



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 7TH NOVEMBER 2016.

MIONTUAIRSCÍ DE CHRUINIÚ CHOMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRAÍ NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, DE LÚAIN AN 7 LA MÍ NA SAMHANA 2016.

PRESENT / I LÁTHAIR

**Cllr. T. McEllistrim
Cllr. P. Daly
Cllr. G. Spring
Cllr. S. Locke
Cllr. N. Kelleher
Cllr. J.J. Culloty
Cllr. J. Sheahan
Cllr. M. Cahill
Cllr. D. Quigg**

**Cllr. J. Moloney
Cllr. D. O'Grady
Cllr. B. Cronin
Cllr. M. Kennelly
Cllr. D. Nolan
Cllr. J. F. Flynn
Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen
Senator P. Coghlan**

**Mr. J. Breen, Dir. of Sustainable Communities/Quality of Life, Kerry County Council
Mr. B. Looney, Head of I.S. / JPC Administrator
Chief Superintendent C. Cadogan, An Garda Síochána – Kerry Division
Superintendent D. Keane – Listowel District
Superintendent J. O'Connor – Tralee District
Superintendent F. Murphy, Killarney District
Inspector A. Sugrue, Traffic Corp
Sgt. M. Fleming – Tralee Division Office**

**Ms. C. O'Leary, Public Participation Network
Mr. D. Hennebry, Jigsaw Kerry/Young People
Séan Roche, PPN
Mr. M. Culloty Killarney Chamber of Commerce/Business Community
Mr. Séan Quinlan, Public Participation Network
Mr. Bill Morrell, PPN**

Diarmuid Cronin, Muintir na Tíre

APOLOGIES/ LEITHSCÉAL Ó

**Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive, Kerry County Council
Senator Mark Daly
Senator N. O'Sullivan
Michael Culloty
Ms. Marie Moloney**

The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm.



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Cllr N. Kelleher commenced the meeting by commending the large attendance and he welcomed all present and referred to the strong presence from An Garda Síochána. He thanked Chief Superintendent Sheahan adding that the JPC would assist An Garda Síochána in any way.

1.) MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

On the proposal of Cllr P. Connor- Scarteen, seconded by Cllr. J.J. Culloty, the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th July 2016 were adopted.

2.) CRIME & ACTIVITY REPORT FROM CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT AND MATTERS ARISING

Chief Superintendent C. Cadogan introduced the An Garda Síochána Management Team for the Kerry Division: **Superintendent D. Keane – Listowel District, Superintendent J. O'Connor – Tralee District, Superintendent F. Murphy, Killarney District, Inspector A. Sugrue, Traffic Corp, Sgt. M. Fleming – Tralee Division Office.**

Chief Superintendent Cadogan stated that the following crime statistics covered the period 31/10/2015 to 31/10/2016.

He outlined the four main categories of crime

1. Property Crime,
2. Crime Against the Person,
3. Criminal Damage & Public Order and
4. Drugs and Offensive Weapons

Property Crime (Cat.1)

He confirmed that crime figures for this category had decreased from 1306 in 2015 to 903 in 2016. He stated that Aggravated Burglaries statistics were unchanged at 4 and all cases had been solved but that non aggravated burglary had decreased by 59% from 362 to 149. In relation to Theft to and from Vehicles/Thefts he relayed that theft of vehicles had decreased by 24% from 38 to 29 and theft from vehicle had fallen from 111 to 94. In reference to theft from shops the figures had decreased from 415 to 359 adding that of the 359 incidents in 2016 that shoplifting was up 5% in Tralee, down 49% in Killarney and down 13% in Listowel districts and that this area of crime will be targeted in An Garda Síochána's Policing Plan.

Crime Against the Person (Cat. 2.)

He confirmed that crime figures for this category had decreased from 403 in 2015 to 397 in 2016. He noted that statistics murder remained unchanged at 1 and that murder threats had fallen from 8 to 7 in the same period. In reference to Assaults causing harm he remarked that there was a drop of 17% on the 2015 period from 107 to 89 and that minor assaults had increased again from 227 to 250



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Criminal Damage & Public Order (Cat.3.)

