

**Minutes of Tipperary Joint Policing Committee
held on the 23rd of June 2023 at 10.00 a.m. at
Horse and Jockey Hotel and Via Zoom**

In Attendance:

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Marie Cox (Secretary), Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan, Deputy Martin Browne, Deputy Mattie McGrath, Cllr Marie Murphy, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Richie Molloy, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr John Crosse, Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner, Cllr Tony Black, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Michelle Aylward (Chambers Ireland), Anne Williamson (PPN), Cllr Mark Fitzgerald, Mairead Winters (TCC) and Fiona Crotty (TCC).

Also, in Attendance:

Inspector James White
Eamon Lacey, The Nationalist; Shannon Sweeney Tipperary Star, Simon O Duffy Nenagh Guardian, Sheila Naughton Tipp FM, and Catherine Fogarty Tipp Midwest Radio

Apologies: Brian Beck Acting Director of Services, Geraldine Manning (TCC). Deputy Alan Kelly, Deputy Michael Lowry, Deputy Jackie Cahill, Cllr Hughie McGrath, Gerard Fogarty (PPN), Margaret Sheehy (PPN) Cllr Shane Lee, Cathal Ó hÉanna (PPN), Cllr Jim Ryan, Pat Carroll (IFA), Cllr David Dunne, Sabela Mavuso (PPN) and Cllr Pat English,

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 03rd of March 2023 was approved on the proposal of Cllr Ger Darcy and seconded by Anne Williamson.

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 June 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 (1st Jan – 31st May 2023)
Drink Driving and Drug Offences YTD (1st Jan – 31st May 2023) LifeSaver Offences YTD (1st Jan – 30th April 2023)
5. Domestic Abuse Incidents YTD (1st Jan – 11th June 2023)

All information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 01/06/2023 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.

Property Crime includes All Robberies All Burglary and various Theft Offences, YTD the Division is +1% (659 to 664)

The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Tipp Town +12% (77 to 86) Nenagh +19% (124 to 148) Thurles -38% (153 to 95) Carrick is +13% (218 to 246) Clonmel +2%(87 to 89) Detections are +20% YTD (272 to 327).

Non-Aggravated Burglary: YTD the Division is -26% YTD

(129 to 96) Residential Burglary is -24% YTD and Non-Residential Burglary is -24% YTD

The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Nenagh -58% (31 to 13) Thurles -66% (32 to 11); Carrick -28% (36 to 26); Clonmel +33%(15 to 20); Tipperary Town +73% (15 to 26) and Detections are -3% YTD (29 to 28).

Crimes Against the Person include; Murder; Murder Threat; All Assaults; Harassment; Child Abandonment; Neglect or Abuse. The Division is -11% (290 to 257). Nenagh -33% (70 to 47); Thurles +8% (63 to 68); Carrick -10% (88 to 79); Clonmel -11% (45 to 40) and Tipperary Town -4% to (24-23). Detections are +78%YTD (116 to 206).

Assaults include Assaults Causing Harm; Minor Assaults. YTD the Division is -6% (210 to 197)

Assaults Causing Harm: -22% YTD (83 to 65)

Minor Assaults: +4% YTD (127 to 132)

The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows;

Nenagh -17% (47-39); Thurles +22% (45 to 55);

Carrick -14% (63 to 54); Clonmel -17% (36 to 30); Tipperary Town +0% (19 to 19)

Detections are +72% YTD (86 to 148).

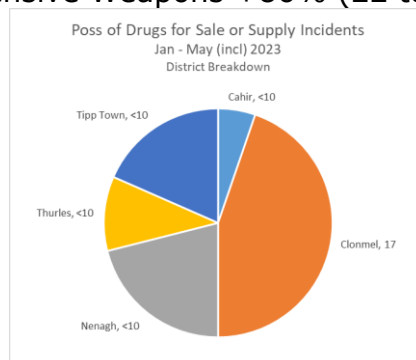
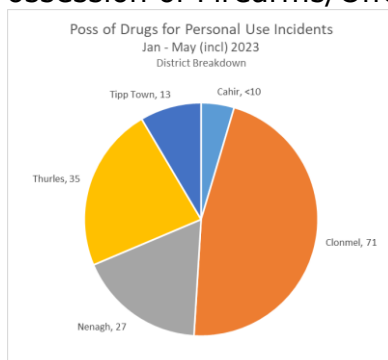
Proactive Policing Measures Overall Searches within the Division are down 3%; Possession of Firearms/Offensive Weapons +86%

(22 o 41) *Crime Counting Rules not applied

Possession of Drugs for Sale/Supply Up 10% YTD (139 to 153)

Possession of Drugs for Personal Use Down 30% YTD (54 to 38)

Possession of Firearms/Offensive Weapons +86% (22 to 41)



Traffic (YTD 2022 v 2023), Fatal Collisions are down 33%, and Serious Injury Collisions are down 13%. There have been 1,326 MIT Checkpoints conducted in the Division – (down 14% from 1,542 YTD last year)

This has resulted in 119 Driving While Intoxicated Offences (up 14% from 104 YTD last year). This figure includes 33 Drug Driving Offences

Our most recent data regarding LifeSaver Offences shows the following Jan to April Trends (2022 vs. 2023) with Mobile Phone use -6% (210 to 198); Seatbelt +147% (55 to 136); Speeding -6% (1,307 to 1,224).

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; YTD (1st Jan – 11th June 2023) the Division is +14.6%.

Based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 12/06/2023 and is liable to change. Incident counts are based on the date reported.

Chief Superintendent Colm O’Sullivan appealed to drivers to adhere to limits within in their environment especially with a dry spell of weather followed by heavy rain which causes hazardous driving conditions.

There is a new process in place to test individuals for drug driving and it is important to increase the awareness of effective testing of drug driving as drug driving has an impact on self and other road users. The use of seatbelts is a fundamental lifesaver in the event of an accident and encouragement of use across all age groups should be maintained.

Domestic Abuse victims are risk assessed and advice is provided to the victim in accessing support.

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 Marie Murphy how many cases of Domestic Abuse within districts and with regard to seatbelt detection Is there a specific demographic? Cllr Marie Murphy extended a thank you to the guards in the Cahir area for their support in dealing with an abuse case that is going on since March.

Cllr Ger Darcy urged for a review of speed limits within areas as some limits are too high or low depending on the area. Enforcement is essential through the presence of An Garda.

Deputy Martin Browne queried the property crime stats and to what extent these acts of shoplifting etc.

Figures from the Health Research Board have shown that the number of people seeking help for cocaine addiction has increased across the country, and here in Tipperary. Is this being reflected in what gardai are coming across during their duties? Do gardai have the time or resources to play a proactive role in encouraging people who have addiction problems to quit? It has been drawn to my attention that there is unhappiness in a number of areas at the prevalence of illegal taxi operators. Would it be possible to get a summary of what is required to investigate such allegations (in terms of time and resources needed to produce evidence that the individual is operating for ‘hire or reward’)?

In March, the gardai revealed that there was a 29% increase in reported hate crimes & hate-related incidents in 2022 – up from 448 in 2021 to 582 last year. How is Tipperary faring in this regard, and are there any specific issues that may arise that give cause for concern?

CLlr Annemarie Ryan with regard to Domestic Abuse how many of these reported repeat cases? Is there a trend within a demographic?

CLlr Siobhán Ambrose referred to the concern around prostitution and reporting of stats within that area.

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

The Chief Superintendent that specific numbers of domestic violence will not be released due to the sensitivity of the case and that some cases are going through courts. It is best to avoid a drilling down of figures to distinguish from a person’s business being made public. It is probable that those that are reported are repeat offenders.

Prostitution within Tipperary is not something that appears to be an issue.

There is no distinct age profile in relation to those that are driving without seatbelts it is across all demographics.

The limits on local roads are set out by the council and the guards continue to enforce the speed limit. In reality, people are flashing other drivers that the guards are monitoring speed and this has an impact as a driver may be flashing a potential criminal warning them of Garda’s presence.

The Chief Superintendent will need to go back to the analyst to seek a breakdown of theft from shoplifting as it is not in his report.

There is an increase in non-aggravated burglary in the Cahir Tipperary area perhaps due to the proximity of the motorway, they can access this easier and get back to the cities easier via the motorway.

Operation Tar launches in October as statistical crime increases in the winter.

The use of assault weapons has increased perhaps for their own protection but not necessarily used by individuals, it is categorised as an assault when used. The Garda on duty is preventing something from occurring when taking the weapon out of their hands.

The Garda detection process alters when an incident takes place this could take up to 90 minutes of their time which in reality means the Garda is unavailable to carry checkpoints due to this.

Cocaine use occurs across the demographic and across the county impacting lives and causing trauma in households. The Garda within these units support households by offering advice and networks to access unfortunately the department can’t do everything so they work to their best ability in tackling cocaine crime.

