

**DRAFT Minutes of Tipperary Joint Policing Committee  
held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 2.00 p.m.  
at Thurles Municipal District Offices and on Zoom**

**In Attendance:**

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Eddie Meegan (Secretary), Ann Williamson (PPN)

**In Attendance on Zoom:-**

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, Pat Slattery Director of Services, Cllr Annemarie Ryan, Deputy Mattie McGrath, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr John Crosse, Cllr Tony Black, Pat Carroll (IFA), Cllr Richie Molloy, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr Mark Fitzgerald, Imelda Walsh Chair (IFA), Joe Pryce for Deputy Martin Browne, Cliona Tobin (TCC)

**Also in Attendance Via Zoom Media Reps:-**

Eoin Kelleher, Peter Gleeson, Sandra Quinn Tipp FM, Darren Keegan Iconic News, Aileen Haahes Nationalist

**Apologies:**

Michelle Aylward (Tipperary Chamber), Deputy Michael Lowry, Cllr Pat English, Deputy Martin Browne, Cllr Marie Murphy

**Welcome**

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chair) opened the meeting, welcomed all present and noted apologies received. He acknowledged the 100 year anniversary of the foundation of An Garda Siochana and he thanked them all for all the good work.

**Item 1 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meeting**

Verification of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 were approved on the proposal of Cllr John Crosse seconded by Cllr Ger Darcy.

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

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart gave a presentation on the Tipperary Division Statistics up to 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, in respect of:-

1. Property Crime at a Divisional Level (broken down by District)
    - Additional attention afforded to Burglary
  2. Crime Against the Person at a Divisional Level (broken down by District)
    - Additional attention afforded to Assault
  3. Proactive Policing Measure
    - Includes Possession of Drugs, Sale of Drugs, Firearms and Offensive Weapons
- Statistics relating to Topics 1 to 3 are based on Nov 2020, Dec 2020 & Jan 2021 (3 month period) compared with Nov 2021, Dec 2021 & Jan 2022 (3 month period)*
4. Traffic
    - Fatalities/Serious Injuries figures YTD
    - Drink Driving and Drug Offences
    - Life Saver Offences
  5. Domestic Abuse Incidents YTD

*All information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on the 10/02/2022, unless otherwise stated, and is liable to change. Crime counting rules are applied, unless otherwise stated. Incident counts are based on date reported.*

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart gave a presentation on the statistics for each of the Municipal Towns in the County - Nenagh, Thurles, Clonmel, Tipperary and Cahir.

The statistics for the overall Tipperary Division indicate:-

- An increase in Property Crime which includes robbery, burglary and various theft offences – up 18% with detections up 33%
- An increase in Non-Aggravated Burglary which includes residential and non-residential up 15% with detections down 60%
- A reduction in Crimes Against the Person which includes murder, murder threat, all assaults, harassment, child abandonment and neglect or cruelty – down 2% with detection down 12%
- A reduction in Assaults which include assaults causing harm and minor assaults – down 14% with detections down 6%
- A reduction in overall searches within the division – down 28%
- A reduction in the incidents of Possession of Offensive Weapons – down 23% (crime counting rules note applied)
- An increase in the incidents of Possession of Drugs for Sale/Supply – up 58%
- A reduction in the incidents of Possession of Drugs for Personal Use – down 20%
- An increase in the incidents of Domestic Abuse Incidents which include Domestic Violence, Breach of Barring Order, Breach of Protection Barring Order, Breach of Safety Order, Domestic Dispute, Domestic Dispute – No Offence Disclosed and any incident with Domestic M.O.
- An increase in the incidents of Serious Injury Collisions – up 100%
- An increase in the incidents of Driving While Intoxicated Offences – up 67% Due to 342 MIT checkpoints conducted in the Division
- A reduction in Serious Injury Road Collisions – down 16%
- Most recent data on Life Saver Offences (Jan to Nov trends):-
- An increase of 14% in phone usage whilst driving
- A reduction in non-wearing of seat belt – down 16%
- An increase in driving over the speed limit – up 28%

*The above information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 7/02/22 and is liable to change. Incident counts are based on date reported.*

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart also updated the Committee on other proactive Policing Measures under the following headings:-

- Multi Agency Response – Mountain Rescues
- Inter Agency Investigations – Rubbish Dumping
- Drug Seizure – Grow House at a Nenagh address
- Organised Criminal Gang – Targeted burglary in Bandon – 5 charged
- Road Traffic – 3 E-scooters seized 1 in Nenagh 2 in Clonmel
- Road Traffic – 100 'Boy racers' in Clogheen - continued monitoring of area by gardai
- Road Traffic – Dangerous driving of Sulkies in Roscrea – file being prepared
- Community Engagement – Pre School in Roscrea make valentines cards and bring gifts for Villa Marie Nursing Home – presented to residents by gardai
- Community Engagement – Community Policing Unit welcome first female Honorary Garda Holly Carroll in the Clonmel District

- Community Engagement – Community Policing Unit conducted School talks in Clerihan for National Community Safety Day
- Centenary Events – Garda Stations raised tri-colour flags on 22.02.2022 to mark commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the foundation of An Garda Siochana
- Centenary Events for 2022 –
  - Tipperary Town District to hold a wreath laying ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 to commemorate the shooting of Superintendent John David (Sean) Curtin
  - Clonmel District to hold a remembrance mass on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to commemorate the death of Garda Henry Phelan who was the first member of An Garda Siochana killed in the line of duty in the new Irish State.  
(List of more centenary events will be announced in the coming months).

Noel thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart for the comprehensive report an for mentioning the Garda Commemoration on the 100 year anniversary of An Garda Siochana. He made reference to the robbery and assault up the country of the two elderly people and asked if there is anything the gardai can do to alleviate this type of crime.

**The following questions were asked by members:-**

Q. Cllr Richie Molloy commented that it was great to see the amount of community gardai and the work they do. He asked about CCTV on the Heywood Road and asked what stage it was at.

He made a proposal to get someone down from Head Office so discuss CCTV with Gardai and the Council as a lot of work was done by volunteers in Community to get these up and running and it is getting bogged down in GDPR

He hoped to see more gardai patrolling housing estates especially those who have reported children kicking footballs at passing motorists and intimidating residents whilst they are driving.

Q. Cllr Anne Marie Ryan stated it is heartening to see crime figures coming down. A remembrance event for was held in Tipperary town recently organised by Youth Work Ireland who called for a stronger garda presence on the street – talking to community would be appreciated by young and old.

Q. Cllr Ger Darcy complimented Chief Superintendent Derek Smart on delivering a comprehensive report to the meeting. He supported Noels comments on the robbery up the country and stated it is worrying for the community. He complimented Garda Finnerty in Nenagh for delivering the Property Marking event and stated it was an excellent idea.

Q. Imelda Walsh thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart for the 1<sup>st</sup> class presentation and concurred with Ann Maries comments to call for visible garda presence on the ground. She asked if the support from Templemore garda recruits that was available during Covid is now finished. She stated that lurcher dogs in the North Tipperary area is a concern with land owners. She acknowledged the great work the gardai do with North Tipperary IFA and she wanted to acknowledge the passing of Garda Ben O’Sullivan most known for Adare shooting incident.

Q. Mattie McGrath thanked James O’Neill and Garda John Walsh for the Property Marking Training given in Newcastle, Ardfinnan and Goatbridge and stated it is an invaluable resource. The thanked the Council for supporting this initiative. He welcomed Superintendent Garda Eddie Golden to the Cahir Community Policing He questioned the number of gardai covering the Cahir area

He stated the organised criminal gangs in North Tipperary is threatening to the Community. He made reference to Animal Welfare and the fact it wasn't mentioned. He commented the number of accidents on the Motorway in Portlaoise especially during heavy rainfall must be due to a problem with road surface or drainage and asked we could liaise with TII to try and alleviate this problem.

Q. Cllr Siobhan Ambrose concurred with Cllr Molly regarding CCTV cameras as the gauge seems to change every time and it seems never ending. She too welcomed his proposal to invite Communications Engagement Officer down from head office. She too called for more garda presence in Clonmel as undesirables causing nuisance to residents. She was concerned about garda number in Clonmel as there are so many promotions and transfers etc.

