



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



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**COUNTY GALWAY**

**JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>Message from the Chairperson of Co. Galway JPC Committee</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Joint Policing Sub-Committees Membership</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Item 1 – Summary of Progress</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Item 2 – Key Achievements 2020</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Item 3 – Public Meeting</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Item 4 – Record of Meetings held in 2020 and Members Attendance</b>	<b>11</b>

## **Message from the Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee**

As Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2020 Annual Report. The Report details the work of the Committee in delivering on the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021 and is an important means of communicating the role and work of the Committee.

Throughout the past year, the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) continued to play a valuable role in providing strategic linkages and strong channels of communication between An Garda Síochána, Galway County Council and the wider community in matters of policing and safety.

The JPC also provided a level of local democratic oversight of the Gardaí's work within County Galway through the forum it provides to elected representatives and those representing community and voluntary organisations to raise matters of local concern.

The JPC convened on four occasions during 2020. However, due to COVID 19 government guidelines, the holding of the Annual Public Meeting in the Oranmore/Athenry area was deferred.

Significant progress has been made on achieving our strategic objectives and I would like to thank the members of the JPC and its Sub Committees for their work during 2020.

I wish to record my appreciation to the An Garda Síochána team led by Chief Superintendent Tomás Curley and the Galway County Council team led by Mr. Alan Farrell, A//Director of Service on behalf of the Chief Executive (interim) Mr. Kevin Kelly, for their very valued contributions to the work of the Committee.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent level of participation by the elected and community representatives on the Committee and to each member of the JPC for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC and to Galway County Council for the administration of the Committee.

**Cllr. Jim Cuddy,  
Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee.**

## INTRODUCTION

Section 35 of Garda Síochána Act, 2005 provides for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees (JPC). The County Galway Joint Policing Committee was established in 2009.

The County Galway JPC committee comprises 35 members representing Galway County Council (elected members and officials), members of the Oireachtas in the county, An Garda Síochána and the Community and Voluntary sector.

The JPC's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of Galway County Council's administrative area, and to keep under review:

- the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behavior in that area, and
- the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behavior in the area

This Annual Report 2020 outlines how the County Galway Joint Policing Committee carried out its function for this period in compliance with section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the revised Joint Policing Committee guidelines of 2014.

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## GALWAY COUNTY JPC MEMBERSHIP 2020

<b>GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Cathaoirleach of JPC)	Elected Representative
Cllr. Peter Roche	Elected Representative
Cllr. James Charity	Elected Representative
Cllr. Moggie Maher	Elected Representative
Cllr. Joe Byrne	Elected Representative
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Elected Representative
Cllr. Karey McHugh	Elected Representative
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Elected Representative
An Comh. Pádraig Mac An Iomaire	Elected Representative
Cllr. PJ Murphy	Elected Representative
Cllr. Shelly Herterich-Quinn	Elected Representative
Cllr. Liam Carroll	Elected Representative
An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	Elected Representative
Cllr. Gerry King	Elected Representative
Cllr. Colm Keaveney	Elected Representative
Alan Farrell	A/DOS, Corporate Services
Marian Donohue	SSO, Corporate Services
<b>AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA</b>	
Thomas Curley	Chief Superintendent
Damien O'Flannacháin	Superintendent
Declan Rocke	Inspector
Peter Conlon	Inspector
Georgina Lohan	Inspector
John Dunne	Inspector
Michael Walsh	Sergeant
Sinead Cunniffe	Sergeant
<b>MEMBERS OF THE OIREACHTAS</b>	
Deputy Anne Rabbitte	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Catherine Connolly	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Noel Grealish	Member of the Oireachtas
<b>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
Tom Madden	Duggan Park Development Committee
Aodán MacDonncha	Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéil
Pat Flanagan	Loughrea Active Retirement Group
Gerard Larkin	Abbey Muintir na Tíre
Gerard Costello	Monivea Community Alert
Martin Ward	Western Traveller & Intercultural Development
Aileen Heverin	Galway Age Friendly Older Persons Council

## **JPC Steering Group**

The County Galway Joint Policing Steering Group comprises of the JPC Chair Cllr. Jim Cuddy, the Chief Superintendent Thomas Curley and Mr. Alan Farrell, A/Director of Services, representing the Chief Executive (Interim).

