

**DRAFT Minutes of Tipperary Joint Policing Committee  
held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 at 2 p.m. via Zoom**

**In attendance via Zoom:-** Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Pat Slattery Director of Services, Deputy Martin Browne, Deputy Mattie McGrath, Eddie Meegan (Secretary), Cliona Tobin, Cllr Annemarie Ryan, Cllr Pat English, Cllr John Crosse, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Ger Darcy, Imelda Walsh Chair IFA, Cllr Mark Fitzgerald, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Michelle Aylward, Anne Williamson

Dylan White (Media), Peter Gleeson (Media)

**Apologies:** Deputy Michael Lowry, Cllr Marie Murphy, Cllr Shane Lee, Margaret Sheedy

**Welcome**

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chair) opened the meeting. He informed the members that Paul Berrigan, County Tipperary Chamber was stepping down and was replaced by Michelle Aylward, CEO, County Tipperary Chamber. He welcomed Michelle who was present at the meeting to the Committee and wished her well in her new role.

He also welcomed the attendance of Media representatives Peter Gleeson and Dylan White.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

Verification of the minutes of the last meeting – Proposed by Cllr Pat English seconded by Cllr Ger Darcy.

**Item 1 – To Review levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the County**

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart gave a presentation (a copy of which was emailed with the Agenda) on the Tipperary Division Statistics up to 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2020, in respect of:-

1. Domestic Abuse Incidents
2. Property Crime at a Divisional Level (broken down by District)
  - Additional attention afforded to Burglary
3. Crime Against the Person at a Divisional Level (broken down by District)
  - Additional attention afforded to Assault
4. Proactive Policing Measure
  - Includes Possession of Drugs, Sale of Drugs, Firearms and Offensive Weapons
5. Traffic
  - Fatalities/Serious injuries figures YTD
  - Drink Driving and Drug Offences
  - Life Saver Offences

All information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available

on the 1/12/2020 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules are applied, unless otherwise stated. Incident counts are based on date reported.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart demonstrated via map format the statistics for each of the Municipal Towns in the County - Nenagh, Thurles, Clonmel, Tipperary and Cahir.

He highlighted the ongoing Community Engagement, Animal Welfare Operations, Drug Seizures, Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign, National Youth Awards and Road Traffic Offences.

He referred to the rise in Domestic Abuse Incidents since Covid 19 abuse of siblings and younger children increased. He stated the Garda Victims Service Office in Templemore call back within 24 hours.

He stated there was a reduction in property crime in all districts – down 15% year to date in the Tipperary division.

Car property theft has increased by 6% some owing to cars not locked or secured properly. Shop theft has decreased by 11%.

There were 16 Section 3 (more serious) assaults and a decrease in Section 2 (verbal) assaults due to pro active policing measures figures down 7%.

Section 3 assaults can now be given an added caution e.g. for possession of drugs.

Noel thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart for a comprehensive report and he thanked the community guards as there is great appreciation from general public.

He questioned if the issue of the increase in Domestic Violence could be approached and what to look out for and how should we deal with it.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart replied by advising to notify somebody. If in any doubt report to gardaí confidentially.

Imelda Walsh added that coming up to Christmas any additional resources in place particularly with the year that is in it would be welcomed.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart replied by saying there is no dilution of services that's there already. There is a call back within 24 hours to make sure someone is okay. The Victim Service Office and the DPSU in Tipperary Town will continue to be main focus.

Deputy Martin Browne commended Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and all of the force for all their work. He passed on his condolences to the family of Sergeant Niall O'Halloran R.I.P.

Referring to the increase in the crime against persons and assaults in Clonmel area he was wondering what the reason was. Is it house parties or are there other reasons. Could there be a pro-active police measures for same. He also referred to the increase in traffic offences and asked if there's anything else that can be done to reduce speeding. He congratulated the community policing unit.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated Section 2 – minor assaults were up in Clonmel and Carrick on Suir adding that drink is a major factor and even if complaint was withdrawn it is still recorded. Increase in young people being

'used and abused' for drug related crimes. There is an Inspector in Tipperary Town division deployed specifically for this crime. The Liaison Inspector will liaise with these individuals and try to deter the process of intent to supply. This officer can be contacted in confidence to stop dealers.

Regarding Traffic Enforcement there is increase in visible presence and education e.g. Car Sheriff in schools.

He stated Tipperary Division to roll out an electronic system on the N7 Motorway like the Dublin Port Tunnel to capture speed and help keep people safer on the roads.

Cllr Ann Marie Ryan asked if someone lives on the Tipperary Limerick border what station should be contacted for support.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart answered by saying to contact which ever Garda Station they feel most comfortable in contacting – they will be referred to the Protective Services Section in Limerick.

Cllr Mark Fitzgerald thanks Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and the force for all their work especially in rural areas. He commended all those involved in the drug seizure last week. He asked how many vehicles have the ANPR facilities.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart replied by saying Section 2 assaults in Clonmel are mostly due to large population and in Carrick on Suir mainly household assaults. Two vehicles currently have ANPR facilities one in Cahir and one in Thurles roads policing. Mobility phones will have ANPR on them which can be captured on vehicle dash. Thurles are due to get another ANPR vehicle soon.

Cllr Ger Darcy thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and complimented all the good results. He referred to the increase in speeding figures and asked is there anything the gardaí can do with the County Council to help alleviate the excess speeding for example physical obstructions like installation of speeding ramps, spot checks on road etc. more effort needs to be put in at tackling this crime.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart replied by saying the gardaí are pro-active and encouraging media presence such as at the meeting today – they are out on the roads having presence to try and halt life saver offences. The new motorway initiative will be the first outside of Dublin bringing technology in to help slow down traffic speed.

Noel questioned the staffing in Roscrea Garda Station and stated Inspector Myles could do with the extra support. He questioned if the dog incidents have abated or quietened down.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart said the gardaí that were deployed to Roscrea have returned to garda college. Sergeant Connaughty is pro active with the community. There were two or three other dog related crimes since start of November but no marked increase since then.

Martin asked if speed ramps can be introduced he believes the emergency services are not in favour of them and welcomed the gardaí thoughts on it.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart replied by saying the gardaí have no difficulty

with speed ramps especially in housing estates.

Pat English thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and noted that crime figures have come down for most of the County and asked if there's anything that stands out that's making the numbers drop. He noted assaults up by 19% in Clonmel and asked is there a reason for that. He commended the gardaí on major drug detection last few months and asked if drug search level will remain in place. The stated the community engagement from gardaí is excellent and commended the gardaí on getting the information back and he is happy with the approach.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated a number of assaults in Clonmel are based on groups of teenagers with nothing to do during Covid 19 and leading to increase of assaults. With lockdown restrictions easing they may find something different to do. He thanked all the workers in Tipperary for all the drug searches and the target reached thanks to all. He said we need to try and educate people as best we can and back to basics encourage community engagement and supporting the community. He stated the text alert is to the fore in solving numerous crimes and they do their best to get feedback to the people.

Siobhan commented on the number of domestic abuse cases and asked for figures on how many were male. She asked if gardaí were trained fro male versus a female walking in to garda station to report and asked for permission to post statistics on this on Facebook it might encourage people to come forward as a lot of people might be afraid to come forward. Regards CCTV she said there is a lot of toing and froing. She asked if there is a full compliment of staffing in Clonmel Garda Station or are there any outstanding positions. She stated there was a lot of pressure with money on drug dealing persons. She complimented the plans for new Clonmel Station and she conveyed her sympathy with family of the late Niall O'Halloran RIP.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart will arrange to have the breakdown of male victims of domestic violence numbers reported and added members are well aware of that. Regarding staffing in Clonmel he would love to see more. There are two new Inspectors to join as Alma Molloy is going to Kilkenny and he thanked her for all her work. She can post statistics on Facebook and stated there is a dedicated confidential garda number that can be contacted which is displayed on every patrol car. They will be directed to Inspector Whyte in Thurles.

Siobhan wished Inspector Molloy well and added Declan Boland coming back to Clonmel is a welcome addition.

Mattie thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart for all his support and the drug squad for all their work. He thanked Ray Moloney in Cahir and Jenny Geoff Clonmel and for send off for the late Niall O'Halloran RIP who was great to visit the schools. There will be a presentation of a virtual cup in his honour presented to his wife by Superintendent Whelan.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart thanked Mattie for support to the O'Halloran family. The plans for new Clonmel Station are on display for two more weeks and he said we are all on the same page to get the sod turned and he thanked all for their support.

Mark asked regarding the issue of speed ramps would Chief Superintendent Derek Smart be willing to come to the Roads SPC to do a presentation and to help the Council officials on same line of thinking as the gardaí regarding installation of speed ramps.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart is willing to go to any meeting to get the speed ramp initiative over the line.

Ann Williamson thanked the gardaí and complimented them on all their help during the year regarding animal welfare and the help rescuing horses etc.

Chief Superintendent thanked all who supported the Garda Community during the recent untimely death of Sergeant Niall O'Halloran, RIP and for support to his family. He thanked the Ardfinnan and Cahir and surrounding communities and gardaí for their support for his family. He thanked the JPC for their support in the past 12 months.

### **Item 2 – Property Marking**

Eddie Meegan stated he has been in contact with Jim O' Neill and he will arrange to do zoom training session in January, 2021.

### **Item 3 – CCTV**

Ger Darcy stated at our last meeting we talked about preparing public consultation for CCTV in Borrisokane as the location for cameras and plan for scheme for the town has been drawn up but location for Data Controller is a problem as it has to be located in a public building only. He added the library and fire station buildings are not suitable as they are too small.

Pat Slattery replied by saying he is familiar with Borrisokane and the plans that are in place and they are progressing well but the buildings are not dry.

He added that he is working with Chief Superintendent in Fethard as a case study. Up to now gardaí couldn't accommodate community schemes. The Local Authority can be the Data Controller. After Fethard case study he hopes to work with Littleton and Borrisokane.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart added once we can show there are no other suitable buildings then the garda station can take the CCTV system.

Cllr Pat English asked can we get it across the line.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart replied by saying the file is with Superintendent Leahy. There was an issue with the camera location and hopefully it will be done in the coming months.

Noel said there was difficulty with Roscrea terrain as it is low lying and asked if garda station in Roscrea be an option.

Pat Slattery replied by saying he will talk to Shane O'Dwyer rather than submitting a new plan as funding may be an issue.

Noel will look forward to an update in February and thanked everyone for their contributions.

**Item 4 - AOB**

Noel thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and all the members of the JPC and Director of Services Pat Slattery and Eddie Megan and staff for wonderful work during the year. He wished health and happiness to all this Christmas.

**Item 5 - Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is set for 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020 at a Clonmel venue or via Zoom pending Covid 19 restrictions and National Health Guidelines at a time to be decided by majority vote for 10.00 a.m. or 2.00 p.m.

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