

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on Monday 25th April, 2022 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town

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

An Garda Síochána Superintendent Ciara Lee, 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. Catherine O'Connor, CLO
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer

Apologies: - Councillor Tony Black
Councillor Declan Burgess
Mr. Pat Slattery, District Director

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

1.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 26th October 2021

On the proposition of Councillor John Crosse, seconded by Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner), the minutes of the meeting held on 26th October, 2021 were agreed.

1.2 Report from Community Liaison Officers – Tipperary County Council

Ms. Catherine O'Connor, Community Liaison Officer, updated the meeting with her report for the Cahir area as follows:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints
Cahir Town - 10 complaints (against 8 households).

Cahir Area - 0 complaints

Of the 8 households, 4 are in Barnora Crescent which is a problematic area. Cahir Youth Project are operating in the area from the reopened Barona Crescent Community House. TCC is working with An Garda Síochána when problems arise.

There are 3 properties in Cahir Town assigned under the Housing First Programme and these tenancies are being managed by Focus Ireland.

- New tenants - 4 new tenancies to date
- Vacant Houses currently 17 vacant properties within the Cahir District. (7 Cahir Town /10 Cahir Area)
- Cahir Area Network Meeting held on the 8th March, 2022 and of the 15 active resident associations only 4 attended. All 15 have submitted applications for the 2022 Estate Management Amenity Grant.
- The Annual Excursion has been scheduled for 20th May.

Councillor Moloney expressed his concerns regarding the poor engagement of the Residents Association and stated that it should be a condition of their grant application. He also asked if the anti-social behaviour incidents in Barnora related to the Focus Ireland tenancies. Ms O'Connor confirmed that any anti-social behaviour issues with the Focus Ireland tenants are addressed by Focus Ireland.

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

- Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints 20/10/2021 to 24th April, 2022
Cashel Town 7 complaints
Cashel Area 0 complaints
Tipperary Town 20 complaints
Tipperary Area 8 complaints
The complaints relate generally to low level nuisance, neighbour disputes, noise and rubbish complaints.
Carrowclough Residents Association has been disbanded.
- Anti-Dumping Initiative proposal with Environment Section to provide fencing at Dundrum/Grenane Drive
- New Tenants - 10 new tenancies in Tipperary/Cashel commenced from January 2022
- Vacant Houses - currently 16 vacant properties within the Tipperary-Cashel district
- Amenity Grant applications have been received and are hoping to be paid at the end of May 2022.
- Network meetings held on 15th February 2022 and second scheduled for 17th May, 2022 – good interagency involvement.

Councillor Hanna Hourigan highlighted the need for a new Residents Association in Carrowclough and expressed concerns in relation to the number of touring caravans in the estate. Councillor Crosse acknowledged the great work in the villages and communities, however raised concerns about issues in Donohill. He advised that the gardai are aware of the issues and a resolution is important because 8 new houses are being built in the area.

Ms Crowe confirmed that Council are aware of the issues and a warning letter has been served. Councillor Hanna Hourigan also expressed her concern in relation to issues in the area. The District Administrator confirmed that the Council has an obligation to follow procedure, however no action can be taken without the incidents being reported to the Council and the Gardai to build a strong case and ensure that there is enough evidence to pursue the issue. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) referred to the procedure for issuing a warning letter to tenant, however noted that this can only happen with enough evidence.

Inspector Ciara Lee confirmed that they investigate all incidents, however without witness statements and evidence it is difficult to pursue. Councillor Fitzgerald noted that there has been a drop in the incidents of anti-social behaviour, however highlighted that duplicate complaints are not being recorded. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) asked for clarification on the Council's policy on tenants breeding cockerels for fighting. Ms Crowe confirmed that the ISPCA and the Gardai are aware of this and a tenancy warning letter has been served.

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

Superintendent Ciara Lee, Tipperary Garda District, briefed the members on the details from the Tipperary Garda District and gave the following crime statistics and update:

Crime Type	Jan to Apr 2022	YTD Change
Property Crime	53	+ 66%
Burglaries	9	+ 80%
Theft from Shop	18	+ 260%
Theft from Vehicles	5	- 29%
Criminal Damage	33	=
Assault causing harm	18	+ 30%
Public Order		- 50%

Drunkenness		+ 60%
Drugs for sale and supply	73 searches 2 offences	
Drink Driving	19 detections	

- New legalisation in December – adult caution for first offence.
- There has been 4 fatal RTCs in the area, however following investigation were all to be found to be driver error
- There have been very successful organised crime prosecutions in conjunction with CAB (Criminal Assets Bureau) relating to drugs and money laundering in the Tipperary District.
- Community Engagement has increased since Covid restrictions have lifted.
- Superintendent Lee also wanted to thank the Council for their involvement in the Commemoration of the 100 years of An Garda Síochána.

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

- There has been an upsurge in crime figures.
- Street patrols are in place which has kept public order issues in Cashel under control.
- The Gardai are continuing to engage with the Council on Waller’s Lot site in Cashel and whilst progress is slow it is working.
- There have been increases in the following crimes
 - Property crime + 53%
 - Assaults causing harm + 50%
- Superintendent Allen wanted to thank Anthony Coleman for his involvement in the very successful royal visit. He personally ensured that all the events went off without an issue. He noted that all the towns were presented really well, and that Cahir was looking exceptional well. The two consecutive visits to Cahir and Cashel were well received and they managed to mitigate all the risks.

Councillor Murphy wanted to concur with Superintendent Allen and commended the work by An Garda Síochána and the Council. Councillor Kennedy also wanted to be associated with the thanks to the Gardai and it showcased the two jewels in Tipperary’s Crown. He acknowledged the amount of great work and effort by the Gardai and the Council getting ready for the visit. In relation to Waller’s Lot, Councillor Kennedy noted that normally there would be an increase in incidents during school holidays but there was no problem during Easter. Councillor McGrath commended An

Garda Síochána and the Council on the royal visit. Councillor Fitzgerald referred to the recent event at Friarsfield, Tipperary to commemorate the death of Superintendent John Curtin who was the highest ranking member of An Garda Síochána to be murdered in the line of duty, during the 100 years of the force. He noted that it was a very emotional event and thanked them for their service to the community. Councillor Moloney stated that people shouldn't be afraid to report incidents to the Gardai because there was no point going on Tipp FM. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) asked for an update on Glen Court, Emly. Superintendent Ciara Lee confirmed that there are two families involved. Individuals have been charged, however they were not given custodial sentences and others are on bail with conditions restricting them from entering Emly.

1.3 Review of Intoxicating Liquor Byelaws for the towns of Cashel, Cahir & Tipperary Town

Anthony Coleman informed the members that new draft byelaws will be prepared and will be subject to legal advice before going on public display. The Clonmel Byelaws include provision for on the spot fines and include powers to confiscate alcohol. However, he wanted it noted that updating the byelaws may not resolve the problem. Superintendent Allen noted that Section 4 and Section 8 of the Public Order Act would have to be considered and specific offences now provide for an adult caution and fine for repeat offenders. Councillor Crosse noted that there should be an interagency approach and the current byelaws should be reviewed and strengthened. Superintendent Lee noted that the Gardai currently have powers under the Public Order Act but for repeat offenders there needs to be an interagency solution.

It was noted that the power to issue on the spot fines and confiscate alcohol will not solve the problem but move it somewhere else. It is also important to make sure that the new Byelaws do not contradict the Public Order Act which would make it difficult for the Gardai to do their job. Superintendent Lee advised councillors that any incidents of on street drinking or public order should be reported. Councillor Kennedy referred to the on-street dining last year where there were no incidents. He noted that it is important to promote tourism and the bye laws would deal with the deeper, social and personal issues of drinking. The District Administrator confirmed that the 254 licences cover areas associated with licensed premises and have a 10.00 p.m. time limit. He asked that any breaches of a licence should be brought to the attention of the Council. Councillor Fitzgerald noted that the on-street drinking is only a Tipperary town issue and seems to be a societal problem. The District Administrator noted that is important that the public feel safe and taking away the seating at Kickham Place is not the answer. The District Administrator agreed to draft new byelaws and to have a consistent approach across the three towns.

1.4 Discuss speeding issues in the District

Superintendent Allen advised the members that the traffic division is based in Cahir and there is a significant demand due to the area it covers which is from Lattin to Mullinahone. There is a particular problem at the Vee and the traffic division can't be everywhere all the time. The Gardai asked if the road could be narrowed and if rubble strips could be put on the road surface at The Vee. The District Engineer confirmed that the road surface at the Vee is in good condition and he couldn't justify spending money, however there is an ORIS application in for funding to build a wall which would reduce the widest part of the road near the carpark. Councillor Burgess and Councillor Kennedy highlighted problems with speeding at Waller's Lot Cashel and on the Dualla Road near the community school. Councillor Crosse highlighted speeding issues at schools particularly Monard, Thomastown and Knockavilla. Superintendent Lee again highlighted the need to report these issues which can be referred to the traffic unit. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) wanted to raise speeding concerns at Banaha Road. Superintendent Allen also informed the members that Irelands first Mainline Motorway Average Speed Camera Safety System commenced today on the M7 motorway in Tipperary.

1.5 Any Other Business

1.6 Fix Date for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 24th October 2022 at 2.30pm.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

District Administrator

Date:
