



Mayo Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

Friday September 22nd, 2023, at 11.00am

Format – Teams / Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Castlebar

- Present:** Cllr. Al McDonnell (Chair), Cllr. Neil Cruise, Cllr. Michael Loftus, Cllr Gerry Coyle, Cllr Mark Duffy, Cllr Tom Connolly, Cllr. Christy Hyland, Cllr. Damien Ryan, Cllr Michael Burke, Cllr. Ger Deere, Cllr. Sean Carey, Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne, Rose Conway Walsh TD, Alan Dillon TD., Edith Geraghty, PPN, Michael Baynes, PPN, Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council, Chief Superintendent Ray McMahon, Det Superintendent Tom Colsh.
- In attendance:** Superintendent Gabriel Moran, Superintendent Alan Brady, Superintendent Deirdre Gill, Mary Gildea, Assistant Principal Officer, Garda Shane O'Connor, Karen Shelly, Policing Authority, Deirdre Finnerty MCC
- Meeting Admin:** Maura Murphy, MCC, Michael Galvin, MCC
- Guest Speaker:** Garda Michael Toland, Garda Sean McHale, Garda John McNamara.

1. Chairperson's Opening Remarks

Cllr. McDonnell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. On behalf of the JPC he thanked and congratulated Superintendent Gary Walsh on his recent promotion to Chief Supt. and thanked him for his contribution to the JPC and for his great work in County Mayo. His replacement Superintendent Alan Brady was welcomed to his first JPC meeting in Mayo and wished him well in his new role. Cllr. McDonnell also welcomed Karen Shelly, Policing Authority, to the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes:

"That the minutes of meeting held 23rd June 2023 held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Castlebar and online via Teams, having been circulated to each member; be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed by Chairperson."

Proposed: Cllr. Damien Ryan

Seconded: Cllr. Christy Hyland

3. Presentation: An Garda Siochana – Community Safety Initiatives

The Chair invited Garda Michael Toland and Garda Shane McHale to deliver their presentation.

Cllr Al McDonnell thanked Michael and Shane for their excellent and comprehensive presentation which was then discussed by the group. A Q & A session followed.

4. Update from Sub-Committee's

Crime and Drugs – Cllr. Christy Hyland (C):

- The last meeting of the Crime and Drugs Sub-Committee was held on held on 19th September 2023.
- The group discussed how the sub-committee will further promote and implement the actions under the Mayo JPC Strategic Plan.
- The WRDATF has distributed over 5,000 fliers to various agencies, services, clinics, GP practices regarding drug related intimidation.

- Also discussed were Crime prevention initiatives, examples are, "Neighbourhood Watch", Community Alert and Text Alert Schemes". A presentation on CAST initiative will be covered at December meeting.
- Property marking machine for Mayo was discussed. The Group discussed opportunity to run a community evening with a borrowed property marker. AGS have access to Leitrim property marker. Cllr. Christy Hyland will recommend GMA funding if application is unsuccessful.

Community Engagement – Cllr. Michael Loftus (C)

The Community Engagement Sub-Committee had a meeting on the 18th September 2023. The following items were discussed:

- Invite the Community Access Support Team (CAST) from Limerick to present to the Mayo JPC.
- An intergenerational project is being developed between Age Friendly, Mayo's Older People's Council and Comhairle na nÓg. The event "Intergenerational Games evening", will be held during Social Inclusion week and will be hosted in Castlebar Library.
- Property marking was discussed – application for funding of €20,000 made under the Community Safety Innovation fund for two property markers. Update from Dept. of Justice is "the Community Safety Innovation Fund 2023, remains currently under consideration, along with all other applications submitted by the deadline.
- Cllr. Michael Loftus suggested establishing Local Policing Fora in each Municipal District and asked Mayo JPC Oireachtas members to vote down the proposed legislation regarding the restructuring of JPC's when it comes forward.
- Speed Vans get €1.2m funding but are a waste of time as they only have a 0.3% detection rate as they are located in the wrong place.

