



Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of Meeting

September 24th, 2021 (Held Online).

Present: Cllr. Al McDonnell, Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne, Cllr. Neil Cruise, Cllr. Michael Loftus, Cllr. Michael Burke, Cllr Christy Hyland, Cllr Damien Ryan, Cllr. Mark Duffy, Cllr Tom Connolly, Cllr Sean Carey, Cllr John O 'Hora, Cllr Ger Deere, Alan Dillon TD, Dara Calleary TD, Ms. Edith Geraghty MTSG, Chief Superintendent Ray McMahan, Superintendent Joe McKenna,

In attendance: Superintendent Gabriel Moran, Superintendent Paudie O'Shea, Inspector Ciaran Diffley, Garda Shane O'Connor, Deirdre Finnerty MCC, Maura Murphy MCC, Michael Galvin MCC.

Apologies Mr. Kevin Kelly, C.E., Mr Keelan Moran PPN

1. Welcome

Cllr. Al McDonnell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and matters arising

Cllr Al McDonnell informed members the minutes from meeting of July 2nd and July 30th both needed approving together as the two meetings were part of the same JPC meeting.

The following amendment was made to minutes of July 2nd, under item 4:

Superintendent Tom Calvey reported that scooters are covered under the 1961 Road Traffic Act and guidelines regarding their use and permitted speeds are currently being issued; ~~MPV's are not covered by either driver license or insurance requirements at present.~~

Superintendent Tom Calvey reported that scooters are covered under the 1961 Road Traffic Act and guidelines regarding their use are currently being issued; **however, it is unclear if the new legislation being considered will specifically address the ambiguities surrounding the issue's around driving license's and insurance.**

Cllr Damien Ryan said that it was an oversight that the Chairman of JPC was not on the original delegation for meeting with Minister Browne, re: New Community Policing Structure, and he should now be added.

Proposed: Cllr Damian Ryan **Seconded:** Dara Calleary TD

3. Reports from An Garda Síochána

Superintendent Joe McKenna updated on crime figures in the Mayo Division; overall the crime figures were very positive and had remained stable despite the fact that the economy has now almost fully reopened and commercial activity has continued to increase.

The value of drug seizures in Mayo to date amounted to €786,326.00.



Some statistics reported by Supt. McKenna were as follows:

Crime	2021	Change
Burglary	68	Down 9%
Minor Assault	178	Up 7%
Theft	154	Down 6%
Theft from Shops	176	Up 12%
Theft from Cars	37	Down 19%
Public Order offences	402	Down 4%
Criminal Damage	242	Down 8%
Drugs for sale or supply	62	-
Drugs -Simple	188	-
Sexual crime- Rape	10	Up 40%
Sexual crime – Assault	27	Down 28%

Policing Reports

Superintendent Paudie O'Shea updated for the Castlebar/Westport area; assaults have increased to 28 (an increase of three). Most other figures have stayed level and there has been a drop in domestic violence which are down to 15 from 26.

Most areas are very busy following the re-opening of the economy and AGS are very satisfied with policing in the area. Public order has continued to be very good and AGS are working closely with Superintendent Joe McKenna to tackle drugs crime in the area. Anti-social Behavior is continuing to be dealt with and they have recently met with residents' groups in two estates which is helping to reduce the number of incidents.

Inspector Ciaran Diffley reported on behalf of Superintendent Joe Doherty for the Ballina/Belmullet area.

AGS continue to work on the vulnerable persons register and have increased their visits to people in the locality. Two events were reported on:

The Community Policing Unit was recently involved in bringing young people from the area to Enniskillen as part of the Rio Ferdinand Foundation in conjunction with the PSNI.

Two schools were recently visited as part of bike Safety Week.

The new Sergeant in Foxford has been working closely with the Inland Fisheries where they succeeded in getting two recent prosecutions.

Crime figures for the area have remained stable with public order offences down by 10%.

Inspector Ciaran Diffley reported on behalf of Superintendent Calvey.

AGS are continuing their campaign to reduce incidents of boy/girl racers and at a recent checkpoint they detected 6 speeding offences, one drink driving incident and one simple possession of drugs incident. AGS are continuing to work with Noel Gibbons, MCC and are educating young drivers by way of a social media campaign.



