

**Minutes of Tipperary Joint Policing Committee
held on the 7th of December 2023 at 10.00 a.m. at
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District Office and Via Zoom**

In Attendance:

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Geraldine Manning (Secretary), Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan, Brian Beck (Director of Services) Deputy Martin Browne, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr Richie Molloy, Cllr Tony Black, Cllr John Crosse, Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner, Cllr David Dunne, Cllr Mark Fitzgerald, Cathal Ó hÉanna (PPN) and Mairead Winters (TCC).

Also, in Attendance:

Press: Shannon Sweeney (Tipperary Star), Simon O Duffy (Nenagh Guardian) Aileen Haheisy (The Nationalist) and Catherine Fogarty Tipp Midwest Radio Cora Morrissey and Breda Ryan of the Housing Section in Tipperary County Council.

Sergeant Thomas O'Dwyer of An Garda Síochána.

Apologies: Deputy Mattie McGrath, Deputy Alan Kelly, Deputy Michael Lowry, Deputy Jackie Cahill, Gerard Fogarty (PPN), Cllr Shane Lee, Cllr Jim Ryan, Pat Carroll (IFA), Margaret Sheehy (PPN), Cllr Pat English, Cllr Marie Murphy, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr Hughie McGrath, Michelle Aylward (Chambers Ireland), Sabela Mavuso (PPN) Anne Williamson (PPN), Margaret Sheehy (PPN)

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 15th of September 2023 was approved on the proposal of Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner and seconded by Cllr Ger Darcy.

Item 2- Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Presentation by Cora Morrissey and Breda Ryan Housing Department, TCC.

Cora Morrissey Senior Executive Officer presented members of the committee with an overview of the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy which was previously circulated. The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy sets out the Council's objectives and strategies for preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour within the county. Cora emphasised the importance of establishing good relations with all stakeholders in preventing certain behaviours and reducing incidents.

The promotion of good estate management is at the heart of this with pre-tenancy training provided, enhancing the design of housing schemes, provision of a dedicated team to support this, continuous engagement with outside agencies, support resident associations, support structures in place for vulnerable tenants, comprehensive complaints system and comprehensive procedure for dealing with breaches of tenancy.

The changes in the draft strategy include; Updating for legislation where required (Data Protection Act); Inserting a section about the powers of An Garda Síochána; References to racism, data protection and social media abuse geared

towards TCC officials and a comprehensive section on how we manage complaints.

TCC has a comprehensive complaints system to manage and monitor all complaints. Complaints received are investigated by the relevant Community Liaison Officer.

The next stage after feedback is received from the Tipperary JPC and other stakeholders is to bring it to the SPC for adoption.

Chairperson Cllr Noel Coonan thanked Cora and Breda for their presentation noting the importance of a relationship with An Garda Síochána in addressing anti-social behaviour. He mentioned that a good example of this is the park bench in Roscrea where people can talk to members if they have concerns.

Cllr Fiona Bonfield remarked on the support available for the Community Liaison Officer and that more support from Tusla is required, the importance of the record of a complaint and repeated complaints are dealt with from the Housing Section.

Cllr Ger Darcy commented that anti-social behaviour can make life difficult for members of the community and that support is required from the council and An Garda Síochána.

Deputy Martin Browne queried what is the process of complaining and whether the public will not complain if the process takes time to deal with.

Cllr David Dunne addressed anti-social behaviour and the importance of logging and reporting as there are two sides to a story and it can become personalised. What is important to highlight is that the problem should not be moved on to another estate as in pulling a person causing issues out of an estate and putting them in another.

Cllr Tony Black stated that additional support to people who are experiencing anti-social behaviour is certainly required with additional Community Liaison Officers welcomed.

Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner acknowledged the work of Community Liaison Officers and the importance of having locals on the ground who can help rectify the situation.

Cora confirmed that the housing section has a very good relationship with An Garda and in particular the Superintendents in the districts. Breda highlighted that if it's a criminal or drug-related occurrence the team contact An Garda Síochána.