5. Report from An Garda Siochana – Overview on Crime / Traffic Statistics

Det Superintendent Tom Colsh gave a brief update on Crime Figures in Mayo reported to date:

- Crime in general has decreased apart from burglaries and thefts from shops.
- Drug to the value of €761K and €17k cash were seized. There was a significant decrease from 461 to 184 in fraud related incidents. Minor assaults were also down from 540 to 390.
- Operation Thór, which actively targets organised crime gangs and repeat offenders through coordinated crime prevention and enforcement activity based on intelligence and the latest burglary trends will be starting in the coming weeks. The property marking machines will be a very important tool to help reduce this crime.
- Operation Tara is ongoing Nationally and is aimed to protect communities from the scourge of illegal drugs.

Superintendent Gabriel Moran – Mayo South area

- Following the Ballinrobe incident, bail conditions are being monitored for the people that were arrested.
- In the Claremorris incident, all are being dealt with through the courts.
- Property crime – a property marking machine will make a big difference here.
- Fatal Road traffic accidents have thankfully reduced to zero for the period.
- CCTV- we have written to the Data Controller regarding the new legalisation surrounding CCTV.

Superintendent Alan Brady – Mayo North Area

Supt. Walsh introduced himself and outlined his background in AGS. He thanked everyone for the warm welcome afforded to him by the JPC and he looks forward to working with them in the future.



Superintendent Deirdre Gill - Roads Policing

- Speeding Offences detection 1819
- Use of mobile phone detection 466
- Drink/Drug Driving arrests 82
- Not wearing seat belts 68
- Check points 1216

During recent speed checks, three vehicles were stopped in 100kmph areas doing speeds of 192 kmph, 217 kmph and 159 kmph, proceedings are with the courts for these matters. Of the recent 15 fatal road traffic accidents, five of the deceased were not wearing seat belts.

Cllr. McDonnell thanked all the Gardaí for their comprehensive reports.

Comments from members of the JPC included:

Cllr. Gerry Coyle

Expressed deepest sympathies to Deputy Rose Conway Walsh on the passing of her brother. All those present wished to be associated with these comments. He complimented AGS on their excellent work particularly during all the various festivals held throughout the Summer.

Cllr. Damien Ryan:

Acknowledged the great work of the AGS and said enforcement is the key to success in speeding cases. Regarding the new JPC model he said we should send a deputation to the relevant Authorities lead by the Chair. Traffic management in Ballinrobe town needs attention, particularly on Friday's.

Cllr Michael Bourke:

Supported Cllr Ryan's comments. He is fully supportive of the JPC sub-committee's initiative on CCTV. He highlighted the fact modified cars / "boy-girl racers" are on the increase and needs monitoring. Hi-Vis jackets are also essential in road safety and there is currently a project ongoing between the RSA and the Community School. The Garda Community Safety Initiatives should be replicated in smaller towns and rural areas.

Cllr Sean Carey:

Complimented AGS on the great work they are doing in community policing, they should get all the resources necessary to continue this work.

Cllr Michael Kilcoyne:

Commented that it was vital that Mayo secures its own Property Marking Machine to help reduce crime. Regarding referred to the homeless situation in Mayo and to cases being referred to AGS by the Local Authority when they present for help. He asked if the current division for Mayo/Longford/Roscommon was going to continue. The Garda Patrol car is now resembling the failed ambulance model.

In response Kevin Kelly clarified that it is not the policy of Mayo County Council to refer people who present as homeless to AGS as it is the function of the Council to deal with these cases. Requested details of any cases referred to AGS.

Cllr Mark Duffy:

The Community Policing model should be streamlined throughout the County. Regarding late bars, incidents of drink "spiking" reported to be escalating recently; suggested launching an anti-spiking campaign.



Cllr. Christy Hyland:

Questioned if the community policing resources will be available in 6/9 months due to the turmoil in AGS and the changing of rosters. The new policing model has a budget of €3bn but units are being disbanded. There are no Gardaí left to police the streets.

Rose Conway Walsh TD:

Asked if the members of the Community Policing units were officially appointed to these units. The lack of provision for the homeless is very concerning as the nearest emergency accommodation is in Roscommon. AGS are picking up the slack on the Mental Health crisis.

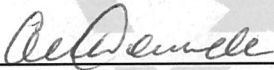
Alan Dillon TD:

Community Policing is at the heart of policing and can be used as a unifier and should be allowed to continue. JPC as it is currently has served its purpose and we need to include more communities in the new model which would enhance the work we do.

6. Advance Question

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Signed: Cllr Al McDonnell:



Date:

