

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Joint Policing Committee –

Sub Committee: Education & Awareness

Activity Report No. 3 – 2020 to 30/11/20

Areas under the remit of this Sub-Committee:

- Road Safety
- Personal Safety
- Bullying
- Illegal Substance Abuse
- Underage Drinking
- Cyber Fraud Crime

1. Personal Safety

An Garda Síochána's - National Community Engagement Day

On 31st January, '20. Galway Co. Council's Joint Policing Sub-Committee 'Education & Awareness' invited local communities to An Garda Síochána's 'Community Engagement Day',

It was a 'meet and greet' opportunity for the local community to get to know their local Gardaí and local community representatives, at over 300 venues across Ireland – details below of Galway venues.

Local Gardaí, IFA branch representatives and representatives from community groups involved in the National Rural Safety Forum, engaged with their local communities at this worthy event.

The Sub-Committee also promoted An Garda Síochána's Winter Burglary Prevention Advice and their Assault Prevention Advice on social media.

Galway		
Town	Location	Time
Ahascragh	Greenes,	11am - 12 pm
Athenry	Joyces, Athenry	11am - 1pm
Ballymoe	Mees,	9am - 10am
Clifden	Supervalu, Clifden	11am - 1pm
Clonberne	Co op, Clonberne	12 pm - 1 pm
Dunmore	Howleys,	10:30 am - 11:30 am
Glenamaddy	Potters,	2pm-3pm
Glinsk	Dowds, Glinsk	10.30am-11.30am
Gort	Supervalu, Gort	11am - 1pm
Headford	Joyces (Hardware), Headford	11am - 1pm
Kilconnell	Hickeys,	11am - 1pm
Leitir More	O'Connors,	11am - 1pm
Lerhin	Maddens,	2pm - 3 pm
Loughrea	Supervalu, Loughrea	11am - 1pm
Maam	Keanes,	11am - 1pm
Milltown	Glynns,	9am - 10am
Mountbellew	Arrabawn, Mountbellew	11am - 12pm
Mountbellew	Ganleys,	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Williamstown	Smyths,	12pm-1pm

➤ **Galway 2020:**

‘Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture’ Opening Ceremonies, was highlighted and promoted to the general public – they took place from 02-02-2020 to 08-02-2020, at various locations.

➤ **Cyber Fraud Crime – Safer Internet Day – 11-02-20:**

Galway Co. Council’s Joint Policing Sub-Committee ‘Education & Awareness’ made the general public aware of ‘Safer Internet Day’ (SID) which took place on Tuesday, 11th February, ’20, by promoting it on Social Media and on the Council’s website. Safer Internet Day aimed to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, especially among children and young people. It is an initiative of the European Commission.

In conjunction with this Sub-Committee, Sergeant Peadar Ryan dedicated the weekly Garda Radio Slot on the Keith Finnegan Show ‘Galway Talks’ on Galway Bay FM, to the topic of ‘Safer Internet Day 2020’ on that day.

The slogan of the Safer Internet Day ‘Together for a Better Internet’ was highlighted along with the impact it has on Children & Young People, Parents & Carers, Teachers & Educators. Sergeant Ryan spoke about the safer use of the internet for all users, young and old alike and also delivered advice under the headings of Phishing & Invoice Fraud.

The web address for Safer Internet Day: www.saferinternetday.org including links to campaign activities was outlined also.

Photo below: Sgt. Peadar Ryan, An Garda Síochána and Keith Finnegan, Galway Bay FM



➤ **Road Safety – ‘Be Safe, Be Seen’ – 12-02-20:**

On behalf of the JPC Sub Committee, Galway Co. Council issued a Tweet ‘Be Safe, Be Seen’ advising the general public that the following High Visibility Material was available free of charge at the Council offices, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority:– adult and children vests/ armbands/ bike lights/ reflective bibs, rucksack covers and string bags. There was a big take-up on this worthy initiative.