He pointed out that that crime figures for this category had decreased from 1598 in 2015 to 1381. The statistics for arson had decreased from 16 to 12 in 2016 and he remarked that criminal damage (not arson) had also dropped by 11% from 330 to 251 in the same period. In relation to public order offences, he confirmed that figures had dropped from 728 to 651 with drunkenness offences falling from 524 to 467.

Drugs and Offensive Weapons (Cat.4)

Chief Superintendent Cadogan remarked that crime figures for Drugs and Offensive weapons had increased by 10% overall in the period from 347 to 381 although figures for possession of drugs for sale or supply had decreased from 65 to 62, possession of drugs for personal use had increased from 247 to 280. He gave the examples that Section 3's in Killarney were up 20% to 113 while in Listowel Section 3's were 28 down 42%. In reference to Possession of Offensive Weapons figures had increased from 27 to 30.

Traffic

Chief Superintendent C. Cadogan in referring to the statistics for Fatal Traffic collisions confirmed they had decreased by 1 to 6 in the period and this comprised of 3 pedestrians, 2 motorcyclists and 1 pedal cyclist and he expressed condolences to the families. He added that serious injury collisions had risen from 12 to 17 which was an increase of 42%.

Intoxicated while driving

Chief Superintendent Cadogan stated that both the statistics for driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol has fallen compare with an earlier peak which was welcome. He explained that driving under the influence of drugs had fallen by 20% from 10 to 8 primary incidents being recorded and driving under the influence of alcohol had dropped by 12% from 256 to 225. He referred to the drink driving gender breakdown by age confirming that 31% of offenders were in the 21-30 age bracket with 59 being male and 9 female.

Community Initiatives

Chief Superintendent C. Cadogan informed the meeting that he had submitted a business case seeking additional resources to establish a dedicated Community Policing Unit in Killarney and Listowel and he hoped to increase numbers in the Tralee unit also. He added that it is envisaged to increase the number of Text Alert, Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch groups in the County and he welcomed the presence of Diarmuid Cronin from Muintir na Tíre at the meeting.

National Property Recovered Day – 22nd September 2016 – Review

Chief Superintendent Cadogan confirmed that this event took place at Castleisland Garda Station with the Crime Prevention Officer, Garda Victims Officer Personnel, PEMS Officer and members of the Community Policing unit in attendance. He stated that further action days will be arranged and that An Garda Síochána will engage to a greater degree with social media in the future as Facebook page has been set up to send out Garda information and he encouraged all present to access it.

Intelligence Lead Policing

Chief Superintendent Cadogan referred to the following areas:



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- Targeting offenders (active criminals through overt and covert means)
- Management of crime and disorder “hotspots”.
- Investigation of linked series of crimes and incidents by analysing trends, liaising with other counties and divisions.
- Application of preventative measures including working with local communities and stakeholders to prevent crime. He commended Sgt. Jim Foley (Crime Prevention Officer) who is very active in the community promoting this.

Policing of Major Events

Chief Superintendent Cadogan listed the upcoming major events in the County: Rally of the Lakes, Ring of Kerry Cycle, Munster Final, Rose of Tralee, Puck Fair, Listowel Races as well as weekly sport and charity events. He added that An Garda Síochána had learned a lot from the operations surrounding the Rally of the Lakes event.

New Resource Allocation

He concluded by confirming since the last JPC meeting in July new additional resources had been allocated to the Kerry Garda Division with 4 newly promoted sergeants and 3 newly promoted Inspectors. He added that he was delighted with this step in the right direction.

Cllr. N. Kelleher thanked Chief Superintendent C. Cadogan for his comprehensive report and invited comments from the floor.

Cllr. P. Daly congratulated Chief Superintendent C. Cadogan on his appointment and for his report. He welcomed the positive crime statistics stating that they would reduce the fear of crime locally especially for burglary crime. He noted that driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol were down which demonstrated that the increased policing of major events had addressed these crimes. He requested a breakdown between Heroin/Cannabis figures.

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan to Kerry. He remarked that knife crime seems to have increased in both Kerry and nationally. He referred to the recent Notice of Motion that he submitted to the South & West MD meeting calling on the Minister for Justice to provide aid for CCTV cameras to prevent/reduce crime similar to a scheme that had been introduced in Co. Laois. He added that these schemes help to catch criminals and prevent crime.

Cllr. D. O’Grady welcomed Chief Superintendent C. Cadogan to the County. He queried as to whether the newly appointed Sergeants and Inspector will be assigned to Killarney. He remarked that since 2010 Garda resources have been reduced in the area, he commended the Gardaí in South Kerry stating they were under a lot of pressure.

Cllr. J. Sheahan welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan to the Kerry. He referred to the fact that Garda resources were down by 18 in Killarney and queried as to whether any of the new recruits from Templemore being assigned to the County. He added that extra resources were needed to deal with the issues on the ground. He stated that Community



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Policing was very worthwhile and needs to be reinstated as soon as possible so as to tackle anti social behaviour in Killarney. He commended Superintendent Flor Murphy for a job well done in Killarney but stressed the need for extra resources.

Cllr. J. Moloney welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan and the reducing crime trends. He referred to the drink driver statistics stating that it is still a huge problem. He noted the high proportion of male drivers offending and suggested targeting this group to get the message out. He referred to the upcoming potential Garda Síochána strike querying was there a contingency plan in place?

Cllr. D. Quigg welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan to the County. He referred to Cllr. M. Cahill's comments regarding CCTV stating that the cost constraints were huge and there was a need for a plan to be put in place to fund these cameras going forward. He stressed the need for high velocity cameras for the Killorglin bridge area and asked Chief Superintendent Cadogan what options were available to fund these.

In reply to Cllr. Quigg's comments regarding CCTV, Chairman N. Kelleher stated that correspondence had been received from the Department of Justice confirming funds for CCTV cameras for the County.

Cllr. S. Locke welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan and commended the reduction in crime despite limited Garda personnel and he called for extra Garda resources for the County. In reference to CCTV cameras he commented that many are broken and in need of repair. He stated that the RAPID programme previously funded CCTV cameras in Tralee and funding is now needed from the Department of Justice to maintain and service these cameras. He referred to the Drink Driver culture stating that this group need to be addressed.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn welcomed the Chief Superintendent Cadogan and thanked him for his presentation. He also thanked Diarmuid Cronin and Muintir na Tíre for the text alert scheme in Killorglin. In relation to drink driving statistics he requested the percentage of 21-30 who are on the road as if there are more drivers in this cohort on the roads at the time of the MAT's then a higher percentage are likely to be caught. In reference to the Rally of the Lakes he again stressed the need for a facility for rally drivers similar to the one in Donegal where it can be safely run and policed properly. He added that rural areas needed a Garda presence at least one day a week where Garda stations are closed.

Cllr. B. Cronin congratulated Chief Superintendent Cadogan on his appointment and wished him and his team well. He commended the very positive report stating that the work being carried out by An Garda Síochána has reduced crime in the County. He welcomed Diarmuid Cronin stressing the importance of Community Alert schemes especially for rural areas and added that more groups were needed. In relation to the Rally of the Lakes he commended the success of the event and it boded well for the future. He asked for advice for local communities dealing with damaged junctions and roads due to rally activity.

Senator P. Coghlan welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan and all his colleagues on



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the Garda Management Team and commended the additional resources for the County stating that the Gardaí in Killarney were under pressure.

Cllr. P. Connor- Scarteen wished Chief Superintendent Cadogan all the best in his new post and welcomed his Management Team. He welcomed the decrease in crime statistics overall and concurred with Cllr. J. Moloney in relation to drink driver statistics stating that it was surprising that 31% of offenders were in the 21-30 age group. He commented that greater education is needed in schools and universities regarding drink driving. He welcomed more Garda recruits from Templemore stating that Kenmare needs more resources. He concluded that CCTV is vital for all communities and he requested that a letter be sent to the Minister for Justice requesting additional cameras for the Kenmare area.