She expressed her sympathy with the family of Ben O'Sullivan also.

She also congratulated the outgoing chair of the IFA Imelda Walsh and wished her well. She said she wished we had more Imeldas.

She also wished retiree Garda Aine Donnelly J.L.O. in the Clonmel garda station well and thanked her for her service.

### **Chief Superintendent Derek Smart replied to the questions as follows:-**

In reply to the concerns for targeting of elderly people Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated he hasn't seen specific targeting in our area. The ethos of Community Policing is to support older people. He encouraged the use of the text alert system and reporting of any suspicious activity in the area to gardai.

Regarding CCTV he stated he fully understands the frustration and fully supports the proposal.

He commended Cllr Anne Marie Ryan on the great initiative remembering the victims of violence and he will liaise with Inspector Lee to ensure a garda presence on the street.

Training has resumed in Templemore Training College and he will ensure to prioritise patrols on our streets.

The increase in speeding on our roads is due to driver behaviour and flashing lights to warn of garda van or checkpoints is attributing to this problem – more education is needed to deal with this issue.

He thanked Garda Finnerty for making the Property Marking a success and we need to keep it going as a lot of property seized has to be auctioned off as it cannot be traced back to rightful owner.

Regarding the lurchers on land – it is trespassing and it needs to be reported – a number of prosecutions have commenced regarding this issue

Regarding staffing in Cahir Area he stated 3 extra members were assigned in the last couple of months and he stated they prioritise any members they get as resources come they get re assigned.

Regarding a 'full quota' there is no such thing! Any movement of staff are replacement staff there are no reductions. He said it is great to see the new recruitment campaign advertised adding there is great publicity.

All staff at Templemore Training College are back since Christmas and the more probationers that are getting out the more resources will be available.

He stated the Property Marking Machines are a great initiative and he hasn't seen an increase in relation to numbers?

Regarding surface on M7 Motorway he discussed with Detective Lacey and is working with Council

The average speed detection camera should be up and running on the M7 in the next few weeks.

He stated Superintendent Leahy was on the case of the 'undesirables' and tickets for Anti-Social Behaviour have been issued. Begging offences and ASB are a constant battle to keep under control.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart thanked all those who expressed their sympathy to family of Garda Ben O'Sullivan RIP and added it would be comforting for the family for all the support shared.

He congratulated Imelda Walsh outgoing Chair of North Tipperary IFA and thanked her for bringing issues to the fore and he wished her every success going forward.

### **Item 3 – Property Marking**

Eddie Meegan stated the final training for Property Marking Machine took place in Newcastle. 28 groups will be availing of it in the next few weeks.

### **Item 4 – CCTV**

Eddie Meegan stated new Joint Data Controller. Data Protocol Impact Assessment – site visit to all CCTV in County – Reports done. DPIA has to be signed off by Data Protection Officer in County Council which in turn will be signed off by District Administrator and Gardai. Then needs Section 38 authorisation. Eddie is progressing with paper work.

Pat Slattery commented by saying he understands it is a frustrating process but it is the nature of community CCTV every time we get to a stage there is another barrier.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated it is important to have it signed off on properly as CCTV footage can be challenged in court.

He acknowledged the work from Pat Slattery getting the 'Duel Data Controller' over the line. It is all down to regulations and we don't want to risk GDPR fine.

The committee agreed to invite the Communications Engagement Officer from head office to discuss this issue on the proposal of Cllr Richie Molloy seconded by Cllr Ger Darcy.

### **Item 5 – Annual Report Approval**

The Draft 2021 Tipperary Joint Policing Committee Annual Report was approved on the proposal of Ann Williamson seconded by Cllr Ger Darcy.

### **Item 6 – AOB**

Eddie informed the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 Tipperary PPN elected Sabelo Mavuso as the Migrant Rep to Tipperary JPC.

Mattie suggested more Property Marking Machines are needed in County Tipperary one for each Municipal District.

### **Item 7 – Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is set for 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