The tenancy agreement is not breached if linked to a criminal offence. It is a joint effort with An Garda and can be difficult to prove. The Community Liaison Officer links directly with An Garda Síochána.

The Community Liaison Officer looks at complaints from all angles to ensure a bigger picture is formed of how best to deal with complaints.

Housing doesn't accept anonymous complaints as a general rule as they cannot fully investigate them. However, if it is felt there is substance to a complaint an investigation may be initiated.

Housing has a confidential complaints system where anyone who logs an issue can be assured it's in confidence. Housing would encourage everyone to log any complaints through CSD.

To reiterate Cora highlighted that housing does not move problem behaviour to another estate, housing tackles this directly.

Chairperson Noel Coonan thanked Cora and Breda for their comprehensive presentation.

Item 3. The SARA Problem Solving Method; Presentation by Sergeant Thomas O'Dwyer, Divisional Crime Prevention Officer

Sergeant Thomas O'Dwyer provided the committee with a comprehensive presentation regarding the Sara Problem Solving Method and its approach to dealing with problems effectively and looking at long-term solutions. A problem is identified as a group of incidents occurring within a community that are similar and are of concern to An Garda Síochána and the public.

These may be issues raised by Gardaí, individuals' communities, business owners or other stakeholders. SARA uses Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment in its approach. Once the decision to implement the SARA process has been made a workgroup of key stakeholders is formed. This group will be responsible for implementing the SARA model.

Identifying key stakeholders from the public and involving them in the process sends a strong message that in community policing, anyone can be a problem solver. In the Scanning phase, key stakeholders describe the symptoms of the problem and review pertinent information. Problems can be existing, perceived or emerging problems. In order to start understanding a problem, enough information must be gathered so that the following six questions can be answered:

- What events happen?
- Where do they happen?
- When do they happen?
- Who is involved?
- Why do the events happen?
- How do the events happen?

The Analysis focuses on the assumption that crime or disorder results when:

1. There are motivated offenders involved
2. Suitable targets come together in time and space
3. There is an absence of capable guardians for that target.

Once a problem is understood, the model follows these steps by taking action to solve it by making crimes harder to commit:

1. Applying Garda Resources
2. Target hardening of locations
3. Taking a holistic view to offenders
4. Utilizing other Agencies to engage with Target Groups
5. Use of media

Assessment is used to measure the impact of the responses on the identified problem. There are several important questions to review:

- Did it go as planned in the Response phase?
- Was the Response phase effective? How?
- What would you change the next time?
- What worked the most successfully?
- How could it be improved?

The SARA model establishes a collaborative, systematic process to address issues of community safety and quality of life.

The problem is viewed as everyone's problem and the cooperative effort to solve it is more powerful.

- Provides a factual record of what has been done
- Will identify resource issues if what is agreed cannot be met
- May highlight Performance issues
- Create Records for Future planning

Chairperson Noel Coonan thanked Sergeant Thomas O'Dwyer for his very informative presentation. Chairperson Coonan acknowledged the importance of such a model and how it can be applied to lack of housing and employment issues and utilising the model to be proactive as opposed to reactive in dealing with ongoing issues.

Cllr David Dunne highlighted how he is impressed with this model and how it should be rolled out more in tackling issues for example congregation on Kickham Street in Carrick using this model to deal with antisocial behaviour could look at strategic ways to reduce poor behaviour in the community.

It is important to work as a community to solve issues.

Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner acknowledged the benefit of such a model, who would you contact regarding the model? Sergeant O Dwyer highlighted that you can mention the SARA Model as an approach to the Sergeant in Charge (if issues are repetitive).

Deputy Browne asked what is meant by a stakeholder working group. Sergeant O'Dwyer remarked businesses or residents' associations for example or concerned stakeholders in the area.