B. Morrell thanked the Chief Superintendent Cadogan on behalf of the PPN for the decreasing crime statistics and agreed that the breakdown of crime is aided by CCTV. He added that mobile phone use is causing dangerous driving and this trend is very worrying.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan and his colleagues to the meeting. He commended the improvement in the crime statistics noting that drug crime was still increasing and queried the reasons for this? He also queried the rising statistics in relation to serious injuries/collisions? He agreed with previous speakers in relation to the need for more recruits especially in rural areas.

Cllr. M. Kennelly welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan and commended his positive report. He praised the presence of the Gardaí in Listowel over the Bank Holiday weekends stating that it ensures that crime will continue to fall and extra recruits are required to guarantee this. In relation to drink drivers he pointed out that young people need to be targeted and statistics are disappointing. He queried as to whether these specific statistics are due to checkpoints or accidents related and if all offenders were from Kerry? He welcomed the establishment of a Community Policing Unit in Listowel and added that more Text Alert signs are needed in rural areas.

S. Roche welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan on behalf of the Community sector. He referred to the growing issue of joyriding at night as not enough Garda presence on the roads at night. He stated that the Traffic Corp need to have night time surveillance to tackle this issue in the Iveragh Peninsula and South Kerry. He disagreed with the suggestion of a separate facility for this group stating that this issue needs to be addressed as it's a Countywide problem and is very dangerous.

S. Quinlan welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan to the County. He referred to the Rally of the Lakes event and the four cars that had been confiscated by the Gardaí and queried as to whether there is communication between the Gardaí and the Insurance Companies to check if engines have been modified?

Cllr. N. Kelleher welcomed the decreasing crime statistics stating that the 4 Friday campaign had worked well and trends were down. He commented that people under the age of 30 should consider their jobs and the cost of insurance premiums when getting into vehicles under the influence. He commended Chief Superintendent Cadogan and his



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Management Team for seeking additional resources for the County.

In reply to query from Cllr. P. Daly Chief Superintendent Cadogan stated that Heroin amounted to 20% of detections.

In reference to Cllr. M. Cahills query he stated that knife crime was up by 11% but this was due to the rise in detections which was positive.

In reply to Cllr. O'Grady regarding additional resources, he confirmed that an Inspector and two Sergeants are being assigned and he has requested new recruits for the County adding that he will push for additional resources hoping that they will be in place early in 2017.

In reply to Cllr. J. Sheahan regarding reinstating Community Policing in Killarney and addressing anti social behaviour he pointed out that this was envisaged for the area.

In relation to comments from Cllr. J. Moloney regarding drink drivers he stated that this was a very worrying trend and that statistics came from both MAT checkpoints and accident reports. He confirmed that a contingency plan was in place in case of strike action taking place stating that Tralee station will remain open and the bulk of Gardaí will be out in the community and he assured all present that a robust policing plan was in place for Kerry.

In reply to comments from Cllr. D. Quigg and CCTV Chief Superintendent Cadogan confirmed that it was hoped that funding would be available in 2017 for same. He added that CCTV was a valuable aid to policing and together with auto vehicle registration recognition is vital for crime solving.

Chief Superintendent Cadogan referred to the success of the Rally of the Lakes event saying that a robust plan had been put in place and the same plan was envisaged for 2017 event.

In regard to comments from Cllr. B. Cronin and Text Alerts he stated that Text Alert schemes are working well in Kerry but added that more are needed. He stressed communities need to get involved and commended the work done by Diarmuid Cronin and Muintir na Tíre.

In relation to junctions being damaged he urged the public to contact the Gardaí about these incidents and the Gardaí will follow up. He stressed that reporting was vital and that public shouldn't presume that An Garda Síochána know of all these incidents. He stated that young people need to realise the consequences of these actions which could result in insurance hikes, penalty points and convictions. He confirmed that a separate operation is in place to deal with seized/modified cars and if cars are found to be modified the Insurance Company is contacted.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn reverted in relation to the Rally of the Lakes stating that An Garda Síochána needs to meet with this group to outline the consequences of their actions.



