



County Kildare Joint Policing Committee
Annual Report 2015

Introduction

The following is a report on the work of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee for 2015:

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee (JPC) aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between and Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and elected local representatives and also facilitate the participation of the community and voluntary sectors in this regard.

The function of the JPC is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, which states: "The joint policing committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.

Membership of County Kildare JPC 2015: (33 Members)

There are 33 members of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee. Fifteen Local Authority members. Seven Oireachtas members, Two members of An Garda Síochána, Two Local Authority Officials and seven members from the Community Sector.

Local Authority Elected Members (15)

Martin Miley MCC – Chairperson

Aoife Breslin MCC – Vice Chairperson

Padraig McEvoy MCC

Fintan Brett MCC

Ivan Keatley MCC

Morgan McCabe MCC

Paul Ward MCC

James Lawless MCC

Frank O' Rourke MCC

Tim Durkan MCC

Anne Breen MCC

Ide Cussen MCC

Mark Lynch MCC

Anthony Larkin MCC

Suzanne Doyle MCC

Oireachtas Elected Members (7)

Deputy Catherine Murphy

Deputy Emmet Stagg

Deputy Sean O' Feaghail

Deputy Jack Wall

Deputy Martin Heydon

*Deputy Bernard Durkan,
Deputy Anthony Lawlor*

Local Authority Officials (2)

*Peter Carey, Chief Executive KCC
Peter Minnock, Director of Services*

An Garda Síochána (2)

*Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin
Superintendent Declan McCarthy*

Community (7)

*Monica Byrne, Kildare Older Persons Council,
Michael Farrell , Comhairle na nOg
Conor O' Leary, Muintir na Tire
Stephen Joyce, SW Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
Public Participation Network (PPN), (Note; Representative yet to be appointed)
Emma Berney, Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee
Sean Darcy , Celbridge Community Council*

Meetings of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

The JPC Committee met four times in 2015;

- 1. 16th February 2015 which was the first meeting of the Committee**
- 2. 6th July 2015**
- 3. 5th October 2015**
- 4. 7th December 2015 – Annual Public Meeting**
- 5.**

Policing Report and Garda Resources Report

The meetings included the Policing Report as a standing item. These reports were invaluable to the meetings as they highlighted the crime levels in the county.

Superintendent McPolin also regularly presented a report on Garda resources in Kildare and this issue is a matter of great concern in the county as Kildare has the lowest ratio of Garda to population in the country.

Local Information meetings between an Garda Síochána and Municipal Districts.

At the July 2015 meeting of the JPC the Chairperson proposed that a lot of policing engagement could take place at local level in an informal session. It was resolved at this meeting that the local Gardai would attend at meetings with the Municipal District members approximately 4 times a year. This provides an opportunity for discussing issues that are local to the district. These meetings prove beneficial and the model had already been practised in the Athy Municipal District and that the benefits of local discussion "in committee" can prove immense. This model fosters better relationships and facilitates an exchange of views in an informal setting. Community Representatives and Oireachtas Members who sit on the JPC are also invited to attend these sessions. The first round of these meetings with the Municipal Districts took place in October 2015.

County Kildare 6 Year Strategic Plan

The Guidelines of 2014 state that it is essential that JPCs take a strategic approach to their work so that issues arising can be dealt with in a considered and properly co-ordinated manner.

Conversely, the business of a JPC cannot be progressed by simply having an exchange of views on relevant Garda or local authority reports. It is imperative that local issues are addressed collectively and strategically and in this regard each JPC must have strategic plans which are focussed on achieving co-ordinated actions to support enhanced policing and crime prevention. The Six Year Strategic Plan should be designed to link with the Local Economic and Community Plan for the county.

" Safer Communities"

The 6 Year Strategic Plan will aim to support state agencies, communities and an Garda Síochána to make Kildare a safer place to live and run business.

The Kildare JPC held 2 preparation consultations in connection with the strategy:

The first consultation was held at the October 2015 meeting of the Committee where the members broke into work groups to focus on three main areas as follows:

- 1. Crime against the Person/Property - Drugs & Alcohol, Anti-social behaviour.**
- 2. Community Policing – Resources, Visibility, Communications, Youth Intervention, Integration & Infrastructure.**
- 3. Activities - Traffic Control, Urban CCTV, Text Alert, Neighbourhood Watch, Protection of Wildlife.**

The second consultation involved members of the public and was held at the Annual Public Meeting in December 2015 meeting where the members broke into work groups to focus on the following three main areas.

What do you think the following groups could do, in order to achieve “Safer Communities” within County Kildare ?

- 1. What can Public Bodies do? – e.g. Local Authority, Health Service Executive, Schools, Education Training Board and the Courts Service etc.**
- 2. What can the community itself do?**
- 3. What can the Garda Authorities do?**

The outcomes of these workshops will formulate the JPC 6 Year Strategy which is due to be finalised in 2016.

Pictures from the Public Meeting of the JPC ,courtesy of the Kildare Nationalist:



Illegal Trade/Poaching in Wildlife Product

The October meeting received a presentation from Superintendent Martin Walker on illegal trade/poaching in wildlife product in Kildare and the meeting was informed that illegal shooting is a lot more widespread in Kildare than is generally believed. Superintendent Walker emphasised that illegal hunting often went hand in hand with other illegality and that the way forward was to educate children in order to enable them to be the "conscience of the community"

The End.

