

**Minutes of Tipperary Joint Policing Committee
held on the 03rd of March 2023 at 10.00 a.m. at
Thurles Municipal District Offices and Via Zoom**

In Attendance:

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Marie Cox (Secretary), Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan, Brian Beck Acting Director of Services, Deputy Martin Browne, Deputy Mattie McGrath, Cllr Marie Murphy, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Richie Molloy, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr Pat English, Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr Hughie McGrath, Anne Williamson (PPN), Cllr Mark Fitzgerald, Cllr David Dunne, Sabela Mavuso(PPN), Mairead Winters (TCC) and Geraldine Manning (TCC).

Also, in Attendance: -

Superintendent; Eddie Golden; William Burke, Talbot Hotel. Shannon Sweeney Tipperary Star, Darren Keegan Iconic News and Simon O Duffy Nenagh Guardian.

Apologies: Deputy Alan Kelly, Deputy Michael Lowry, Deputy Jackie Cahill, Cllr John Crosse, Gerard Fogarty (PPN), Michelle Aylward (Chambers Ireland) Margaret Sheehy (PPN) Cllr Shane Lee, Cllr Tony Black, Cathal Ó hÉanna (PPN), Cllr Jim Ryan, Pat Carroll (IFA),

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 16th of December 2022 was approved on the proposal of Cllr Pat English and seconded by Cllr Ger Darcy.

Item 2- Annual Report

The Annual Report was purposed by Cllr Fiona Bonfield and seconded by Cllr David Dunne.

Item 3 – 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 current position as of 02/03/2023.

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
 4. Traffic
 - Fatalities/Serious Injuries figures YTD
 - Drink Driving and Drug Offences YTD
 - LifeSaver Offences (2021 vs. 2022)
 5. Domestic Abuse Incidents (1st Jan – 26th Feb, 2022 vs. 2023)

Statistics relating to Topics 1 to 3 are based on Dec 2021, Jan and Feb 2022 (3 mth periods) compared with Dec 2022, Jan and Feb 2023 (3 mth periods)

All information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 02/03/2023 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 Colm O Sullivan provided statistics for each of the Municipal Towns in the County - Nenagh, Thurles, Clonmel, Tipperary Town and Cahir.

The statistics for the overall Tipperary Division indicate:

To note: Statistics are based on Dec 2021 & Jan, Feb 2022 (3 mth periods) compared with Dec 2022 & Jan, Feb 2023 (3 mth periods)

Property Crime includes All Robberies. All Burglary and various Theft Offences with 3mth change in the Division is -11% (375 to 335). The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Tipp Town -25% (48 to 36); Nenagh +0% (65 to 65); Thurles +0% (68 to 68); Carrick -9% (138 to 125); Clonmel -27% (56 to 41) Detections are -40% (169 to 101).

Non-Aggravated Burglary: 3mth change in the Division is -32% (81 to 55). Residential Burglary is -41% Non-Residential Burglary is +7%. The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Nenagh 56% (25 to 11); Thurles -52% (21 to 10); Carrick -41% (22 to 13); Clonmel +43% (Figures are less than 10); Tipperary Town; +83% (Figures are less than 10). Detections are +25%.

Crimes Against the Person includes; Murder; Murder Threat; All Assaults; Harassment; Child Abandonment; Neglect or Cruelty 3mth change in the Division is -27% (179 to 131). Nenagh -32% (41 to 28); Thurles +3% (34 to 35); Carrick -40% (63 to 38); Clonmel -4% (23 to 22) and Tipperary Town -56% (Figures are less than 10). Detections are -75% (87 to 22).

Assaults includes Assaults Causing Harm; Minor Assaults; 3mth change the Division is -11% (123-109). Assaults Causing Harm: -23% (48 to 37)

Minor Assaults: -4% (75 to 72). The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Nenagh -4% (24 to 23); Thurles +23% (22 to 27); Carrick -31% (45 to 31); Clonmel +11% (18 to 20); Tipperary Town -43% (Figures are less than 10). Detections are -73% (68 to 18).

Proactive Policing Measures Overall Searches within the Division are down 7%; Possession of Firearms/Offensive Weapons -7% 3mth change (15 to 14) **Crime Counting Rules not applied**; Possession of Drugs for Sale/Supply Down 34% 3mth change (35 to 23); Possession of Drugs for Personal Use Down 3% 3mth change (97 to 94).

Traffic (YTD 2022 v 2023), Fatal Collisions are down 100%, and Serious Injury Collisions are down 17%. There have been 575 MIT Checkpoints conducted in the Division – (down 5% from 607 in 2022). This has resulted in 56 Driving Intoxicated Offences (up 51% from 37 in 2022). Driving with mobile -34% (906 to 601); Driving without a Seatbelt +30% (223 to 290); Speeding -23% (4,683 to 3,604)

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 – 26th Feb 2022 v 2023) the Division is +18% *(Based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 27/02/2023 and is liable to change. Incident counts are based on the date reported)*

Chief Superintendent Colm O’Sullivan highlighted that young people are being targeted and blackmailed through social media through the use of intimate images and it is a real concern for parents and children alike. If there are issues surrounding the blackmail of sharing images Chief Superintendent urges families to come forward to the nearest Garda station. In addition to this, it is important to be aware of the increased cost of metal Catalytic converters that are attractive to criminals due to the cost of scrapping therefore, it is important to be mindful of security measures in own home.

The updated presentation from Chief Superintendent will be circulated after to the meeting to members.

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

The following questions were put to Chief Superintendent Colm O' Sullivan

Cllr Pat English responded to the presentation noting it is important to support front-line Garda in their work, how does Clonmel compare with areas in the retention of the number of Garda members?

In relation to domestic violence what is the protocol in terms of arrest.

Cllr Ger Darcy highlighted that it was positive to see the stats on Burglary down compared to previous findings. Cllr Darcy made a point about what he believes is an increase of speeding on roads, there should be a positive campaign or presence in reducing speeding traffic on rural roads.

Cllr David Dunne noted his positivity surrounding a decrease in the numbers across the county. With regard to drugs, Cllr Dunne has heard of an increase in the use of cannabis jellies, Is this an issue for An Garda at present?

Cllr Dunne agrees with Cllr Darcy there are black spots on roads where there in an increase in speed like the Faugheen road.

Deputy Martin Browne queried why is there a difference in one area in a decrease like crimes against a person in Thurles is up compared to other areas? Is it possible to get a breakdown of the crime against the person? Are there fewer road traffic checkpoints? Is the onus on the driver if a back-seat passenger is not wearing a seat belt? The trend in blackmailing the sharing of personal imaging is worrying, is there something that the council and An Garda can do jointly to campaign to the youths to counteract this?

Cllr Marie Murphy agreed with the concern around sharing personal images and perhaps it is best to target young people in secondary schools.

Chairperson Cllr Coonan raised a concern over the amount of dumping taking place with refuse bags on the side of the road, Have the An Garda a role in preventing or fining litter offenders?

Deputy Mattie McGrath referred to the concern around recruitment and the numbers of An Garda within each area of County Tipperary. Thanks to community policing in assisting with positive Christmas campaigns that show the strong sense of collaboration between the council, community and An Garda Siochana.

Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan response questions are as follows:

The Chief Superintendent acknowledged that detection rates are based on the population of Tipperary.

In relation to domestic violence, if there is a breach of order then the person who breached the order is charged due to the breach, Superintendent Eddie Golden highlighted that the victims are risk assessed and the focus is victim-centric in its objective.

Recruitment is an issue and there are historic elements to it which affect the situation, An Garda recruited in the 80s are due to retire at 60 or after 30 years of service, Secondly, there was an embargo on recruitment in the recession in 2008 onwards and therefore that has affected numbers. There will be a targeted recruitment campaign and based on that those that apply need to pass medical and fitness tests. It is hard to detect the numbers as Chief Superintendent as he can't predict those that decide to retire this year for example. The focus is very much on a strong recruitment campaign.

The Chief Superintendent has requested that statistical information like the number of An Garda on the ground will need to be notified in advance of each meeting as he needs to be prepared in answering statistical questions.

The Chief Superintendent shares concerns around drink/drug driving and there needs to be an element of personal responsibility in terms of driving impaired. With regard to speeding, signs that have 50km awareness works quite well in an area, please raise concerns about your area with regard to speed with the nearest police station.

The Chief Superintendent acknowledges through detection the use of cannabis jellies is evident, a message to children in schools is important in addressing the concerns around this and also parents need to be aware of the presence of this type of drug.

In relation to policing, it is important to be mindful that when an arrest is made that would imply that two members of policing are occupied for two to three hours. Smart policing is implemented as much as feasible.

Speeding on roads is carried out by all age groups and, Seatbelts fall under the responsibility of adults if the passenger is under 18 and the onus is on passengers if they are over 18 years of age.

Littering is prosecuted by TCC and patrol car can be arranged by An Garda if directed to the relevant area.

The nighttime economy may have an effect on drunk driving again personal responsibility and general awareness of appropriate behaviour are required.

Item 4 – Property Marking

Marie Cox informed the members to date that on the 29th January, Andrew Stokes rolled out Powerstown/Lisronagh Community Alert Community Safety Event. Over 200 items were marked. On the 30th January-7th February property marking took place in Powerstown, Lisronagh, Ballyvaughan, Lisnatubrid, Kilsheelan with 60 items marked.

Powerstown Lisronagh Community Alert Group has also been using the Cork machine on loan from Garda Jonathan McCarthy for events like **Sarah's Cycle for Down Syndrome** which took place in Thurles on Sunday 26th February.

The Clonmel Show has also purchased a new machine which is being used in the local parishes, and 18 new volunteers are currently being trained in the area throughout 2023. This machine will also be made available to any Garda groups that would like to use it. Powerstown Lisronagh group would like to thank An Garda Síochána and in particular, Garda Claire Murphy for the incredible support received



The photo was taken at the Powerstown/Lisronagh Community Safety Event on 29th January where over 200 items were marked

Further Property Marking dates to note are;

- 10-21st February Garda. Anthony Owens, Tipperary Garda Station.
- 27th February-1st March Gda. Shane O'Neill, Cahir Garda Station
- 6th March – 9th March Gda. Shane O'Neill, Cahir Garda Station
- 10th – 20th March Andrew Stokes, Powerstown/Lisronagh Community Alert.

Item 5 – CCTV Update

The Chief Superintendent updated members with regard to the presentation of CCTV Clonmel that took place with the Garda Commissioner. The status of all six CCTV applications will be heard in due course with then Tipperary County Council acts as Data Controller once the status is decided upon.

Item 6 – PPN Issues

No issues to note.

Item 7 – AOB

Please note if any members can bring forward attainable actions to Marie Cox before the next meeting.

Community Alert Signage in the north area of Tipperary require attention and needs to be updated.

Item 8 – Date Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting date has yet to be confirmed as the Chief Superintendent is away on the 12th of May 2023.