

**Approved Minutes of Tipperary Joint Policing Committee
held on the 29th July 2022 at 10.00 a.m. Via Zoom**

In Attendance: -

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Eddie Meegan (Secretary), Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, Pat Slattery Director of Services, Deputy Martin Browne, Deputy Mattie McGrath, Cllr Marie Murphy, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr Richie Molloy, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr Hughie McGrath, Pat Carroll (IFA), Dean McGrath, Cliona Tobin (TCC)

Also in Attendance Media Reps: -

Darren Keegan Iconic News, Eamon Wynne Nationalist, Simon O'Duffy, Shannon Sweeny Tipperary Star, Sheila Naughton Tipp FM

Apologies: -

Cllr Annemarie Ryan Shiner, Cllr Shane Lee, Cllr John Crosse, Cathal Ó hÉanna

Welcome

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chair) opened the meeting, welcomed all present including the new members Dean McGrath, Cathal Ó hÉanna, Sabelo Mavuso and noted apologies received.

He informed the Committee that this was Pat Slattery's last meeting with the JPC and he thanked Pat for the trojan work with Community and Economic Section and he wished him well for the future.

Item 1 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meeting

Verification of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 25th February, 2022 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Ger Darcy seconded by Deputy Martin Browne.

Item 2 – To Review levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the County

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart gave a presentation on the Tipperary Division Statistics up to 1st July 2022, 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 01/07/2022, 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 Derek Smart gave a presentation on the 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: -

- An increase in Domestic Abuse Incidents which include Breach of Interim Barring Order, Breach of Protection Order, Breach of Barring Order, Domestic Dispute – No Offence Disclosed, Breach of Emergency Barring Order and any incident with Domestic M.O.

All information is based upon operational data from the PULSE System as was available on the 11/07/2022 and is liable to change. Incident counts are based on date reported.

- An increase in Property Crime which includes all robbery, all burglary and various theft offences – up 32% with detections down 11% (YTD)
- An increase in Non-Aggravated Burglary which includes residential and non-residential up 37% with detections down 12% (YTD)
- An increase in Crimes Against the Person which includes murder, murder threat, all assaults, harassment, child abandonment and neglect or abuse – up 16% with detection down 25% (YTD)
- An increase in Assaults which include assaults causing harm and minor assaults – up 10% with detections down 23% (YTD)
- A decrease in overall searches within the division – down 42%
- Possession of Firearm – no change YTD (crime counting rules not applied)
- A decrease of Possession of Offensive Weapons – down 41% (crime counting rules not applied)
- A of Possession of Drugs for Personal Use – down 51% YTD
- A decrease of Possession of Drugs for Sale/Supply – down 13% YTD
- A decrease of Fatal Collisions down 20%
- An increase in Serious Injury Collisions – up 57%
- An increase in MIT checkpoints conducted in the Division - up 120% YTD
- A decrease in Driving While Intoxicated Offences – down 14% YTD
- A decrease in Drug Driving Offences – down 42% YTD

Most recent data on Life Saver Offences (Jan to May trends) indicate: -

- A decrease in the use of mobile phones whilst driving – down 40%
- A decrease in non-wearing of seat belt whilst driving – down 17%
- A decrease in driving over the speed limit – down 24%

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart also updated the Committee on other pro-active Policing Measures under the following headings: -

- Garda Personnel Changes
- Community Engagement
- Domestic Violence – Go Purple Day
- National Community Engagement Day
- Tipperary Royal Visit
- Drug Seizures
- National Garda Youth Awards
- Community Engagement
- Centenary Events
- Fleet Tipperary Division
- Clare-Tipperary Division Operating Model

Noel thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart for the comprehensive report. He congratulated the four inspectors on their recent promotion and wished them well. He complimented Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and the gardai for security presence for the Royal Visit to the County.

The following questions were put to Chief Superintendent Derek Smart: -

Cllr Noel Coonan referred to the rise in domestic violence incidents and the increase in burglaries and how could they be dealt with. Referring to the new Division he quoted 'it's a long long way from Clare to here' and asked why Ennis. He fears Roscrea will be forgotten about and stated we need full time high ranking gardai in Roscrea - he noted there is great work being done in Nenagh Station need more management level working there

Deputy Martin Browne conveyed his best wishes to Pat Slattery. He noted the increase in Domestic Abuse and asked if it is a result of overhang from the pandemic and would the increase in non-aggravated burglary be as a result of increase in cost of living the increase in theft of home heating oil, definition of non-residential burglaries, what drug is the biggest in use and crime against persons any particular reason for increase in one are down in another, why is there increase in Anti-Social Behaviour. He commented that it is great to see decrease in traffic fatalities in the district and asked the reason for serious injury collisions increase and how will the new Clare Tipperary Division will affect JPC membership

Cllr Ger Darcy asked to be associated with the good wishes for Pat Slattery. He complimented Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and all the gardai for their work on seizing Drugs in the County. He commented that East Clare, North Tipperary covers a huge area and wondered how logistics on the ground would be affected with the new Operating Model. He asked if the increase in assaults were as a result of Covid-19.

Cllr Hughie McGrath wished Pat Slattery well. He stated he has the same concerns for the Clare, North Tipperary division. He stated that Anti-Social Behaviour has become an issue on the streets in Nenagh with teenagers using the streets as a playground. He asked how many ASBO orders have been given out and what tools the gardai are using to deal with it as the issue needs to be tackled in Nenagh.

