



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes
County Meath Joint Policing Committee

Date: 20th February 2023 @ 2.30 p.m.

Venue: Ardboyne Hotel, Navan

In Attendance:

Presiding: Cllr Francis Deane

County Council Members: Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Noel French, Cllr Alan Lawes, Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Cllr Gillian Toole, Cllr David Gilroy, Cllr Trevor Golden, Cllr Paul McCabe

Oireachtas Members: Senator Shane Cassells, Deputy Johnny Guirke, Deputy Darren O'Rourke

An Garda Síochána: Chief Superintendent John Dollard, Superintendent Martina Noonan, Superintendent Blaitheín Moran, A/Superintendent Ronan Farrelly, Detective Inspector Michael Dorrigan, Inspector Peter Gilsenan, Inspector Brian Dunne, Sergeant Clarissa Byrne

County Council Officials: Fiona Fallon, Barry Lynch

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

Guest: Linda Murray, Parliamentary Assistant for Damien English, T.D.

Co-Ordinator: Angie Mitchell

Apologies: Jackie Maguire, Minister Helen McEntee, Deputy Peadar Toibin, Deputy Damien English, Deputy Thomas Byrne, Senator Annie Hoey, Senator Regina Doherty, Senator Sharon Keogan, Cllr Alan Tobin, Cllr Deirdre Geraghty Smith, Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Aisling O'Neill, Cllr Tom Behan, Cllr Edward Fennessy, Tinu Achioya, Bill Comerford

1. Chairpersons Opening Remarks

Cllr Francis Deane welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged one item of correspondence received from the National Transport Authority dated 16th January 2023 acknowledging the letter that had been sent by Meath JPC in December 2022 regarding antisocial behaviour on the NX bus service and Navan Town bus service. In this letter the NTA stated that they will continue to work with the management in Bus Eireann on appropriate proposal that would deter the level of anti-social behaviour and will raise these proposals further at their next meeting with Bus Eireann.

Cllr Toole advised that the Meath County Councils have been requesting a meeting with the NTA for some

time now and suggested that the issue above could be included on the agenda for that meeting when it is organised.

F Fallon clarified that this correspondence was as a result of a meeting organised by a JPC subcommittee to deal specifically with the issue of antisocial behaviour on the NX Bus and Navan Town Bus Service and that this correspondence confirmed that the NTA will raise this issue further with Bus Eireann. She confirmed that the Meath JPC will look for a further update on this matter in the coming months.

Cllr Toole apologised for her misunderstanding of this correspondence.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th December 2022 (attached)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Cllr French** and seconded by **Cllr Lawes**.

3. Garda Síochána Overview of Crime Statistics

Cllr Murphy joined the meeting at 14.38.

Chief Superintendent Dollard introduced his team who had accompanied him to today's meeting. He informed the Committee that Inspector Dorrigan would give the presentation on the crime statistics and Inspector Gilsenan would give the presentation on roads policing.

Inspector Dorrigan presented the policing report with relevant provisional statistics to 12th February 2023 giving a verbal breakdown of these provisional figures as per the categories below:

Crime category	Incidents 2023 YTD	% change YTD	No of detections 2023 YTD	% change detection rate YTD
Property crime	300	+32%	102	183%
Burglary (non-aggravated)	42	-25%	16	+433%
Theft from Vehicles	36	+44%	4	+0%
Theft of Vehicles	32	+167%	1	+50%
Theft from Shop	104	+32%	61	+221%
Theft of Other Property	62	+59%	13	+225%
Crimes against the person	59	+7%	17	-6%
Drugs (sale & supply)	7	+75%	6	-14%
Drugs (possession)	25	+39%	24	+4%



Cllr Deane thank Inspector Dorrigan for his presentation and opened to the floor for discussion.

There were queries, concerns and questions raised by the following committee members: **Deputy O'Rourke, Cllr Golden, C O'Leary, Cllr Deane, R Owens, Cllr Toole, Deputy Guirke, Cllr Lawes, Cllr Adenuga, Cllr Murphy, Senator Cassells, Cllr French and Cllr McCabe** in relation to – *obtaining the Garda presentation used at today's meeting/ whether the information used at today's meeting is used as the basis for requesting additional garda staff/ Requesting a breakdown of figures in relation to Theft From Shops/ Drugs for personal use,/the increase in sightings of Lurcher Dogs in rural areas and how to report such sightings/ Antisocial Behaviour in Navan Town and concerns regarding lack of garda presence and garda numbers/ the carrying out of exit interviews for all Garda Resignations/ Garda Recruitment Procedures & Retention figures/ Drug possession & caution process for under 18's/ Online Media Safety Bill/ Policing in relation to Social Media and the threats posed from social media posts/ the increase in Drug use in public/ the Increase in Nitrous Oxide Use/ Garda Visibility/ Vaping regulations/ Anti-Immigration Protests/Updates for each district regarding the Text Alert system.*

Responses to all queries, questions and concerns raised were provided by: Chief Superintendent Dollard, Detective Inspector Dorrigan, Superintendent Moran, Superintendent Noonan, A/Superintendent Farrelly, & Inspector Dunne.