The Chief Superintendent wished Sergeant Thomas O'Dwyer the very best of wishes in his retirement and wanted to thank him for his hard work during his career with An Garda Síochána. These well wishes were echoed by members of the committee.

Item 4 – 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 December 2023.

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
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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
 - LifeSaver Offences

All information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on the 01/12/2023 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 districts;

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 – 3rd Dec 2023) the Division is +7%

- *Based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 04/12/2023 and is liable to change. Incident counts are based on data reported.*

Property Crime includes All Robberies All Burglary and various Theft Offences, YTD the Division, is +16% (1,434 to 1,669)
The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Tipperary +13% (191 to 216), Nenagh +24% (298 to 370), Thurles -8% (325-299), Clonmel +47% (159 to 234) and Carrick +19%(461 to 550)
Detections are +17% YTD (611 to 716).

Non-Aggravated Burglary: YTD the Division is +5% YTD, (237 to 250)
Residential Burglary is +5% YTD, Non-Residential Burglary is +13% YTD
The breakdown within Tipperary County is as follows; Nenagh +14% (43-49)
Thurles -24% (58-44) Clonmel +129% (21 to 48), Tipperary+15% (46 to 53),
Carrick -19% (69-56).
Detections are +7% YTD (75 to 80)

The Chief Superintendent highlighted the type of smash-and-grab burglary on commercial property increased between March and July with cigarettes, money and alcohol being the target, this is not unique to Tipperary.

Crimes Against the Person include; Murder; Murder Threat; All Assaults; Harassment; Child Abandonment; Neglect or Abuse. YTD the Division is -4% (638 to 612).
Nenagh +1% (135 to 136), Thurles +3% (142 to 146),
Clonmel -23% (97-75) Tipperary -4% to (55-53), Carrick -3% (209-202)
Detections are +22%YTD (311-380).

Assaults include Assaults Causing Harm and Minor Assaults.
YTD the Division is +1% (460 to 466)
Assault Causing Harm: -21% YTD (179-141)
Minor Assaults: +16% YTD (281-325)
Nenagh +10% (100-110), Thurles +21% (97 to 117), Clonmel
-28% (72-52), Tipperary 0% (43 to 43) -10 and Carrick -3% (148-144)
Detections are +17% YTD (237 to 278)

The Chief Superintendent noted the night time economy and its effect on these stats. Pushing and shoving are not in the same category as assault causing harm.

The Clonmel Operation Unit is particularly effective in tackling crime and drug use.

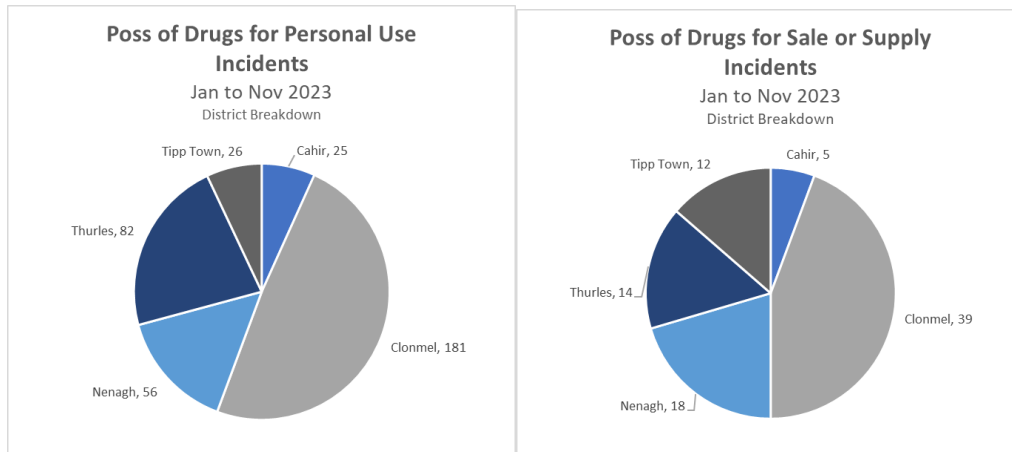
Proactive Policing Measures; Overall Searches within the Division are down 14%.

