



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



COUNTY GALWAY

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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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 2021 Annual Report. The Report details the work of the Committee in delivering on the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021 and it is an important means of communicating the role and work of the Committee.

Throughout the past year, the Joint Policing Committee 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 Joint Policing Committee provides a level of local democratic oversight of the Gardai's work within the County. It provides a forum for the elected members, community representatives and voluntary organisations to raise matters of concern in their areas.

The Joint Policing Committee held four meetings during 2021. 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 the strategic objectives of the Committee and I would like to thank the members of the Joint Policing Committee and the Sub Committees for their work during 2021.

I wish to record my appreciation to the Chief Superintendent Thomas Curley and An Garda Síochána and Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Service on behalf of the Chief Executive, Mr. Jim Cullen, 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 Joint Policing Committee for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the Joint Policing Committee and to Galway County Council staff 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 2021 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.

GALWAY COUNTY JPC MEMBERSHIP 2021

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL	
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
Michael Owens	A/DOS, Corporate Services
Ita Martyn	A/AO, Corporate Services
AN GARDA Síochána	
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
MEMBERS OF THE OIREACHTAS	
Deputy Anne Rabbitte	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Catherine Connolly	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Noel Grealish	Member of the Oireachtas
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES	
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. Michael Owens, Director of Services, representing the Chief Executive.

GALWAY COUNTY JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEES

The following are the JPC Sub-Committees as agreed by the County Galway Joint Policing Committee during 2021 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 contained four high-priority objectives contributing to the improved safety and quality of life in the community.

Illegal Dumping and Littering
Education and Awareness – Schools Programme
Crime Prevention/Personal Safety
Communication Strategy

ITEM 1: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS FOR 2021

Strategic Objectives	Summarise the action taken and the progress made	Summarise the advice given by the JPC to the Local Authority/ Gardaí.	Results of Advice. Identify the feedback received from the local Authority /Gardaí
Illegal Dumping and Littering	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 is being re-examined so CCTV footage can be used in illegal dumping cases and as a deterrent to illegal dumping.
Education & Awareness – School Programme & Crime Prevention/ Personal Safety	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 were carried out.	Consideration to be given to a campaign on awareness of Cyber Bullying.

Item 2. KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2021

Illegal Dumping & Littering Sub-Committee

During 2021, the Illegal Dumping & Littering Sub-Committee continued 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.

Total number of waste complaints received and investigated	1163
Total number of Litter patrols / Investigations	429

Inspections were carried out on a number of Housing Estates under the Waste Presentation bye-laws in 2021 and enforcement actions on any non-compliance was initiated.

Check points were carried out with the Gardai in relation to dumping and unauthorised waste collectors.

Anti – Dumping Initiative 2021

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications developed an Anti-Dumping Initiative to work in partnership with Local Authorities and Community organisations in identifying high risk or problem areas, developing appropriate enforcement responses and carrying out clean-up operations.

The initiative is co-ordinated through the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs).

The Environment Section secured €129,700 in funding for 12 projects under the Anti-Dumping Initiative Funding for 2021.

Project No.	Name
1	M6 Slip Road clean up, Pollboy
2	Gort River clean up
3	Bulky Goods
4	Bikes for Africa
5	Barrier at Sonnagh, Loughrea
6	Boardwalk project Lawrencetown
7	Fines app

8	Billboards/ Electronic Signs / Awareness
9	Fencing for Cloontua
10	S34c Reg - Eircode project
11	Estate enhancement
12	Open source investigations course

Projects 1. Clean-up of a motorway slip road at Pollboy, Ballinalsoe. Waste was dumped in drains within the River Suck Callows SAC and there were numerous complaints from members of the public and elected representatives.

Project 2. involved waste dumped on the banks of the Gort River close to the new river walk. Barna waste removed a significant quantity of waste from both of these locations.

Project 3– Bulky Goods Collection. This collection was held from the 26th July to the 14th August at the civic amenity sites at Tuam, Ballinasloe and Clifden and also at the Barna Waste facility on the Headford road. This was a joint project with Galway City Council and saw a huge uptake from members of the public who booked a slot online through the Barna Waste website to avail of the service.

