

## **DRAFT Minutes of Joint Policing Committee held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 at 10am Room 1 Civic Offices, Castle Avenue, Thurles and Zoom**

**Present:** Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, Cllr Noel Coonan (Chairperson), Pat Slattery Director of Services, Deputy Martin Browne, Cllr Mark Fitzgerald, Eddie Meegan (Secretary), Cliona Tobin.

**Also in attendance via Zoom:** Cllr Marie Murphy, Cllr Annemarie Ryan, Cllr Pat English, Cllr Shane Lee, Anne Williamson PPN Carrick on Suir, Gerard Fogarty PPN Thurles, Cllr John Crosse, Paul Berrigan Chamber of Commerce, Imelda Walsh Chair IFA, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Richie Molloy.

**Apologies:** Cllr David Dunne, Cllr Tony Black, Deputy Jackie Cahill, Pat Carroll, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Deputy Mattie McGrath.

### **Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting held on December, 13<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Cllr Noel Coonan (Chair) opened the meeting. He expressed his sympathy to Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and the Garda community on the death of their colleague Garda Colm Horkan. He asked for a minute's silence which was held at the meeting as a mark of respect.

**Item 1** – Verification of the minutes of the last meeting – Proposed by Cllr Mark Fitzgerald seconded by Cllr Noel Coonan.

**Item 2** – Review of levels of crime

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart thanked the acknowledgement of the minutes silence for his former colleague Garda Colm Horkan deceased.

He gave a presentation on the Tipperary Division Statistics up to 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 In respect of:-

- Property Crime Incidents
- Crimes against the person
- Pro-active Policing
- Traffic
- Domestic Incidents
- Drugs
- Covid 19

He stated the figures for June figures were not available but were similar in pattern to previous figures. A copy of the presentation will be emailed to the JPC members as requested by Cllr Marie Murphy.

Deputy Martin Browne stated he raised in the Dail the work that has been done in Tipperary regarding drug policing.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart displayed a picture of the community engagement with gardai at nursing homes and the thank you cards from the public during the Covid 19 pandemic. He formally thanked all the members of the gardai for all their work.

He also formally thanked Sergeant Pat O'Connor who retired last Tuesday night after 38 years of service.

Cllr Noel Coonan thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart. He stated he has concern as there is such a huge area to cover and how do resources compare in Thurles and Templemore. Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated where the resources are in place they are the main areas in need of resources. New Gardai are being trained and are a great support on the ground. Deputy Martin Browne stated most people in Cashel are happy with Garda resources and support in their area.

Cllr Ann Marie Ryan thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and asked how do public know who to contact regarding domestic violence issue. He said he will submit details to Eddie Meegan to pass on to JPC group to make available to the public.

Cllr Mark Fitzgerald thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart for presentation and to all the Gardai for all the work being done. He stated the extra community police in the county especially in Mullinahone is great to see and Garda are in the stations full time.

Cllr Pat English thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart – he asked if the resources that are in the Drugs Units can be kept. Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated the assistance is also provided by surrounding divisions and support from community

Cllr Marie Murphy stated the response from the public is exceptional the 1 in 5 to 2 in 10 ratio should be maintained if possible. She welcomed the increase in community policing in Cahir. She asked what sort of Covid 19 offences took place. Chief Superintendent Derek Smart responded by saying offences such as breaking the travel outside of kilometre restrictions had to be enforced.

Cllr Noel Coonan welcomed new members Imelda Walsh and John Carroll IFA Paul Berrigan Business Sector and Gerard Fogarty PPN Thurles District.

Imelda Walsh asked about attacks by dogs in county - Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated he doesn't have the statistics at present – the control of Dogs Act would be enforced. He recommended that members of the public should contact Gardai who can enforce by issuing fines.

Cllr Shane Lee thanked Chief Superintendent Derek Smart. He has concerns re the Templemore Thurles area regarding drug offences and if they're on a housing waiting list how would you know, also the issue of theft of flowers from grave is an issue in Roscrea Graveyard and the Roscrea Garda Station closed.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated he met with housing authority last week and the County Council are entitled to receive information from Gardai regarding tenants. The issue regarding graveyard theft - he will speak with Gardai in the area to keep extra watch - the issue regarding station closure - the station door may be closed but the staff are out working with members of the public. He also said the Gardai have advertised for 'front of house' staff - they are at advanced stage of recruiting.

Noel Coonan stated the Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2019 was distributed in March.

