



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí
County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KERRY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 4TH APRIL 2016.

MIONTUAIRSCÍ NA CRUINNITHE DE COMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ AR AN LUAN 4 AIBHREÁN 2016.

PRESENT / I LÁTHAIR

Cllr. G. Spring	Cllr. S. Locke
Cllr. P. Daly	Cllr. J. Moloney
Cllr. D. Grady	Cllr. N. Kelleher
Cllr. M. Cahill	Cllr. J. Sheahan
Cllr. J.F. Flynn	Cllr. J.J. Culloty
Cllr. B. Cronin	Cllr. D. Nolan
Cllr. D. Quigg	Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen
Senator M. Moloney	

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive, Kerry County Council
Mr. J. Breen, Dir. of Sustainable Communities/Quality of Life, Kerry County Council
Mr. B. Looney, Head of I.S. / Section Head Community Services & Engagement
Mr. D. Sheahan, Chief Superintendent, An Garda Síochána – Kerry Division
Ms. C. O’Leary, Public Participation Network
Mr. S. Roche, Public Participation Network
Mr. D. Hennebry, Jigsaw Kerry/Young People
Mr. M. Culloty Killarney Chamber of Commerce/Business Community

The meeting commenced at 2.40 pm.

Cllr N. Kelleher opened the meeting and apologised that there hadn’t been a Kerry JPC meeting in January 2016 as planned, as Chief Superintendent Pat Sullivan was unavailable prior to his retirement.

Cllr. Kelleher welcomes Chief Superintendent David Sheahan to the meeting and asked each person present to introduce themselves to the meeting and they proceeded to do so. He also acknowledged the retirement of Chief Superintendent Pat Sullivan who had served the area very well and who was always open to discuss matters and he wished him well on his retirement.

1. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING FROM INAUGURAL MEETING 11TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Cllr. D. Quigg asked that the Minutes be amended in reference to the location of anti-social behaviour in Killorglin stating that it was in the Square and not the KDYS building. This was noted.



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



2. PRESENTATION BY CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SHEAHAN (COVERING CRIME IN KERRY UPDATE)

Cllr. Kelleher introduced Chief Superintendent David Sheahan and he proceeded with his presentation. He began with a crime overview comparing 2015 v 2014 outlining the 4 main sections in the statistics:

- I. **Property Crime,**
- II. **Crime Against the Person,**
- III. **Criminal Damage & Public Order and**
- IV. **Drugs & Offensive Weapons.**

I) Property Crime

In relation to the Property Crime he stated that burglaries had increased from 362 in 2014 to 386 in 2015 but that the first quarter in 2016 showed that this trend was decreasing due to the introduction of operation THOR.

He stated that Aggravated Burglary had also increased between 2014 and 2015 and that the fear of crime was very much evident in the community.

In reference to Theft of Vehicle/Theft from Vehicle he stated that both statistics had increased on 2014 figures adding that statistics showed a decrease so far in 2016. He stated that approx.50% of thefts were thefts of vehicle and that thefts from vehicle were down by approx. 37% due to criminals being in custody.

In relation to Theft from Shop/Other he stated that there was a rise in Thefts from Shop in 2015 and there was a decrease in other thefts such as theft from oil tanks/cash/jewellery etc in 2015.

Overall in first quarter in 2016 Thefts from Shop were down by approx. 26% and this was mainly due to this crime being more seasonal during the Summer period. He stated that Theft from Other was down approx. 30% so far in 2016.

II) Crime Against the Person

Chief Superintendent Sheahan referred to the fact that there were no murders in Kerry in 2014 and that 1 murder occurred in 2015. In relation to Murder Threats this figure of 8 was the same in 2014 and 2015. He added that threats were monitored closely and risk assessed. In reference to Assaults he confirmed that both Assaults Causing Harm and Minor Assaults had increased in 2015 and this was due to the night time economy.

III) Criminal Damage & Public

He confirmed that Criminal Damage had also increased in 2015 from 364 to 389 and Arson increasing by 1 to 20 in 2015. He stated that Public Order Offences (which includes Drunkenness) also saw an increase in 2015.

IV) Drugs & Offensive Weapons

In relation Drug Offences Chief Superintendent Sheahan differentiated between Section 3 Detection, ie. possession of drugs for own personal use and Section 15 Detections ie. drugs the Gardaí suspect are being used for supply. He confirmed that both Section 3 & 13 are down slightly for 2015. He confirmed that statistics showed that possession of offensive weapons had decreased in 2015 from 56 to 41.



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



Traffic

He stated that a Garda Liaison Officer had been appointed to families that were dealing with traffic fatalities and that this has helped immensely and that overall traffic fatalities figures had decreased from 13 to 8 in 2015 while serious injury collisions had remained the same at 17. In regard to persons driving while intoxicated the statistics had increased from 271 in 2014 to 297 in 2015 and this was still on the increase for 2016. He added that the use of mobile phones is a significant factor in road traffic incidents.

