

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL / AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Ardee Mid Louth Local Policing Forum

Minutes of meeting held by Zoom Conference Call on 3rd March 2022 at 3.30pm

Present:

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Elected Members:

Cllr Jim Tenanty (Chairperson)

Cllr Paula Butterly

Cllr Pearse McGeough

Cllr Bernie Conlon

Cllr John Sheridan

PPN Members:

Oireachtas Members

Erin McGreehan

John McGahon

Officials:

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services

Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Chief Superintendent Christy Mangan

Superintendent Andrew Watters

Sgt Ronan Carey

Sgt Kevin O Rourke

Apologies:

Cllr Minogue

Damien McKenna PPN

FAI PPN

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from the Joint JPC meeting which took place on 3rd March 2022 were proposed by Cllr Conlon and seconded by Cllr McGeough.

Matters Arising

CCTV Riverside

Funding opportunity currently closed. AGS and LCC encountered issues with Data Protection Impact Assessment . Issues not insurmountable and will be dealt with as part of next application.

Local Authority Report

Director of Housing Paddy Donnelly advised members on recent developments under the 5 pillars of the Community Safety Strategy.

A copy of the most recent report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

Discussions arose from same as follows :

- The GAA's popular 'Ireland Lights Up' walking initiative returned in January 2022 in partnership with RTE's Operation Transformation and Get Ireland Walking, and was welcomed by the members.
- Louth County Council provide funding through the LEADER project to Family Addiction Support Network
- Louth Drug & Alcohol Forum , it was confirmed that LCC have a representative from Louth Drug & Alcohol Forum at the Regional Task Force.
- **PEACE IV** – a new project 'Community Capacity Building' has commenced and will engage with ex-prisoners, their families and community members. There are wide range of activities planned for the 100 participants including trainings/ awareness raising / leadership programme / engagement programme/ and residential. There will be a focus on anti-sectarian, cultural diversity and anti-racism training, engagement programme with ex-combatants and an intergenerational programme.
- **PEACE IV Muirhevnámór Community Centre:** Funding for a new extension was granted under PEACE IV Action Plan, and it is hoped that this project will be completed by end of September 2022. The new extension will provide added space for activities that will engage the local community members.
- The **Road Safety Officer** assists with implementing the actions of the Co Louth Road Safety Plan. The new National Road Safety strategy covering the period 2021 to 2030 was launched in December 2021 and will be delivered in three phases. Phase 1 of the plan runs from 2021 to 2024 and consists of 50 high-impact actions and 136 support actions. It was agreed Road Safety Officer would be invited to make a presentation to the JPC members in 2022 when a draft Plan has been prepared.
- Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announce €4.5 million to support community groups impacted by COVID-19. The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provided small grants designed to assist in the re-opening of facilities such as community centers,

men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centers. Department of Rural and Community Development have allocated €145,542 to the Louth CEP

- School Wardens **School Warden Service** is currently provided at 25 locations throughout the county to ensure that unaccompanied children can travel to and from school.

Garda Report

Sgt Carey gave an update on the Ardee Sub District outlining crime statistics in the Mid Louth Area. Superintendent Watters gave a presentation on the Dunleer Sub District Garda Report outlining crime Statistics Area.

Arising from the report the following matters were discussed:

- Noted increase in some statistics are a reflection of the economy especially the night time economy opening up again after Covid.
- Issue of male violence and domestic violence. AGS informed the members all new AGS probationary classes are involved in a project/engagement with Women's Aid to increase awareness and greater understanding around these issues. Request for breakdown of domestic violence statistics in Ardee & Clogherhead .
- Discussion around the issue of Garda Youth Diversion Projects and how they benefit all communities and how the initiative could be expanded into other areas. Discussion regarding the Cable Project which diverts young people from crime and ASB and which promotes personal development and civic responsibility . Members agreed the late night league was a great opportunity for
- Members thanked the Gardai for their presence at Aisling Murphy Vigil and for their traffic management services at short notice. Request for breakdown of reporting of figures under The Sexual Offences Act.

Draft JPC Annual Report

The Report was presented to the Ardee Mid Louth JPC members for approval prior to presentation at monthly council meeting.

AOB

All the JPC members including Elected Members, PPN members LCC Officials and Staff paid tribute to Chief Superintendent Christy Mangan who is due to retire shortly. They all thanked him for his many years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

Chief Superintendent Mangan thanked the JPC members for their kind comments and for their contributions to the JPC over the years which he felt worked very well as a vehicle between AGS, LCC , PPN and the community they serve.

Chief Superintendent Mangan finished by stating he had faced many challenges and successes in his career with AGS it was an honour and a privilege to serve in the Louth Division of AGS for the past 5 years.

Confirmed at Meeting held on:

Chairman:

Meetings Administrator:
