



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KERRY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE HELD IN KILLARNEY FIRE STATION ON FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2017.

MIONTUAIRSCÍ DE CHRUINNIÚ CHOMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I IONAD STÁISIÚN DÓITEÁIN CHILL AIRNE, DE hAOINE AN 20 LA MÍ DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2017.

PRESENT / I LÁTHAIR

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Cllr. P. Daly | Cllr. J. Moloney |
| Cllr. S. Locke | Cllr. D. O'Grady |
| Cllr. J.J. Culloty | Cllr. D. Quigg |
| Cllr. M. Cahill | Cllr. P. Connor-Scarreen |
| Cllr. N. Kelleher | Senator Paul Coghlan |

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Operations Capital Infrastructure & Safety, Kerry County Council,

Mr. B. Looney, Head of I.S. / JPC Administrator

Mr. Owen O'Shea, Press Officer

Chief Superintendent T. Myers, An Garda Síochána – Kerry Division

Superintendent D. Keane – Listowel District

Superintendent F. Murphy, Killarney District

Inspector A. Sugrue, Traffic Corp

Inspector D. Ashe,

Mr. D. Hennebry, Jigsaw Kerry/Young People

Mr. B. Morrell, PPN

APOLOGIES/ LEITHSCÉAL Ó

Cllr. J.F. Flynn

Mr. J. Breen, Dir. of Sustainable Communities/Quality of Life, Kerry County Council

Ms. C. O'Leary, Ballyspillane FRC

Mr. S. Roche, PPN

Mr. S. Quinlan, PPN

The meeting commenced at 2.15p.m.

1. MINUTES OF JPC MEETING 26th MAY 2017 & MATTERS ARISING

On the proposal of Cllr J. Moloney, seconded by Cllr. D. Quigg, the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th May were adopted.

Cllr. D. Quigg and Cllr. M. Cahill commended the Gardaí on the reduction of anti-social behavior in Killorglin. Chief Superintendent T. Myers welcomed the comments regarding same.

2. REPORT OF YEAR-TO-DATE CRIME DATA IN KERRY 2017 – CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MYERS



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Chief Superintendent Myers introduced the Garda Management Team present stating that Inspector D. Nash was attending on behalf of Superintendent J. O'Connor. He commenced his report stating that statistics would be comparing 2016 and 2017 up until the 31st August in each year. He remarked that overall Crimes Against the Person was up 5% from 373 to 391, Property Crime had risen by 15% from 734 to 847, Drugs & Offensive Weapons crime had increased by 43% from 318 to 454 and Criminal Damage & Public Order had increased by 1% in the period from 1094 to 1107.

Property Crime

Burglary

He outlined that Aggravated burglary had increased by 25% from 4 to 5 offences. In relation to non aggravated burglary he expressed An Garda Síochána's disappointment at the significant increase of 63% in the period which was very concerning. He added that An Garda Síochána take this crime very seriously and has liaised with Garda Divisions in other counties resulting in a lot of time, energy and commitment being focused on tackling these travelling criminal gangs. He stated that Kerry had suffered greatly with the recent spate of burglaries and he confirmed that crime statistics released today show that this offence is on the decrease.

Theft of Vehicle/Theft from Vehicle

Chief Superintendent Myers pointed out that crime statistics showed that theft from vehicles had risen by 3% from 78 to 80 in the period despite the increased efforts of An Garda Síochána to spread the message to not leave valuables in vehicles. He stated that theft of remained consistent.

Thefts

Theft from Shop/Theft of other property

In relation to thefts from shops he confirmed that these figures had risen significantly from 284 to 334 an increase of 18% and he welcomed the 9% decrease in theft of other property from 160 to 145.

Crimes Against the Person

Murder & Murder Threats

Chief Superintendent Myers outlined that there was 1 murder in the time period for 2017 and that murder threats had risen by 133% from 3 to 7 and this is viewed very seriously by An Garda Síochána.

Assaults Causing Harm/Minor Assault

He pointed out that assaults causing harm had seen a significant jump from 70 to 86 offences an increase of 23% while minor assaults had decreased by 2% from 209 to 204 in the period.

Criminal Damage & Public Order

Chief Superintendent Myers commented that arson had increased by 63% from 8 to 13 offences and this was very worrying, he welcomed the decrease in criminal damage (non arson) from 203 to 189 a decrease of 7%.



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He confirmed that public order offences figures were still extremely high and had increased still by 4% from 525 to 547 in the period. Drunkenness offences remained static though were still high at 358.

Drugs & Offensive Weapons

Drugs

He stated that the possession of drugs for sale or supply was up by 71% from 42 to 72 and this was a significant increase. He added that An Garda Síochána are keen to intercept drug dealers in the county and the high figures reflect the high detection rates. In reference to the possession of drugs for personal use this figure had also increased by 43% from 229 to 328 in the period.

Possession of offensive weapon

He welcomed the positive statistics for this offence which only increased slightly from 23 to 24.

Traffic

Traffic Collisions - Fatal

Chief Superintendent Myers confirmed that 2 fatal vehicle and 2 fatal cycling accidents had occurred in the period. In relation to serious injury collisions he welcomed the significant decrease in figures from 18 to 8 a drop of 56%.

Intoxicated while driving

Driving under the influence of drugs/ Driving under the influence of drink

He noted that despite continued efforts that the figures for driving while under the influence of alcohol and under the influence of drugs were still high and assured the public that new procedures were in place to tackle this crime.

Drink Driving Gender breakdown by Age for 2017 YTD

He referred to the breakdown and graphs which outlined that 21-30 year olds account now account for 52% of offences.

He outlined:

52.4% of fatalities occur on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday

1/5 of which occur between 4pm and 6pm

64% of all drivers have a positive toxicology for intoxicants primarily alcohol

Targeted operations to take place – 4 Saturdays during month of July and 3 Saturdays in August.

Chief Superintendent Myers concluded by stating that intelligence gathering, strategic checkpoints, targeting specific offenders and repeat offenders are ongoing by An Garda Síochána, however bail curfews and bail custody issues were still an issue. He reassured the public that increased efforts would be made to reduce crime and in particular rural burglaries and he stated that significant arrests in Kildare and Dublin this year will help tackle this crime.

Cllr. M. Cahill called for more CCTV's in towns, villages and strategic locations due to the increased burglaries. He welcomed the efforts of An Garda Síochána in relation to tackling crime adding that drug issues were a huge problem in the County. He asked for an update on the James Cahillane case.



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Chief Superintendent Myers welcomed comments and reiterated the use of Garda confidential numbers for reporting of crimes and that An Garda Síochána are not afraid to use their powers. He stated that the James Cahillane case was ongoing and investigation is continuing.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated that the increase in burglaries was very worrying and sought more clarification on same. He stated that the text alert scheme needed to be utilised more by An Garda Síochána as they are a great benefit to all. He referred to the significant increases in assaults and queried about hot spots for drug offences. He also asked for clarity on drink driving limits.

Chief Superintendent clarified that 91 burglaries were recorded in Killarney District, 43 in Listowel District and 85 in Tralee District. He stressed the importance of the text alert going out as quickly as possible. He stated that alcohol was a factor in public order offences.

Cllr. S. Locke raised the question if the vehicles of offenders caught under the influence of drugs/drink could be confiscated for a limited period to deter repeat offending. He complimented the Gardaí on the increased volume of drug confiscation and stated that new legislation was needed.

Chief Superintendent commented that there is no legislation to confiscating vehicles in relation to drug offences.

Cllr. P. Daly in referring to collisions asked if they included single vehicle accidents? He asked how does Kerry compare to other similar regions in relation to drug offences. He asked for clarification between aggravated and non aggravated burglary. He encouraged the reporting of crime stating that the public should not live in fear. He queried how many of the heroin figures related to supply? He thanked An Garda Síochána for the work they are doing.

Chief Superintendent Myers stated that figures related to serious injury traffic accidents and that County Kerry is favourable in comparison to other counties for drug offences. He clarified that aggravated burglar/trespasser who enters a premises with intent, are in possession of a weapon and are a threat to another person(s). In relation to heroin figures, he stated he would have these for the next meeting adding that there had been one significant seizure of heroin in Tralee earlier this year.

Cllr. P. Connor- Scarteen commended Gardaí and the emergency services on the great work done during storm Ophelia. He asked would any of the new Garda recruits from Templemore be assigned to Kerry and if so where would they be allocated?

Chief Superintendent Myers welcomed comments. He stated that a total of 12 recruits had been assigned so far with the option of 6 more in December. He stated circa 4 retirements had taken place



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Cllr. D. O'Grady referred to increased burglaries and damage to cars and the need for more Gardaí in Killarney and surrounding areas to combat increasing crime trends. He welcomed the increased breathalysing tests and echoed the message from An Garda Síochána that drink driving will not be tolerated. He commended the Gardaí on drug detection figures.

Chief Superintendent Myers agreed that the damage to cars in Killarney was significant and referred to the positive reports coming from the victims office in Castleisland Garda Station. He welcomed all comments and encouraged again the reporting of crime.

Cllr. J. Moloney raised the issues of drug crime and continued mobile phone usage.

Chief Superintendent Myers welcomed comments and again encourage public to use Garda confidential numbers to report crime.

B. Morrell congratulated An Garda Síochána on job well done and stated encouraged public to report crime and to use the confidential phone numbers for same. He stated that mobile phone usage while driving was still on the increase and this was very worrying.

Cllr. D. Quigg stated that a strong message needed to be sent to the Court Services that regarding the leniency of sentences adding that tougher sentences were needed. He commended the Gardaí on dealing with the anti social behavior issues in Killorglin.

Chief Superintendent stated that An Garda Síochána cannot comment on the Court Services.

Senator P. Coghlan echoed the sentiments of previous speakers in commending the Gardaí on doing a great job with limited resources. He sought clarity on funding for CCTV and update on Garda recruits.

Chief Superintendent confirmed that the Community Garda has been reinstated and that 7 new recruits were being assigned to the Traffic Corp. He stated that events had been well policed during the Summer and he commended his staff for a job well done. He added that a lot of work was yet to be done but that overall a good job was being done.

C. O'Sullivan informed the meeting that CCTV funding was currently available via the Department of Justice.

Cllr. N. Kelleher acknowledged that the majority of crime figures had increased, especially burglary. He commended the work of An Garda Síochána on the ground and noted that increased drug figures reflected increased detections. He agreed that drink driving message is not getting through to the public and he called for more Garda resources for Killarney. He stated that he was working in conjunction with Superintendent F. Murphy in relation to the CCTV application for Killarney. He confirmed that nationally 5 applications had been received and 3 of those were from Kerry. He reiterated the Local Authority's commitment to the CCTV scheme stating the merits were obvious.

Cllr. P. Daly highlighted Tralee Town centre concerned regarding alot those on the Courts list are



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homeless people from other parts of the County and this raises the question are other areas not dealing with the homeless issue. Chief Superintendent Myers replied that An Garda Síochána are addressing this situation.

Cllr. D. Quigg as to whether Killorglin is included in the CCTV application and raised the issue of funding these cameras going forward. Cllr. N. Kelleher agreed regarding funding and outlined that the funding from the Department of Justice refers to new schemes only and not the upgrading of schemes to which Cllr. D. Quigg is referring. He added that the JPC is to address this issue with the Department.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr. P. Daly asked who has access to the PULSE system? Chief Superintendent stated that Sgt. Fleming will reply to this query in writing.

4. STORM OPHELIA REPORT – Charlie O’Sullivan - KCC

C. O'Sullivan updated the meeting about the processes that were put into place to deal with Ex Hurricane explaining that once the Red Alert was issued which indicated "take action" Kerry County Council's Severe Weather Co-ordination Team were called together and met several times throughout the weekend. A co-ordinated response from all agencies and services in the region and An Garda Síochána. He stated that priorities were established early on to with the protection of life being paramount. Advice was issued for the public not to go out in the storm and to close schools and businesses were asked to consider taking measures to protect business and property. Sand bags were delivered where necessary and housing schemes and contractors were advised to secure sites. The team liaised with the PPN to distribute this message to the public and an emergency contact number was in place in Kerry County Council. He concluded that there were no fatalities or injuries in the County and that the ESB restored power as soon as possible. He thanked all involved for a job well done and to Owen O'Shea, the media and the Councillors for getting the message out to the public.

In relation to the upcoming orange weather alert for wind and yellow alert for rain C. O'Sullivan advised that the situation was being monitored and asked the public to be cautious and take precautions around coastlines due to risk of damage still there from previous storm. He advised cyclist and pedestrians to stay off the road.

Chief Superintendent complimented C.O'Sullivan and Chief Executive Moira Murrell for their professionalism and thanked the vast majority of people of Kerry for listening to warning and keeping safe.

All Councillors thanked the Kerry County Council and the co-ordination team for a job well done and for keeping the citizens of Kerry safe. They complimented the Owen O'Shea and the media for keeping them up to date with the situation. The issue of damaged trees particularly those near power lines were discussed and who was responsible for same. C.O'Sullivan replied that the responsibility of maintenance and upkeep of trees is with the landowner. He added that there are provisions in the Roads Act if trees pose a danger to road users. He added that it is hoped that an inspection of national routes and key routes and has contacted Irish Parks and Wildlife and landowners to check trees for storm damage and ensure they are safe. He asked public to contact



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Kerry County Council about problematic trees and will investigate same.

The issue of people who didn't heed warnings was also discussed and the fact that the emergency services were put at risk due to their irresponsible behaviour. C.O'Sullivan also condemned this behaviour which put others at risk. He commended the strong links with the PPN stating that the work of Bill Morrell and Siobhan Griffin in the community made the job of the co-ordination team much easier.

5. ROAD SAFETY PRESENTATION – Inspector Tony Sugrue, Traffic Division

Inspector T. Sugrue informed the meeting that 10 extra Gardaí were assigned for Ex Hurricane Ophelia and 15 mobile units were available throughout the County to assist with calls. He stated that the Army was on call to clear the roads and he thanked them for their assistance.

He stated that road traffic statistic show that the message regarding driving while drinking is not getting out to the public despite huge media effort. He added that the main offenders are those in the under 50 year old bracket. He stated that serious crime had decreased due to increased Enforcement. He referred to increased mobile phone use while driving stating that this crime will be targeted. He referred to Operation Shutdown being in effect for County from today. He stated that there was an increase of 15% on intercepts crime for same period last year. He added that An Garda Síochána have the power to seize the vehicles of those driving under the influence or having no tax and insurance. He commented that enforcement was strong throughout the County and checkpoint numbers had increased by 37%. He stated that the bulk of detections in urban areas despite the availability of taxis etc.

C. O'Sullivan referred to Kerry County Council's Road Safety Campaign and outlined the 4 E's: Engineering, Evaluation, Education Enforcement.

He referred to the :

- road safety campaigns like Stayin Alive 1.5 and liaising with major cycle events regarding road safety advice
- Promotion of lights on bikes/visibility
- Be winter ready campaign
- Practical advice to protect property and personal safety
- Promoting safety at school in September
- in conjunction with RSA checking fitting of car seats
- Adult School warden service and warden training
- Axa Road Safety in Killarney on 21st November and encouraged all to attend
- Need to target youth regarding road safety and wearing of high vis vests

Councillors concurred with road safety message stating that enforcement of same was vital and encouraged the wearing of high vis vests and the use of lights on bikes and correct fitting of child car seats.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUB-COMMITTEE WORK AND ACTION PLAN

B. Looney updated the meeting on the work and actions from the 4 sub committees



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JPC Crime Prevention and Response Updates:

Met on Thursday 19th October at 9a.m.

Key Matters and Actions arising:

CCTV Actions:

- 1) Write to Minister requesting a reduction in the bureaucracy and duplication between the Department CCTV application process and the Gardaí CCTV Authorisation process.
- 2) Request that the Minister consider grant funding CCTV scheme design and application development of the order of 80% to encourage community group participation in the scheme.
- 3) Request that the Minister engage the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) to have procurement frameworks established, which will facilitate pricing and purchasing of CCTV equipment and related services for public bodies and community groups.
- 4) Request that the Minister permit applications for scheme expansion or replacement from communities and/or public bodies which already have legacy Community CCTV equipment – who are currently precluded from the funding scheme despite the fact that their equipment may have been installed 10 years ago.
- 5) Propose to provide a presentation or host workshops with communities at the next Crime Prevention meetings in each Garda District on how to get C-CCTV funded and established.

Text Alert:

- 1) Recommendation that Garda management ensure processes are in place which maximise the use of Text Alerts when incidents occur in communities which are on such schemes, in a timely manner.
- 2) Update: Muintir na Tire are at an advanced stage in the development of a Cairde App for smartphones which will augment the Text Alert schemes to avail of current technology.

General Crime Prevention:

The sub-group recommends that all householders, farmers and small business holdings in the County maintain a **Property Log Book**.

Log Books are invaluable in aiding the return of recovered stolen property to their rightful owners.

Pre-printed Log Books can be obtained from Muintir na Tire by any community groups (and used in their fund raising).



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JPC Crime Data Information sub committee meeting

Met on Wednesday 18th October at 9a.m.

Key Matters and Actions arising:

1. Progress reported on pilot mapping crime data (Burglaries)
Policing Authority were interested in this development.
2017 and 2016 burglary data will be mapped for next JPC and Annual report
2. From the chief superintendent's report & data - key message to public regarding increased Burglaries and Drug offences as well as road safety messages.
3. Recommend targeting 18-30 year olds in social media campaign to tackle drink driving, outline ramifications, work with other JPC's, - engage with RSA and seek funding.
4. Dates and times for briefings to Councillors at MD meetings were agreed
5. Ideas invited for JP website – links to relevant external sites, promotion of crime prevention material, property log book, Winter readiness information etc. Site to be launched at next JPC meeting.



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JPC Road Safety sub committee meeting

Met on Wednesday 18th October at 10a.m.

Key Matters & Actions arising:

1. Agreement to engage with major cycling events now for 2018 in relation to road safety / training.
2. Referred item – from Crime Data & Information S/C: Michelle to liaise with RSA regarding targeting 16-30 year olds for drink driving campaign (social media)
3. Issue regarding overloaded vehicles needs to be addressed, GS asking Cllrs to pass on complaints and will work with RSA to combat these
4. A number of information sharing initiatives were agreed to be advanced.

Agreed that KCC speed surveys and data from speed displays will be sent to AGS who will targeted operations at high incident areas.

Likewise AGS will obtain survey data from GoSafe operators to feed back aggregate speed data to Roads section.

5. In relation to vulnerable road users, KCC request breakdown of AGS “serious injury” figures
6. AGS request that JPC highlight the number of road works/traffic lights on national routes by contractors & AGS request that previously agreed Policy that any road works planned on national routes to contact local gardaí, complete documentation and submit traffic management plans.
7. County Road Safety Plan - agreed to receive an updated report at next meeting
8. List of campaign/ training for Roads
 - National Road Safety Campaign list
 - Media campaign list
 - Reflective vest/high vis circulation

AGS wish to advise public and JPC of the Axa Road Show event on Nov 21st INEC 10am

Digital Signage – requests for funding for national roads item to be follow up by D Doyle and TII

“Killarney outer” CCTV application included usage and data collection for road traffic management.



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JPC Community Cohesion sub committee meeting

No meeting since May 2017 – awaiting re-scheduling

Key Matters & Actions advanced in the period:

- Request for JPC engagement with Immigrants re. crime & safety issues
- Local Policing Fora

These will be establish at the following locations based on member recommendations:

- o Ballyspillane, Killarney District
- o Ballyduff, Listowel District
- o Rath Oraig / Rathass, Tralee District

The terms of reference have to be established first.

Membership will include Local Garda Mgt, Municipal District Officers of the Council, Elected Representatives, Community Representatives.

Cllr. N. Kelleher and all Councillors thanked B. Looney for his report and highlighted the importance of text alert and CCTV for the County.

B. Morrell referred asked the public to take photos of items with serial numbers as a record if ever they get stolen.

Cllr. D. Quigg highlighted the issue of the running costs and maintenance of CCTV cameras and called on the Department of Justice for more funding assistance for same. Cllr. S. Locke concurred.

7. CONFIRMATION OF DATES OF NEXT SUB COMMITTEE AND JPC MEETINGS

Dates for next sub committee meetings: 14/15 Dec

Date for next JPC meeting: 12th January in Killorglin.

A.O.B.

Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen queried the number of JPC sub committee meetings held and the necessity of same. Cllr. N. Kelleher outlined the process and membership of all committees stating that the Executive Committee will review all. He added that reports show that work is being done by the sub committees which is beneficial to the public.

Meeting concluded at 4.25p.m.