Community Engagement

Chief Superintendent Sheahan listed 5 main elements that were beneficial to Community Engagement:

- 1) 20 Mountain biked Gardaí in Kerry
- 2) Training provided for 60 members
- 3) Neighbourhood Watch & Community Alert meeting
- 4) 23 Garda Reserves working in area
- 5) National Anti-Racism Day

Community Safety Strategy

He emphasised the importance of this strategy and stressed the benefits of a co-ordinated approach to reducing crime. He added that the fear of crime (aggravated burglary) was the most difficult one to address. He explained that anti-social behaviour has different definitions to different sections of the public.

Safer Communities

Chief Superintendent Sheahan stated that the Kerry JPC was an ideal forum to discuss this matter. He said it was important that Community Safety Audits be carried out to build area profiles and to empower the Gardaí.

He concluded by saying that there was a lot of negative press in the public domain and that it was difficult to highlight positive news in the media or public domain.

Cllr N. Kelleher queried what were the average regional statistics so as to ascertain where Kerry figures in the ranking and he then invited comments from the floor.

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated that decrease in thefts from cars has decreased in Limerick city due to initiatives but this is not as prevalent in Kerry.

Cllr N. Kelleher confirmed that Superintendent Sheahan had agreed that districts will meet regularly to deal with local issues and that this is not the remit of the Joint Policing Committee.

Cllr. P. Daly stated that it was a very good presentation and that the statistics were very encouraging. He queried were there going to be more road traffic checkpoints?

Cllr. D. Grady welcomed Superintendent Sheahan stating that he was disappointed that a Kerry person had not been assigned the position. He stated that overall the number of Gardaí in Kerry were down and it showed stating that there were huge problems in Killarney and South Kerry due to



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



the size of the area. He stated that between 16/18 Gardaí were down in the area since 2010 and that included 4 Sergeants. He said there was a huge drug problem in Killarney and no resources and that if no staff was available for the Drug Squad that it was unmanned. He continued that the Community had to help themselves with Neighbourhood Watch and Alerts in place. He added that the lack of Gardaí was a very important issue. He wish the Chief Superintendent well and thanked him for his presentation.

Senator M. Moloney welcomed Chief Superintendent Sheahan. She stated that the statistics didn't show prosecutions made or court days for offences. She stated that it was great that crime had decreased overall and queried were there firearms in offensive weapons? She also stated that statistics were not shown for drivers under the influence of drugs and querying were there any new Garda recruits for Kerry? She commented that the Alert texting was working very well but stated that training was needed for the usage of this service.

S. Roche welcomed the Chief Superintendent and queried how long will THOR be in operation saying that the operation has reduced crime. He stated that the Rally of the Lakes would be taking place in next few weeks and that more Gardaí would be needed for this.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn welcomed the Chief Superintendent stating it was a great presentation. He commented that burglary crime has been increasing and this is worrying due to the lack of resources. He stated that Garda Stations have closed and a Garda presence should be seen in areas 1/2 days a week. He stated that crime should be stopped at a young age by doing presentations to schoolchildren. He referred to a motion that was passed at the December meeting which stated that any person with 3+ convictions shouldn't qualify for Free Legal Aid and he asked the Chief Superintendent about this. In relation to the Rally of the Lakes he stated that resources were needed as well as a designated place to hold events and suggested that the Chief Superintendent meet with the "boy racers".

Cllr. M Cahill welcomed the Chief Superintendent and thanked his predecessor Pat Sullivan and wished him well in his retirement. He stated that there was a lot of break ins and burglaries in the Caherciveen area from repeat offenders. He stated that the high level of traffic fatalities in the area was due to the dangerous stretches of roads in the area. He welcomed the Community Safety Strategy and the text alert was very helpful and should be introduced to other areas. He commented that a speed limit review needed to take place to reduce/decrease limits in certain areas especially near Glenbeigh School. He agreed that "boy racer" fatalities need to be addressed. He stated that new Garda weren't being recruited due to pay and that current Gardaí are availing of early retirement due also to pay issues.

Cllr. D. Nolan thanked Chief Superintendent Sheahan for his presentation and welcomed him to Kerry. She stated that the graphs were very useful and queried the age profile of drink drivers and the burglary statistics and queried what the statistics were per area/town? She queried had there been an increase of crime in rural areas?

Cllr. J Sheahan welcomed Chief Superintendent Sheahan and thanked him for his presentation. He was disappointed to see that break in's and burglaries were on the increase. He said that Neighbourhood Watch was working well and is a deterrent but more burglar alarms were needed. He stated that drink drivers and speeding were on the increase. He continued by saying that the role of the Community Garda had been very effective but this had been removed with cutbacks. The



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



Community Garda had achieved lasting results and should be reinstated and reinstated as full time Community Garda not with additional duties. He referred to the fact that the elderly were being targeted by youths.

Cllr G. Spring welcomed Chief Superintendent Sheahan and sought clarification on the 106 on the spot fines for mobile phone use and said this needed to be addressed in the KERRY JPC. He disagreed with Cllr. J.F. Flynn in relation to the “boy racers” having a designated place for their events and that County Kerry and County Donegal needed to be compared for fatality rates in this sport.

Cllr. S. Locke welcomed Chief Superintendent Sheahan. He referred to the Safety Audit for Communities stating there were a lot of initiatives in the Community e.g. CCTV cameras were in place but they needed to be maintained and he queried could the Department of Justice fund this? He also stated that there was an issue in relation to the viewing of the CCTV cameras and they need to be manned on a 24 hour basis by Gardaí or other person. In relation to the “boy racers” he asked if it were possible to introduce system that was in Northern Ireland i.e. that if vehicle is not road worthy that it’s crushed immediately. He agreed that there should be a designated area for the events as the roads were destroyed.

Cllr D. Quigg welcomed the Chief Superintendent and thanked him for his positive words but stressed the need to address local matters.

Cllr. B. Cronin welcomed Chief Superintendent. He stated that the Community Alerts were working very well and benefited the Community immensely as they are the eyes and ears of the Community. He stated that mobile phone use was rampant. In relation to the “boy racers” he asked what powers do the Gardaí have to contain this? He stated that crossroads and junctions were very popular locations for these events and the cost to have these areas repainted as well as the health and safety aspect needs to be dealt with. He stated that grant aid and tax incentives for security systems needs to be addressed. He referred to the decrease in the morale of the Gardaí due to the increasing number of early retirements in the force which has resulted in the staff being overstretched. He asked what the morale on the ground was like?

Cllr. J.J. Culloty welcomed Chief Superintendent and welcomed his presentation. He also stated that the morale in the force was very low and that cutbacks are obvious. He stated that text alerts were very important, inexpensive and easy to use and beneficial to rural Kerry. He welcomed local forum meetings. In relation to the “boy racers” he agreed that they needed a designated area for their events as while they are on the public roads they are intimidating young drivers.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed Chief Superintendent and stated that his predecessor had done a great job. He stated that now Templemore has reopened that extra Gardaí were needed for the County. Kerry was a big area and needed extra resources. He queried what could Kerry JPC and KCC do to assist the communities in installing CCTV especially in the Beara Peninsula. He stated that the usage of mobile phones while driving was getting worse and worse and that hand free kits were needed for commercial vehicles. He stated that the Municipal Districts meetings needed extra resources as the areas were very big and resources were needed for drug prevention on vast coastline. He also stated that KCC’s mobility grants could be used to fund security lights and alarms for needy areas.



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



C. O'Leary thanked the Chief Superintendent for his comprehensive report and stressed the value of the Community Garda and that this role enhanced the quality of life of the community and was a good use of funds. She stated that the Gardaí were now under resourced and the rural area needs them.

In reply to the above Chief Superintendent stated that he has been in the current role about 6 weeks. He stated that Kerry had one of the lowest crime rates. In reference to "boy racers" he confirmed that the message was out on the roads that the chances of being caught messing in Kerry were very high and that the Gardaí were visible on the roads now in the lead up to the Rally of the Lakes. He stated that people have been apprehended and their vehicles taken due to unsafe behaviour at these events. He confirmed that he would look into the idea of housing the event in certain areas.

In relation to prosecutions for 2016 he outlined that in regard to burglaries in the County that 44 occurred in the County overall with 15 in Killarney, 10 in Tralee and the detection rate was 37%.

In reference to Theft from Shop that the statistics showed 85% for Kerry whereas the region which included Cork and Limerick is 78% and stating that overall the detection rates for crimes had increased in Kerry.

He confirmed that the number of recruits for Kerry had reduced over the years and that more Gardaí were needed for the future and confirmed that Kerry was earmarked for extra Gardaí.

In reply to the query in relation to figures for driving while under the influence of drugs he stated that he didn't have the figures with him but they were small. He confirmed that operation THOR is going to continue.

He stated that queries in relation to free legal aid were outside of his remit.

He stated that he found morale in Kerry to be good and stated that the issue of low salaries was a matter for the Government and the GRA. He agreed that the role of the Community Garda is very important and he is looking into numbers for the Killarney.

In reply to Chief Superintendent Sheahan Cllr. D. O'Grady welcomed the Community Garda role in Killarney and especially for South Kerry.

In reply to the discussion about "boy racers" Cllr. J.F. Flynn stated that he was not a car enthusiast himself but saw the need for the a group decision to be made to address this issue and to meet with the organisers of these events to examine what facilities are needed.

3. CONSIDERATION & ADOPTION OF THE KERRY JPC SIX YEAR STRATEGY AND 4. CONSIDERATION & ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL PLAN

B. Looney took items 3 & 4 together and commenced by stating that the Kerry JPC Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2020 has 5 strategic themes:

- A. *Enhance governance structures and dialogue between stakeholders to understand the cause of anti-social behaviour crime, prevent crime, improve crime detections and prosecutions and contribute to improvements to the Quality of Life of the citizens of Kerry.*
- B. *Developing & understanding crime in the county and its relationship with other economic and social activities.*



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



C. *Enhancing the Community role in crime prevention and response.*

D. *Making our roads safer for all users.*

E. *Improving community cohesion and reducing anti-social activities.*

These themes which form the basis for the Objectives in the Plan and these Objectives took account of the **4** following items:

- a. JPC Guidelines
- b. The draft Kerry Local Economic & Community Plan
- c. An Garda Síochána Community Policing model
- d. Areas of interest above as discussed by JPC members in their inaugural meeting

B. Looney went through the 6 Year Strategy and the Annual Plan stating that in the preparation of the plan, An Garda Síochána were conscious that there would be drivers of **economic development** and that the Garda management were conscious of this due to Community Policing.

Enhancing governance and dialogue between stakeholders : B. Looney confirmed that all high priority actions of establishing a steering group, establishing sub-committees, devise a 6 year strategy and prepare, review and submit Annual JPC Plans were being addressed by the work at hand. Other priorities include developing a Communications Strategy and a Kerry Community Safety Strategy and that activity with Community groups and civic fora will have to be measured once meetings with the Municipal Districts take place.

Developing & understanding crime in the county: He explained that the high priority here was to identify a sample data set e.g. focus on burglaries and see better way to report this data. He stated that quality crime data is required and that the mapping of crime hotspots would be more effective than AIRO map based system currently used. The use of hotspots with other spatial data (economic data, social deprivation indices, etc). might point out cause and effect for joint agency approaches and also hotspots might aid the prioritisation of schemes like text alert and/or CCTV.

Enhancing the Community role in crime prevention and response: The high priority here related to reviewing CCTV initiatives stating that the JPC will undertake the review and ascertain what is in place and is it successful? In relation to the review of Community Text Alerts and other Community schemes he stated that the PPN Network would be used and the best scheme for community would be put in place. Other priorities include developing relationships between community groups / retail business groups and Community Gardaí resources. B. Looney added that the emphasis is on what works effectively in reducing and preventing crime and improving relations with the Gardaí.

Making our roads safer for all users: He explained that the high priority here is reviewing traffic enforcement data and accident data together and that an Annual Road Safety Plan needs to be produced. Other priorities include developing an Annual Action Plan to promote road safety. B. Looney added that it will be the JPC's role to identify areas to address for road safety.

Improving community cohesion and reducing anti-social activities: Priority here would be to



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



analyse regional drug prevention programmes and drug crime data on the ground and make recommendations on policy areas to Regional Drug Taskforce and responsible agencies. A second action would be to assess town centre safety issues and data relating to night time activity as Kerry is a tourism county and tourism is an economic driver for Kerry. Lastly the data and issues in relation to the control of dogs needs to be looked at.

Cllr. N. Kelleher thanked B. Looney for his reports.

Both the Kerry JPC six year strategy and Annual Plan were adopted:

Proposed: Cllr. B. Cronin

Seconded: J.F. Flynn.

5. FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF STEERING GROUP AND SUB-COMMITTEES.

Steering Group of Ms. Moira Murrell, Cllr. N. Kelleher, Chief Superintendent D. Sheahan, Mr. J. Breen facilitated by Mr. B. Looney was proposed:

Proposed by: Cllr. S. Locke

Seconded by: Cllr. D. O'Grady

1. Crime Data & Information sub-committee:

Cllrs. D. Nolan and P. Connor-Scarteen

Proposed by: Cllr. D. O'Grady Seconded by: Cllr. J. Sheahan

2. Community crime sub-committee:

Cllrs. B. Cronin and M. Cahill and Community Rep. D. Hennebry

Proposed by: Cllr. J.F. Flynn Seconded by: Cllr. J. Sheahan

3. Road Safety sub-committee:

Cllrs. J.F. Flynn, D. Quigg and G. Spring and Community Rep S. Roche

Proposed by: Cllr. J.J. Culloty Seconded by: Senator M. Moloney

4. Community cohesion sub-committee:

Senator M. Moloney and Cllr. D. O'Grady and Community Rep C. O'Leary

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Nolan Seconded by: Cllr. M. Cahill



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The date of the 23rd May was agreed for the sub-committee meetings and the 27th June was proposed for the next JPC meeting.

7. A.O.B.

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 16.50p.m.