

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on Monday 22nd April, 2024 at 1.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town

Members Present: - Councillor Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Crosse
Councillor Michael FitzGerald
Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan
Councillor Roger Kennedy
Councillor Máirín McGrath
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

An Garda Síochána:- Superintendent Edmund Golden

Officials Present: - Ms. Sharon Kennedy, District Director
Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Mr. Richard Power, Executive Engineer
Mr. Patrick O'Neill, Assistant Engineer
Mr. Daniel Murray, CLO
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer

Apologies: - Councillor Micheál Anglim
Councillor Tony Black
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Ms. Catherine O'Connor, CLO

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Community Safety Committee meeting.

1.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd October, 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Marie Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October, 2023 were agreed.

1.2 Reports from Community Liaison Officers – Tipperary County Council

In the absence of Ms. Catherine O'Connor, Community Liaison Officer, Daniel Murray, CLO presented the figures for the Cahir area as follows:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints
- Cahir Town - 19 complaints (9 remain under investigation).

- Cahir Area – 6 complaints (2 remain under investigation)
- 1 Tenancy Warning Letter served for breach of tenancy agreement.
- New Tenants - 17 new tenancies within the Cahir District to date this year including 13 Cois Na Siuire, Ardfinnan, 3 in Cahir town and 1 in Clogheen.
- Currently 8 vacant houses and 1 has been allocated.
- Closing date for the Residents Association Grant funding has passed and applications are being considered.

Mr. Daniel Murray, Community Liaison Officer thanked the Members for the welcome and advised that he took up the role in February. He updated the Committee Members with his report for the Tipperary/Cashel area as follows:

- 64 Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints received in the Cashel/Tipperary Area - 26 complaints are regarding one family and 9 remain under investigation
- New Tenants - 34 new tenancy's from 16th October, 23 to 16th April, 24. There is a new tenancy agreed being used for all new tenancies since April, 2024.
- 29 vacant properties – 11 allocated.
- A new resident association has been set up in St Michaels Avenue and it is hoped that the Residents Association Grants will be processed by mid May.

Councillor Ryan (Shiner) welcomed Mr. Murray and noted that 18 vacant houses are under repair. Councillor Murphy noted that 64 complaints are a large amount and asked if more could be done. Councillor Burgess referred to the increasing anti social behaviour and asked what steps could be taken in relation to houses being sublet or people with tenancies not living in houses. Mr. Murray advised if a property is vacant for longer than 6 weeks they are obliged to show proof that someone is living in the house e.g. electricity bills. He acknowledged that in some cases it is very difficult to prove. Councillor Crosse wanted to thank Ms Buckley and acknowledged that it is a difficult and challenging role. Councillor McGrath referred to a tenancy in the Cahir area where the neighbour has left and the rear of the property is overgrown and attracting vermin. Mr. Murray confirmed that it is the responsibility of the tenant to maintain their garden and it cannot encroach on the neighbouring property. Councillor McGrath asked if the CLO could advise and mediate between tenants.

1.3 An Garda Síochána – Overview of policing in Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Superintendent Edmund Golden and expressed his disappointment that there was no representative from the Tipperary South Area which covers Cahir and Cashel. Superintendent

Golden advised the Members that Tipperary town has received 1 new probational Garda and Clonmel has received 4 and they will be well supported. Tipperary Central and Tipperary South have maintained resources and there is an external unit dealing with vehicle theft. Detective James Tierney is the lead in the new economic crime unit which deals with issues like online fraud. The Drug unit has been reassessed and they have maintained numbers and their strategy is to hit key drug dealers to get to the source.

Superintendent Golden presented the statistical overview for crimes committed in the Tipperary Central area.

Tipperary Area

	Type	No of Incidents Reported		
		2023	2024	
Property Crime	Burglary (not Aggravated)	25	21	-16%
	Theft / Unauthorised taking of vehicle	16	128	+700%
	Theft from Vehicle	12	1	-90%
	Theft of other Property	21	16	-23%
	Criminal Damage (not arson)	27	30	+11%
Crime Against the Person	Assault Causing Harm	5	5	-
	Minor Assault	8	9	+12.5%
Sexual Offences	Sexual Offences	3	2	-33%
Public Order	Public Order Offences	16	10	-37%
Drugs	Possession of Drugs for Sale or Supply	4	3	-25%
	Search under Drugs Act 1977/1984	23	22	-4%
Fraud/Economic Crime	Fraud/Economic Crime	8	6	-25%
Traffic	Traffic Collision - Fatal	12	6	-50%
	MIT Checkpoints	100	108	+8%

Superintendent Golden advised that there is a significant increase in car theft due to a tiktok trend targeting Japanese pre 2015 cars which have no immobilisers. He confirmed that two juvenile arrests have been made, however noted that the juvenile system is slow. He advised people to lock their cars at night because this is a worrying trend. He advised that the recent Ministerial Directive that all uniformed gardai will have to spend 30 minutes on road safety policing per shift started last Friday. The Members were told that the use of mobile phones while driving is a national crisis.

Superintendent Golden advised that overall they are very busy and they have lost staff but they are trying to get resources.

Councillor Moloney noted that drug use is up and he had concerns that the Drug unit was leaving Cahir and requested that this is addressed by the Chief Superintendent. Councillor McGrath thanked Superintendent Golden and expressed disappointment that no one was available from the Tipperary South area and also shared the concern of Councillor Moloney regarding the drug unit. Councillor Murphy noted that Cahir was a central location and the road network plays into the hands of the drug dealers. Councillor FitzGerald recommended that we write to the Minister outlining the concerns of the District. Councillor Kennedy thanked Superintendent Golden for the work being done without sufficient manpower. He also was disappointed that no one was available from Tipperary South given that the Committee only meets twice a year and it has been a standing engagement for the last 10 years. He highlighted serious issues with minor theft and that youths are running riot in shops and supermarkets with 3-5 incidents every day. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) acknowledged the increased Garda presence. Councillor Burgess referred to a number of people due out of prison and he requested an update from Cashel Garda Station.

In response Superintendent Golden referred to the new model and the new functional areas and sometimes we get sucked back into the old model. The base for the Tipperary South drugs unit has changed. He covers Tipperary Central and, in his area, there is a drugs unit in Tipperary and Thurles. Under the new model the community forum is so important and they get huge support from the public. The Cathaoirleach thanked Superintendent Golden.


1.6 Any Other Business

There was no other business

1.7 Fix Date for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 22nd October, 2024 at 1.30 pm.

Signed:


Cathaoirleach


District Administrator

Date:


23/9/2024