Amongst the points made were as follows: this presentation can't be shared as the data is provisional until officially published by the Central Statistics Office/ provisional crime figures provided today are used when requesting additional garda numbers but the main factor in requesting same is the population of the division/ theft from shops is mainly from large supermarket chains by organised groups who steal items that can be sold on such as alcohol electrical items & toiletries etc/ Gardai will respond to any reports made in relation to the sightings of lurcher dogs/ Gardai have provided a big increase in on the ground patrols and road stops particularly on on-off ramps on motorways/ Gardai expect additional resources for County Meath by the end of the summer 2023 and these probationers will initially be placed in the Navan, Ashbourne and Laytown stations/ Some Gardai are not taking up offers to work overtime at weekends/Gardai do conduct exit interviews which are done following a Garda's resignation /Gardai are being recruited in a tight labour market and some personnel are not suited to the role of Garda/there are lots of supports and counselling services available for Garda staff if required/Garda are using social media as part of their recruitment campaigns/There is no set limit on the number of cautions a juvenile can get for drug possession, it depends on the circumstances as each case is individual and Juvenile Liaison Officers are assigned and help each juvenile as they come to their attention/Dedicated Garda are assigned to the cybercrime until in Mullingar to deal specifically with the issue of cybercrime/The Meath Crime prevention facebook page has the largest number of followers in the country and this page is very active/Data on social media can sometimes be encrypted making it difficult for Gardai to identify who is behind a specific social media page/Nitrous oxide is not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Acts/Calls should be made by the public to 999 or 112 rather than to individual Garda stations so all calls can be logged and prioritized/There is no mechanism for Gardai to detect unanswered calls made to individual Garda Stations/Gardai don't get involved in anti-immigration protests organised on social media/Text Alert continues to be used in Ashbourne and will recommence in Navan and Trim and Gardai don't have updates regarding text alert figures for Kells to hand today.



4. To receive a report on fatal accidents in County Meath for Q1 of 2023 in line with Circular RW18 of 2020 – LA16 Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure

Superintendent Noonan left the meeting at 15.50.

Inspector Gilsenan gave a verbal report on the roads policing figures (provisional) to 12th February 2023.

Meath Roads Policing

Category	2022 YTD	2023 YTD	Change	% Change
Fatalities	2	1	-1	-50%
<i>Fatal Collisions*</i>	2	1	-1	-50%
<i>Serious injury collisions*</i>	4	3	-1	-25%
Non-serious injury Collisions	18	24	+6%	33%
Driving while intoxicated incidents	30	15	-15	-50%
MIT Checkpoints	115	67	-48	-42%
Vehicles Seized (S41, RTA)	47	49	+2	+4.26%

***Data (provisional) as on 12/02/2023**

Cathaoirleach thanked Inspector Gilsenan for his report and opened to the floor for discussion:

Questions were raised: by **Deputy O'Rourke and Cllr Deane** in relation to - *Recent checkpoints and speed gun detection figures at Skryne and Ratoath/the number of uninsured drivers in County Meath/NCT testing delays.*

Responses to questions raised were provided by Inspector Gilsenan as follows: the Skryne/Ratoath road is on the Gardaí's upcoming schedule for checkpoints with the focus for this week being speed/the Motor Insurance Bureau of Ireland have the figures in relation to uninsured drivers, however Meath is not showing an increase in detections for not displaying insurance in 2022 as opposed to 2021/3 Garda patrol cars in Meath have been fitted with number plate recognition/If a driver is driving a car in which the NCT has expired, that car is deemed unworthy.

Cllr French left the meeting at 15.54.

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

C O'Leary left the meeting at 15.56.

A Mitchell gave a brief update on the 3 subcommittees confirming the dates of their recent meetings and their proposed work plans for 2023 following these meetings.

Cathaoirleach thanked A Mitchell for her update and opened to the floor for questions.

Cllr Lawes raised concerns in relation to the lack on information being provided to Meath County Council Officials, Local County Councillors and the Local Gardai in relation to the rumoured placements of refugees in the Navan Area which had recently been shared on social media by anti immigration protesters. He questioned Navan Gardai on whether they had been made aware of such placements at the recent JPC subcommittee meeting but Inspector O’Keeffe confirmed that he was not aware of any forthcoming placements of refugees in Navan. Cllr Lawes stated that this is concerning should an anti immigration protest take place if these rumours were true.

B Lynch advised that Syrian and Ukrainian refugees will be housed at the former HSE building in Kells which is currently being renovated for use as a rest centre as the Civil defence building in Navan can no longer be used for this purpose. He further stated that it is the responsibility of IPAS (International Protection Accommodation Services) to inform the relevant authorities of where they will be housing asylum seekers and he advised that in some cases, the Local Authorities are only advised of such placements after the event.

Cllr Murphy stressed the importance of raising awareness among parents and youths in the County in relation to the negative effects and risks involved in the use of nitrous oxide.

Cllr Gilroy thanked Inspector Gilsenan for his continued support and commitment as part of the JPC subcommittee on Road Safety and Improved Driver Behaviour.

Cllr Toole thanked A Mitchell for her help in co-ordinating the subcommittee meetings.

6. To approve the JPC Annual Report 2022

F Fallon gave a brief updated on the contents of the draft annual report for 2022 including date and venue of the public meeting held in October 2022, the actions of the sub committees in 2022 and the proposed work plan for 2023 which she noted had been circulated in advance of this meeting to Committee members.

The Annual report 2022 was approved on the proposal of **Cllr Toole** and seconded by **Cllr Murphy**.

Cllr Lawes left the meeting at 16.12.

7. AOB & Next Meeting Date – 15th May 2023

R Owens advised that Minister Harris had recently announced the establishment of a Citizens Assembly on Drugs Use and suggested that this JPC Committee make a submission to the Citizens Assembly on the issues and concerns regarding drug use discussed at today’s meeting.

F Fallon noted that the JPC could write to the Minister to make him aware of the issues highlighted and discussed at today’s meeting. She advised that the next meeting of this Joint Policing Committee will take place on 15th May 2023.

Cathaoirleach thanked all for their attendance today. The meeting concluded at 16.15



Signed: _____

Date: **15th May 2023**

Cathaoirleach Cllr Francis Deane