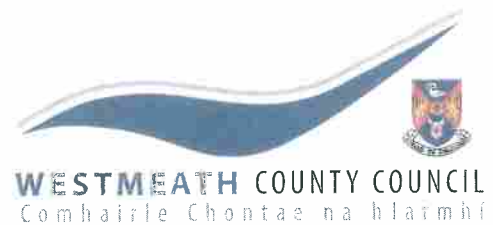


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WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

17th August, 2017

Minister Charlie Flanagan, TD
Minister for Justice, and Equality
51 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
D02 HK52

Re: Westmeath Joint Policing Committee Annual Report, 2016

Dear Minister Flanagan,

Please find enclosed a copy of Westmeath JPC Annual Report 2016 for your records and information.

If you require any additional information or clarification in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr Billy Coughlan,
Meeting Administrator

CC: Ms Helen Hall, The Policing Authority *file*
CC: Ms. Nóirín O'Sullivan, Garda Commissioner

2016

Westmeath Joint Policing Committee Annual Report



Introduction:

Westmeath Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was re-established in 2015 and is a partnership between Westmeath County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Community. The membership comprises of senior Local Authority Officers, senior Garda Officers, Elected Representatives, Oireachtas Members and Representatives of Community & Voluntary groups.

The Westmeath Joint Policing Committee is intended to be a forum for discussion and a means of building confidence, trust and safety in the county. In doing this, the Westmeath JPC seeks to prioritise key community policing policy issues and identify initiatives which will contribute to improved community policing, prevention and reduction of future crime in County Westmeath.

Role of the Joint Policing Committee:

The Purpose of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC):

As set out in *Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005*, and the amendments to this Act in 2014, the main purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where the Local Authority and Garda, responsible for policing the area, consult with Oireachtas Members and community interests who can make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life of the community.

Strategic Approach:

In accordance with national JPC guidelines the focus of the JPC's work is "*strategic*" rather than "*operational*". The JPC is required to develop a six year Strategic Plan linked appropriately with the Local and Economic Community Plan for the area. County Westmeath JPC adopted its Strategic Work Plan 2015 – 2020 in April 2015. The plan sets out five strategic goals:

- 1) Inclusive Consultation
- 2) Community Policing
- 3) Crime prevention and victim support
- 4) Public Safety
- 5) Road Safety

A number of objectives and actions are linked to each goal.

Membership of JPC:

Each JPC is made up of:

- Chairperson – Local Authority Representative
- Garda Officers nominated by the Commissioner
- Local Authority Representatives
- Members of the Oireachtas for the area.
- Community / Voluntary Sector Representatives

Westmeath Joint Policing Committee Meetings held in 2016.

In 2016 the Westmeath Joint Policing Committee was chaired by Cllr Frank McDermott. The Westmeath Joint Policing Committee holds four meetings per year. In 2016 these meetings were held on the following dates:

- **Monday, 18th January 2016**, @ 11am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.
- **Monday, 18th April 2016**, @ 11am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.
- **Monday, 18th July 2016**, @ 11am in the Athlone Civic Offices, Athlone.
- **Monday, 17th October 2016**, @ 11am in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.

Westmeath JPC hosted an open Public Meeting on **Monday, 20th June 2016 at 12 midday** in The Monsignor McCarthy Complex, Battery Heights, Athlone, Co Westmeath. All meetings of Westmeath JPC are held in public, however this meeting invited submissions from the public and allowed members of the public to participate in certain parts of the meeting. This meeting was very well attended.

