

**Minutes of Tipperary Joint Policing Committee
held on the 27th February, 2024 at 10.00 a.m. at
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District Office and Via Zoom**

In Attendance:

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Chief Superintendent Aileen Magner, Superintendent Alan Cullen, Superintendent Ollie Baker, Superintendent Eddie Golden, Superintendent Conor Dillon, Brian Beck (Director of Services) Deputy Martin Browne, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr Richie Molloy, Cllr John Crosse, Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner, Cllr. Pat English, Cllr. Shane Lee, Cllr. John Crosse, Cllr. Marie Murphy, Daniel Long (PPN Clonmel MD), Pat Carroll (IFA) Geraldine Manning TCC (Secretary), and Elaine O Driscoll (TCC).

Also, in Attendance:

Press: Shannon Sweeney (Tipperary Star), Aileen Hahey (The Nationalist), Inspector Pdraigh Sutton

Apologies: Deputy Mattie McGrath, Deputy Alan Kelly, Deputy Michael Lowry, Deputy Jackie Cahill, Gerard Fogarty (PPN), Cllr Jim Ryan, Cllr Mark Fitzgerald, Margaret Sheehy (PPN), Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr Hughie McGrath, Michelle Aylward (Chambers Ireland), Sabela Mavuso (PPN) Anne Williamson (PPN), Margaret Sheehy (PPN), Cathal Ó hÉanna (PPN)

Welcome

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson) opened the meeting, welcomed all present and noted apologies received. He extended a warm welcome to the new Chief Superintendent in the division, Aileen Magner and thanked the previous Chief Superintendent Colm O Sullivan and wished him well in his new position.

He then invited Inspector Pdraigh Sutton to give his presentation on the Life Saver Project which is an honest and hard hitting look at Road Safety and the consequences of what happens when things go wrong. It was created by front line members from across the country and the purpose of the presentation is to have a real and long lasting positive influence on how you behave on the roads, as a driver or a pedestrian.

Cllr. Noel Coonan thanked Inspector Sutton on behalf of the members for his presentation and agreed that road accidents needed to be reduced urgently.

Cllr. Annemarie Ryan asked if the presentation was being given in the Schools and Inspector Sutton informed her that it was, but only to transition year students and older.

Cllr. Shane Lee asked why the automobile companies were making vehicles so powerful and also asked if the Go Safe Vans were only placed where fatal accidents had occurred and not necessarily where speeding was a problem?

Deputy Martin Browne advised that the Life Saver Project should be rolled out in youth clubs, social media platforms and schools as young people do not watch T.V.

Cllr. Richie Molloy thanked Inspector Sutton for his excellent presentation and said that Clonmel Rotary Club were interested in doing a project on road safety and asked who would they liaise with?

Cllr. Fiona Bonfield asked if there was a high level of drink and drug taking involved in accidents?

Cllr. Marie Murphy also thanked Inspector Sutton and it was noted that a speed limit is a 'limit' and not a 'target'.

Chief Superintendent Magner acknowledged all comments and questions and stated that anyone who would like a presentation should contact her office. She also reminded the members that cars are driven by people and not speeding themselves. She agreed that social media platforms should be used to make young people aware of the dangers on the roads.

Superintendent Eddie Golden replied to Cllr. Shane Lee's question on the Go Safe Vans. He informed him that the vans were placed in accident blackspots but the locations were reviewed every year.

Pat Carroll also thanked Inspector Sutton.

Item 1 - Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 7th December 2023 was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Annemarie Ryan Shiner and seconded by Cllr. Fiona Bonfield.

Item 2- To review levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Tipperary. Presentation by An Garda Siochana on up to date crime statistics.

Chief Superintendent Aileen Magner thanked everyone for their warm welcome and said she was delighted to be stationed in the Tipperary/Clare Division. She then provided a brief statistical overview of the current position re crime statistics on the following.

- Domestic Abuse Incidents
YTD (Week 1 to Week 7) – the Division is -19%
- Property Crime at a Divisional Level (Additional attention afforded to Burglary) Property Crime includes: All Robbery, All Burglary and various Theft Offences. The Tipperary Division is +22% (370 to 450) Stats based on Nov, Dec 2022 & Jan 2023 compared with Nov, Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 (3 mth period). The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows: Tipperary Town +19% (62 to 74), Nenagh +10% (81 to 89), Thurles +32% (69 to 91), Clonmel +2% (126 to 129), Cahir +109% (32 to 67). Detections are -16% (204 to 172).
- Non Aggravated Burglary
YTD the Division is +65% (52 to 86). Stats based on Nov, Dec 2022 & Jan 2023 compared with Nov, Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 (3 mth period). The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Nenagh +50% (12 to 18), Thurles +100% (10 to 20), Clonmel +30% (10 to 13), Tipperary

Town +54% (13 to 20), Cahir +114% (figures less than 10). Detections are -8% (25 to 23).

- Crime against the Person at a Divisional level (Additional attention afforded to Assault) including Murder, Murder Threat, All Assaults, Harassment, Child Abandonment, Neglect or Abuse. The Tipperary Division is -4% (154 to 148) Stats based on Nov, Dec 2022 & Jan 2023 compared with Nov, Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 (3 mth period). The breakdown in Tipperary County is as follows: Tipperary Town -13% (16 to 14), Nenagh +6% (31 to 33), Thurles -32% (34 to 23), Clonmel +22% (46 to 56), Cahir -19% (27 to 22). Detections are -21% (97 to 77).
- Assaults includes assaults causing harm and minor assaults. The Tipperary Division is -10% (119 to 107). Stats based on Nov, Dec 2022 & Jan 2023 compared with Nov, Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 (3 mth period). Assaults causing harm -38% YTD (53 to 33) and minor assaults +12% (66 to 74). The breakdown in Tipperary County is as follows: Tipperary Town -10% (figures less than 10), Nenagh no change (26 to 26), Thurles -35% (26 to 17), Clonmel +20% (35 to 42), Cahir -41% (22 to 13). Detections are -38% (79 to 49).
- Proactive Policing Measure (Includes Possession of Drugs, Sale of Drugs and Offensive Weapons) Stats based on Nov, Dec 2022 & Jan 2023 compared with Nov, Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 (3 mth period).
Searches in Tipperary side of the Division -2402 in 2023
Possession of a Firearm – no change – figures less than 10
Possession of an Offensive Weapons +100% (figures less than 10)
Possession of Drugs for Personal Use – Down 1% (92 to 91)
Possession of Drugs for Sale/Supply – Up 9% YTD (23 to 25)
- Domestic/non crime related incidents requiring Garda action in Tipperary during 2023 (Stats from 01.01.2023 – 31.12.2023)
 - Domestic violence incidents 940
 - TUSLA referrals 1,738
 - Persons detained under the Mental Health Act 293
- Traffic (fatalities/Serious Injuries Figures, Drink and Drug Driving Offences and Lifesavers Offences)
Fatal Collisions: down 100%
Serious Injury Collisions: are down 40% (figures less than 10)
There have been 791 MIT, checkpoints conducted in the division up 4%
Driving a vehicle over legal alcohol limit: down 14% (64 to 55)
Driving a vehicle under the influence of drugs: down 53% (17 to 8)
January to December trends under the LifeSaver Offences data show:
 - Mobile phones +6% (602 to 637)
 - Seat belts -4% (288 to 276)
 - Speeding +38% (12,881 to 17,798)

All information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on the 20/02/2024 and is liable to change. Crime Counting rules are applied, unless otherwise stated. Incident counts are based on date reported.

Chief Superintendent Magner also noted that there is also a lot of 'unseen' work carried out by the Gardai working with people in significant crisis e.g. domestic violence incidents, persons detained under the Mental Health Act, TUSLA

referrals etc. The Gardai need assistance from the public with drug detections and any dry information will be treated with utmost confidentiality. The Chief Superintendent stated that a Multi Agency Approach is needed and informed the members that she is anxious to get gardai back into the Community.

She also advised that the Tipperary/Clare Division have a new state of the art Policing Van which has been allocated to the division at the end of January and can be used as a mobile Garda Station. Chief Superintendent Magner also introduced Ms. Breda Breen, Divisional Community Engagement Coordinator who is based in the Ennis Divisional Office and is the dedicated person to deal with queries on behalf of the Chief Superintendent.

Cllr. Noel Coonan thanked Chief Superintendent Magner for her report and assured her of the full support of the Joint Policing Committee.

Cllr. Pat English thanked Chief Superintendent Magner for her detailed report and advised that the Drugs problem in Clonmel was very worrying, kids were being introduced to drugs at a much younger age and whole families were becoming involved. He asked how many personnel were on the Drugs Squad in Clonmel?

Cllr. Marie Murphy noted there was a significant increase in property crime in Cahir and asked if there was a specific reason for the increase and if it was the same people involved?

Deputy Martin Browne advised that drug debt is a huge problem and the debt is being passed on to other family members and asked if anything could be done to alleviate the problem? He also asked if Crystal Meth was a problem in the division?

Cllr. Pat English asked if those suffering with mental health problems were being detained in Garda Stations? He also said he felt the lack of Community Gardai is a huge loss. Cllr. Marie Murphy agreed with Cllr. English about Community Gardai.

Chief Superintendent Magner acknowledged that Drug Debt was a big problem and would look at putting together a report and presentation on Intimidation and Violence for the next JPC meeting. She also advised that there was 1 Sergeant and 3 Guards, supported by a Task Force on the ground, in the Drugs Squad in Clonmel. She further advised that Crystal Meth did not appear to be a problem in the County at the moment.

She addressed the increase in property crime in Cahir and assured Cllr. Murphy that it was being dealt with.

She advised Cllr. English that those suffering with mental health problems were being detained in Garda Stations but that a programme with a multi agency approach with Gardai and HSE was being piloted at the moment to see what improvements could be made.

Cllr. Shane Lee acknowledged that there were challenges with regard to resourcing and advised that Roscrea had lost a Civil Servant recently and they had not been replaced. He asked how they could ensure that a new civil servant would be put in place. Superintendent Ollie Baker said that the person in question was only temporary and could not be made permanent, but that they

were trying to get a replacement. Cllr. Noel Coonan asked how many Gardai were stationed in Roscrea? Superintendent Baker said there was 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants and 14 Guards.

Item 3 – Road Safety Presentation by Inspector Pdraig Sutton

As Above

Item 4 - Correspondence

No Correspondence to discuss

Item 5 – LA16 Status Report

Geraldine Manning provided an update on the LA16 Status Report - LA16s activity for Q4 2022 and 2023 – 15 completed. None are outstanding.

Item 6 – Property Marking

Geraldine Manning confirmed that the Community Section continues to provide the Property Marking machine on loan to Community Gardai and Community Groups. Community Gardai marked items for member of the public at the Newport Christmas Markets in December and the machine was also recently borrowed by the Moycarkey/Littleton/Two Mile Borris and the Woodenstown/Chamberlainstown/Newtown Community Alert Group. If any Community Group wishes to borrow the machine they should make contact with the Community Team or the Community Gardai.

Item 7 – CCTV Update

Brian Beck advised that Tipperary County Council adopted a CCTV policy at their January 2024 meeting. The document sets out TCCs policy in relation to the funding, approval process, operational model and use of Closed-Circuit Television Systems within County Tipperary and relates to existing CCTV systems and any new CCTV systems. TCC as Data Controller, is obliged to protect such data in accordance with provisions in the General Data Protection (GDPR) and Data Protection Acts 2018. However the CCTV policy will have to be amended due to upcoming changes to elements of Section 38 of the Garda Síochána Act and particularly in relation to how Data Protection is managed and released to an Gardai.

Some of the amendments include that only an Garda Síochána and Local Authorities will be in a position to operate Community CCTVs, existing and new schemes can only operate for a period of 4 years and will have to reapply for authorisation every 4 years. The Policy will also have to be updated to take account of the use of CCTV in cases of waste management and litter pollution.

The excellent work that the Director of Services Brian Beck had carried out on the TCC policy was acknowledged and it was noted that the TCC Policy will have to be updated to take account of the amendments to the Act. The Chief Superintendent Aileen Magner reiterated the benefits of CCTV and agreed to seek clarification on the operation of CCTV from the Commissioners Office.

Item 8 – PPN Issues

Daniel Long (PPN) submitted the following questions for reply:

1. ****For Antisocial Behaviour in St. Patrick's Well, Clonmel:****

"What current measures are in place to address the ongoing issue of antisocial behaviour in the St. Patrick's Well area, and are there any plans to enhance monitoring or introduce new strategies to mitigate this concern?"

Superintendent Cullen advised that they had not received too many complaints and were not aware of an anti social problem in the area.

2. ****For Traffic Violations in Clonmel:****

"Has there been an increase in incidents of individuals deliberately breaking red lights in Clonmel during weekends and night time, and if so, what actions are being considered by the committee to enforce traffic laws and ensure road safety during these times?"

Superintendent Cullen advised that having investigated the matter, there were no reports of an increase in incidents of individuals deliberately breaking red lights in Clonmel. However, they would monitor it.

3. ****Regarding Illegal Hunting on Farms:****

"In light of reports of illegal hunting on local farms, which has led to trespassing and caused fear among landowners, could the committee elaborate on the actions being taken to tackle this illegal activity and to reassure the affected community members?"

Superintendent Cullen advised that they were not aware of reports of illegal hunting on local farms, but if anyone wanted to contact them re same they would investigate the matter.

Daniel Long thanked Superintendent Cullen for his response and welcomed Chief Superintendent Aileen Magner to the Tipperary/Clare division.

Item 9 – Community Safety Meetings

Geraldine Manning advised that the Minutes of the latest Community Safety Meetings from the Municipal Districts will be included on the Agenda for the next JPC meeting.

Item 10 – International Protection – Roscrea

Cllr. Noel Coonan asked Chief Superintendent Aileen Magner if she thought that the Gardai over-reacted at the protest at Rackett Hall? Chief Superintendent Magner advised that she could not go into detail about the matter, but was keenly aware that were a number of falsehoods in circulation in relation to same. She stated that IPASS Centres had nothing to do with Gardai in general. She

also wanted it put on record that she fully supported and had every confidence in Superintendent Baker and all the members of his staff at Roscrea. She stated that her door is always open and any queries/questions would be fully investigated.

Cllr. Noel Coonan thanked Chief Superintendent Magner and assured her that she had the confidence of the people of Roscrea.

Cllr. Shane Lee thanked Chief Superintendent Magner for her comments and advised that there was a huge amount of hurt and anger in the Roscrea area but he was looking forward to working with the Gardai going forward.

Deputy Martin Browne asked if there was any way that the Councillors/Council could be of help in these situations?

Superintendent Ollie Baker, Roscrea echoed the Chief Superintendents comments and acknowledged that all would have preferred if the events at Rackett Hall had not occurred and that open lines of communication are essential.

Chief Superintendent Magner replied that any information would be helpful and that all we could do was work together as a cohort.

Item 11 – A.O.B.

There was no other business

Item 12 – Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 17th May, 2024 at 10.00 a.m. in Tipperary Town MD.