



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



COUNTY GALWAY

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

CONTENTS

Message from the Chairperson	03
Introduction	04
Item 1 – Summary of Progress	05
Item 2 – Key Actions 2016	07
Item 3 – Public Meeting	08
Item 4 – Record of Members and Meetings Held	08
Joint Policing Sub-Committees Membership	10

Message from the Chairman of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee

As Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2016 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.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation, cooperation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, the Local Authority, Community Representatives and the Elected Local Representatives. During 2016, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work, in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

The JPC convened on four occasions during 2016 including its Annual Public Meeting held on Monday 12th December 2016 in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. Public meetings offer an excellent opportunity for local communities to participate and engage in relation to general policing matters affecting the policing of the County of Galway and in particular policing matters affecting their areas.

The establishment of three sub-committees during 2016, afforded the JPC the opportunity to progress strategic objectives of the 6 Year JPC Strategic Plan. I wish to acknowledge the work of the Chairs and members of the Sub-Committees for their work during 2016.

I wish to record my appreciation to An Garda Síochána and the local authority for their very valued contributions 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. Malachy Noone
Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee

INTRODUCTION

Following the introduction of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, guidelines for the operation of Joint Policing Committees were issued in 2008 in accordance with the Act and heralded the establishment of these important partnership structures in all of the then existing local authority areas,.

A review of the operation of the Joint Policing Committees commenced in 2012, to see if there were ways in which their operation could be enhanced and ensure that they were functioning as intended. The review was managed in consultation with an Oversight Committee which included representatives of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Garda Síochána.

Revised guidelines were developed and introduced in August 2014 as an addendum to the original guidelines. The changes made reflect feedback received during the review process as well as input received by the Department of Justice and Equality during the public consultations in relation to the preparation of a White Paper on Crime.

The revision of the guidelines was particularly timely as it allowed for the alignment of Joint Policing Committees with the new local government structures as established in the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The most significant changes to the guidelines reflect both the new local government arrangements and a strengthening of strategic and collaborative functioning within each Committee. Important changes included that;

- Committees will operate at a City and County level following the abolition of Town Councils, reflecting a more modern and streamlined approach to the management of local issues.
- Committees will develop Six Year Strategic Plans, Annual Work Plans and to report on their implementation in Annual Reports.
- Committees will have the number of community representatives increased.
- Committees will develop communications strategy to support interaction with local communities and effective and efficient coordination with other local structures is emphasised.

This Annual Report 2016 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.

ITEM 1: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Strategic Objectives		Summarise the actions taken and the progress achieved during the year and any significant difficulties which were encountered	Summarise the advice given by the JPC to the Local Authority/ Gardaí –identify specific recommendations made.	Results of Advice/Recommendations –identify the feedback received from the local Authority /Gardaí
1	Illegal Dumping & Littering	A sub-committee to focus on the issue of Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness was established under the Chair of Cllr. Michael Maher.	The first report of the sub-committee was presented to a meeting of the JPC held in November 2016, detailing the agreed terms of reference and work programme of the sub-committee.	The agreed work programme of the sub-committee will be reflected in the 2017 Action Plan.
2	Education & Awareness – School Programme	<p>A sub-committee to focus on Education & Awareness – School Programme was established under the Chair of Cllr. Aidan Donohue.</p> <p>The first action of the sub-committees work programme was delivered in December 2016 with a Road Safety Education & Awareness Event aimed at second level students delivered in partnership with Coláiste Bhaile-Chláir.</p>	The first report of the sub-committee was presented to a meeting of the JPC held in November 2016, detailing the agreed terms of reference and work programme of the sub-committee.	The agreed work programme of the sub-committee will be reflected in the 2017 Action Plan.

3	Crime Prevention/Personal Safety	A sub-committee to focus on Crime Prevention/Personal Safety was established under the Chair of Cllr. Mary Hoade.	The first report of the sub-committee was presented to a meeting of the JPC held in November 2016, detailing the agreed terms of reference and work programme of the sub-committee.	The agreed work programme of the sub-committee will be reflected in the 2017 Action Plan.
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ITEM 2: KEY ACTIONS 2016

Action 1/2016

To deliver on the strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021, three sub-committees of the JPC were established during 2016, following agreement that the sub-committees would be the most beneficial and practical mechanism by which to progress the work of the JPC.

The membership structure allows for each sub-committee to consist of 4 Councillors, 1 Oireachtas Member, 1 Garda, and 2 Community representatives, Chaired by a Councillor and facilitated by Council staff.

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 Sub-Committee

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

Crime Prevention/Personal Safety Sub-Committee

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

The sub-committee structure is significant given that each sub-committee has its own specific area of focus and will engage with relevant stakeholders/agencies and authorities to identify collaborative actions and measures to address key issues specific to its terms of reference. Each sub-committee will make recommendations to the JPC to collectively address inter alia, overall issues affecting community life, crime prevention, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse, personal safety, road safety and the environment. The establishment of the sub-committees structure is a progressive step to underpin and support the JPC in fulfilling its purpose.

Action 2/2016

During 2016, the Joint Policing Committee received a number of briefings in accordance with the various strategies identified to deliver on the strategic objectives as detailed in the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021.

In accordance with the strategy to promote and advise the public of the importance of reporting incidents of illegal dumping and littering, the Joint Policing Committee received a briefing from Mr. Paul Moroney, Senior Engineer, Water Services & Environment on the Waste enforcement work programme and current resources available to address litter, illegal dumping, regulatory compliance and awareness.

The strategy to be pursued in relation to the strategic objective addressing Crime Prevention/Personal Safety included creating a greater awareness of the support services for victims of domestic violence. In this context, COPE Galway Waterside House presented to the JPC on domestic violence and the services of the COPE Galway Waterside House Domestic Violence Service, including the Outreach Service to County Galway.

Action 3/2016

High Vis Vests Pilot Initiative with Colaiste Bháile Chláir

During 2016, the **Education & Awareness – School Programme Sub-Committee lead on an initiative between** Galway County Council, the Road Safety Authority and Coláiste Bháile Chláir in conjunction with “Be Safe, Be Seen” day. High vis vests were distributed by the Council to students in Coláiste Bháile Chláir which were provided by the Road Safety Authority. The students who walk and cycle to school or to the bus undertook to wear the vests as part of the school uniform. It is considered a huge success and it is hoped that this initiative will encourage other schools to take up on this scheme. Hi-vis vests are available to schools and community groups by contacting the Road Safety Section of Galway County Council at roads@galwaycoco.ie, or the Road Safety Authority at www.rsa.ie/roadsafety/ordersonline



Photo L-R: Geraldine Cooley, Road Safety Officer, Galway County Council, Liam Noone – Student, Anne Patten, Road Safety Authority, Saoirse Grainger Student, Garda Patricia Sloyan, Aaron Ryder, Hannah Toolan Students and Emma Ryan Vice Principal Coláiste Bhaile Chláir. Photo by Joe Travers.

ITEM 4: RECORD OF MEMBERS AND MEETINGS HELD DURING THE YEAR.

The total number of JPC meetings held in the year 2016 were as follows:

4 th July Regular Meeting	2 nd September Regular Meeting	14 th November Regular Meeting	12 th December Public Meeting Ballinasloe MD
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Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Regular Meetings Attended	Public Meeting 12 th December, 2016	
Chief Supt.	Thomas	Curley	An Garda Síochána	3	1	
Supt.	Marie	Skehill	An Garda Síochána	0	*	
1. Cllr.	James	Charity	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	
2. **Cllr.	Michael	Maher	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	
3. Cllr.	Malachy	Noone	Galway Co. Co.	3	-	
4. Cllr.	Michael	Connolly	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	
5. Cllr.	Aidan	Donohue	Galway Co. Co.	2	1	
6. Comh.	Seosamh	O Cualain	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	
7. Cllr.	Tom	Healy	Galway Co. Co.	3	-	
8. Cllr.	Eileen	Mannion	Galway Co. Co.	1	-	
9. Cllr.	Noel	Thomas	Galway Co. Co.	1	1	
10. Cllr.	Joe	Byrne	Galway Co. Co.	3	-	
11. Cllr.	Shaun	Cunniffe	Galway Co. Co.	1	-	
12. Cllr.	Mary	Hoade	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	
13. Cllr.	Donagh	Killilea	Galway Co. Co.	2	-	
14. Cllr.	Peter	Roche	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	
15. Cllr.	Frank	Kearney	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	
Mr.	Tom	Madden	Community/Voluntary	1	-	
Mr.	Aodán	Mac	Community/Voluntary	3	1	
Mr.	Brent	Kelly	Community/Voluntary	-	-	
Mr.	Michael	O'Brien	Community/Voluntary	-	-	
***Ms.	Janette	Slattery	Community/Voluntary	-	-	

Ms.	Frances	O'Reilly	Community/Voluntary	1	-	
Ms.	Cathy	Ni Ghoill	Community/Voluntary	3	-	
Deputy	Noel	Grealish	Oireachtas	1	-	
****Deputy	Anne	Rabbitte	Oireachtas	3	1	
****Deputy	Catherine	Connolly	Oireachtas	1	-	
****Deputy	Ciaran	Cannon	Oireachtas	-	-	
Senator	Trevor	O Clochartaigh	Oireachtas	2	-	
*****Mr.	Michael	Owens	Galway Co. Co.	1	1	
Ms	Frances	Mitchell	Galway Co. Co	2	1	

**Inspector Michelle Baker attended the Galway County Public JPC Meeting,*

***Cllr. Michael Maher replaced Cllr. Martina Kinane*

****Ms. Janette Slattery, Glenamaddy Community Development Company replaced Mr. Seamus Quinn.*

*****Deputy Anne Rabbitte, Catherine Connolly and Senator Maura Hopkins replaced Deputy Michael Kitt, Michael Mullins and Paul Connaughton. Deputy Ciaran Cannon subsequently replaced Senator Maura Hopkins in December, 2016*

****** Mr. Michael Owens replaced Mr. Peter Gavican*

NOTE: The Community /Voluntary members are drawn from the Public Participation Network and represent the following, Duggan Park Development Committee, Comhlacht Forbartha an Spideal, Gort Family Resource Centre, Turloughmore Community Alert, The Mall Theatre & Cinema Co. Ltd, The Older Persons Council, Comharchumann Forbartha Arann and Glenamaddy Community Development Company.

JPC Steering Group

The County Galway Joint Policing Steering Group comprises of the JPC Chairperson Cllr. Malachy Noone, Mr. Peter Gavican/Mr. Michael Owens representing the Chief Executive (Interim), and the Chief Superintendent Thomas Curley.

JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEES

The JPC established 3 sub-committees in 2016 to progress strategic objective 1, 2, and 3 of the 6 Year JPC Strategic Plan.

The following is the membership of the JPC Sub-Committees as agreed by the County Galway Joint Policing Committee.

Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness	Education & Awareness – School Programme	Crime Prevention/Personal Safety
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	Cllr. Eileen Mannion	Cllr. Frank Kearney
Comh: Seosamh Ó Cualain	Cllr: Aidan Donohue (Chair)	Cllr. Noel Thomas
Cllr. Peter Roche	Cllr. Joe Byrne	Cllr. Mary Hoade (Chair)
Cllr. Michael Maher (Chair)		Cllr James Charity
Oireachtas: Deputy Ciaran Cannon	Oireachtas: Deputy Anne Rabbitte	Oireachtas: Senator Trevor Ó Clochartaigh
Garda Síochána: Sgt Pat Flanagan	Garda Síochána: Sgt Peadar Ryan	Garda Síochána: Sgt Pat Flanagan
Community Rep: Mr. Aodán Mac Donncha	Community Rep: Ms. Cathy Ní Ghóill Ms. Frances O'Reilly	Community Rep: Ms. Janette Slattery Mr. Tom Madden
Council Official: Ms. Sinéad Ní Mhainin	Council Official: Ms. Geraldine Cooley	Council Official: Mr. Evan Mulvey

Each sub-committee is administered and facilitated by appropriate Council staff. Meetings of the sub-committees commenced in November, 2016
