

**Minutes of Tipperary Joint Policing Committee
held on the 15th of September 2023 at 10.00 a.m. at
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District Office and Via Zoom**

In Attendance:

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Geraldine Manning (Secretary), Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan, Brian Beck (Acting Director of Services) Deputy Mattie McGrath, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr John Crosse, Cllr Hughie McGrath, Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner, Michelle Aylward (Chambers Ireland), Anne Williamson (PPN), Sabela Mavuso (PPN) Cathal Ó hÉanna (PPN) Margaret Sheehy (PPN) and Mairead Winters (TCC).

Also, in Attendance:

Superintendent Eddie Golden, Superintendent Kieran Ruane, Superintendent Ollie Baker
Shannon Sweeney (Tipperary Star), Simon O Duffy (Nenagh Guardian) Aileen Haesy (The Nationalist) and Catherine Fogarty Tipp Midwest Radio
Marie Cox (TCC)

Apologies: Deputy Alan Kelly, Deputy Michael Lowry, Deputy Jackie Cahill, Gerard Fogarty (PPN), Cllr Shane Lee, Cllr Jim Ryan, Pat Carroll (IFA), Margaret Sheehy (PPN), Cllr David Dunne, Cllr Pat English, Cllr Marie Murphy, Deputy Martin Browne, Cllr Richie Molloy. Cllr Tony Black, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose and Cllr Mark Fitzgerald.

Welcome

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson) opened the meeting, welcomed all present and noted apologies received.

Item 1 - Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting

Verification of the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd of June 2023 was approved on the proposal of Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner and seconded by Cllr Ger Darcy.

Item 2 – To Review levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the County

Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan gave a presentation on the Tipperary Division with a statistical overview of the current position as of 1st September 2023.

1. Property Crime at a Divisional Level (broken down by District)
 - Additional attention afforded to Burglary
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2. Crime Against the Person at a Divisional Level (broken down by District)
 - Additional attention afforded to Assault
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3. Proactive Policing Measure
 - Includes Possession of Drugs, Sale of Drugs, Firearms and Offensive Weapons
 -
4. Traffic

- Fatalities/Serious Injuries figures YTD (1st Jan – 31st Aug 2023)
- Drink Driving and Drug Offences YTD (1st Jan – 31st Aug 2023)
- LifeSaver Offences YTD (1st Jan – 31st July 2023)
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5. Domestic Abuse Incidents YTD (1st Jan – 3rd Sept 2023)

All information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 01/09/2023 unless otherwise stated and is liable to change. Crime Counting rules are applied unless otherwise stated. Incident counts are based on the date reported.

Chief Superintendent Colm O Sullivan provided statistics for each of the districts;

Property Crime includes All Robberies All Burglary and various Theft Offences, YTD the Division is +7% (1,037 to 1,111) +74.

The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Tipperary +7% (128 to 137) +9, Nenagh +29% (192 to 248) +56, Thurles -26% (258 to 190) -68, Cahir +25% (117-146) +39 and Clonmel +14% (342 to 390) +48. Detections are +14% YTD (436 to 495).

Non-Aggravated Burglary: YTD the Division is -13% YTD (187-162) -25. Residential Burglary is +7% YTD and Non-Residential Burglary is +17% YTD. The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Nenagh -14% (36 to 31)-5, Thurles -46% (50 to 27) -23, Clonmel +34% (53 to 35) -18, Tipperary +15% (33 to 38) +5, Cahir +107% (15 to 31) +16. Detections are +9% YTD (53 to 58)

Crimes Against the Person include; Murder; Murder Threat; All Assaults; Harassment; Child Abandonment; Neglect or Abuse. YTD the Division is -3% (460 to 446) -14. Nenagh -11% (101 to 90) -11, Thurles +19% (101 to 120) +19, Clonmel -4% (144 to 138)-6 and Tipperary -2% to (41-40)-1 and Cahir -21% (73 to 58) -15. Detections are +42%YTD (202 to 286).

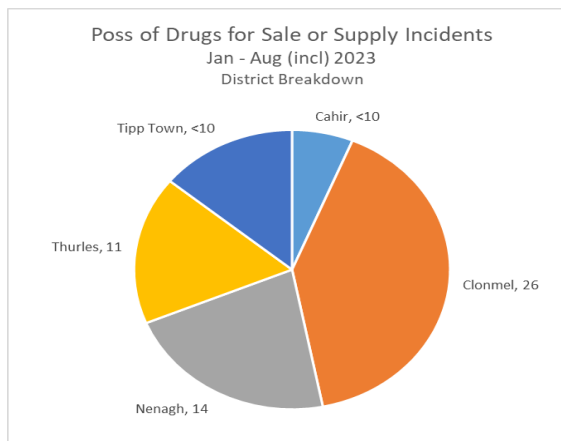
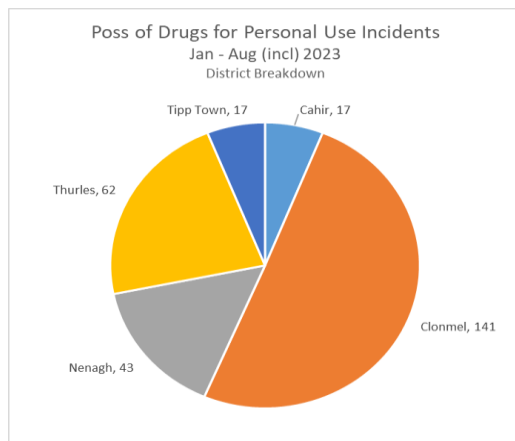
Assaults include Assaults Causing Harm and Minor Assaults. YTD the Division is +3% (337 to 348) +11. Assault Causing Harm: -30% YTD (130 to 91)-39. Minor Assaults: +24% YTD (207 to 257) +50. Nenagh +1% (76 to 77)+1, Thurles +37% (71 to 97) +28, Clonmel -5% (103 to 98) -5, Cahir -19% (53 to 43) -10 and Tipperary -3% (34 to 33) -1. Detections are +38% YTD (151 to 208)

Proactive Policing Measures; Overall Searches within the Division are down 6%.

Possession of Firearms/Offensive Weapons +33% YTD, (43 to 57) +14
Crime Counting Rules not applied.

Possession of Drugs for Personal Use Up 17% YTD (240 to 280) +40

Possession of Drugs for Sale/Supply Down 19% YTD (79 to 64) -15



Traffic (YTD 2022 v 2023)

Fatal Collisions are up +200%

Serious Injury Collisions are down 14% (35 to 30)

There have been 1,875 MIT Checkpoints conducted in the Division – (down 27% from 2,580 YTD last year). This has resulted in 183 Driving While Intoxicated Offences (up 2% from 180 YTD last year). This figure includes 45 Drug Driving Offences.

Our most recent data regarding LifeSaver Offences shows the following; Jan to July Trends with Mobile Phone use -8% (415 to 381)-34; Seatbelt +22% (166 to 202) +36; Speeding -9% (2,440 to 2,225) -215.

Domestic Abuse Incidents include Domestic Violence; Breach of Barring Order; Breach of Protection Order; Breach of Safety Order; Domestic Dispute; Domestic Dispute – No Offence Identified, any incident with Domestic M.O, YTD (1st Jan – 3rd Sept 2023) the Division is +9%.

Based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 04/09/2023 and is liable to change. Incident counts are based on the date reported.

Chief Superintendent Colm O’Sullivan expressed his condolences to all the families who lost their loved ones on the roads in Tipperary this year and sympathises with the impact of the loss of their family members.

The Chief Superintendent appealed to drivers to adhere to limits within their environment, especially with weather conditions and heavy rain which causes hazardous driving conditions. He was surprised with the number of drivers overtaking this morning in poor weather conditions where visibility was difficult. The Chief Superintendent asked that people drive appropriately to the nature of the weather and to adhere to the speed limits.

The following questions were put to Chief Superintendent Colm O’Sullivan with responses provided.

Chairperson Cllr Noel Coonan expressed his sincere sympathy to all the families affected by road tragedies highlighting his appreciation to members of An Garda Síochána, emergency services and the general public for their assistance and support to the fatal collisions and their families.

Cllr Coonan asked the Chief Superintendent about reporting crime, and how members of the force deal with crime that goes unreported? as some people are too afraid to report the crime.

Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan responded by firstly urging members of those affected by crime to speak to a member of the force, that they are there to provide the necessary support and guidance to those who are experiencing abusive behaviour as if it goes unreported the cycle of violence continues.

Cllr Coonan remarked on the community bench in place in Roscrea where an individual can talk to someone on the bench without reporting but can discuss their concerns, it is important to make their concerns and fears known.

The Chief Superintendent acknowledges the importance of such a great initiative in Roscrea, he also acknowledges the work that goes on in community policing that goes unseen and it due to the hard-working team in place. It is important to support members of the community in alleviating the situation that is in front of them.

Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner asked about why is there a reduction in checkpoints with Chief Superintendent responding that several checkpoints are scheduled at a certain time and place and this is legislative so it needs to occur at that specific time, location and date, If there are severe weather conditions or an incident that requires members of the force to deviate from the checkpoint, the checkpoint cannot occur at that time and therefore you will see a reduction in reported checkpoints.

Michelle Aylward of Tipperary Chamber queried what constitutes personal use of drugs as there appears to be an increase in drug use within social settings as reported by the businesses that she engages with, The Chief Superintendent responded by stating that it depends on the quantity of drugs and purpose, if it is sale and supply. An adult caught with for example cannabis with no previous convictions may enter an adult caution programme if a juvenile is placed in a juvenile liaison scheme. There are a set of guidelines in place and this only applies to cannabis and not drugs in the form of tablets.

Cllr John Crosse expressed his sympathy with all the families affected by the road tragedies and commended the emergency services and members of the force on all their efforts during the incidents.

He expressed his disbelief in listening to the radio this morning when he heard that drug testing is not mandatory as part of checks and that the drug testing ability for Garda is not up to standard. Cllr Crosse requested that the JPC should write to the Minister to ensure that drug testing becomes mandatory. It is not safe to drive whilst on drugs; Junior Minister Jack Chambers is reviewing the situation but it is not good enough in terms of the timeline and rise of reckless driving from drug drivers as they are a menace on the roads.

Superintendent Eddie Golden worked closely with the medical bureau and said that devices are available for drug testing and are in use by members of the force. The drink driving limit is not zero however a number of factors come into effect if you do take a drink and drive, your capacity to react may not be as sharp as someone who does not drink and drive. The Junior Minister is looking at legislation in relation to drug driving and the technology with the parameters that are involved.

The Chief Superintendent highlighted that drugs and alcohol suppress abilities and diminish the awareness to react and appealed that people do not drink and drive or drive if taking drugs.

Cllr Gerard Darcy sympathised with the families of those affected by the road tragedies and expressed his thanks to all those who supported those affected. Cllr Darcy referred to the review of speed limits looking at those areas that are prone to traffic build-up as certain individuals are speeding on roads which will cause a traffic accident.

Deputy Mattie McGrath expressed his gratitude to all the support services that were available to the families of those affected by the road tragedies. It is a very sad time for the people that are left bereaved. Deputy McGrath highlighted that a speed education programme should be implemented to assist in the reduction of speed.

The Chief Superintendent responded to members that the speed limits are out of their control as they fall with the local authority and other agents. A significant body of work will have to take place on the reduction of speed limits on regional and local roads.

Brian Beck confirmed that a review of regional and local roads will take place but the council are awaiting guidance, council members will be part of that review. TII sets the limits on national roads whilst the local authority has autonomy over regional and local roads within Tipperary.

Deputy Mattie McGrath requested Chief Colm O'Sullivan's mobile number to which the Chief Superintendent confirmed that he would provide this to Deputy McGrath.

Clarification was confirmed that sample testing on alcohol only at road accidents. If there is a serious accident and someone is taken to hospital Gardai have to wait for the blood test results from the doctors. At checkpoints drug and drink testing can be conducted.

Chairperson Noel Coonan thanked Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan for the comprehensive report.

Item 3 – 3. Correspondence - Clare-Tipperary Operating Model

Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan briefed the committee on the changes that will be implemented as and from Sunday, 27th August 2023, and the completion of the phased implementation of An Garda Síochána's Operating Model.

The Operating Model is a key element of the transformation programme "A Policing Service for Our Future". The Operating Model is restructuring Divisions to put community policing at the centre of the Division. As outlined above, each Division will comprise of four Functional Areas: Community Engagement, Crime, Performance Assurance and Business Services.

The Clare/Tipperary Division has already commenced implementation of the Business Services and Performance Assurance Functional Areas, which has reduced the number of administrative activities held by operational Members.

Under the Operating Model, all Garda Stations and former Districts have been aligned to a Community Engagement Functional Area, as listed below:

Tipperary Central Community Engagement	East Clare-Tipp North Community Engagement	Community Engagement Tipperary South	Community Engagement Clare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurles • Templemore • Killenaule • Holycross • Ballingarry South • Littleton • Borrisoleigh • Moyne • Shevry • Templederry • Templetuohy • Tipperary Town • Bansha • Cappawhite • Emly • Golden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nenagh • Roscrea • Newport • Borrisokane • Toomevara • Cloughjordan • Dolla • Lorrha • Moneygall • Portroe • Killaloe • Scarriff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonmel • Carrick on Suir • Fethard • Kilsheelan • Mullinahone • Cahir • Cashel • Ardfinnan • Clogheen • Ballyporeen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ennis • Shannon • Tulla • Crusheen • Sixmilebridge • Newmarket on Fergus • Kilrush • Kilkee • Kilmihil • Kildysart • Ennistymon • Miltown Malbay • Corofin • Lisdoonvarna • Ballyvaughan

The functional areas and the leads associated with each are outlined below;

Functional Area	Lead Functional Area
Tipperary Central Community Engagement	Superintendent Edmund Golden
East Clare Tipperary North Community Engagement	Superintendent Oliver Baker
Tipperary South Community Engagement	Superintendent Kieran Ruane
Clare Community Engagement	Superintendent John Ryan
Performance Assurance	Superintendent Conor Dillon
Crime	D/Superintendent James Tierney
Business Services	Assistant Principal, Michael Wall

Chief Superintendent Colm O’Sullivan acknowledged that the new operating system will take time to adjust to but will allow more time for community policing.

Chairperson Cllr Noonan queried its effectiveness and in general, the concern from members of the force in its delivery, the faith in the Commissioner is not evident from members of the force as documented in union representation rank-and-file Gardaí has overwhelmingly voted no confidence in Commissioner Drew Harris.

The Garda Representative Association (GRA) voted almost 99% in favour of a motion that expressed no confidence in the Garda Commissioner.

Cllr Hughie McGrath supported Cllr Noonan in the practicality of the new operating model as it will dilute community policing.

Deputy McGrath expressed his dismay at the new operating model reiterating that it is not working and that the lack of new members to the force, the roster issue and the low morale are evident and that the Minister and those in high ranks are removed from what is happening on the ground.

Cllr Fiona Bonfield supported Deputy McGrath with regard to the effect of the new operating model and its effect on community policing.

The Chief Superintendent acknowledged that change can be difficult but it will work and is working, resources are not going to change but the delivery of services will remain effective.

Item 4 – Property Marking

The Gardai in Cahir and Tipperary have used the machine over the summer months, awaiting feedback on usage/numbers.

Property Marking Ireland is working with the Community Gardai in each MD to target groups/provide information and seek interest in training. Five training sessions are proposed by the year end with one in each MD. Each training session will comprise 5 community groups with 3 people from each group i.e. 15 individuals plus the Gardai

The following training sessions have been scheduled:

- Saturday, 16th of September,
Thurles Garda Station from 10 am -1 pm
- Knockavilla Community Hall from 2 pm-5 pm.
- Saturday 7th of October
Nenagh Garda Station from 10 am – 1 pm

Item 5 - Municipal District Community Safety Committee

The minutes of the Municipal District Community Safety Committees for Thurles MD, Tipperary Cahir Cashel MD and Clonmel Borough District have been circulated for noting.

Item 6 – Southern Regional Networking Event for Joint Policing Committees 12th of September 2023

The presentations and the Joint Policing Authority Guidelines were circulated in advance of the meeting. The Policing Authority circulated links to relevant Local Community Safety Partnership resources which are included below;

- Department of Justice [Community Safety Partnerships](#) page;
Community Safety [Policy Paper](#) October 2022
- Evaluation Reports: [Baseline Evaluation Report](#) October 2022, [Interim Evaluation Report](#) April 2023
- CSP websites: [Dublin NEIC](#), [Longford](#), [Waterford](#)

- Longford LCSP's [Community Safety Plan](#) 2022-2024
- Waterford LCSP's [Community Safety Plan](#) 2023-2028
- Dublin North East Inner City LCSP's [Community Safety Plan](#) 2023-2026

Brian Beck requested that committee members of the JPC make submissions to the LECP consultations which are presently ongoing, the link to submissions will be circulated in due course.

Item 7 – CCTV Update

Geraldine updated the board on the following;

Burgess, Birdhill and Cooleens: all schemes currently operating and all data currently under the control of Tipperary County Council.

Borrisokane and Littleton all minor adjustments have been made and they have been resubmitted to the Garda Commissioner for his consideration.

Nenagh, Clonmel and Fethard CCTV: All GPS Coordinates have been confirmed with J&N Consultants and all applications have been resubmitted to the Garda Commissioner for his consideration.

Inspector Boland mentioned that it had only recently been brought to their attention that the Garda Commissioners Office requested all Garda Vetting Applications to be resubmitted and updated for all persons that will have access to the Data within CCTV applications. There are only two vetting applications awaited and they hope that will be they resubmitted by the end of this week.

Members will be updated on the response at the next Tipperary JPC meeting.

Brian Beck confirmed that a comprehensive policy has been formulated that will go to the SPC in early October, this policy will provide clarity involving the procedure of CCTV application and GDPR guidelines.

Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan highlighted that Garda Vetting needed to be re-submitted and this issue should be resolved shortly.

Deputy McGrath and Cllr Darcy highlighted their frustration with the process of CCTV and the time in getting these over the line.

Item 8- PPN Issues.

Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan responded to previously emailed queries from representatives of the PPN.

Where is the information about migrants who are interested in joining the Garda and are coming from a policing background in their country?

This information is available on the Garda Website at the following link; [Garda Trainee Recruitment - Frequently Asked Questions - Garda](#)

The 2023 recruitment campaign closed on the 14th of April 2023, and at present, no details are available as to when a new campaign will be announced.

Garda Recruitment campaigns are managed by PAS and details of competitions will be announced on their website.

Please see the following in relation to citizens from another country:

Can a citizen from any country join?

To join applicants must:

- (a) be a national of a European Union Member State; **or**
- (b) be a national of a European Economic Area State, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the Swiss Confederation; **or**
- (c) Under the International Protection Act, 2015 and in compliance with the Admissions and Appointments Regulations 2013, as amended, be **(i) a refugee** or a family member of such a person in relation to whom a refugee declaration is in force and continues to be in force for the entire duration of the Garda Recruit selection and admissions process or **(ii) a person** granted subsidiary protection or a family member of such a person in relation to whom a subsidiary protection declaration is in force and continues to be in force for the entire duration of the Garda Recruit selection and admissions process; **or**
- (d) by the closing date of the advertisement of this competition, have had a period of one year's continuous residence in the State, and during the eight years immediately preceding that period, have had a total residence in the State amounting to four years.

The onus is on candidates to provide documentary evidence that they continue to meet the eligibility requirements throughout the process and to update the Public Appointments Service and An Garda Síochána of any changes that might impact their eligibility.

Could there be any information on the Garda Reserve reopening and if not, why not? Also the timeline for increasing the age of entry to gardai?

At this time, there is no information on the reopening of recruitment to the Garda Reserve.

The timeline for increasing the entry age is under review and will be determined by the Department. That decision as it is a Departmental matter.

Has there been anything done about the very official-looking emails pretending to be from the garda in Dublin, telling people they are summoned to court for child pornography etc?

An Garda Síochána has come out and advised the public not to respond to this e-mail.

Several scams are using a variety of methods that the public should be aware of, most notably:

- Texts purporting to be delivery companies, banks or electricity/gas suppliers
- Texts which appear to come from a relation looking for help
- Fake social media competitions
- Fake job offers

Crime Prevention Advice:

Regardless of what the premise of the scam is the advice remains the same:

- Be very wary of unsolicited texts/calls received
- Do not open attachments to emails which are unsolicited or from persons you don't know
- Do not click on links included in texts received
- The caller number can be 'spoofed' to make it look like a legitimate number
- Do not give away personal data including PPS, bank A.C numbers, PINs, passwords, OTCs, credit card details
- Do not pay small charges of €1 etc with your credit/debit card – by doing so you are giving away your card details and allowing fraudsters to use it
- Do not download any suggested Apps – These can be used to remotely take control of your device and move money from your accounts
- Do not have the same passwords / PINs across different accounts etc
- If you receive a text purporting to be from your child / relative just ring their normal number and see do they answer.
- Do not transfer money unless sure you are transferring it to that person
- If offered a 'job' on social media be alert to how you were contacted and no legitimate company would ever ask you to send them money or to use your bank account for the company's benefit
- If you have been a victim it is vital to change your passwords/pin codes
- If you have been a victim report the matter to your bank asking them to do a recall and report the matter to Gardaí

Item 9 – AOB

Deputy McGrath asked the Chief Superintendent if the drug squad would be diluted due to the operating guidelines and how many people have entered Templemore and left the training programme.

The Chief Superintendent confirmed that the drug squad will remain in place. Concerning Templemore, three groups have gone into Templemore with 180 earmarked for the end of October. The Chief Superintendent will circulate accurate figures concerning Templemore recruits.

Item 9 – Date Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be confirmed pending availability and will be held in Tipperary Town MD as the Zoom facilities are of high standard.