Possession of Firearms/Offensive Weapons +13% YTD, (61 to 69)

Crime Counting Rules not applied.

Possession of Drugs for Personal Use Up 6% YTD (350 to 370)

Possession of Drugs for Sale/Supply Down 15% YTD (103 to 88)



There is a significant increase in the detection as a result of garda activity. The team across Tipperary are utilising its resources to ensure protective policing is demonstrated.

Traffic (YTD 2022 v 2023)

Fatal Collisions are up +57%

Serious Injury Collisions are down 0% (44 to 44)

There have been 2,593 MIT Checkpoints conducted in the Division – (down 24% from 3,422 YTD last year). This has resulted in 242 Driving While Intoxicated Offences (down 7% from 260 YTD last year). This figure includes 43 Drug Driving Offences up 10% from 39 YTD last year.

Our most recent data regarding LifeSaver Offences shows the following; Jan to Nov. Mobile Phone use +4% (575 to 596); Seatbelt -4% (273 to 262); Speeding +37% (12,182 to 16,696)

Based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on 01/12/2023 and is liable to change. Incident counts are based on data reported.

Chief Superintendent Colm O’Sullivan expressed his condolences to all the families who lost their loved ones on the roads in Tipperary this year and sympathises with the impact of the loss of their family members.

The Chief Superintendent appealed to drivers to adhere to limits coming into the Christmas period and do not drink and drive this Christmas. Up until this period, there are 173 empty seats at the dinner table this Christmas with multiple families affected. Operation Thor is functioning during the period. The use of seatbelts is a must at all times as it significantly reduces the impact of collision.

There are additional interceptions taken on for example the Birdhill- Killaloe area where the speed cameras are advertised.

The chairperson thanked Chief Superintendent Colm O’ Sullivan for a very comprehensive presentation as always.

The following questions were put to Chief Superintendent Colm O’Sullivan with responses provided.

Chairperson Cllr Noel Coonan expressed his sincere sympathy to all the families affected by road tragedies highlighting his appreciation to members of An Garda Síochána, emergency services and the general public for their assistance and support to the fatal collisions and their families.

Cllr Coonan asked the Chief Superintendent about reporting crime and that some are un reporting particularly farmers as nothing comes from it. Chief Superintendent Colm O’Sullivan responded by firstly urging members of those affected by crime to report that if it goes unreported the cycle of crime continues.

Deputy Browne thanked An Garda Síochána for their support in Cashel recently and asked about the increase in non-aggravated burglary - is it residential or non-residential burglary? The Chief Superintendent responded by saying it is leaning towards non-residential but keep in mind the detection rate is up too so there is sometimes a link in figures, the background to the figures is not included and is not to hand at this time.

Deputy Browne submitted questions via email, and the Chief Superintendent could not access his system to address questions but will circulate a response to the queries. The following was submitted;

- To outline the level of engagement between An Garda Síochána locally and the Department of Children’s Community Engagement Team when it comes to the planned placement of recipients of International Protection Applicants in local communities.
- If there is a need to increase garda numbers and the opening hours of Cashel Garda Station.
- If there has been an increase in crimes reported to the gardai in the last three months compared to the situation previously (with reference to Cashel, but elsewhere in the county if possible).

Item 5 -6 Correspondence - Clare-Tipperary Operating Model

Chief Superintendent Colm O Sullivan briefed the committee on a request to complete a short survey concerning the Clare–Tipperary Divisional Policing Plan for 2024. This survey was circulated to members of the Tipperary JPC with questions outlined within the survey.

An Garda Síochána unit has asked that each member of the Tipperary JPC kindly complete and return the attached form directly to CT.PAFA@garda.ie before the 15th of December 2023.

Item 7- LA16 Status Report

Geraldine Manning briefed the committee that the LA16 Status Report will be on the agenda going forward.

The following was confirmed.

1. LA16s completed (Q4 2022 - 20th October 2023) – There were 15 completed.
2. LA16s yet to be completed (Q4 2022 - 19th October 2023) – None are outstanding.

Cllr Annemarie Shiner Ryan requested a breakdown of figure 15 and where they relate to. Geraldine confirmed she would seek the breakdown for the next meeting.

Item 8- An Garda Síochána Strategic Plan 2025 – 2027

Chief Superintendent Colm O Sullivan briefed the committee that An Garda Síochána is currently in the process of formulating its Strategic Plan for the years 2025 to 2027, a mandatory undertaking according to Section 63 of the Policing, Security, and Community Safety Bill, set to be enacted in 2024. This plan will serve as the foundation for Annual Service Plans from 2025 to 2027, in line with Section 65 of the same Bill. To obtain a broader perspective for input into the Strategic Plan 2025-2017 the views from across Government and the Public Sector are now being sought on the challenges and opportunities facing policing and security.

A letter with questions was circulated to members of the Tipperary JPC seeking feedback. There were several questions raised within the above letter that can be taken into consideration when providing your response/ input into the plan,

Comments are to be communicated before the 8th of December 2023 as this is the last day for feedback.

Item 9 – Property Marking

Geraldine Manning informed the members that training sessions had been organised during the Autumn in each MD in conjunction with the Community Gardai with a total of 15 groups and 38 participants attending along with Community Gardai. The locations included Thurles, Knockavilla, Nenagh, Clonmel and Kilsheelan.

Tipperary Garda Station also borrowed the machine in July and Garda Anthony Owens marked 250 items in Hollyford and Tipperary Town over 2 days. He also marked 60 items in September in conjunction with Tirlan.

Woodenstown/Chamberlainstown/Newtown Community Alert Group marked 24 items in November.

It is anticipated that there will be an increase in bookings for the machine from community groups and the Community Gardai following the training sessions. The machine can be booked from the Community Section by contacting Geraldine Manning and completing a booking form.

Item 10 – CCTV Update

Director of Services Brian Beck updated the committee on the drafted CCTV Policy, the policy has gone to the SPC for signing, members reviewed it to eliminate any potential outstanding hazards, and consultation took place on the ground with An Garda. It is important to adhere to data protection as this is not a monitored CCTV operation policy. It is important too to look at a sustainable financial model in funding CCTV.

Cllr John Crosse thanked Brian for his support of this policy as there is a need for CCTV to become effective as it can assist the challenges that communities face.

Cllr David Dunne acknowledged that the CCTV will not be 24-hour monitoring and it will be helpful to go back on the situation. It is important to get the policy right as there won't be any assistance if it gets thrown out of court on those grounds.

Brian reiterated that the CCTV policy does not involve live monitoring, if it is monitored, the cost goes up hugely. It is not a policing tool and should only be used in conjunction with other available tools.

Brian Beck confirmed that a comprehensive policy has been formulated and will go to the Commissioner when it is robust enough in its clarity involving the procedure of CCTV application and GDPR guidelines.

Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan highlighted that the response from the Commissioner is concerned with legislation and outside of our control.

The Chairperson Cllr Noel Coonan thanked Brian for his support and dedication to this in getting it over the line.

Item 11- PPN Issues.

There were no issues for noting on this occasion.

Item 12 – AOB

There will only be a maximum of two Tipperary JPC meetings in 2024 as there will be a new Local Community Safety Partnership formed with wider stakeholders involved. Information regarding confirmation of the timeframe for when this is implemented has yet to be circulated. The elected representatives highlighted their concerns about the lack of adequate representations from the public being addressed at the new forum as elected representatives act as a soundboard for the public.

Item 13 – Date Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be confirmed pending availability and will be held in February in Tipperary Town MD as the Zoom facilities are of high standard.