



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

Date: 15th May 2023 @ 2.30 p.m.

Venue: Buvinda House, Navan, Co Meath

In Attendance:

Presiding: Cllr Francis Deane

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

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

An Garda Síochána: Chief Superintendent John Dollard, Superintendent Martina Noonan,

County Council Officials: Fiona Fallon, Barry Lynch

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

Guest: Superintendent Blaithin Moran, Superintendent Yvonne Murphy, A/Superintendent Ronan Farrelly, Detective Inspector Michael Dorrigan, Inspector Peter Gilsean, Cllr Sharon Tolan

Co-Ordinator: Angie Mitchell

Apologies: Jackie Maguire, Minister Helen McEntee, Deputy Peadar Toibin, Deputy Damien English, Deputy Thomas Byrne, Deputy Johnny Guirke, Senator Annie Hoey, Senator Regina Doherty, Senator Sharon Keogan, Cllr Alan Tobin, Cllr David Gilroy, Cllr Trevor Golden, Cllr Paul McCabe Cllr Deirdre Geraghty Smith, Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Alan Lawes, Cllr Aisling O'Neill, Cllr Tom Behan, Cllr Edward Fennessy, Tinu Achioya, Bill Comerford, Bernard Kenny

1. Chairpersons Opening Remarks

The meeting commenced at 2.36 p.m.

Cllr Francis Deane welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from the above named committee members.

He advised that there were no items of correspondence for discussion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 20th February 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Cllr French** and seconded by **Cllr Toole**.

3. To seek 2 nominations from Meath JPC for the North East Regional DRIVE Implementation Group

F Fallon advised that at least one nomination from the Meath JPC would be required for the DRIVE Implementation Group and perhaps a second nomination as a back-up person.

Cllr Toole stated that she believes there is already a Member of Meath County Council on the North East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and suggested that they might be the best person for nomination to the DRIVE implementation Group.

Cllr Murphy asked how often the meetings will take place for the Implementation Group and whether they would be held in person or online.

F Fallon advised that she will find out if there is currently a member of Meath County Council on the NERDATF and how often it is anticipated that the meetings will take place and will revert back to the Committee when this is clarified.

Cllr Adenuga joined the meeting at 2.42 p.m.

4. Garda Síochána Overview of Crime Statistics

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 Gilsean would give the presentation on roads policing.

Inspector Dorrigan presented the policing report with relevant provisional statistics to 7th May 2023 giving a verbal breakdown of these provisional figures as per the categories below: He welcomed the decrease in burglaries for the Meath Division. He advised that the increase in vehicle theft was predominantly Japanese Imports with no immobilizing device and encouraged the use of steering locks for the owners of such vehicles. He noted that the majority of Theft from Shops was the theft of groceries and alcohol. He advised that the low detection in Theft from Vehicles was due to the fact that the thefts were mainly on private property and were due to vehicles being left unlocked by their owners and owners did not pursue the matter through the courts. Inspector Dorrigan further noted that the theft of other property was predominantly drive offs from filling stations. He added that a number of recent arrests had been made in relation to persons Impersonating Gardai and that those persons were due before the courts. He further added that the main drugs detected under sale and supply were cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy.



Crime category	Incidents 2023 YTD	% change YTD	No of detections 2023 YTD	% change detection rate YTD
Property crime	899	+18%	242	+89%
Burglary (non-aggravated)	109	-41%	19	+27%
Theft from Vehicles	91	0%	4	-33%
Theft of Vehicles	73	+121%	2	-67%
Theft from Shop	356	+41%	177	+153%
Theft of Other Property	177	+24%	25	+19%
Crimes against the person	215	+5%	56	-2%
Drugs (sale & supply)	33	+106%	23	-4%
Drugs (possession)	110	+55%	24	-6%

Chief Superintendent Dollard thanked Inspector Dorrigan for the work carried out to date by his team and for this update including the presentation of the provisional figures and echoed the message by Inspector Dorrigan to the owners of Japanese Imported Vehicles in recommending the use of steering locks, wheel locks and chain locks. He opened to the floor for questions. He advised that if anybody is in possession of any video footage evidence of vehicle theft or any other crime, that it must be reported to Gardai for it to be investigated.

Cllr Toole thanked the Community Gardai for their attendance and assistance at a Community Safety Event that took place in Dunshaughlin in April.

There were queries, concerns and questions raised by the following committee members: **Deputy O'Rourke, R Owens, C O'Leary, Cllr Adenuga, Cllr Murphy** in relation to – *the criteria in relation to detections/ % change in detection rates/ what % of property crimes are drug fuelled /Updates for each district in relation to feedback on text alert from Community Gardai / Query regarding the appointment of a Juvenile Liaison Officer for Navan as this area is currently covered by the JLO for Ashbourne / Bogus Tradesmen and the vulnerability of the youth and elderly in relation to Bogus Tradesmen.*

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

Amongst the points made were as follows: *A detection cannot be confirmed unless the crime has been committed and a court prosecution issued / Certain crimes take longer to get to court and therefore won't show in the statistics until a prosecution takes place / approximately one fifth of crimes are detected and some crimes are easier to detect than others depending on the evidence obtained / Organised crime groups are forensically aware / Crimes can only be classified as drug fuelled if the person is caught / There is a new Community policing unit in Duleek and it is planned to expand this into Dunboyne and Dunshaughlin Areas - text alert is working well in Ashbourne Area / There is not much feedback from text alert in Kells Area and Kells*



don't have a dedicated Policing Unit / Text alert is defunct in the Navan Area however Garda give regular coverage on LMF in relation to Community Alerts – 1 Sergeant and 3 Gardai are attached to Community Policing in Navan / In Trim there are 2 Gardai attached to Community Policing with good feedback in relation to text alert / Due to constraints in the HR process within an Garda Síochána – the JLO Officer for Navan has yet to be advertised / Crimes in relation to Bogus Tradesmen in any area or online must be reported to Gardai for investigation.