Westmeath Joint Policing Committee Membership 2016:

Westmeath County Council Representatives	
Cllr Michael O'Brien	Elected Representative
Cllr Paddy Hill	Elected Representative
Cllr Emily Wallace	Elected Representative
Cllr Paul Hogan	Elected Representative
Cllr Bill Collentine	Elected Representative
Cllr Tom Farrell	Elected Representative
Cllr Andrew Duncan	Elected Representative
Cllr Frankie Keena	Elected Representative
Cllr Frank McDermott - Chair	Elected Representative
Cllr Sorca Clarke	Elected Representative
Cllr Ken Glynn	Elected Representative
Cllr John Shaw	Elected Representative
Cllr Aengus O'Rourke	Elected Representative
Westmeath County Council Officials	
Mr Pat Gallagher	Chief Executive
Mr Declan Leonard	Mullingar Municipal District Manager
Mr Pat Keating	Athlone Municipal District Manager
An Garda Síochána	
Lorraine Wheatley	Chief Superintendent
Kevin Gralton	Chief Superintendent

Alan Murray	Superintendent – Mullingar Division
Patrick Murray	Superintendent – Athlone Division

Community Representatives	
Pat Grimes	Dalton Park (RAPID), Mullingar
Hugh McGuire	Independent People with Disabilities
Phil Brennan	Coole Older Persons Group
Sheena Lawless	Battery Heights (RAPID) Athlone
Kathleen Grennan	Rosemount Tidy Towns

Oireachtas Members	
Deputy James Bannon	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Peadar Toibin	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Willie Penrose	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Peter Burke	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Robert Troy	Oireachtas Member
Senator Aidan Davitt	Oireachtas Member
Senator Gabrielle McFadden	Oireachtas Member
Senator Paul Daly	Oireachtas Member

Changes in Membership in 2016:

Chief Superintendent Lorraine Wheatley represented the Garda Commissioner on the Westmeath JPC until July 2016. The newly appointed Chief Superintendent, Kevin Galton, attended the October 2016 meeting of the Westmeath JPC.

Item No. 1:

Summary of Progress in implementing the JPC's Work Programme:

- Detailed Garda Síochána report presented at each JPC meeting, including quarterly crime analysis, crime prevention and community policing measures.
- **Public Safety:** The JPC established a Sub-Group to examine the *Design of the Built Environment in respect of crime prevention and anti-social activity*.
- The JPC received a presentation on *The Art of Crime Prevention* –given by Sergeant John Connolly, Crime Prevention Officer, Westmeath Garda Division.
- The JPC received a presentation on *Westmeath County Council's Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Tenants Handbook* as part of the consultation process in reviewing these documents.
- The JPC received a presentation on *Westmeath's County Council's 2016 Water Safety Programme* by Mr Enda Hanniffy, Westmeath Health and Safety Officer.

Item No. 2:

Four key achievements of the JPC during the year:

1. Regular engagement and communication with An Garda Síochána in Westmeath division (encompassing Athlone and Mullingar districts) regarding crime analysis, crime prevention and community policing in the county.
2. **Working Group established in February 2016 to examine the *Design of the Built Environment*.**

The Westmeath JPC under the *Westmeath Strategic Work Plan 2015-2020*, established a Working Group to examine the *Design of the Built Environment* in respect of crime prevention and anti-social activity. This Working Group consists of the following Local Authority Officials, Garda and Community Nominees.

Westmeath JPC Working Group Members	
Mr Terry McCague – Chair	Senior Planner, Westmeath County Council
Mr Michael Connolly	Senior Engineer, Westmeath County Council
Ms Daire McDevitt	Executive Planner, Westmeath County Council
Cllr Paul Hogan	Elected Representative, WCC
Cllr Aengus O'Rourke	Elected Representative, WCC
Mr Des Sheridan	Community Representative
Mr Pat Grimes	Community Representative

The JPC Working Group held four meetings during 2016 and consideration of the recommendations of the Working Group was scheduled for the January 2017 meeting of the Westmeath JPC for approval and adoption.

3. *Westmeath County Council's Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Tenants Handbook.*

Westmeath County Council's Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy was scheduled for consideration by the Council in early 2017. The Elected Members of Westmeath County Council unanimously adopted the revised Tenant Handbook on the 28th November 2016.

4. *JPC Public Meetings*

Westmeath JPC held its first public open meeting in Athlone in mid- 2016, and planned a further meeting to take place in Mullingar in January 2017.

Signed:



Cllr Frank McDermott, Chair of Westmeath JPC

