

## Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held at 11am on 25 March 2024

Hybrid Meeting in Co-Worx Edgeworthstown and MS Teams

<b>Attendance</b>	26 of 29
<b>Quorum met?</b>	Yes
<b>Representation Balance Met?</b>	50% Stat v 50%Community

*See Appendix 1 for full record of LCSP attendees.*

**Apologies:** Cllr P.J Reilly, Brigid Power, Gráinne O Donnell

**Also in attendance:** Inspector Paddy McGirl, Jacqueline McKeon (LCSP Admin), Ciaran Murphy (Longford County Council)

### Chairs Welcome

The Chair welcomed the members in attendance to the meeting being held for the first time in Edgeworthstown Co-Worx remote working hub.

The Chair also advised the members that Aneta Safiak ( PPN Representative) had resigned from the Partnership, due to other commitments. The Chair led thanks to Aneta for her participation in the Partnership and for leading discussions around online safety and legal aid. Other members wished Aneta well in her future endeavours.

### Declaration of Interests

No members declared an interest at the start of the meeting. The Chair advised that if any conflict of interest became apparent during the course meeting that members declare it and excuse themselves from the relevant discussion.

### 1. Confirmation of minutes 18 December 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 December 2023 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Gerry Warnock, seconded by Cllr Seamus Butler

### 2. Matters Arising

None

### **3. LA16 Status Report (Re Road Traffic Incident Fatalities)**

The Chair advised that no report had been furnished in respect of LA16 Status Report for 2024 to date and it is likely to come in for the next meeting. It was agreed to keep this as a standing item towards the end of the Agenda going forward.

### **4. Legislation and roll out of LCSPs nationally**

The Chair gave a brief overview of the new Policing, Security & Community Safety Act 2024, in particular Section 3, which governs Local Community Safety Partnerships. The adoption of the Legislation was welcomed by all members. The Legislation is extensive and covers many areas including the role of An Garda Síochána and the establishment of a new Policing & Community Safety Authority. It may take some time to enact and stand up all aspects of the Legislation

It was noted that the Department of Justice is to develop further regulations around the LCSPs, which will be circulated once published. These will contain more specific guidance on the operations of LCSPs beyond the pilot stage.

Superintendent Seamus Boyle asked when the final evaluation Report on the Pilot would be published and the Chair advised that it is currently being reviewed by the Department of Justice and should be published in the coming weeks.

It was also confirmed that Longford Community Safety Partnership will continue without disruption and will not be impacted by the roll out of new Partnerships, however the Partnership will have to give due regard to all new guidance that issues and update its Standing Orders accordingly.

### **5. General Items:**

#### **5.1 Coordinator Update Report**

The Coordinators report was circulated in advance and included updates around the new Community Safety Ambassador Programme, Kids Court Road Safety Initiative , Ardnacassa JAG, Traveller Interagency Group and First Fridays Night Time Economy project.

The report was noted by all members. a number of queries arose:

Adrian Greene ( LCRL) noted the extensive work undertaken and advised that they had employed a new staff member for the Empowering Communities Programme in Ardnacassa. It was requested that they be invited to the Ardnacassa JAG going forward which was noted

Cllr Seamus Butler asked about a mooted action around opening a second entrance in Ardnacassa and if a decision had been made on a particular option , one of which may not be supported by Longford Municipal District members due to concerns of the neighbouring estate about ASB. It was noted by other members that some areas are in fact closing up multiple entry points in some areas to curb ASB. Superintendent Seamus Boyle reiterated the importance of additional entrances in the Ardnacassa area for health and safety reasons as well as for more effective policing of the area, it was noted that should the 1 entry point road become blocked for some reason, emergency vehicles including Fire Service or Ambulance Service would be unable to gain access to the area, where there are over 350 houses.

The Coordinator advised that an Active Travel Plan had identified 3 areas of permeability in the Ardnacassa area that would also help open up walking and cycling routes into the estate but no progress had been made in advancing any works. It is the intention of the Chief Executive of Longford County Council to progress some action over the coming months and has tasked the Active Travel team with this.

