



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



COUNTY GALWAY

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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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 2017 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 2017, 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 2017 including its Annual Public Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2017 in the Municipal District of Conamara. 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 work of the three sub-committees during 2017, continued to afford 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 2017.

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. Peter Roche
Chairperson of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Roche', is written over the printed name and title.

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 34 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

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

This Annual Report 2017 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 FOR 2017

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
<p>1 Illegal Dumping & Littering Awareness</p> <p>Sub-Committee Chaired by Cllr. Michael Maher</p>	<p>1. Litter Awareness:</p> <p>a) A ‘Cleaner, Greener Galway’ Anti-Litter and Illegal Dumping Awareness campaign was launched</p> <p>b) Clean Ups</p> <p>2. Illegal Dumping Checkpoints commenced</p>	<p>1 - 3 Funding to be sought from the Dept. of Communications, Climate Action & Environment for cameras and equipment to monitor illegal dumping taking place across the County.</p> <p>Full engagement from communities required to facilitate clean ups in areas.</p> <p>2. The Gardaí gave commitment to participate in a significant number of Garda checkpoints in</p>	<p>1. Phase 1 of the ‘Cleaner, Greener Galway’ Anti-Litter and Illegal Dumping Awareness campaign has been successfully completed and has developed significantly as it is supported by local sporting organisations, voluntary groups, tidy towns groups and businesses.</p> <p>GCC’s Environment Section made an application for funding under an initiative launched by Minister Denis Naughten, TD, in March 2017 and funding to the value of €22,750 had been made available to Galway County Council to undertake clean ups. Recommendation that some funding be allocated to community groups to organise clean-ups.</p> <p>2. Two Garda checkpoints set up and 50-60 cars were stopped. Further checkpoints would be rolled out on an on-going basis which would further</p>

		3. Consultation with Fast Food outlets to eradicate littering.	<p>areas that have been identified as prone to illegal dumping and the inclusion, by the Gardaí, of illegal dumping to the list of activities that they would pursue whilst on routine patrols.</p> <p>Engagement required.</p>	<p>strengthen the message that illegal dumping /fly tipping will no longer be tolerated either by the County Council or by An Garda Síochána.</p> <p>Any feedback on the activities undertaken will continue to be reflected in the 2018 Action Plan to further progress the initiatives commenced.</p>
2	<p>Education & Awareness – School Programme</p> <p>Sub Committee Chair by Cllr. Aidan Donohue</p>	<p>1. Road Safety and Personal Safety</p> <p>On National High Visibility Day, a Road Safety Education & Awareness Event was delivered in partnership with Coláiste Bhaile-Chláir and the Road Safety Authority (RSA). The second level students who cycle and walk to school or to the bus undertook to wear high visibility vests (which were distributed by Galway County Council's Road Safety Officer courtesy of the RSA, as part of their school uniform. The initiative was a huge success and it</p>	<p>1. & 2. Members of the JPC expressed concern over walkers on the roads not wearing hi-vis jackets and said that legislation is required to make compulsory over time that anyone walking should wear a hi-vis jacket.</p> <p>A recommendation to be drafted by the Sub Committee on Crime Prevention and Personal Safety to be sent to the Minister for Justice and Equality that it be compulsory that road users:</p>	<p>1. & 2. Any feedback from the Minister / other will be considered and reflected in the 2018 Action Plan to further progress the initiative commenced.</p>

		<p>is hoped that it will encourage other schools to undertake this scheme.</p> <p>2. The Committee, Cappataggle NS and An Garda Síochána co-ordinated the 'Be Bright' Campaign on 5th October, 2017. The aim of the event was to encourage all pupils to wear their high visibility vests when walking or cycling to school to highlight road safety awareness. The Junior and Senior Infants classes took part in a walk from the school wearing their high visibility vests, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority. Ms. Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer, advised the pupils on the Safe Cross Code – STOP. WAIT. LOOK. LISTEN!</p> <p>3. Illegal Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking</p> <p>An initiative called 'Risky Business' took place on 18th December Clifden Community School,</p>	<p>walkers, runners, cyclists, should wear a hi-vis jacket. (see below)</p> <p>3. The 'Risky Business' workshop arose from where a member of the JPC had said that the delivery of a presentation on</p>	<p>3. The Sub Committee organised, in conjunction with the Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force, that an interactive workshop called 'Risky Business' be arranged in co-operation with Clifden</p>
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		<p>in conjunction with the Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force. The main aim of this interactive Workshop was to enable TY students to examine various aspects of teenage life and encourage them to work collaboratively to reduce some of the risk taking behaviours in their lives and take a positive outlook on teenage life. It also aimed to equip them with a broad range of personal and social skills; to provide accurate age-appropriate, developmentally and culturally appropriate information; to enable young people to make informed, healthy and responsible choices and to provide a safe forum for open discussion of their opinions and issues that are appropriate and relevant to them.</p>	<p>'Illegal Substance Abuse' at schools would be of benefit to students but explained that on liaison with An Garda Síochána, was advised that this type of presentation could only be delivered to parents or teachers.</p>	<p>Community School. The Workshop was held on 18th December with over 40 students taking part in the Workshop.</p> <p>In addition, an Garda Síochána said that support would be given to the NASA Initiative (No Alcoholic Substances Allowed) where the initiative requests bus companies to sign up to a voluntary NASA Code whereby they and their drivers commit to a zero tolerance policy of alcohol on board buses while transporting passengers to and from an under 18 year olds event.</p> <p>Consideration to be given in 2018 for a presentation be given at an appointed School/College in conjunction with An Garda Síochána on the topic of Cyber Bullying.</p>
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3	<p>Crime Prevention/Personal Safety</p> <p>Sub Committee Chair by Cllr. Mary Hoade</p>	<p>1. Crime Prevention / CCTV</p> <p>Ballygar was identified as a site for a community based CCTV scheme. However, the sub-committee advised that the Ballygar scheme is on hold due to operational reasons regarding equipment hardware/software. Testing of new equipment must occur in a different site to ensure operational viability prior to commencing works on the Ballygar scheme.</p> <p>2. Surveys undertaken for CCTV enhancement for Parkmore estate, Tuam and Meadowbrook estate, Ballinasloe.</p>	<p>1. The JPC Committee concurred that CCTV is very effective in preventing and detecting ASB and crime, and there have been successful prosecutions as a result of CCTV. Agreed that testing be undertaken for Ballygar to ensure that resources are used to the optimum.</p> <p>2. JPC Committee recommended that while many communities are seeking CCTV cameras, the quality of the CCTV system should also be considered above quantity as it is vital to have a good quality picture. Committee recommended that CCTV infrastructure be considered from outset for all new housing estates.</p>	<p>1. If testing is satisfactory after a period of testing, then the Ballygar Scheme can commence, if not, GCC to review the scheme and carry out a site survey to assess other CCTV options.</p> <p>The progression of this project will continue to be reflected in the 2018 Action Plan to further progress the initiative commenced.</p> <p>2. The progression of this project will continue to be reflected in the 2018 Action Plan to further progress the initiative commenced.</p>
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		<p>3. Personal Safety</p> <p>The Sub Committee discussed the wearing of hi vis jackets being made compulsory for all walkers, runners, cyclists.</p>	<p>3. A recommendation to be drafted by the Sub Committee on Crime Prevention and Personal Safety to be sent to the Minister for Justice and Equality that it be compulsory that road users: walkers, runners, cyclists, should wear a hi-vis jacket, with a lead in time of 2 years and a start date of the 1st of Jan 2020.</p>	<p>3. Any feedback from the Minister / other will be considered and reflected in the 2018 Action Plan to further progress the initiative commenced.</p>
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ITEM 2: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2017

Achievement 1/2017

'Cleaner Greener Galway' Initiative

During 2017, the *Illegal Dumping & Littering Sub-Committee led on an initiative 'Cleaner Greener Galway'* which was a collaborative approach to anti-litter and illegal dumping by Galway County Council working together with sporting, voluntary, business organisations and An Garda Síochána.

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten T.D. launched Galway County Council's new, proactive anti-litter and illegal dumping awareness campaign - "A Cleaner, Greener, Galway!" earlier this year".



Representatives of over 100 of Galway's top athletes and high profile sporting faces from across Galway GAA, Connacht Rugby and Galway United joined Minister Naughten, and the Cathaoirleach of the County, Cllr. Michael Connolly, and members of Galway County Council to show their support for "A Cleaner, Greener Galway". The message from the sporting community to the people of Galway is "don't drop the ball on litter" as Galway County Council embarked on a highly proactive and all-inclusive anti-litter and illegal dumping awareness campaign throughout the county.



In addition, desire amongst the business community of Galway for this collaborative initiative by Galway County Council is hugely positive with Galway businesses offering supports to promote the message of “A Cleaner, Greener, Galway”!

Also significant support for “A Cleaner, Greener, Galway” was shown by An Garda Síochána with proactive policing when it comes to illegal dumping and An Garda Síochána will be vigilant in deploying illegal dumping check points throughout county Galway in an effort to continue to curb illegal dumping as part of this high profile anti-litter campaign.

Galway County Council is promoting “A Cleaner, Greener, Galway” campaign message using digital messaging, social media channels and traditional media and marketing tools throughout schools, sporting clubs, societies, voluntary and community organisations including Tidy Towns and of course businesses and An Garda Síochána, inspiring the people and communities of Galway to be litter conscious at all times as not dropping litter is ultimately the solution to Keeping Galway Litter free.



The aim of this collective and shared campaign is to generate maximum awareness amongst the people of Galway with a view to ultimately eliminating litter and illegal dumping from Galway's environment and eradicating the need for clean ups. Thus creating "a cleaner, greener, Galway" for everyone to enjoy.

This action is significant as while Galway gets closer to the European Region of Gastronomy 2018 designation and to the Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture designation, it is the aim of Galway County Council to show the ultimate in local authority leadership by having "a cleaner, greener Galway" for Galwegians and visitors alike.

Achievement 2/2017

During 2017, the Joint Policing Committee received a number of briefings to aid delivery on the strategic objectives as detailed in the JPC Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021.

In accordance with the strategy to promote and advise the public of the importance of road safety, the Joint Policing Committee received a briefing from Ms. Geraldine Cooley, A/Roads Safety Officer on the Draft Road Safety Strategy with comments invited from the JPC prior to its adoption.

Ms. Cooley advised the Committee that the three-year Strategy was a collaboration between the County and City Councils, An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Road Safety Authority. She said that the Strategy outlined a series of actions to be implemented across Galway by 2020 to make roads safer and the comprehensive Action Plans for Galway included a variety of awareness and educational programmes for children, pedestrians and motorists and car seat checking events, better enforcement and the provision of road safety measures is featured.



The Education & Awareness Sub Committee in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Officer, in line with the Road Safety Plan 2017-2020, assisted in highlighting road safety awareness to young children and the importance of being visible at all times through its many programmes held throughout the year to include the 'Be Bright', 'National High Visibility Day', 'and Are you daylighted' campaigns.



Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Chair of the Education & Awareness Sub Committee, along with Deirdre Caulfield, Roads Safety Officer, GCC and members from An Garda Síochána who co-ordinated the 'Be Bright' Campaign on 5th October, 2017.

The aim of the event was to encourage all pupils to wear their high visibility vests when walking or cycling to school. The Junior and Senior Infants classes took part in a walk from the school wearing their high visibility vests, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority. Ms.

Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer, advised the pupils on the Safe Cross Code – STOP. WAIT. LOOK. LISTEN! It is hoped that by highlighting road safety awareness to the young children, that they will see the importance of being visible at all times.

In relation to the strategic objective addressing Crime Prevention/Personal Safety to promote the use of Community based CCTV, the Joint Policing Committee was advised of the new Community CCTV Grant Aid Scheme, announced by the Department of Justice and Equality, where eligible community groups could apply for grant-aid of up to 60% of the total capital cost of a proposed CCTV system, up to a maximum grant of €40,000. Upon approval of the grant, the applicant would receive an up-front payment of 50% of the grant with the balance to be paid when the system is fully operational, with some of the key objectives of the Scheme being to enhance existing policing provision within the community, to assist in the prevention and reduction of local crime, disorder and anti-social activity and to increase community involvement in the provision of legitimate, integrated responses to prevent and reduce crime in local areas in association with appropriate agencies. €1 million has been allocated in Budget 2017 to support qualifying community groups with the intention that the scheme will run for 3 years with funding of €1 million being made. In order to qualify for grant-aid grant applications must be approved by the Joint Policing Committee.



Achievement 3/2017

The three sub-committees of the JPC (*Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness – School Programme Sub-Committee and Crime Prevention/Personal Safety Sub-Committee*), which were established in late 2016, continued in 2017 to deliver on the strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021.

The key actions and projects initiated and undertaken by each of the three Committees in 2017 is outlined above in the table outlined in **Item 1 Summary of Progress for 2017**.

Achievement 4/2017

The Crime Prevention/Personal Safety sub-committee and supporting Council staff were commended by the An Garda Síochána for their input into CCTV Schemes as the new Code of Practice issued by the Dept. of Justice and other associated documents were based on the work being undertaken by Galway County Council and following site visits by senior Garda management whereby Galway County Council is now used as a benchmark for other community based CCTV schemes across the county.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC MEETING HOSTED BY THE JPC DURING THE YEAR.