## **GALWAY COUNTY JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEES**

The following are the JPC Sub-Committees as agreed by the County Galway Joint Policing Committee during 2020 to progress the strategic objectives of the 6 Year JPC Strategic Plan:

### ***Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub-Committee***

To Support and Promote awareness of litter management plans and initiatives, the negative impact of illegal dumping and littering and to promote and advise the public on the importance of reporting incidents of illegal dumping and littering.

### ***Education & Awareness – School Programme AND Crime Prevention/Personal Safety Sub-Committee***

To promote, Education and Awareness Programmes for schools on personal safety, road safety, bullying, illegal substance abuse, and underage drinking.

To increase awareness of crime prevention for communities, business, house holders and individuals.

## **JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

A six-year Strategic Plan was developed for the County Galway JPC for the period 2015-2021 which contains four high-priority objectives contributing to the improved safety and quality of life in the community.

1. Illegal Dumping and Littering
2. Education and Awareness – Schools Programme
3. Crime Prevention/Personal Safety
4. Communication Strategy

The 2020 Work Plan was based on the current Guidelines and Code of Practice which apply to JPCs and the associated strategies and expected outcomes set out in the six-year Strategic Plan.

**ITEM 1: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS FOR 2020**

<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<b>Summarise the action taken and the progress made</b>	<b>Summarise the advice given by the JPC to the Local Authority/ Gardaí.</b>	<b>Results of Advice. Identify the feedback received from the local Authority /Gardaí</b>
<b>Illegal Dumping and Littering</b>	The Illegal Dumping & Littering Awareness Sub Committee continued to work despite COVID 19 restrictions, to do all they could to discourage illegal dumping through social media awareness campaigns and audio devices at bring banks.	A social media campaign to ask the public not to leave items beside bring banks if they are full was launched in September.	Data Protection legislation needs to be re-examined so CCTV footage can be used in illegal dumping cases and as a deterrent to illegal dumping.
<b>Education &amp; Awareness – School Programme &amp; Crime Prevention/ Personal Safety</b>	The Education and Awareness/Crime Prevention Personal Safety Sub Committee together continued to work despite COVID 19 restrictions, to carry out its activities for areas under its remit via social media.	Numerous social media campaigns ran.	Consideration to be given in 2021 to awareness on Cyber Bullying.

## ITEM 2: KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2019

### Achievement 1/2020

During 2020, the Illegal Dumping & Littering Sub-Committee continued to try to address the issue of illegal dumping.

The Sub Committee continued to work, despite COVID 19 restrictions, to do all they could to discourage illegal dumping through social media awareness campaigns and audio devices at bring banks.

For example, a social media campaign to ask the public not to leave items beside bring banks if they are full was launched in September.



The Sub Committee worked with the Councils Environment Section in the promotion of <https://www.mywaste.ie/> campaigns such as the Upcycle Challenge, my Food Waste. The aim of these collective and shared campaigns is to generate maximum awareness amongst the people of Galway and surround areas with a view to ultimately eliminating litter and illegal dumping from Galway's environment and eradicating the need for clean ups.



## Achievement 2/2020

Galway Co. Council's Joint Policing Sub-Committee 'Education & Awareness' undertook an initiative and invited local communities to an An Garda Síochána's '**Community Engagement Day**',

This initiative was a 'meet and greet' opportunity for the local community to get to know their local Gardaí and local community representatives, at over 300 venues across Ireland – details below of Galway venues. Local Gardaí, IFA branch representatives and representatives from community groups involved in the National Rural Safety Forum, engaged with their local communities at this worthy event.

The Sub-Committee also promoted An Garda Síochána's Winter Burglary Prevention Advice and their Assault Prevention Advice on social media.

