan	Navan
			Walterstown	Navan	Navan

APPENDIX 3 – Responses to JPC Strategic Plan Review 2021

No	Identity	Submission
1	Anon	I would like to see an updated and relaunched Text Alert Scheme in the County as the current one is not fit for purpose and too costly for individual groups to operate
2	Anon	Need for more patrol cars in each area so Garda can respond more quickly to call outs. Need for more liaison with Community Groups, crime prevention talks etc., visits to homes/businesses to advise on security.
3	Anon	I believe Navan could be a pilot area for zero tolerance (following New York model) and have the highest density of quality public cameras (Monaco model). I believe the town is the ideal size with an adequate amount of crime to justify the cost and the results could be easily measured.
4	Anon	I love Navan town but more and more the anti - social behaviour around the town is disheartening. Hearing of friends attacked down the ramparts, obvious drug taking and apart from anti - social behaviour we seem to have a real problem with drunk behaviour during the day in our town. I'm surprised none of the above rankings had tackling the drink and drug issues on our streets as it seems to be pretty bad.
5	Anon	Better public lighting in housing estates. Many housing estates have sub-standard lighting and don't feel safe after dark.
6	Anon	Enforce the foreshore bylaws
7	Anon	Youth groups. Planning within county council so that streets are made safer, lighting, softer planting, certain types of music playing in evenings where youths congregate, and all of those European based ideas that show leads to less crime, more capital spend on skate parks, youth clubs, running tracks, ball walls all that. Town hall meetings in schools with garda and showing horrific scenes of crashes / crime etc..
8	Anon	Garda visibility on the ground - walking, cycling, engaging with people - not cars driving around or large numbers in the Garda Station. Might be beyond the scope of JPC Strategy - Member of the public to deal with any guard at the station if following up on something rather than the guard who initially took complaint/incident and may or may not have recorded it. A proper system with record of detail that any guard on duty can access at the local station rather

		than the current frustrating system of having to wait or return to meet the initial guard when he/she next rostered or returns from leave/sick leave etc. Why must Q 5 be answered when NO is the answer to Q4???????
9	Anon	More community policing both in urban and rural areas would make a significant impact and generate greater awareness, the community policing to date in Meath has proven enormous benefit to communities
10	Anon	The current legislation is not strict enough for the criminals. The criminals themselves know that there will be little to no repercussions for the crime they will commit. This does not deter the criminals it actually encourages that kind of mentality.
11	Anon	Harder sentences. Deterrent needed.
12	Anon	Meath has the lowest number of Gardai per capita WHY? Especially as we now have a Minister for Justice from Meath, Increase the number of Gardai and stop discriminating the people of Meath. 22 years ago Navan's population was 13k today it's nearer 35k, Johnstown alone must be over 12k with no Garda station, no visibility of Gardai only last year during first lockdown we actually saw Guards walking the streets, increased crime and especially drug dealing now in broad daylight, what chance do our grandchildren have?
13	Anon	No more covid checkpoints - uphold the constitution
14	Anon	Area too large for the amount of garda cars available, delay in replying to calls. offenders with 40 and 50 charges still walking around garda doing the best they can under the circumstances.
15	Anon	Text alerts
16	Anon	Promotion of further Security Cameras throughout towns that can be monitored by Garda Stations - make our towns safer places.
17	Anon	Motion December 2020 from Labour Cllr Elaine McGinty & passed by Meath County Council. I have also given a presentation to the JPC on this. To ask Meath County Council to consider supporting the implementation of the 'See Something, Say Something' initiative. Already in operation in a number County Councils across the Country in partnership with An Garda Síochána. The project is for members of the public who 'see something' that might need Garda intervention, to 'say something' by texting e.g. DROGHEDA and the incident details to a particular number. The free text message will be received by the sergeant on duty and it will be acted upon by local Gardai. The project is advertised to the public by using signs containing the relevant contact details of the local Garda station and can be targeted in areas of particular concern for anti-social behaviour. This is a cost-effective initiative and gets the

		community involved. I would like to see it adopted as part of the JPC response to crime.
18	Anon	Need more visible Garda presence
19	Anon	Anti -social behavior
20	Anon	Anti- social behavior. and intimidation activity. drinking alcohol in public rule not been enforced in our town center
21	Anon	Teenagers need to be held responsible... If there 15 with a knife prison... 14..13..12 and lower ages all need a hard warning
22	Anon	Drug use and anti- social behavior and racism
23	Anon	Drinking in public parks.
24	Anon	GET MEMBERS OF AGS ON FOOT ON THE STREETS OF NAVAN. Swanning around in jeeps etc does nothing to deter the thugs plaguing the streets of the town.
25	Anon	The greatest issue in Longwood is speeding on the main Trim Rd. All times of day and night. Roads/ paths not safe especially at the weekend. Nervous for our 13 year old to go for a walk with her friends even early evening at the weekend.
26	Anon	A section of force to interact with children of all ages by walking through estates and town centres and just talk to them about things in general and build up a relationship over the long term , in addition you build up rapport with parents ,and they would always have to be in good humor
27	Anon	More speed checks in towns.
28	Anon	By head of population Meath has the least number of Garda in Ireland. Sadly crime levels are at a point in North Meath and with little been done by the guards thus a number of crimes now go unreported. Perhaps a better balance needs to be found between how much time Garda spend investigating rural crime in comparison to the time they spend on PR exercises.
29	Anon	Rural Crime
30	Anon	Every few years switch guards location especially in Rural areas.
31	Anon	More Garda on the streets especially in poor areas
32	Anon	Mt Hanover Grangerath, Laytown, Bettystown and Mornington to Louth Garda Station. Ashbourne 40mins away is our garda Station-Louth Garda Station 10mins

33	Anon	Response times in terms of policing boundaries. Why wait in Colpe for a garda car from Ashbourne when one is up the road in Drogheda? Common sense must prevail.
34	Anon	I feel the Garda have to do so much community work they haven't enough time to investigate crimes.
35	Anon	I would like to see more Garda in Rural Nobber / Kilmainhamwood area. When a robbery takes place it would be good if you could get a Garda to site quick. It would be good if we had enough garda resources so that crimes could be investigated further. Known Criminal Families operating out of the county using the N2 corridor are seriously undermining Law Enforcement.
36	Anon	Known Crime Family need 24 hour Garda or CCTV camera but out side there gate on main road. Considering how many convictions as well as reported crimes pin pointing this family for crimes I feel a 24 hour surveillance is justified. Clearly longer prison sentences would be beneficial in this case. There would be strong support for ankle tracking bracelets. This would stop repeating offenders.
37	Anon	Rural CCTV at key junctions.
38	Anon	Consistent visibility of Gardai in all areas. Not moving from one area to another. When do spot areas where an intervention is needed, for example drug use/dealing they can signpost onwards where appropriate Resources in place to facilitate signposting to appropriately resourced agencies. Part of Wrap Around community interventions
39	Anon	An increase in Garda visibility and tackling of ASB is badly needed in Navan. Open air drug taking, dealing, alcohol consumption a mere stones- throw away from the Garda station is just unacceptable. Every time I park at the back of the town hall in Navan, the same people can be seen there taking the same drugs, harassing the same people and fighting with the same people. It's unacceptable that it has been allowed to continue at all but most importantly because most of the residents there are elderly people. The whole town of Navan is overrun with anti- social behaviour and only once over my trips into town this year have I seen Gardai patrolling.
40	Anon	Elder Abuse
41	Anon	Open the stations for longer hours. I'm in Grangerath... out of hours our police come from Ashbourne, Drogheda 2km away

APPENDIX 4: ASSESSMENT OF EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

The assessment of equality and human rights issues has involved the identification of the issues faced by the groups (grounds) covered by the Duty, and identified as relevant to **the JPC Strategic Plan 2021-2026**.

The purpose of the assessment is to enable the **Meath JPC** to track its current responses to the issues identified and to further expand and develop these responses as found to be necessary. The assessment process, and the identification of actions to address these issues within the strategy, aims to further improve impact on equality and human rights.

The assessment has been developed for this purpose by MCC, and establishes the equality and human rights issues, relevant to the identified equality grounds, and functions of the **Meath Joint Policing Committee**.

The assessment is based on an examination of the following:

- Situation – refers to the disadvantage in the level and quality of resources the **target** group can access, such as **security, crime prevention, public order**
- Experience – refers to the quality of the **target** group’s engagement with an **Garda Síochána, and related** public services
- Identity – refers to the manner in which the **target** group gives expression to its identity and the specific needs that arise from this diversity for consideration by An Garda Síochána.

The priority issues, identified from the MCC template, of concern for a JPC strategy draw from the MCC values of dignity, inclusion, and democracy, and are:

Dignity:

Equality and human rights issues faced by the target groups, relating to **dignity**, that have a relevance to the functions of the Meath Joint Policing Committee are:

- Prejudice and attitudinal barriers
- Stereotypes, stigma, hate speech, and hate crime across the identified groups.

- Violence and intimidation, including gender-based violence, abuse of older people, child abuse, and fears and experiences of violence in public spaces (in particular for LGBTI+ people).
- Expectations held by the identified groups, of discrimination and harassment and barriers to service provision that arise from these

Inclusion:

Equality and human rights issues faced by the identified groups, relating to **inclusion**, that have a relevance to the functions of the Meath Joint Policing Committee are:

- Isolation, vulnerability, loneliness, and fear of crime
- Barriers to access services due to design, manner of delivery, and inflexibilities in meeting specific needs across the identified target groups.
- Barriers of communication, including issues such as lack of interpretation and translation and lack of accessible formats and media
- Lack of understanding, awareness, and recognition of diversity among service providers, and decision-makers

Democracy:

Equality and human rights issues faced by the identified groups, relating to **democracy**, that have a relevance to the functions of the **Meath Joint Policing Committee** are:

- Lack of opportunities to voice perspectives and lack of influence on decision-making
- Lack of capacity, including resources and organisation, to effectively represent the voice of identified groups.