

Minutes of Cavan Local Community Safety Partnership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 17 th June 2026
Time: 4pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Cavan Courthouse

Attendance	
Present:	• Cllr John Paul Feeley (JPF) Chairperson, • Cllr. Niall Smith (NS), • Cllr. Niamh Brady (NB), • Cllr. Damien Brady (DB) • Brendan Jennings (BJ), Cavan County Council, • Superintendent Gavn O'Reilly An Garda Síochána, • Aoife Bailey (AB), HSE, • Patricia Walsh (PW), Resident, • Anges McManus Dulake (AMcM), Social Inclusion, • Tetiana Hrytsyk (TH), New Communities Rep, • Aileen Connolly McGettigan (ACMcG), Youth Rep. • Insp Lionel Mullally, An Garda Síochána.
Apologies:	• Michael Fitzpatrick (MF), Resident, • Cllr Camel Brady, • Cllr TP O'Reilly, • Cllr Brendan Fay, • Ms Lisa Anderson, TUSLA
Did not attend:	• Damien Keaney, Niall McVeigh,
Quorum:	Yes
In attendance:	• Amanda Murray, Local Community Safety Partnership Coordinator, • Angela Fitzpatrick, A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Development, Cavan County Council. • Séamie Clarke, Social Inclusion, Cavan County Council
Press	• Séamus Enright, Anglo Celt

Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson, formally opened the meeting and thanked members for their attendance. He also welcomed Supt Gavin O'Reilly to the meeting and congratulated him on taking up his new role.

1. Minutes from previous meeting:

The minutes from meeting held on the 15th of April, 2026 were agreed on the proposal of Cllr Niall Smith and seconded by Cllr. Patricia Walsh

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Declaration of Interest:

Noted - this will be a recurring item on the agenda.

4. Correspondence:

i. Invitation to visit Loughan House:

The Chair informed the meeting that an invitation had been received to host the October meeting of the Cavan Community Safety Partnership at Loughan House, Blacklion. It was proposed that a tour of the facility would take place following the meeting.

Members welcomed the invitation and agreed that it would provide a valuable opportunity to visit the facility.

Cllr Niall Smith suggested that a future meeting of the Partnership be held at the newly refurbished Garda Station in Bailieborough during the New Year. This proposal was supported and agreed by the members.

It was unanimously agreed that the October meeting would take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 7 October 2026, at Loughan House, Blacklion.

5. Agency Updates:

HSE:

Aoife Bailey (HSE) delivered a presentation entitled “HSE Health Regions and the Integrated Healthcare Area Model: Cavan and Monaghan.” The presentation outlined the significant organisational changes implemented within the HSE over the previous 18 months. Cavan and Monaghan now form an Integrated Healthcare Area (IHA) within one of the HSE’s six new regional Health Areas (RHAs), namely the Dublin and North East Region. Among other developments, Ms Bailey highlighted the establishment of a Patient and Service User Council in each region.

An Garda Síochána:

Supt. Gavin O’Reilly provided an update on recent policing activity and community safety initiatives within the Cavan Division.

Members were advised that a new Domestic Violence Unit has been established, comprising one Sergeant and two Gardaí, to strengthen the response to incidents of domestic violence and support victims.

An update was also provided on the Coco’s Law Youth Awareness Programme, with the GAA working alongside An Garda Síochána to deliver awareness programmes. Other strands to the programme will see An Garda Síochána giving awareness talks in schools and Youthreach services from September.

In relation to Roads Policing, members noted that over the previous 12 months:

- 615 Mandatory Intoxicant Testing (MIT) checkpoints were conducted.
- 174 arrests were made for drink driving offences.
- 158 detections were made for dangerous driving offences.

Members were informed that foot patrols have been increased throughout the county as part of efforts to address public order offences and enhance community safety.

It was further noted that five members of An Garda Síochána were assaulted during the reporting period. Members were advised that An Garda Síochána continues to maintain a zero-tolerance approach to assaults on its members.

An update was provided on the redevelopment of Bailieborough Garda Station, with works now complete following an investment of approximately €23 million. A soft opening is expected in August, with the official opening scheduled for September.

Members also noted that a series of search operations had been carried out at vape shops throughout the county, with seized products submitted for testing; and investigations files to be compiled and submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Cavan County Council:

Mr. Brendan Jennings provided information on a range of community development and wellbeing programmes that are ongoing that will contribute to the objectives of the Local Community Safety Plan.