Galway		
Town	Location	Time
Ahascragh	Greenes,	11am - 12 pm
Athenry	Joyces, Athenry	11am - 1pm
Ballymoe	Mees,	9am - 10am
Clifden	Supervalu, Clifden	11am - 1pm
Clonberne	Co op, Clonberne	12 pm - 1 pm
Dunmore	Howleys,	10:30 am - 11:30 am
Glenamaddy	Potters,	2pm-3pm
Glinsk	Dowds, Glinsk	10.30am-11.30am
Gort	Supervalu, Gort	11am - 1pm
Headford	Joyces (Hardware), Headford	11am - 1pm
Kilconnell	Hickeys,	11am - 1pm
Leitir More	O'Connors,	11am - 1pm
Lerhin	Maddens,	2pm - 3 pm
Loughrea	Supervalu, Loughrea	11am - 1pm
Maam	Keanes,	11am - 1pm
Milltown	Glynns,	9am - 10am
Mountbellew	Arrabawn, Mountbellew	11am - 12pm
Mountbellew	Ganleys,	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Williamstown	Smyths,	12pm-1pm

## Achievement 3/2020

Due to COVID19 restrictions the Education and Awareness Sub Committee carried out the majority of its activities for areas under its remit via social media.

A number of awareness initiatives were held to date in 2020, which included:

- 02/02-08/02/2020 – Promotion of Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Opening Ceremonies;
- 11/02/2020 – Promotion of 'Safer Internet Day 2020' – initiative of the European Commission 'Together for a Better Internet'. Sgt. P. Ryan dedicated the weekly Garda Radio Slot on 'Galway Talks', Galway Bay FM, to this topic and gave advice on Phishing and Invoice Fraud;



- 12/02/2020 – Tweet on free High Visibility Material available from the Council Offices, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority – ‘Be Seen, Be Safe’ Initiative;
- 27/02/2020 – ‘Personal Safety & Home Security’ – members of An Garda Síochána’s Community Policing Unit and AIB Bank, Tuam Road, Galway, held an Information Briefing at Cregg Community Centre, Corrandulla, which advised older persons on the topics of personal safety and home security;



- 06/04/2020 – ‘Community Response Forum’ – Promotion of Galway Co. Council’s COVID-19 Community Response Forum detailing contact information;
- 05/05/2020 – Road safety awareness message for Cyclists – appeal to motorists to reduce their speeds and to share the roads with these vulnerable road users;
- 18/05/2020 – Promotion of ‘Stay Safe-Stay Strong-Stay Separate’ – COVID-19;
- 12/06/2020 - Road safety awareness message – appeal to motorists ‘Don’t Drink and Drive’;
- September 2020 - A ‘Back to School’ road safety message was promoted where the Sub-Committee reminded motorists, cyclists and children to take extra care on Galway roads as schools returned. The aim of this message was to remind the public that traffic would increase, buses would be picking up / leaving off children, children would be walking and cycling to and from schools, and parents would be driving their children to school before heading to work. The advice given was to ‘SLOW DOWN’ when travelling near a school as it is never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when children are on the roads and to always expect the unexpected.



- October 2020 – ‘European Cyber Security Month’

The Council’s Joint Policing Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness, promoted ‘European Cyber Security Month’ on social media and advised the public to ‘Think Before U Click’, which was the official motto of the European Cyber Security Month. The programme focused on two themes to help people identify and be prepared for cyber threats. The first theme, ‘Digital Skills’, provided participants with information on e-privacy matters such as personal data protection, cyber bullying and cyber stalking. The second theme, ‘Cyber Scams’, shared insights into current and potential cyber threats such as phishing, business email compromise and online shopping fraud.