Cllr Marie Murphy wished Pat Slattery well and thanked him for all his help. She thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and all the gardai for their work regarding the Royal Visit and also for the July 10th Centenary Commemoration in Cahir. She wished the 4 recently promoted Superintendents well in their new roles. She asked if the increase in Domestic Abuse was legacy of the pandemic and what were the differences between Safety Order and Barring Orders.

Pat Carroll wished all the best to Pat Slattery for the future. He expressed his concerns for rural areas and those with farming background as there are smaller thefts being carried out and going unnoticed - could there be campaign to highlight these crimes.

Cllr Siobhan Ambrose thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart for his presentation and wished Pat well and stated he was always available at the end of the phone. She thanked Inspector Sean Leahy as he returns to his native Cork and welcomed Inspector Paul Gray. She commended Superintendent Eddie Golden on the organising of the Centenary Commemoration in Cahir. She asked the average age of assaults being report as Domestic Violence increased by 11% She asked for more garda presence on the streets and stated there needs to be visibility. She asked if there was any update on the review of the Clonmel Town CCTV system.

Cllr Richie Molloy referred to an assault at a venue in Clonmel recently and commented that there isn't enough policing being done.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart replied to the questions as follows: -

Referring to a recent case where a member of the force was convicted of coercive behaviour Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated zero tolerance of any such behaviour and support from gardai is always available. There is a Protective Services Unit in place and a number of active investigations are ongoing.

The increase in Domestic Violence number could be that more people are more confident about coming forward and reporting it – a risk assessment tool is used by Gardai

Regarding burglaries there is text alert service available and if you detect suspicious activity it should be reported, if gardai don't know about it they can't task it. It could be missing piece of jigsaw.

Diesel oil burglaries are a concern as downturn in economy more security is needed such as locking tanks and bringing machinery in at night

Non-residential burglaries are shops or sheds – not domestic houses

Statistics on assaults and age profile can be got and made available at next JPC Meeting - Some make a complaint and don't follow through

Cannabis and Cocaine are still the most popular drugs seized

Regarding Traffic - MIT Checkpoints are currently carried out on national routes only but will be moving to rural routes as well

Under the new Garda Operating Model which is a government initiative – it won't impact front line staff the impact will be at managerial level

He informed the meeting that the Divisional Model is the future of Policing, community engagement is bigger and the Superintendent can spend more time focusing on this area

There may be proposed changes to JPC's coming down the line

Assaults are mainly drink related – drinking at home then go out for 'one or two'

Anti-Social Behaviour needs to be reported

Regarding visibility of gardai on streets Chief Superintendent Derek Smart will work with all Superintendents to try and get more gardai on the ground. He will communicate with Superintendent Lacy to have statistics on ASBOs for slides for next JPC Meeting

He stated there is a Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO) system in each of the 3 divisions

There is a recruitment campaign with new recruits starting in Templemore and by next March they will be on the beat – 200 recruits before June next year – numbers are tight but will have to utilise members we have at the moment

Regarding rural crime – reporting is important no matter how small an incident – resources can be put in place if its reported and gardai are made aware

There is a Crime Tasking Unit in place to support regular unit.

Safety Order and Barring Order are both court orders – Safety Order can apply for immediately work towards getting Barring Order

Regarding statistics on age bracket – report from numbers of female is higher

Recruitment in Clonmel – won't have the numbers until next March but will use resources effectively

Regarding full time high ranking gardai in stations – three are limited number of Superintendents – if Superintendent is out an Inspector will be there.

Four Inspectors made promotion list recently and Chief Superintendent Derek Smart complimented all four members who will take up new positions in the next twelve months and he stated it is an excellent reflection of the work being carried out within the County.

He also thanked the members of the Defence Forces for their help regarding the Royal visit.

Item 3 – Property Marking

Eddie updated the Committee on the Property Marking Machine stating a maintenance technician from the UK serviced the machine recently and he hoped a booking system will be put in place shortly so communities can avail of it.

Item 4 – CCTV

Eddie updated the Committee on the Roscrea Town Centre CCTV System stating there were two options proposed by J&N Security Consultants Ltd for Roscrea Town Centre CCTV system. Option one is a traditional model using recording equipment located in the Library. Option two use cloud technology to store the recorded data. Eddie presented two maps showing the location of the cameras for both options. The pros and cons for both options where discussed by the Roscrea CCTV Committee and Option 2 was selected as the preferred option. Eddie sought approval from the JPC Committee for Option 2 which would use a cloud-based architecture and was the preferred option by Roscrea CCTV Committee. Approval was granted on the proposal of Cllr Noel Coonan seconded by Cllr Ger Darcy.

Cllr Marie Murphy raised issue of funding the upkeep of CCTV System
Pat Slattery agreed it was an issue to fund ongoing maintenance and suggested referring the annual maintenance costings to the Municipal District.

Cllr Ger Darcy asked if there was any update on Borrisokane CCTV and if it has gone to the Commissioner to be signed off on yet as they are very frustrated by the delays

Eddie replied by saying he submitted the paperwork to Thurles Gardai for review along with the Littleton and Fethard CCTV paperwork so it should be progressed and he will update the Committee once he receives same.

Item 5 – AOB

Eddie stated that a Notice of Motion from Cork JPC asking each JPC in the Country to consider issuing a co-ordinated media release/campaign on the dangers of increasing incidents of phishing and cybercrime – with particular reference to older and more vulnerable people.

Cllr Noel Coonan thanked Pat for the help support and guidance and wished him luck. He also thanked Eddie and Cliona for meeting administration.

Item 6 – Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 7th October, 2022 at 10.00 a.m. in Thurles Municipal District Offices.