Relevant areas of work described included:

- Cavan/Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Forum, which continues to coordinate interagency responses to substance misuse through information sharing, service coordination, promotion of good practice and advocacy for local needs.
- Cavan Age Friendly Programme which outlines a range of initiatives supporting community safety for older people, including crime prevention and fraud awareness programmes, home safety measures, walkability studies, Meals on Wheels services and staff training in age-friendly design and crime prevention through environmental design.
- Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, which supports health and wellbeing initiatives such as Planet Youth and community-based after-school activities aimed at promoting positive outcomes for young people and preventing risk behaviours.
- Healthy Ireland-funded initiatives including alcohol harm awareness programmes, addiction support services, and projects promoting physical activity and social inclusion. Particular reference was made to the development of educational resources for young people and families on

alcohol misuse and the continued work of Cavan Sports Partnership in supporting participation among vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024–2029 was highlighted as the overarching framework guiding economic and community development in County Cavan. The first implementation plan is currently under review, with the next two-year implementation plan being developed. Relevant actions from the Local Community Safety Plan will be incorporated to support shared goals around inclusion, wellbeing, community development and sustainability.

Overall, members noted the strong alignment between these programmes and community safety priorities, particularly in relation to prevention, wellbeing, social inclusion and community resilience.

In concluding the updates, the members welcomed the new Superintendent to Cavan and there was general consensus among the members that there are not enough members of An Garda Síochána on the beat and suggested writing a letter from the Local Community Partnership to the Minister of Justice seeking more Gardai.

Cllr Damien Brady suggested that a School Programme could be developed similar to the very effective one run by the Fire Service and could target transition Year Students on the harsh reality of crashes.

6. Members Interest Items:

a) Community Safety Alert System:

Ms. Agnes McManus Dulake highlighted the need for the introduction of a Community Safety Alert System in County Cavan to provide timely notifications on issues such as roadworks, flooding, severe weather events, and alerts issued by An Garda Síochána and Met Éireann, noting the benefits for crime prevention, faster responses, protection and rural support and better co-ordination.

Members noted that a similar system is currently in operation in County Monaghan. It was agreed that further enquiries would be made regarding the system in place in Monaghan County Council with a view to identifying any opportunities for implementation in County Cavan.

Ms. Angela Fitzpatrick advised that Cavan County Council operates a WhatsApp Channel, where notifications are posted by the Council's Communications team, on road closures, road incidents, water safety issues, weather alerts and others. She advised this Channel is publicly available to everyone by searching for Cavan County Council under Channels, in the Updates section of Whatsapp.

b) Online Harassment and Cyberbullying

The meeting considered a submission from Ms. Tetiana Hrytsyk regarding concerns relating to online harassment, cyberbullying and abusive behaviour on social media platforms. Ms. Hrytsyk noted that these issues affect a wide range of people within the community, including members of migrant communities, young people, volunteers and community leaders.

Members discussed the importance of raising awareness of Coco's Law and the legal protections available under the legislation. The need for community education initiatives focusing on online safety, responsible use of social media platforms and reporting mechanisms for online abuse was also highlighted.

The members welcomed the submission and noted the importance of continuing to promote awareness and education in relation to online safety.

c) Safety in Public Forest and Walking Areas

Ms. Hrytsyk raised concerns regarding the safety of publicly accessible forest and woodland walking routes which are regularly used by families, older persons, walkers, runners and dog owners. In particular, Ms Hrytsyk raised concerns regarding safety issues at Virginia Forest, including water safety, safety at night, requirement for CCTV.

Particular reference was made to concerns relating to fallen trees, damaged branches and potentially unsafe trees located in close proximity to public pathways. Members acknowledged the importance of ensuring that these amenities remain safe for public use.

Mr Brendan Jennings stated that Coillte are responsible for the forest at Virginia and acknowledged that there are real issues there since the storm last year.

i. Muintir na Tíre Presentation - Rosie Palmer CEO, Muintir na Tíre

Ms. Rosie Palmer, Chief Executive Officer of Muintir na Tíre, delivered a detailed presentation on the organisation, outlining its structure, governance, key activities and funding arrangements.

