

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on Monday 24th October, 2022 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town

- Members Present: - Councillor Micheál Anglim, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Tony Black
Councillor Declan Burgess
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 Inspector Brendan Franklin, Tipperary Garda District
Superintendent Mark Allen, Cahir Garda District
- Officials Present: - Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Administrator
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Ms. Catriona Crowe, CLO
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer
- Apologies: - 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 25th April, 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April, 2022 were agreed.

1.2 Report from Community Liaison Officers – Tipperary County Council

Ms. Catriona Crowe, Community Liaison Officer, updated the meeting with her report for the Tipperary town/Cashel town and the Tipperary area as follows:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints from January to date
- Cashel Town – 33 complaints.

- Tipperary Town – 77 complaints
- Tipperary Area – 22 complaints.
- The complaints relate generally to low level nuisance, neighbour disputes, noise and rubbish complaints and she confirmed that 2 tenancy warning letters issued.
- 27 new tenancies since January, 2022 and 14 new houses are under construction in Bansha.
- Under the Amenity Grants - €25,550 was paid out in May
- Network meetings were held on 15th February, 17th May and 27th September and there is good interagency involvement. A joint Tipperary Network meeting is scheduled to be held on the 29th November, 2022.

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

Brendan Franklin, Tipperary Garda District, briefed the members on the details from the Tipperary Garda District and gave the following crime statistics update:

- There has been an increase in crime figures since the end of the Covid restrictions including property crime and theft. However, detection rates are favourable.
- Anti-social behaviour is down from April to October; however, they will expect an increase over Halloween.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Orders – 4 have been issued in Tipperary and they relate to one particular estate in Tipperary Town.
- There will be additional resources and additional staff over Halloween.
- Traffic Matters – Speeding is a problem in certain locations. Difficulties in traffic flow at some schools. There is a significant demand for the Road Policing Unit all over the district and it has a huge area to cover.

In relation to Cahir Garda District (which includes Cashel), Superintendent Mark Allen gave his update as follows:

- Increase in property crime, however detection rates are good.
- Theft rates static with 50% detection rates
- Increase in minor assaults with 50% detection rates. By the end of the year minor assault will be up 60%, however in 90% of the cases the person is known to the Gardai.
- Rise in public disorder and efforts to prevent public order issues in Cashel like street patrols are keeping it under control.
- Tipperary was the 2nd best in Country for compliance with Lifesaver offences.

Councillor Burgess acknowledged the work of the Gardaí in Cashel and noted that the active policing and the Garda visibility has made a significant difference to the levels of anti-social behaviour. Councillor Burgess also

congratulated Liam Corcoran and wished him well on his retirement. He also raised the issue of speeding on the Cahir Road, Cashel. Superintendent Allen advised that the Road Policing Unit covers a huge area and there has been an active presence in Cashel in the last two months. In relation to patrols the local Gardaí are responsible for dealing with and managing resources. When there is capacity there are patrols. Councillor Fitzgerald welcomed Inspector Franklin and Inspector Allen and noted that when there are more patrols it is a deterrent to crime. Councillor Fitzgerald referred to an increase in gangs stealing trailers and agricultural equipment and in particular oil. He referred to a recent theft in Golden and the items were recovered in Portlaoise. Councillor Fitzgerald noted the stolen items were marked and highlighted the importance of having farm machinery and property marked. He also highlighted the importance of keeping an eye out and the public being vigilant. He advised that people are being watched and their oil is stolen when they are out. He noted that the road structure lends itself to quick getaways back onto the motorway and more locks and lights are required. Councillor Black wished Superintendent Lee well in her new role and requested more of a presence on the approach roads due to speed. He referred to a Notice of Motion he raised at the September MD Meeting regarding speeding on the Galbally Road at Ballynilard and noted that there was a crash there last week. Councillor Hanna Hourigan welcomed the members of the Gardaí. She referred to difficulties with parents dropping children to school in the morning and given that there are a number of schools close together on the Rosanna Road it causes a bottle neck. She did acknowledge that the principles and management are there in the mornings to keep the traffic moving. She also highlighted that speeding is an issue everywhere particularly Cappawhite. She acknowledged that the Council have invested heavily in signage and noted that there are only a few culprits. She asked what is the procedure in order to get speed vans. Inspector Franklin and Superintendent Allen advised that there are very specific criteria in order to have a speed van allocated including an accident analysis has to be carried out by the RSA and a risk assessment has to be completed in order to ensure that it is safe for the vehicle to be allocated to the area. Inspector Franklin also acknowledged that there is a greater number of 'L' and 'N' plate drivers on the road now given the delays in testing due to Covid. Councillor Máirín McGrath referred to concerns she has in relation to rural crime particularly coming into the winter months. She also highlighted the importance of the property marking scheme which gives the public a sense of security and traceability. She also asked what emergency measures are in place for Halloween to ensure that everyone enjoys the weekend safely. She also advised that West Waterford and South Tipperary Youth Service have formed a new Youth Club and she advised that it would be a good opportunity for the Gardaí to interact with younger people through community policing and to encourage 12 to 17 years old to engage with the Gardaí. Councillor Roger Kennedy wanted to thank Superintendent Ciara Lee for her work in the Tipperary area and welcomed Inspector Brendan Franklin to the meeting.

He noted that rural crime has increased and there are a number of gangs moving around at night claiming to be hunting rabbits. He accepted that it is very difficult to prove that oil has been stolen and he would be advising the public to report all incidents no matter how small to build up a picture of these individuals' movements. Councillor Kennedy thanked the Gardaí for their involvement with the residents in the Respond Housing estate in Cashel. He stated that it is important that residents have confidence that issues will be dealt with and he also thanked the Gardaí for their improved visibility in Cashel. Superintendent Mark Allen stressed the importance of the Joint Policy Committee when putting plans together for the winter, including check points and over the last 8 weeks there has been an increased presence. The Crime Unit and the Road Policing Unit together with Property Marking Days which have been launched nationally and the Gardaí will do whatever and travel to pick up items recovered to ensure they are returned. He also confirmed that the Gardaí, together with the Fire Service and the County Council have a Halloween reporting plan in place similar to other years. Inspector Franklin also advised the Members that over the next week the Gardaí will be carrying out checks in relation to lifesaver offences including speeding, driving whilst intoxicated, not wearing a seatbelt and using a mobile phone whilst driving. He noted that some drivers need to be reminded and therefore there will be a number of checkpoints. He also highlighted the importance of crime reporting and statistics because this is where the majority of intelligence comes from. He also noted that Garda James O'Neill, Thurles will be carrying out a demonstration in relation to the property marking machine and he confirmed that there are two machines in Tipperary.

1.4 Review of the Intoxicating Liquor Bye Laws for the towns of Cashel, Cahir & Tipperary Town

The District Administrator advised the Members this was raised at the previous meeting and a draft is being prepared which will incorporate elements from other Bye-Laws in the County which allows for on the spot fines and confiscation of alcohol. Once a Draft has been prepared it will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána for their input.

1.5 Halloween Protocol

The District Administrator updated the Members that a Halloween protocol is being prepared which involves the Housing and Environment Section together with the Gardaí. The priority will be to remove material before it becomes a problem particularly this Halloween which is over a bank holiday weekend. Therefore, the Council should be advised of details of any stockpiles of material.

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 Monday 24th April, 2023 at 1.00 pm.

Signed:

Michael Anglim.
Cathaoirleach

Anselm Mc Gowan
District Administrator

Date:

22nd of May 2023.