The 2017 County Galway JPC public meeting was held on 6th November 2017 in Peacockes Hotel, Maam Cross, Conamara. Members of the public were invited to this meeting with up to 50 persons attending on the night.

The Agenda included the following items:

- Community Watch
- CCTV
- Illegal Dumping/Littering
- Traffic – inappropriate behaviour/joy riding
- Crime Prevention Initiatives
- Anti-Social Behaviour

Questions to be considered by the Joint Policing Committee were also invited from the public prior to the meeting on general policing matters affecting the policing of the County of Galway. Two written questions were submitted which related to road safety/speeding.

Some of the following topics were also raised and discussed at the Meeting:

- Speed limit signage.
- Speeding on roads – consideration to be given to the use of Go Safe vans on roads where speeding is taking place.
- The benefits of text-alert, community alert and neighbourhood watch schemes.
- Importance of not leaving valuables in car while attending events.
- Necessity for rural Garda stations to remain open to deter crime in areas.
- Group cycling, mainly at weekends, cycling two and more abreast, is very dangerous.
- The importance of hi-vis jackets and the promotion of same to all, not just school going children.
- The necessity for the installation of CCTV cameras at strategic locations and bogs to prevent crime and illegal dumping.

Cllr. Peter Roche, Chairperson of the JPC, thanked all who attended the meeting and who raised concerns/issues and acknowledged that the JPC Public meetings provide an excellent opportunity for the public to engage with the local authority and the Gardaí in matters relating to the general policing of the county.

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

The total number of JPC meetings held in the year 2017 were as follows*:

6 th February Regular Meeting	8 th May Regular Meeting	18 th September Annual General Meeting	18 th September Regular Meeting	6 th November Public Meeting Conamara MD
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*A fourth meeting was arranged for the 11th December 2017 but had to be cancelled due to bad weather and road conditions in County Galway.

Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Regular Meetings Attended	AGM Meeting	Public Meeting 6 th November, 2017
Chief Supt.	Thomas	Curley	An Garda Síochána	3	1	1
Supt.	Marie	Skehill	An Garda Síochána	-	-	-
Sgt.	Peter	Conlon	An Garda Síochána	3	1	1
Supt.	Ernie	Whyte	An Garda Síochána	3	1	1
Supt.	Aidan	Foley	An Garda Síochána	2	1	1
Supt.	Sean	Glynn	An Garda Síochána	2	1	1
1. Cllr.	James	Charity	Galway Co. Co.	2	1	1
2. Cllr.	Michael	Maher	Galway Co. Co.	2	-	1
3. Cllr.	Malachy	Noone	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	-
4. Cllr.	Michael	Connolly	Galway Co. Co.	2	1	1
5. Cllr.	Aidan	Donohue	Galway Co. Co.	2	1	1
6. Comh.	Seosamh	O Cualain	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	1
7. Cllr.	Tom	Healy	Galway Co. Co.	2	1	1
8. Cllr.	Eileen	Mannion	Galway Co. Co.	1	-	1
9. Cllr.	Noel	Thomas	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	1
10. Cllr.	Joe	Byrne	Galway Co. Co.	2	-	-
11. Cllr.	Shaun	Cunniffe	Galway Co. Co.	1	-	-
12. Cllr.	Mary	Hoade	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	1
13. Cllr.	Donagh	Killilea	Galway Co. Co.	1	-	-
14. Cllr.	Peter	Roche	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	1
15. Cllr.	Frank	Kearney	Galway Co. Co.	3	1	-
Mr.	Tom	Madden	Community/Voluntary	2	1	-
Mr.	Aodán	Mac	Community/Voluntary	3	1	1
Mr.	Brent	Kelly	Community/Voluntary	-	-	-

*Mr.	Gerard	Costello	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.	2	1	-
Ms	Marian	Donohue	Galway Co. Co	2	1	1
Ms	Frances	Mitchell	Galway Co. Co	2	0	1

**Mr. Gerard Costello, replaced Mr. Michael O'Brien in November 2017.*

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

JPC Steering Group

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

GALWAY COUNTY JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEES

The following is the membership of the JPC Sub-Committees as agreed by the County Galway Joint Policing Committee to progress strategic objective 1, 2, and 3 of the 6 Year JPC Strategic Plan: 4 Councillors, 1 Oireachtas Member, 1 Garda, and 2 Community representatives, Chaired by a Councillor and facilitated by Council staff. Meetings of the sub-committees are held quarterly.

The Sub- Committees are as follows:

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.