The following are the detection figures to date -:

Speeding	1266
Not wearing seatbelts	33
Driving using a mobile phone	686
Driving without a license	47
Diving unaccompanied	47
Intoxication (arrests)	92
Fatal road traffic accidents	3
Serious road traffic accidents	11
Non serious road traffic accidents	62

The following items were then raised-:

Cllr Christy Hyland agreed to take his advance question at this point. Cllr. Hyland complimented AGS for their excellent handling of a very difficult situation in Tuam cemetery when dealing with those who had put lives in danger. He thanked Superintendent Paudie O'Shea for engaging with the people in the Old Head area regarding the ongoing traffic congestion in the area.

Cllr Michael Burke suggested that checkpoints would be better placed on roads leading into towns. He said the drug detection figures are extremely high for such a small community and questioned if consideration could be given to introduce profiling to match people's incomes with their lifestyles.

Deputy Alan Dillon welcomed the proposal for a bonus for frontline workers for their enormous contribution over the past 18 months. He also asked for an update on CCTV schemes because of the proposals being put forward to open nightclubs until 5:00 am; it is hugely important to have good CCTV in place in order to combat public order offences.

Cllr Mark Duffy complimented the Ballina Community Gardai on the very successful trip to Enniskillen with the youth justice project and Rio Ferdinand Foundation and also on the green schools' projects.

Cllr Neil Cruise thanked AGS for the vulnerable peoples register initiative and the message in a bottle project which made a great difference during Covid times. He asked if speed traps should be set up on the approach roads to Foxford as drivers are speeding through the town. He also made comment on the two search and rescue kayaks recently stolen from the Foxford area.

Cllr Michael Loftus highlighted that recently on the R315 Crossmolina to Castlebar Road a car was detected traveling at 135 KPH in a 60 KPH zone; 80% of those caught exceed the 60 KPH speed limit. He expressed huge concern as there is a playground and school on this stretch of road. He also complained of cars being damaged in towns in incidents with boy /girl racers.

Cllr Michael Kilcoyne complained of the incidents of anti-social behaviour have continued to get worse. Cllr. Kilcoyne referred to a recent incident in Castlebar detailed to him in a letter he received from a member of the public; there were up to 20 people fighting in an estate; residents in the estate feel very threatened and feel like prisoners in their own homes.

Chief Superintendent Ray McMahon said issues around drugs, roads -speed limits and antisocial behaviour could be discussed via the sub-committees. In relation to South Mayo; AGS cannot get firm commitments in terms of resources, AGS has however, a large drugs unit that continues to cover a large area.



He thanked people for their kind comments around the Youth Awards and dealing with the vulnerable and elderly in our society.

He said a new Pilot Scheme is being rolled out in Limerick and Mayo regarding fraud involving AGS and the Banking and Payment Federation of Ireland.

Arrests have been made in relation to the incident referred to earlier and criminal charges will follow. Chief Supt. Also advised public not to answer unrecognised numbers, and under no circumstances give out any personal details, e.g. banking, passwords etc.

4. **Establishing of Sub-Committees**

The establishment of sub-committees was discussed, and it was agreed to go ahead with the appointment of sub-committees based on the proposed model. See attached.

Cllr. Kilcoyne also asked that membership of elected members on sub-committee's could be extended to include all elected members on JPC

Proposed: Cllr Michael Kilcoyne **Seconded:** Cllr Michael Loftus

5. **New Community Safety partnership**

Deputy Dara Calleary updated group on meeting with James Browne TD. Minister of State Department of Justice and Equality. It was agreed a physical meeting with the Minister would be more advantageous.

Deputy Calleary suggested member of JPC meet in advance of meeting to enable members provide feedback to the Minister.

Proposed: Cllr Damian Ryan **Seconded:** Cllr Michael Bourke

6. **Presentation approval**

Approval from JPC members to authorise attendance of Siobhán McBrearty from the HSE, Mayo Suicide Prevention Alliance (MSPA) to present at next JPC meeting on "Connect for Life". As part of this presentation a member of the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force will give a presentation on "Galway Safe" app.

Proposed: Cllr Damian Ryan **Seconded:** Cllr Michael Kilcoyne

7. **Public Meeting**

This year's Public Meeting was discussed; as it was not possible to hold a Public JPC in 2020 due to the pandemic, it was agreed to hold one this year as soon as guidelines permit.

Proposed: Cllr Michael Burke **Seconded:** Cllr Damian Ryan



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



8. Advance questions:

These were dealt with under agenda item number 3.
There were no other items, and this concluded the meeting.

Next meeting 10th December at 11.00

Signed:

**Cllr. Al McDonnell,
Chairperson of Mayo JPC**

Date:

10/12/2021