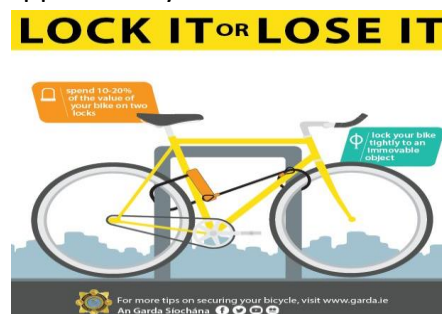
- October 2020 – ‘Tips for Driving on Wet Roads’



Due to heavy rain in October, '20, the JPC Sub-Committee had the following advice on social media, for the general public:

- Drop your speed on wet roads to give yourself time to slow down, if needed.
  - Avoid wet leaves – these can be dangerous as standing water.
  - Watch out for floodwater on bends – if you don’t know when you’ll come out of the water, it might not be worth the risk of driving into it.
  - Drive on the highest section of the road – you can use the edge of the kerb as an indicator of the water’s depth
  - Maintain a slow steady speed as you drive through any water.
  - Test your brakes as soon as you’re out of the water
- November 2020 - ‘Lock it or Lose It Campaign’

During November, the JPC Sub-Committee promoted An Garda Síochána’s ‘Lock it or Lose it Campaign’, which appeals to cyclists to ensure to lock their bicycle securely.



## Achievement 4/2020

### 'Be Safe, Be Seen' Campaign

Galway Co. Council, teamed up with four retail outlets in Oughterard in November in a 'Be Safe, Be Seen' Campaign. The Council distributed high visibility vests, free of charge, in the following shops – Mannion MACE; Keoghs Centra; McNamara's Day Today and Joyce's, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority. With the dark evenings, it was very important that all pedestrians and cyclists are visible to drivers as they are vulnerable road users.



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The sub-committees of the JPC (*Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness – School Programme and Crime Prevention/Personal Safety Sub-Committee*), continued in 2020, as best they could with COVID 19 restrictions, to deliver on the strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021.

### **ITEM 3: PUBLIC MEETING**

In line with Government Guidance, it was agreed by the JPC Steering Committee that the holding of the annual JPC Public Meeting, due to be held in the Oranmore Athenry MD area, be deferred until COVID 19 restrictions eased.

#### ITEM 4: RECORD OF MEETINGS HELD DURING 2020 AND MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

The JPC meetings held in the year 2020 were as follows:

10 <sup>th</sup> February	15 <sup>th</sup> June	14 <sup>th</sup> September	30 <sup>th</sup> November
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<b>GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>		<b>No. of Meetings attended</b>
Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Chair of JPC)	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Peter Roche	Elected Representative	1
Cllr. James Charity	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Moggie (Michael) Maher	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Joe Byrne	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Karey McHugh	Elected Representative	2
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Elected Representative	4
An Comh. Pádraig Mac An Iomaire	Elected Representative	3
Cllr. PJ Murphy	Elected Representative	2
Cllr. Shelly Herterich-Quinn	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Liam Carroll	Elected Representative	4
An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Gerry King	Elected Representative	4
Cllr. Colm Keaveney	Elected Representative	2
Alan Farrell	A/DOS, Corporate Services	3*
Kieran Coyne*	A/SEO Community & Enterprise	1* deputizing for A/DOS
Marian Donohue	SSO, Corporate Services	4
<b>AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA</b>		
Thomas Curley	Chief Superintendent	4
Damien O'Flannacháin	Superintendent	
Declan Roche	Inspector	4
John Dunne	Inspector	2
Georgina Lohan	Inspector	2
Peter Conlon	Inspector	4
Michael Walsh	Sergeant/Crime Prevention Officer	4
Sinead Cunniffe	Sergeant	4
<b>MEMBERS OF THE OIREACTAS</b>		
Deputy Anne Rabbitte	Member of the Oireachtas	1
Deputy Catherine Connolly	Member of the Oireachtas	2
Deputy Noel Grealish	Member of the Oireachtas	-
<b>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
Tom Madden	Duggan Park Development Committee	2
Aodán MacDonncha	Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéil	3
Pat Flanagan	Loughrea Active Retirement Group	3
Gerard Larkin	Abbey Muintir na Tíre	2
Gerard Costello	Monivea Community Alert	4
Martin Ward	Western Traveler & Intercultural Dev.	2#
Aileen Heverin	Galway Age Friendly Older Persons Council	-

#Not permitted to attend the June Meeting as was a Local Election candidate