Cllr French agreed that Community Policing is excellent in the Trim Area.

C O'Leary stated that the feedback he received in relation to Text Alert is that it works better when the Community Gardai have closer relationships with the leaders of the local Community Groups.

5. To receive a report on fatal accidents in County Meath for Q2 of 2023 in line with Circular RW18 of 2020 – LA16 Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure

Senator Shane Cassells joined the meeting at 3.05 p.m.

Inspector Gilsenan gave a verbal report on the roads policing figures (provisional) to 7th May 2023.

Meath Roads Policing

Category	2022 YTD	2023 YTD	Change	% Change
Fatalities	6	2	-3	-60%
Fatal Collisions*	6	2	-4	-67%
Serious injury collisions*	19	13	-6	-32%
Non-serious injury Collisions	48	61	+13%	27%
Driving while intoxicated incidents	102	74	-28	-27%
MIT Checkpoints	435	320	-115	-26%
Vehicles Seized (S41, RTA)	189	187	-2	-1%

***Data (provisional) as on 07/05/2023**

Inspector Gilsenan noted that there had been no fatalities on the roads of Meath over the summer period from 2nd May 2022 to 16th November 2022. He did not have figures to hand in relation to drink versus drug detections. He added that the new device for drug driving testing is proving to be user friendly and gives a quick detection within 1 to 8 minutes, depending on the drug and is leading to more drug driving detections.

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

Questions were raised: by **Cllr French, R Owens, C O'Leary and Cllr Murphy** in relation to – *the ongoing issue of speeding and data for speeding / dangerous driving / vehicle seizures / speed vans.*



Responses to questions raised were provided by Inspector Gilsenan and Chief Superintendent Dollard.

Inspector Gilsenan advised that he would include the data in relation to speeding detections at the next meeting.

Chief Superintendent Dollard gave an update in relation to Garda Resources and advised that there is currently 316 sworn Garda Members in Meath. He advised that he has requested extra Garda resources for the Meath Division. He further advised that talks had taken place between the Meath and Louth Gardai Divisions in relation to extending the boundary of Policing in County Louth into certain areas of County Meath bordering County Louth that are currently policed by the Meath Garda Division. This will take time as there are a lot of technicalities involved and also communications with the Communities involved. He further advised that this will not lessen the call for more Gardai in the Meath Division.

There were questions raised by the committee members in relation to – *a possible site for the new Laytown Garda Station / Garda Resources / Garda Reserve / Age limit for Garda Membership.*

Chief Superintendent Dollard responded to all queries to the satisfaction of the Committee.

Barry Lynch advised that he will liaise with the Gardai on behalf of Meath County Council in relation to the discussion of a site for the new Garda Station in Laytown.

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

A Mitchell gave an update on the 3 subcommittees confirming the dates of their recent meetings and the progress of their 2023 workplans to date.

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

Cllr Murphy noted that the subcommittee on antisocial behaviour and public order plan to discuss further, the findings of a dissertation carried out in 2022 on antisocial behaviour in County Meath.

Cllr Toole advised that the misuse of Nitrous Oxide is being pursued at the Regional Health Forum.

7. AOB & Next Meeting Date – 21st September 2023 (PUBLIC MEETING – THE VILLAGE HOTEL, BETTYSTOWN)

Deputy O'Rourke commended the Gardai for their involvement and input into the 2023 'Go Purple' Initiative.

Concerns were raised and discussed in relation to antisocial behaviour in the villages of Laytown and Bettystown over the summer months and in particular the various reports of restricted dog breeds being let off their leads along the beaches.

Superintendent Murphy advised that she will liaise with the Community Policing Unit in relation to putting a policing plan in motion to include the placement of the Garda Mounted Unit in the East Meath Area over the summer months and she will instruct her staff to liaise with the Dog Warden and the staff of the Environment Section of Meath County Council in relation to the possible placement of signage on the beaches in relation to restricted dog breeds.

R Owens suggested that this Joint Policing Committee make a submission to the Citizens Assembly on Drugs Use regarding the issues and concerns regarding drug use discussed at the recent JPC meetings.



F Fallon asked R Owens to draft a submission and submit it the JPC Administrator.

C O'Leary left the meeting at 3.58 p.m.

Cllr Toole raised questions in relation to - *the New Bill on Hate Speech and Hate Crime that is currently being drafted / The age appropriateness of library books.*

These questions were responded to by Chief Superintendent Dollard and Superintendent Moran.

Deputy O'Rourke left the meeting at 4.02 p.m.

F Fallon advised that the next meeting of this Joint Policing Committee will be the annual public meeting which will take place on Thursday 21st September.

Cathaoirleach thanked all for their attendance today particularly the large Garda numbers in attendance and for their input at the recent Joint Policing Committee meetings.

The meeting concluded at 4.04 p.m.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach Cllr Francis Deane

Date: 11/12/2023