Tara Farrell ( Longford Womens Link) advised the members that their Community Safety Innovation Fund Project around developing an interagency response to domestic violence in rural areas has received positive feedback from the Department of Justice and they are meeting next week to discuss further funding to extend the project. Tara thanked the members of Longford LCSP for their support on this project and noted that it may have national impact. Training rolled out in 2023 saw over 200 participants from close to 40 agencies attend and the benefits of the interagency approach is already been seen in Longford.

Cllr Gerry Warnock asked that the Partnership consider the issue of dereliction and ASB in Longford Town and the fact that there is several groups of youths congregating in the town regularly which is intimidating and does cause disruption. He called on members to come together to look at the cause of this and to provide further youth service supports in the town

but also for a clamp down on ASB and disruption where appropriate. He feels the depth of the issue in the town is not fully recognised by many and it needs a collaborative approach. He also noted that his constituents acknowledge the work being done by An Garda Síochána in Longford but the lack of garda resources and how cases are addressed by the Courts can undermine community trust and confidence. A lengthy discussion ensued and it was agreed by all members that youth services will be engaged to discuss the issue and that all members will work to promote the positive work in Longford. A new Night Time Economy Officer has commenced and an NTE project ( First Fridays) will help. Superintendent Seamus Boyle noted that public order issues in Longford are no worse than other areas and Community Gardaí and regular units are very proactive, but AGS nor the Partnership have any control over the Judiciary

## **5.2 CSIF project updates**

The Coordinator gave a verbal update on the CSIF projects including the success of the first event held by the All Ireland Community Safety Network, which focused on Domestic, Sexual and Gender based Violence. This was held in Drogheda on 12 March and had presenters from Departments of Justice from Belfast and Dublin, An Garda Síochána and the PSNI and several community led projects from around the Island. Several Longford LCSP members attended and gave feedback to the group.

The Chair thanked Drogheda Implementation Board for hosting the the first event which was supported by Newry Mourne & Down PCSP and Longford and noted that Longford LCSP will lead the next event which will be held later in 2024 and will likely look at Road Safety

## **5.3 Community Safety Plan**

An update was given about the progress on implementing the Community Safety Plan. Members welcomed that more than 60% of actions are delivered or ongoing. It was noted that the wording of some actions in the Plan mean that by nature they are ‘ongoing’ and may not be noted as ‘complete’. on the proposal of Cllr Seamus Butler seconded by Tony Headon it was agreed that where any action has made significant progress but will remain an ongoing piece of work ( e.g the convening of the Traveller Interagency Group) that it be categorised as complete.

The Chair advised that the September meeting will have a detailed review of the Plan as it will be in place for 2 years and the review and preparation for a new Community Safety Plan will need to be considered by members

#### **5.4 To note Garda Data Report for Q3 2023**

The report and its supporting overview document was circulated in advance. Inspector Paddy McGirl went through the details and addressed a number of questions raised by members around CCTV evidence, seizure of vehicles, prevalence of Drug driving, public order issues, sheep kills and potential money laundering. Inspector McGirl also outlined the work of the Garda led 'Interagency Cooperation Group' which is supported by the LCSP Coordinator and includes the RSA, Social Welfare Inspectors, Revenue Shadow Economy, Workplace Relations Commission, Longford County Council, the HSE and Drugs and Alcohol Task Force. This group focuses on multi agency operations in Longford.

It was agreed that Longford LCSP would further promote the See Something, Say Something initiative which has had a poor uptake and that it would work with AGS to develop a 'Business Watch' scheme in Longford town

#### **5.5 Update on task groups**

The Coordinator gave an update on the Ardnacassa Joint Action Group; McEoin Park Action Group and the Traveller Interagency group all of which are chaired by the Chief Executive of Longford County Council on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership.

Members welcomed progress made by all groups, in particular the work undertaken to clear and reopen the Recreation space and Multi-Use Games Area ( MUGA) in McEoin Park which had been closed and derelict for over 10 years

#### **5.6 Upcoming events**

A list of upcoming events that will be attended by the LCSP or led by LCSP was circulated and noted by members. the high number of planned community based engagement sessions was noted by members.

## **6 Community Safety Small Grant Scheme**

### **6.1 To note list of projects approved**

The list of projects approved was circulated in advance and noted. The Chair gave an overview of the application evaluation process and thanked the members of the Evaluation Committee for taking the time to review and assess the applications. The decision making on this had been delegated to the Evaluation Committee at the previous LCSP meeting. A total of €46,340 was awarded to 16 projects. The Evaluation Committee agreed that the balance of funding be used to purchase a set a CPR training dolls and training AEDs that community groups from all over the County could borrow to support lifesaving training. It was agreed that this equipment would be hosted by Longford Civil Defence on behalf of Longford LCSP , as they are best placed to maintain the equipment and already liaise with Community First Responder and First Aid Groups in the County.

The allocation of funding to the projects was welcomed by members and Laura Burke ( Probation Services) asked if the small grant scheme would be an annual programme. The Chair advised that this was not confirmed by Department of Justice and it would be important the projects were delivered by community groups as outlined to show that such funding helps to build community capacity to help improve community safety. Evaluation reports for each project were requested by Luke Casserly ( PPN Youth Rep) once complete which was agreed by all members.

## **7 Members Interest Items**

### **AGS- Alignment of Regions- Superintendent Seamus Boyle**

Superintendent Seamus Boyle asked the LCSP to send a letter to the Joint Committee on Justice to request that they review the decision to have Longford Garda District aligned with Roscommon and Mayo Districts. This is simply down to logistics and the fact that all other services and agencies that AGS work with ( Tusla, the HSE, Drugs and Alcohol Task Force etc) are all in the Midlands Region or aligned along the electoral constituency of Longford/Westmeath. There is a much more natural alignment with Westmeath and the Midlands. Several members, including Antoinette Kinsella ( MRDATF), Veronica Brennan 9 HSE), Rita Culligan ( Tusla) and Cllrs Seamus Butler and Paul Ross agreed.

The Chair agreed to write to the Justice Committee to ask that they consider an alignment of the Longford and Westmeath Garda Districts.

## **8 Correspondence**

### **Recruitment of Chairperson for LCSPs**

The Chair outlined correspondence received from Department of Justice about the recruitment process of Chairpersons for all Community Safety Partnerships, which is to happen in April 2024. The Chair reminded members that it is their intention to step down from the role and allow a new Chair to be selected for Longford LCSP, but this will take some time and that she will stay in place to do a comprehensive handover. The members present all acknowledged the work Martina has done as the Chair of Longford LCSP during the pilot phased but welcomed her commitment to stay for the next few months.

It was agreed to circulate the correspondence and guidance to all members and that an advertisement for the role of Chair will be arranged by the Coordinator in all local press and on active link.

## **9 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 27 May 2024 at 11am

The meeting concluded on this note.

**Prepared by: Janine Bartley**

**Community Safety Coordinator- 29 March 2024**

**Adopted by LCSP: 27 May 2024**

**Chairperson Signature:** 

## Appendix One-

### Members Attendance Log- Monday 18 December 2023

Name	Pillar	In Attendance?
Martina Moloney	Independent Chair	Yes
Kitty Hughes	Community	Yes
Karen Reilly	Community	Yes
Tony Headon	Community	Yes
Damien Ryan	Community	Yes
Orla Egan	Community	Yes
Adrian Greene	Community	Yes
Tara Farrell	Community	Yes
Luke Casserly	Community	Yes
Brigid Power	Community	No
Karen Walsh	Community	Yes
VACANT	Community	-
Jim Belton	Community	Yes
Joseph Murphy	Community	Yes
Fiona Fenelon	Community	Yes
VACANT	Community	-
VACANT	Community	-
Laura Burke	Statutory	Yes
Séamus Boyle	Statutory	Yes
Grainne O'Donnell	Statutory	No
Antoinette Kinsella	Statutory	Yes
Veronica Brennan	Statutory	Yes
Barbara Heslin	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Colin Dalton	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Gerry Warnock	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Paul Ross	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Peggy Nolan	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. PJ Reilly	Statutory	No
Cllr. Seamus Butler	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Uruemu Adejinmi	Statutory	Yes
Rita Culligan	Statutory	Yes
Shauna Doherty	Statutory	Yes

<b>Total Membership</b>	32- 29 filled	3 vacancies (all Community)
<b>Total in attendance</b>	26	3 apologies
<b>% attendance (of current membership)</b>	89.65%	26 of 29
<b>% Pillar representation in attendance</b>	Community 41% (including Chair)	Statutory 59%