The Garda Reserves are still in existence. The recruitment campaign for more An Garda members is evident however the numbers are low due to uptake, people retiring or leaving the force for other opportunities.

Cllr Mark Fitzgerald queried the districts of Tipperary with a breakdown of where for example will Mullinahone falls under Clonmel.

The response from Chief Superintendent confirmed that there will be four Community Engagement areas in the new Clare/Tipperary Garda Division and these will replace the old Garda Districts. The headquarters for these four Community Engagement areas will be in Thurles, Clonmel, Killaloe and Ennis Garda Stations.

Thurles will cover the old Thurles and Tipperary Town Garda Districts, Clonmel will cover the old Clonmel and Cahir Districts, Killaloe will cover the old Nenagh and Killaloe Districts and Ennis will cover the old Ennis and Kiltrush Garda Districts.

Mullinahone will continue to be under the Clonmel Community Engagement area

The Taxi Regulator authorises every licence, not An Garda Síochána, SPSV stands for Small Public Service Vehicle. These are taxis, hackneys and limousines. In Ireland, an SPSV license is regulated by the National Transport Authority (NTA). A driver's license is issued and regulated by An Garda Síochána. The Taxi Regulator can carry out spot inspections. If a Taxi Licence is not displayed it should be reported.

Hate Crime increased to 4 in Tipperary in 2023, it is important to flag however there isn't one trend it is across race, sexual orientation or religion.

Item 3 – Property Marking

Marie Cox informed the members that Geraldine Manning and Angela Sheehan of Tipperary County Council met James O'Neill, Property Marking Ireland and have a goal for the remainder of this year;

1. 5 training sessions are proposed by the year-end – 1 in each MD
2. James O'Neill will be working with the Community Gardai in each MD to target groups/provide information and seek interest in training.
3. Each training session will comprise 5 groups with 3 people from each group i.e. 15 individuals plus the Garda.

Since the last meeting, 250 items from Garda Anthony Owens marked in Tipperary.

Andrew Stokes, Chairperson of Powerstown/Lisronagh reported 40 items marked since the last meeting.

Inspector White highlighted that it is important to encourage communities to Eircode their property and if possible keep receipts of purchases that relate to property. The serial number linked to the item can be traced. One area that can't be marked is glass.

Item 4 – Citizen's Assembly on Drug Use

Chairperson Noel Coonan noted that drug use has been a concern for the Tipperary JPC for a number of years to note any member can make a submission at any stage with regard to drug use in Tipperary.

Item 5 – Tipperary County Council Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2016

The strategy was circulated to members in advance of the meeting allowing for an opportunity to review and send through any comments you may have regarding the strategy in advance of the meeting. Deputy Martin Browne submitted comments in Word format for consideration. The draft SPC Policy is been worked on at present and will revert back to the Tipperary JPC with the Draft as soon as it is finalised.

Item 6 – CCTV Update

The Chief Superintendent informed members that the CCTV process is with the Garda Commissioner and that there is a delay due to the issue of Data Protection. Chairperson Noel Coonan expressed his disappointment with the delay in the rollout of CCTV, volunteers gave their time and energy to the implementation of CCTV and furthermore, the community has been treated poorly by An Garda in seeing the fruition of their work. The disappointment was noted by the Chief Superintendent and it has been conveyed to the commissioner.

Marie Cox informed the board that Brian Beck A/Director of Services wrote to Garda Commissioner Drew Harris dated 13th of June requesting an update on Community-based CCTV Scheme applications

1. Borrisokane
2. Fethard
3. Littleton
4. Nenagh
5. Clonmel

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

Item 7- PPN Issues.

No issues to note.

Item 8 – AOB

Chairperson Cllr Coonan highlighted that enhanced security from An Gardaí Síochána is a necessity as pointed out previously in the sample of Roscrea where Garda presence is required, especially with the influx of an additional population of new communities like the 400 plus asylum seekers in Roscrea. Chief Superintendent highlighted that the reality is there may be no additional garda resources as there are not enough recruits coming from Templemore and therefore is very unlikely that An Garda in Roscrea will receive one extra member soon.

Ann Williamson queried why are there so few recruits signing up for the An Garda Síochána and the Chief Superintendent highlighted that the country is near full employment with attractive opportunities out there for people that appeal to their career choices.

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

Item 9 – Date Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be 15-09-2023 and will be held in Tipperary Town MD as the Zoom facilities are of high standard.