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In reply to query from B. Morrell regarding mobile phone use Inspector A. Sugrue confirmed a specific operation had been put in place to address this offence and that detections are up 140% since same time last year.

In reply to comments from Cllr. J. J. Culloty and drug use, Chief Superintendent Cadogan stated that An Garda Síochána had put in additional resources to address this crime and he asked the public to report drug crime to also referring to the confidential line.

In relation to the remarks from Cllr. M. Kennelly, Chief Superintendent Cadogan stated that Operation Thor was working well and he hoped that funding for Thor in 2017 will be increased. He agreed that more Text Alert signs are needed as they deter criminals and he encouraged other communities to join the scheme.

3.) REPORT FROM SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND UPDATES ON THE ACTION PLAN

Each chair gave a brief report from their sub group which has been circulated to the members.

4.) MUINTIR NA TIRE – PRESENTATION BY MR. DIARMUID CRONIN COVERING COMMUNITY ALERT SCHEMES / CCTV

D. Cronin commenced by commended the number of Community Alert Schemes in place in the County and listed the areas that are covered throughout. He stated that he was willing to assist the setting up of schemes in areas that are not presently covered. He stressed the asset that Community Alert is to the JPC as it outlining the benefits of Garda advice, support from Kerry County Council and the involvement of communities. He stated that the JPC strategy will be supported by the Community Alert groups and emphasised the importance of CCTV and Community Alert in the prevention of fire, crime prevention etc. He outlined that the Community Alert was born out of a need to protect the elderly and vulnerable in our society. It focused on security and safety, in co-operation with other Agencies, to reassuring the aged by getting panic alarms for the elderly, smoke alarms, I.C.E. cards, Yellow Cards (uninvited caller to your home) etc for those in need of same. He explained that Text Alert originated in Kerry as a pilot project and included the introduction of Road and Car Park signage and Property log book. He added that as phone networks and coverage improved in the County that the scheme grew and commended the joint effort of local communities and An Garda Síochána in reducing criminal activity in Kerry. In reference to CCTV he reiterated the value of these cameras for the safety and security of communities and added that community groups have an important role to introduce CCTV and stressed the need for funding for same. He pointed out that Kerry needs a long term plan for CCTV stating that the whole County needs to work together to ensure cohesive joint thinking on CCTV. In relation to log books he outlined the benefits for every household to have a log book that documents all items in your home which can firstly prove ownership and secondly enable the Gardaí to trace serial number as property marking will prevent theft of goods. He called on the JPC to seek increase grants from the Government to extend Community Alert schemes stating



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that they, along with Text Alert, are vital for communities where Garda stations are closed and are especially valuable to the 65+ age group and rural areas.

Cllr. T. McEllistrim referred to the excellent Community Alert scheme in place in Ballymacelligott and he thanked D. Cronin for same. In reply D. Cronin commended the Ballymacelligott scheme stating that more representative networks of Community Alert and Text Alert are needed in the County.

Cllr. J. Sheahan queried the minimum number of persons needed for a group? D. Cronin replied saying that once a scheme starts people will join it. He again stressed the need for more volunteers, new ideas and security for all in the community.

Cllr. N. Kelleher thanked D. Cronin for his presentation and stated that the log book would be circulated to members.

5.) WINTER READINESS CAMPAIGNS AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Superintendent Cadogan circulated a handout in relation to Winter Readiness Campaign emphasising that most burglaries are at the rear of a house and the importance of wearing high vis vests in evenings and night.

This handout was be circulated on social media and to members.

6.) CORRESPONDENCE

B. Looney updated the group on correspondence received and issued.

- **Dept of Health**
- **ITT**
- **Kerry Children**

7.) A.O.B.

John Breen welcomed Chief Superintendent Cadogan and his team and wished them well for the future. He asked that members give questions and items for Agenda in advance of meeting so that they can be addressed.

Cllr. N. Kelleher thanked Chief Superintendent Cadogan and Garda Management Team and all present for their attendance.

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 16.20p.m.