Total weights of collections

Ballinasloe	24 tonnes
Tuam	50 tonnes
Clifden	14 tonnes
Carrowbrowne	30 tonnes
City Council at Carrowbrowne	24 tonnes

Project 4 – Bikes for Africa – This project was also run as part of the 2020 ADI through the Rotary Club A container to hold the bikes was purchased last year and thus far has seen a big uptake from members of the public. In 2021 funding was available to collect / repair 400 bikes.

Project 5 - Barrier at Sonnagh, Loughrea. This project involved the installation of a barrier at an illegal dumping black spot.

Project 6 – Boardwalk Project Lawrencetown. The Environment Section and the Area Office Staff in Ballinasloe assisted the local community group in cleaning up waste dumped in the general area where the board walk is being developed.

Project 7 - The Environment Section liaised with Ascendas in regard to the introduction of a new fines app which will be used initially for the issuing of litter fines. The fines system is an application for issuing and managing local authority fixed penalty notices such as litter fines. It is hosted in the cloud using Amazon Web Services as a multi-tenanted application. There are 2 components to the solution:

1. The mobile app is used by wardens to record the details of offenses, it is a react native mobile app.
2. Web application to manage fines and record payments.

Project 8 – Billboards / Electronic Signs. The Environment Section will display a large advert on billboards around the County with a message advising that waste-collectors need a permit and urging people to report unauthorized waste-collectors. The advert has been designed and final locations selected. This Billboard is now on display around the County. We also intend to hire electronic signs (variable message signs) to display different anti-dumping messages at 6 locations throughout the County.

Project 9 - Fencing for a commonage area at Cloontua Tuam. This area is an illegal dumping blackspot and a number of local community groups cleaned up the area and installed a barrier. Fencing will be erected along the edge of this site to prevent future dumping.

Project 10 – S34c Register Eircode project in progress.

Project 11 – Estate Enhancement - Joint initiative with the Housing Section involving the clean-up of laneways and an awareness day at Hymany/Curragh Park in Ballinasloe. Hymany/Curragh Park was selected as the pilot area because there was an existing residents committee in place for some time and they had highlighted ongoing issues in the estates through the housing section and the local litter / traffic warden.

A clean up of the laneways was conducted with signage installed at these locations and improvement works were carried out on the playground in the estate. An awareness day was held on Saturday 14th August attended by staff from the Housing and Environment Section and the local litter-warden. A stand was set up by staff and information was made available to the residents of the estate on waste management, waste segregation and litter management. Waste Enforcement staff highlighted the obligations on householders to have a household collection service and advised that door-to-door checks will be commencing in area in the near future.

Project 12 – Open-source investigations course through La Touche training. Funding was made available to send a number of waste enforcement staff members on this course – A number of staff members have already completed the course with further training to commence in November.

Case Study

1 Anti Dumping Awareness project



**WASTE COLLECTORS
MUST HAVE A WASTE
COLLECTION PERMIT.**

**REPORT UNAUTHORISED
COLLECTORS TO
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.**

091 509510

www.galway.ie

STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING. RESPECT YOUR COUNTY.

Overall Cost:

€7,489.47

Summary:

Galway County Council hired electronic billboards for a number of weeks in September displaying an Anti-Dumping message. These were installed at known dumping blackspots and on the approach roads to the major towns in the County.

A large anti-dumping advertisement was designed and was displayed on large billboards throughout the County.

In addition magnetic signs for the Community Warden vans with an Anti-Dumping message have been also been procured.

Overall Details:

The electronic signs and billboards will serve as an important visual to the public about illegal dumping and the consequences for those that do. The magnetic signs for our warden vans again raises awareness to the public of the community warden service and its function in investigating waste complaints and the enforcement of the Waste Management Act.

Outcomes:

Increased public awareness re unauthorised waste collectors
Reduction in dumping at known black spots



Variable message signs deployed throughout the county displaying different messages



Billboard advertisement on display in Tuam, Co Galway

**Cuir Stop le Dumpáil Mhídhleathach
Bíodh meas agat ar do chontae**

**Stop illegal Dumping
Respect your county**



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council**

Magnetic signs for warden vans

Case Study 2 Bikes for Africa

Bikes ready for collection



Summary:

Galway County Council partnered with the Rotary Club on this project. This involved the collection of second hand bicycles which were repaired by the prison service and sent to schools in Africa. A container for collection of the bicycles was provided for at our civic amenity site in Ballinasloe(operated by Barna Waste).

Overall Details:

Project was very successful when run in 2020/2021. It encouraged people to change their mindsets before disposing of items such as bicycles in that such items could be of benefit to someone else. In addition, it helps to promote the use of services at our civic amenity site in Ballinasloe.

Education & Awareness Sub-Committee

A number of awareness initiatives were held in 2021

- **Personal Safety**
- **Road Safety**
- **Bullying**
- **Illegal Substance Abuse**
- **Underage Drinking**
- **Cyber Fraud Crime**

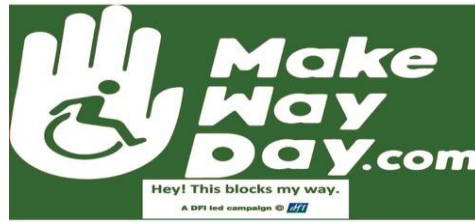
1. Personal Safety

- *An Garda Síochána's Campaign – 'Park Smart, Shop Smart – Secure your Vehicle'*

An Garda Síochána launched the 'Park Smart, Shop Smart - Secure your Vehicle' Initiative – it advised the general public of the following:

- Did you know that the average value of property stolen in theft from cars is €600
- August to December are the peak months
- Tuesday – Friday are the peak days
- Noon to 6pm are the peak times
- Most common items taken are cash, electronics, tools and handbags
- Do not leave any property on show in your vehicle
- Secure all door and windows – use the car alarm if there is one
- Take valuable property with you
- Park in a well-lit and secure area
- Report all thefts or suspicious activity to Gardaí & Security Staff

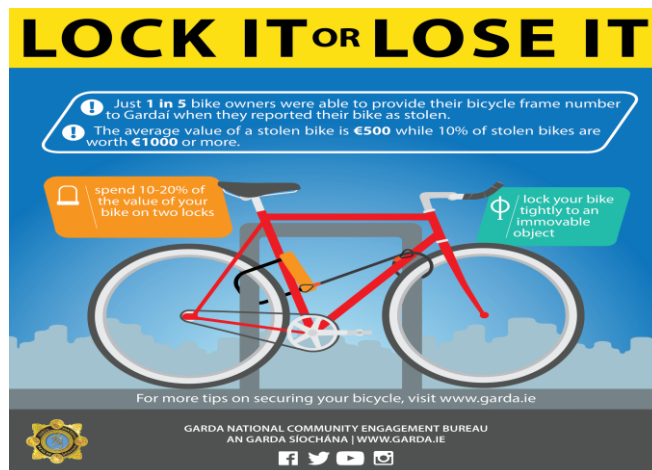
- **'Make Way Day':**



The Council's Joint Policing Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness, advised of 'Make Way Day' on 24th September, '21. It is a national day of local action on accessibility. The public awareness campaign aimed to highlight the issues people with disabilities face getting around their communities. "Hey, this blocks my way!" is the message. Examples of obstructions are parked cars on footpaths; bikes chained to railings; sandwich boards; overhanging branches, etc.



➤ *An Garda Síochána's Campaign – 'Lock It or Lose It'*



In September, 2021, Galway Co. Council's Joint Policing Sub-Committee 'Education & Awareness' promoted An Garda Síochána's Campaign 'Lock It or Lose It' on social media. It advised to lock your bicycle tightly to an immovable object and to spend 10-20% of the value of your bike on two locks.

2. Road Safety

➤ *'Be Bright, Be Seen' Campaign*



In September, 2021, Galway Co. Council carried out a 'Be Bright, Be Seen' initiative, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and Galway Bay FM and on social media.

The initiative advised members of the public that high visibility vests and high visibility rucksack covers were available, free of charge, from the Council, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority. It was noted that pedestrians walking in the dark, on rural roads, are 13 times more likely to be killed than while walking during the day. At night-time, pedestrians wearing high visibility vests are visible up to 500 metres away.

Sgt. Darragh Browne highlighted the campaign on Keith Finnegan's Show also and members of the public were advised of Rules for Pedestrians, as follows:

- If there is a footpath, you must use it
- If there is no footpath, you must walk as near as possible to the right hand-side of the road, facing oncoming traffic
- Do not walk more than two abreast. If the road is narrow or carries heavy traffic, you should walk in single file
- You should always wear reflective clothing at night when walking outside built-up areas
- You should always carry a torch when walking at night-time
- Always look for a safe place to cross the road – don't cross at a corner or bend in the road
- Watch out and listen for traffic while crossing the road

This proved to be a very worthy initiative and hundreds of high visibility vests and rucksack covers were distributed to the general public through Co. Hall and by post.

- **Bike Week 2021:**



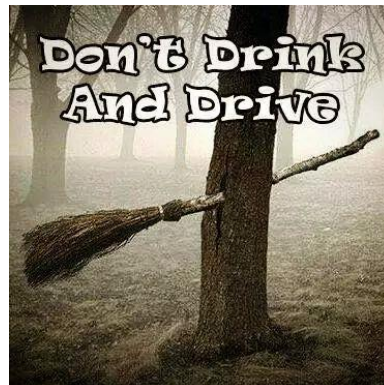
Bike Week 2021 took place from 12th to 18th September and the Sub-Committee reminded cyclists of the following:

- Always look and signal to show other road users what you plan to do, and make eye contact where possible so that you have been seen
- Always stop at red lights, and obey the Rules of the Road
- Avoid cycling up inside vehicles such as trucks, vans or buses. You will not be seen
- Always use lights on your bike when visibility is poor, in the evening and at night
- Wear reflective or light coloured clothing when cycling during the day to increase your visibility – high visibility vests are available, free of charge, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority – contact dcaulfd@galwaycoco.ie
- Wear a fitted cycling helmet when cycling

An Garda Síochána raised awareness amongst cyclists also – they advised that ‘Only 1 in 5 people know their bicycle frame number’. This is an important number to have recorded in case your bike is ever stolen. It was advised to take a photo of your bike and note the serial number. The frame number is a unique identifier and links you to your bike. You will find your frame number under the pedal crank.

- **Halloween - No Drinking & Driving:**

A Road Safety Message appealing to motorists ‘Don’t Drink and Drive’ was promoted during the October Bank Holiday Weekend.



- **Tips for Driving on Wet Roads:**



In November, '21, the JPC Sub-Committee had the following Tips for Driving Safely in Rainy Weather 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

3. Cyber Fraud Crime

In September, 2021, the Council's Joint Policing Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness, advised of the following An Garda Síochána's advice:

Were you contacted out of the blue? Voice recording claiming to be a bank, state department or utility company asking you to 'Press 1'? Caller asking you for personal information? Text message about a parcel delivery? Text with a hyperlink (blue writing)? These are all possible signs of a scam! We can all beat the scammers through awareness - the following Fraud Prevention advice was promoted.



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 2021 AND MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

The JPC meetings held in the year 2021 were as follows:

8th February	17 th May	13 th September	8th November
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GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL		No. of Meetings attended
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
Michael Owens	DOS, Corporate Services	2
Alan Farrell	A/DOS, Corporate Services	2
Ita Martyn	A/AO, Corporate Services	3
Orla McCarthy	SSO, Corporate Services	1
AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA		
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
MEMBERS OF THE OIREACHTAS		
Deputy Anne Rabbitte	Member of the Oireachtas	1
Deputy Catherine Connolly	Member of the Oireachtas	2
Deputy Noel Grealish	Member of the Oireachtas	-
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES		
Tom Madden	Duggan Park Development Committee	3
Aodán MacDonncha	Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéil	4
Pat Flanagan	Loughrea Active Retirement Group	3
Gerard Larkin	Abbey Muintir na Tíre	4
Gerard Costello	Monivea Community Alert	4
Martin Ward	Western Traveler & Intercultural Dev.	2
Aileen Heverin	Galway Age Friendly Older Persons Council	-