➤ **'Personal Safety & Home Security' – 27-02-20:**

Members of the Community Policing Unit and AIB Bank held an Information Briefing in Cregg Community Centre which advised older persons on the topics of personal safety and home security.

➤ **'Community Response Forum' – 06-04-20:**

The Council's COVID-19 Community Response Forum promoted this initiative on social media and provided the relevant contact details to members of the Galway community.

➤ **'Road Safety Awareness - Cyclists' – 05-05-20:**

Due to the increased numbers of cyclists on Galway Roads during COVID-19, the JPC Community appealed to motorists to reduce their speeds and to share the roads with these vulnerable road users.

➤ **'Stay Safe – COVID-19' – 18-05-20:**

Using Social Media, the JPC Sub Committee appealed to the general public to 'Stay Safe - Stay Strong – Stay Separate', during the COVID-19 pandemic.

➤ **'Road Safety Message – Drinking & Driving' – 12-06-20:**

A Road Safety Message appealing to motorists 'Don't Drive and Drive' was promoted due the summer months.

➤ **'Road Safety Message – Back to School' – 31-08-20:**

The Sub-Committee reminded motorists, cyclists and children to take extra care on Galway roads as schools returned. The public was reminded that traffic would increase, buses would be picking up / leaving off children, children would be walking and cycling to and from schools, and parents would be driving their children to school before heading to work. Therefore, the advice given was to 'SLOW DOWN' when travelling near a school - it is never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when children are on the roads and to always expect the unexpected.

➤ **Bike Week 2020 – 19th to 27th September, '20:**



With COVID-19 restrictions, many people rediscovered cycling. During Bike Week 2020, the Sub-Committee reminded cyclists of the following:

- Always look and signal to show other road users what you plan to do, and make eye contact where possible so that you have been seen

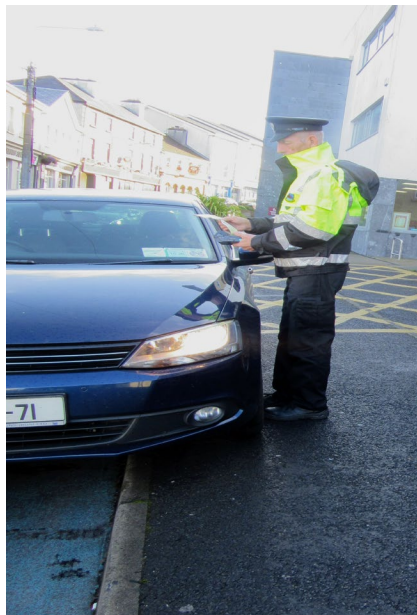
- Always stop at red lights, and obey the Rules of the Road
- Avoid cycling up inside vehicles such as trucks, vans or buses. You will not be seen
- Always use lights on your bike when visibility is poor, and in the evening and at night
- Wear reflective or light coloured clothing when cycling during the day to increase your visibility
- Wear a fitted cycling helmet when cycling

➤ **'Make Way Day' – 25th September, '20:**



The Council's Joint Policing Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness, advised of **'Make Way Day'** on 25th September, '20, all over Ireland. It is a national day of local action on accessibility. The public awareness campaign aims to highlight the issues people with disabilities face getting around their communities. "Hey, this blocks my way!" is the message. Examples of obstructions are parked cars on footpaths; bikes chained to railings; sandwich boards; overhanging branches, etc.

Photos below show the Council's Community Warden and An Garda Síochána dealing with vehicles parked inappropriately and blocking access to other footpath/ road users.



➤ **World Alzheimers Day – 21st September, '20:**

The Council's Joint Policing Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness, advised of **'World Alzheimers Day'** on 21st September, '20. An Garda Síochána marked the event by promoting 'Be a Good Neighbour'.



➤ **European Cyber Security Month – October, '20:**

European Cyber Security Month took place during the month of October, 2020. The Council's Joint Policing Sub-Committee, Education & Awareness, promoted the event on social media and advised the public to 'Think Before U Click', which was the official motto of the European Cyber Security Month. The programme focused on two themes to help people identify and be prepared for cyber threats. The first theme, 'Digital Skills', provided participants with information on e-privacy matters such as personal data protection, cyber bullying and cyber stalking. The second theme, 'Cyber Scams', shared insights into current and potential cyber threats such as phishing, business email compromise and online shopping fraud.

The EU Agency for Cybersecurity and its partners published reports, organised events and activities such as trainings, strategy summits, presentations and more.

➤ Lock it or Lose It Campaign:

Due to the increased numbers of cyclists on Galway Roads during COVID-19, An Garda Síochána promoted the 'Lock it or Lose it Campaign', which was also promoted by the JPC Sub-Committee. It appealed to cyclists to ensure to lock their bicycle securely.



➤ Tips for Driving on Wet Roads:



Due to heavy rain in October, '20, the JPC Sub-Committee had the following advice on social media, for the general public:

- Drop your speed on wet roads to give yourself time to slow down, if needed.
- Avoid wet leaves – these can be dangerous as standing water.
- Watch out for floodwater on bends – if you don't know when you'll come out of the water, it might not be worth the risk of driving into it.
- Drive on the highest section of the road – you can use the edge of the kerb as an indicator of the water's depth
- Maintain a slow steady speed as you drive through any water.
- Test your brakes as soon as you're out of the water

➤ **Halloween - No Drinking & Driving:**

A Road Safety Message appealing to motorists 'Don't Drink and Drive' was promoted during the October Bank Holiday Weekend.



➤ **Halloween – Safety Advice for Children:**

While there were fewer ghosts, witches and superheroes wandering along the roads this Halloween looking for treats due to COVID-19 restrictions, An Garda Síochána had a special Halloween Safety Message for Children, as follows:



➤ Halloween – Use of Fireworks:

An Garda Síochána issued advice to the general public on the ‘Use of Fireworks’ during Halloween, as follows, and it was promoted by the Council JPC Sub-Committee also, on it’s social media platforms:



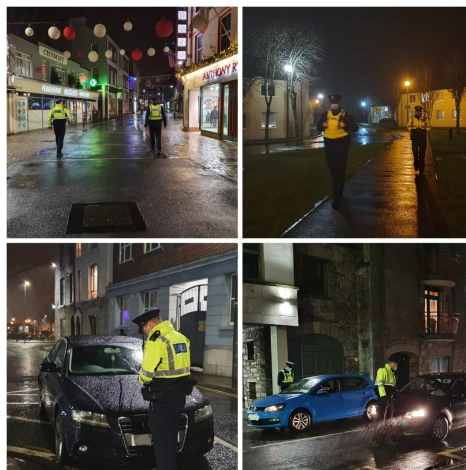
➤ Lock it or Lose It Campaign:

During November, the JPC Sub-Committee promoted An Garda Síochána’s ‘Lock it or Lose it Campaign’, which appeals to cyclists to ensure to lock their bicycle securely.



➤ COVID-19 – An Garda Síochána:

An Garda Síochána continued with their patrolling of COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines in the city centre, student villages and manning checkpoints in the city and county.



➤ **'Be Safe, Be Seen' Campaign**

Galway Co. Council, teamed up with four retail outlets in Oughterard in November in a 'Be Safe, Be Seen' Campaign. The Council is distributing high visibility vests, free of charge, in the following shops – Mannion MACE; Keoghs Centra; McNamara's Day Today and Joyce's, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority. With the dark evenings at present, it is very important that all pedestrians and cyclists are visible to drivers as they are vulnerable road users.

Photo: Councillor Thomas Welby and Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer



Deirdre Caulfield – Secretary to the JPC Sub Committee: Education & Awareness - 30/11/2020