Ms. Palmer provided an overview of a number of programmes and initiatives operated by Muintir na Tíre to support community safety and community development, including:

- Text Alert Scheme
- Cairde App
- Community Safety Champion Toolkit
- Rural Crime Sub-Committee

The presentation also highlighted a range of community support and crime prevention initiatives, including:

- Farm Security Measures
- Senior Alert Scheme
- Community Support Register
- Bottle in the Fridge Initiative

Members welcomed the presentation and noted the wide range of supports and resources available through Muintir na Tíre to assist communities in promoting safety, security and social inclusion. The Chair thanked Ms. Palmer for her informative presentation and for the valuable work being undertaken by the organisation in supporting local communities.

ii. Agree topics list for upcoming presentations

A list of topics for presentations at upcoming meetings of the Safety Partnership were circulated in advance of the meeting. The list was discussed by members.

The following topics were approved by the Partnership.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Issue</u>
Louise Farrelly	A/Senior Health Promotion and Improvement Officer – Meath, A/Tobacco Lead – North East	Vapes/Vaping Impacts
Lionel Mullally & Cait Fleming	Juvenile Lisison, An Garda Siochana	Coco's Law initiatives
Melissa Agnew	Drive Lead North Eastern Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force CLG	Drug related intimidation
Nathalie McCaul,	Addiction Counsellor & Substance Misuse Prevention/ Education Officer	Youth/Addiction
Siobhan McKenna	Safe Ireland	Women's Aid Domestic and gender based violence
Cathal Buggy	An Garda Siochana	Property Marking initiatives
Aisling Kidney	ALONE	Older people to age at home with dignity and independence
Sharon Ivers	365 Youth Diversion Programme	Youth Diversion Initiatives
Isobel O'Brien	Ballyjamesduff Rape Crisis Centre	People affected by sexual violence

It was agreed that the list is not exhaustive and may be amended as required.

Members noted that additional topics may be included in the future where they are considered relevant and beneficial to supporting the work and objectives of the Partnership.

7. County Cavan Local Community Safety Plan 2026-2028 Update:

Members noted that the findings of the Cavan Local Community Safety Partnership Survey, which was presented at an earlier meeting, will form the basis of the Partnership's Three-Year Community Safety Plan.

a) Three-Year Community Safety Plan Working Group:

It was unanimously agreed that a Working Group be established to steer the development of the Local Community Safety Plan. The following members were nominated and approved to serve on the Working Group:

- **Chair:** John Paul Feely
- **Public Representatives:**
 - Cllr. Niamh Brady
 - Cllr. Clifford Kelly
- **Community Representatives:**
 - Agnes McManus Dulake
 - Tetiana Hrytsrk
- **Statutory Representative:**
 - Angela Fitzpatrick, Cavan County Council

The Working Group will oversee the development of the Three-Year Community Safety Plan and ensure that it is informed by the priorities and concerns identified through the Community Safety Survey. Progress updates will be provided to the Partnership as the work advances.

(b) Coco's Law Youth Protection Programme for Cavan Working Group:

Members were advised of an existing multi-agency working group established to promote and support the implementation of Coco's Law initiatives and youth online safety awareness across County Cavan. It was noted that the group will now operate under the umbrella of the Cavan Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) and will be led by An Garda Síochána.

The Working Group currently includes representatives from:

- ISPCC

- TUSLA
- HSE
- An Garda Síochána
- Education Sector
- Foróige
- Cavan LCSP

It was agreed that Cllr. Niamh Brady and Ms. Tetiana Hrytsrk would join the Working Group as representatives of the Cavan LCSP.

Members further agreed that the Working Group would report to the Partnership on its activities and progress, ensuring alignment with the objectives of the Community Safety Partnership and supporting collaborative efforts to promote youth protection, online safety and awareness of Coco's Law throughout the county.

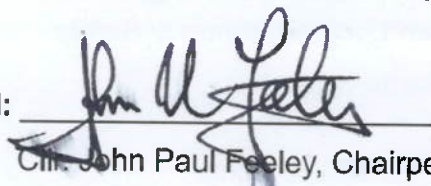
b) Agree date of Next Meeting:

The members unanimously agreed the following dates and times for the remaining meetings of Cavan LCSP in 2026:

Meetings of Cavan LCSP 2026			
Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Closed meeting with Elected Reps & Oireachtas Members.	14 th September, 2026	10:30am	The Hotel Kilmore, Cavan
4 th Meeting of Cavan LCSP	7 th October, 2026	TBC(pm)	Loughan House, Blacklion
Public Meeting of Cavan LCSP	24 th November, 2026	6:30pm	Town Hall, Cavan

The meeting concluded at 5:50 p.m.

Signed:



Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson,

Cavan Local Community Safety Partnership

Date:

