



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes
County Meath Joint Policing Committee

23rd May 2022 – 2.30 pm Solstice Arts Centre, Railway Street, Navan

In Attendance:

Chairperson: Cllr Francis Deane

County Council Members: Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Noel French, Cllr Alan Lawes,
Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Cllr Gillian Toole

Oireachtas Members: Sen Shane Cassels, Min H McEntee,

An Garda Síochána: Superintendent Dermot Drea

County Council Officials: Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon

Community & Voluntary Sector: Ronnie Owens,

Coordinator: Angie Mitchell

Apologies: Chief Superintendent F Healy, Min D English, Dep T Byrne, Dep J Guirke,
Dep D O'Rourke, Dep P Tóibín, Sen A Hoey, Sen R Doherty, Sen S Keogan, Cllr D Gilroy,
Cllr D Geraghty Smith, Cllr E Fennessy, Cllr P Fitzsimons, Cllr A O'Neill, Cllr T Behan, Cllr P McCabe, Cllr T
Golden, Cllr A Tobin, T Achioya, B Kenny, C O'Leary, B Commerford,

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 21st February, 2022 Cllr Francis Deane informed the Committee that due to conflicting engagements, Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy sent his apologies and could not attend today's meeting which would be his final meeting on this Joint Policing Committee as he is due to retire.</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st February, 2022 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Alan Lawes and seconded by Cllr Yemi Adenuga.</p>



2. Matters arising from minutes

No matter arising.

3. Correspondence

No correspondence

4. To receive an update on the 3 JPC Sub Committees

Angie Mitchell gave a verbal report on the 3 JPC Subcommittees as follows:

1) PUBLIC ORDER & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Committee Members: Cllr Eddie Fennessy (Cathaoirleach), Superintendent Declan Power, Cllr Alan Lawes, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Aisling O'Neill, Bernard Kenny (Core), Tinu Achioya (Cultúr)

This Committee met on 12th May 2022 and agreed on a work plan for 2022 focusing on the following:

- 1) To ensure that proper attention and seriousness is given to Antisocial Behaviour
- 2) To monitor Meath County Councils Antisocial Behaviour Policy and to explore preventative measures to tackle the overall issue of Antisocial Behaviour
- 3) To work in partnership to divert children and young people from Antisocial Behaviour, including the assessment of current Garda Youth related services
- 4) To work in partnership to ensure that young people engage positively with the justice system

2) ROAD SAFETY & IMPROVED DRIVER BEHAVIOUR

Committee Members: Cllr David Gilroy (Cathaoirleach), Inspector Peter Gilsean, Cllr Alan Tobin, Cllr Trevor Golden, Cllr Paul McCabe, Cllr Tom Behan, Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Mick Finnegan (Road Safety Officer MCC), Bill Comerford (Abbeygrove Residents Association)



This Committee met on 16th May, 2022 and agreed on a work plan to create a “Summer” social media road safety awareness campaign to cover the follow topics:

- 1) Speeding
- 2) The use of Mobile Phones
- 3) The use of E-Scooters
- 4) Respect for other Road Users including cyclists and horse riders

They also hope to create a similar “Winter” social media road safety awareness campaign to cover the topics on the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving and the importance of the wearing of a seat belt while driving.

3) COMMUNITY SAFETY & CRIME PREVENTION

Committee Members: Cllr Gillian Toole (Cathaoirleach), Superintendent Martina Noonan, Cllr Noel French, Cllr Francis Deane, Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Conor O’Leary (Muintir na Tire), Ronnie Owens (North Meath Development Association),

This Committee met on 20th May, 2022 and agreed on a work plan for 2022 focusing on the following:

- 1) To promote the organisation of more Community Engagement Days and ensure they are advertised well in advance
- 2) To promote open days that are organized by An Garda Síochána
- 3) To promote the use of An Garda Síochána’s resources during Local Festivals
- 4) To promote community safety and crime prevention messages on social media and local media
- 5) To organise a meeting with NERDATF and Comhairle Na nÓg with a view to publishing a drug awareness leaflet for secondary school students and 5th and 6th class of primary school
- 6) To promote the use of the Property Marking Machine throughout the county
- 7) To work closely with the new Crime Prevention Officer when appointed
- 8) To promote the Community Support Register and encourage Community Groups to resume following Covid 19

Cathaoirleach thanked Angie Mitchell for the update and opened to the floor for any questions or comments.



Cllr Yemi Adenuga queried if there are any specific measures in place to combat the issue of Antisocial behaviour. She mentioned the Street League over the summer months and how this was helping with this issue and stated that the Comhairle Na nÓg and Community Gardai and Meath Local Sports Partnership could help in coming up with ideas and mentioned the huge amount of work that Meath Local Sports Partnership are currently doing to organise sports event for young people and teenagers. She suggested all could work in collaboration to come up with other ideas to create a programme to reach the youths who are getting involved in Antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Francis Deane stated that in September / October the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Subcommittee hoped to get back into schools and give talks as this had stopped with Covid and needed to be resumed and this September they hope to be in a better position to do this.

Cllr Gillian Toole suggested that in conjunction with the Community Garda in Ashbourne, that using the Skateparks for creating events for youths and teenagers where it would be policed would be an idea as she had seen the benefits of this in America.

Cllr Alan Lawes thanked the Gardai in the Johnstown Area of Navan who had made good interactions and efforts with the youths in this area by getting to know them by their first names which created good relations and he commented that the Antisocial behaviour in this area had declined slightly and he felt that there was a good Garda presence in the Johnstown Area.

Cllr Lawes questioned if a Garda Liaison Officer could be made available to a family where a youth was starting to get into trouble as an early preventative measure rather than waiting for the youth to get convicted before a Garda Liaison Officer could be assigned to them.

Cllr Noel French commented that there are good Youth Diversion programmes throughout the County and stated that not all the youths will engage with these programmes. He mentioned the SMART programme in Trim and stated that incidents of Antisocial behaviour had declined in the Trim Area also.

Superintendent Drea confirmed that the incidents of Antisocial behaviour in Johnstown are going down. He confirmed that a family Liaison Officer is only ever assigned when a person has been convicted of a crime. He stated that the Gardai will support any opportunities to prevent a person turning to crime and encouraged anyone wishing to report a crime or to look for advice to contact the district office in Navan and the query will go direct to his office.



5. To receive report on fatal accidents in Co. Meath for Q2 of 2022 in line with Circular RW 18 of 2020 LA16 Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure

Superintendent Dermot Drea gave a verbal report on the incidents of fatalities and stated that 2022 has been a bleak year for road fatalities to date. He confirmed that there had been 7 fatalities to date in 2022 and this is up 6 on the same period for 2021. He stated that there is a big increase on traffic on the roads in 2022 as opposed to 2021 due to Covid restrictions in 2021.

Meath Roads Policing

Category	2021 YTD	2022 YTD	Change	% Change
Fatalities	0	3	+3	--
Fatal Collisions	1	7	+6	600%
Serious injury collisions	8	8	-	0%
Minor injury Collisions	7	66	+59	942%
Driving while Intoxicated incidents	125	160	+35	+28%
MIT Checkpoints	63	502	+439	796%
Vehicles Seized	466	230	-236	-49%

Ronnie Owens questioned if there are any figures on what percentage of accidents were caused by people driving under the influence.

Superintendent Drea commented that he did not have those figures to hand today but that he would source these figures.

6. To receive a presentation from An Garda Síochána on Crime Statistics for County Meath to 23rd May 2022

Superintendent Drea gave a verbal presentation on the crime statistics for Meath to 23rd May, 2022 as follows:



Meath Division Crime Statistics

Crime category	Incidents 2022 YTD	%change YTD	Diff	No of detections 2022 YTD	% change detection rate YTD
Property crime	530	+46%		87	-30%
Burglary (non aggravated)	131	+77%		7	+17%
Theft from Vehicles	57	+2%		6	-65%
Theft of Vehicles	22	-21%		4	-33%
Theft from Shop	178	+70%		47	-34%
Theft of Other Property	106	+49%		16	-20%
Crimes against the person	138	+24%		8	-33%
Drugs (sale & supply)	11	-71%		15	-53%
Drugs (possession)	61	-54%		58	+45%

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
- Attendance at Community Events during year, via remote Platforms such as Zoom, Teleconference and Social Media forums.
- Text Alert system in operation.
- Garda Youth Awards Scheme – held on 13th October, 2021, Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath.
- Other normal Community Engagement activities e.g. meetings / school visits – adversely impacted during Covid-19 pandemic.
- Divisional Facebook page (Meath Crime Prevention) – 42,000 followers
- Divisional Instagram Account being piloted – Pilot ongoing
- Weekly Garda Crime Desk on LMFM Radio reaching circa 35,000 local persons.



Resources – Meath Division

- 331 Sworn Garda Members (All Ranks)
- 123 Ashbourne District
- 106 Navan District
- 45 Kells District
- 57 Trim District
- 19 Roads Policing Unit
- 15 Reserve Members
- 48 Garda Staff
- 16 Garda Stations

Cathaoirleach thanked Superintendent Drea for his presentation and opened it up to the floor.

Members who made contributions were: Cllr Noel French, Cllr Alan Lawes, Cllr Gillian Toole, Sen Shane Cassells, Minister Helen McEntee & Cllr Maria Murphy on subjects such as fatal collision statistics, online fraud, Theft of Cars, Drug Dealing, Crimes against the person, Online fraud & Drifting in the M3 Carpark. Superintendent Drea responded to all queries raised to the satisfaction of the committee members.

Minister Helen McEntee commended Chief Superintendent Healy, Sup Drea and all the team on their increased online presence, in engaging online with the public and in reaching out to as many people as possible. She stated that this was very noticeable and thanked the Gardai in all the Stations across Meath.

7. AOB and next Meeting Date 19th September, 2022

CCTV for Navan

Fiona Fallon gave an update on the CCTV for Navan and informed the Committee that a part 8 planning application was being submitted to the Planning Department this week for an additional 58 CCTV cameras to be installed in Navan Town and Surrounding areas. This follows comprehensive consultations with the Gardai in Navan to identify all relevant locations and is in addition to the 6 CCTV cameras currently operating in Navan Town.

Barry Lynch confirmed that there would be a 4-week public consultation process following the lodging of the Part 8 application with a further 2 weeks for submissions to be received. The Chief Executives Report would then be brought to the next Navan MD meeting.

Cllr Toole asked if there were any plans to roll the CCTV installation out to other locations.



Barry Lynch stated that the CCTV Steering Committee was established to discuss the need for CCTV in the County and would be prioritised based on Garda crime statistics. The next meeting of that Committee would be on 1st June and any items relating to CCTV would be raised and discussed at that meeting.

Cathaoirleach Francis Deane gave a special note of thanks and best wishes on behalf of the JPC Committee to Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy who is due to retire from this Committee and noted that this meeting would have been his final meeting on this committee.

Barry Lynch also thanked Chief Superintendent Healy for his time and attendance at the Joint Policing Committee meetings and wished him all the best for the future. He also commented on the excellent relationship the Gardai in the County of Meath have with this Committee and thanked the Gardai for their continued co operation

Cathaoirleach thanked all for their attendance at the meeting and confirmed that the next JPC Meeting will be held on 19th September, 2022.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach Francis Deane

Date:

19-9-2022