**Text Alert System** - Cllr Mark Fitzgerald said the text based system was expensive. There is a cost associated with each message. If each family member gets the message the group gets charged for each message where one message per household would have done. He suggested if mobile phone app could link Gardai and community groups e.g. severe weather warning - tidy towns and any group set up on text alert worth considering with JPC to consider updating the system.

Pat Slattery said the text alert system is run by Muintir na Tire who are based in Tipperary Town and are particularly involved with Community Call. All counties use Map Alerter to broadcast severe weather warnings the council pay for this service, public registration is free.

Komeer system is a similar service to Map Alerter and Text Alert. It could be more efficient.

Eddie Meegan proposed the establishment of a working group to review the use of Text Alert systems in the county.

Noel Coonan invited volunteers within JPC to set up this working group  
The following were nominated or volunteered:-

Cllr Mark Fitzgerald  
Cllr Marie Murphy  
Cllr Shane Lee  
Gerard Fogarty  
Cllr Noel Coonan

Eddie Meegan to seek a representative from Corporate Services, Tipperary County Council.

**JPC Steering Group** - At the December meeting it was proposed that Tipperary and Clare JPC meet to discuss areas of common interest following the announcement Clare and Tipperary Division amalgamation.

It was recommended a steering group be set up to meet with the Clare JPC Steering Group.

The 2005 guidelines state who should be on the Steering Group:-

Chief Officer - Pat Slattery  
Chair of JPC - Cllr Noel Coonan  
Chief Superintendent - Derek Smart

Other volunteered nominees were Deputy Martin Browne, Cllr Pat English

## **AOB**

Matters arising from previous meeting:-

**CCTV** - Covid 19 pandemic resulted in General Election taking 140 days to form new government – The Secretary of JPC was to write to newly appoint minister regarding Community CCTV systems.

Pat Slattery Director of Services wrote to Minister on behalf of the County Council in relation to the CCTV issue.

Noel Coonan stated JPC will be writing to newly appointed Minister also.

**JPC Membership** – Proposal that membership from a migrant community member to increase the number on the JPC.

Standing Orders will need to be amended – Eddie Meegan will do this.

Cllr Pat English questioned if this can be done now.

Pat Slattery stated a nominee will have to be approved by meeting – selected nomination in writing would have to go to chair of JPC for approval by JPC

Cllr Pat English volunteered proposal that he will seek nominee from the migrant community seconded by Cllr Marie Murphy.

### **Property Marking Identity Machine**

Noel Coonan stated the property marking identity machine was new initiative.

Eddie Meegan gave background as to how machines work.

2 were purchased last year one by Newport Tidy Towns – Covid 19 pandemic held up the role out.

The second was purchased by Carrick on Suir MD and is being managed by James O Neill of Property Marking Ireland.

James O Neill of Property Marking Ireland has trained Community Groups on property marking machine.

Cllr Mark Fitzgerald proposed that the JPC Members get trained up on marking machine so they can do train community groups.

A scanned copy of handout on Property Marking Register is to be sent to JPC group.

He suggested signage stating property marking has taken place in an area, just like CCTV in operation signs are put up to deter criminal activity in areas covered by CCTV.

Cllr Coonan asked Imelda Walsh for comment – Imelda Walsh stated that farmers have been using this for a while now and it acts as a massive deterrent. She stated the sooner the project rolled out the better.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart said there is a massive interest in identity markings for bikes and trailers etc.

Cllr Mark Fitzgerald stated property Marking Ireland propose a €2 fee to facilitate cost of buying signs. He stated tradesman could mark their tools and stated importance of photographing items.

He proposed JPC members be trained up – Proposed by Cllr Mark Fitzgerald seconded by Deputy Martin Browne. The Secretary will arrange this.

Pat Slattery stated there were numerous requests from individuals looking to borrow property marking machine from the Local Authority – he stated it was to

be a community led approach.

**Gun Licences** - Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated that Gun Licences for possession of Fire Arms was an issue. He said if you have a fire arm you need to keep licence up to date as its taking up members of the force time to write and call to householders asking that the licence be kept up to date if still in possession.

Deputy Martin Browne asked if there was something that could be circulated and he will use his social media to publicise the issue.

Pat Slattery questioned is it not a crime to not have renewed licence like you would your car.

Noel Coonan said it's a 3 year licence you may forget to renew.

Chief Superintendent Derek Smart stated a letter is sent in the post to engage to renew licence.

### **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for

1. 25<sup>th</sup> of September Clonmel
2. 11<sup>th</sup> of December Thurles