



Comhchoiste Póilíneachta - Contae Chiarraí
County Kerry - Joint Policing Committee



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KERRY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE HELD IN LISTOWEL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE ON FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2017.

MIONTUAIRSCÍ DE CHRUINIÚ CHOMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I IONAD ACMHAINNÍ TEAGHLAIGH LIOS TUATHAIL, DE hAOINE AN 26 LA MÍ BEALTAINE 2017.

PRESENT / I LÁTHAIR

Elected Representatives:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cllr. M. Kennelly | |
| Cllr. D. Quigg | Cllr. D. Nolan |
| Cllr. M. Cahill | Cllr. J. F. Flynn |
| Cllr. N. Kelleher (Chair) | Senator Mark Daly |
| Cllr. J.J. Culloty | Cllr. J. Moloney |

Mr. C. O'Sullivan,
Mr. B. Looney, Head of I.S. / JPC Administrator
Mr. J. Kennelly, S.E. Water Services (for John Breen)
Chief Superintendent T. Myers, An Garda Síochána – Kerry Division
Superintendent D. Keane – Listowel District
Superintendent J. O'Connor – Tralee District
Superintendent F. Murphy, Killarney District
Sgt. M. Fleming – Tralee Division Office

Community Pillar Representatives:

Ms. C. O'Leary, Public Participation Network
Mr. Séan Roche, PPN
Mr. D. Hennebry, Jigsaw Kerry/Young People
Mr. B. Morrell, PPN

In Attendance:

Mr. A. Smith, M.D. Officer Listowel
Mr. D. Cronin, Community Alert Development Officer

APOLOGIES/ LEITHSCÉAL Ó

Mr. J. Breen, Dir. of Sustainable Communities/Quality of Life, Kerry County Council
Mr. Owen O'Shea, Press Officer
Cllr. B. Cronin
Mr. S. Quinlan, PPN

The meeting commenced at 10.45 am.

1. MINUTES OF JPC MEETING FEB 27TH 2017 & MATTERS ARISING

B. Looney informed the meeting that there had been amendments to the minutes and these were available on the alfresco site.



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On the proposal of Cllr J. Moloney, seconded by Cllr. M. Kennelly, the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th February were adopted.

Cllr. N. Kelleher welcomed everyone to Listowel Family Resource Centre and to the first JPC meeting outside Kerry County Council building stating that it was important that these meetings were held in the MD areas.

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

Chief Superintendent Myers commenced his report stating that statistics would be comparing Q1 2016 with Q1 2017 and remarked that overall Crimes Against the Person was up 37% from 117 to 125, Property Crime had risen by 15% from 243 to 279, Drugs & Offensive Weapons crime had increased by 47% from 97 to 143 and Criminal Damage & Public Order had decreased by 6% in the period from 342 to 321.

Property Crime

Burglary

He outlined that Aggravated burglary had increased by 50% in the quarter. In relation to non aggravated burglary he expressed An Garda Síochána's disappointment at this huge increase of 81% which was very concerning. He added that although the number of incidents increased from 42 to 76 the positive side is the high number of detections and increased intelligence gathering which has resulted in significant arrests and the trend has turned downwards for the second quarter of 2017.

Theft of Vehicle/Theft from Vehicle

Chief Superintendent Myers pointed out that crime statistics showed that theft of vehicles was unchanged at 7 incidents while theft from vehicle had decreasing by 13% from 23 to 20. He stated that the message needs to get out to the public not to leave valuables in cars and he attributed the drop in theft from vehicles to the work of the Crime Prevention Officer who was promoting this message.

Thefts

Theft from Shop/Theft of other property

In relation to thefts from shops he confirmed that these figures had risen by 14% from 103 to 117 and theft of other property had decreased by 23% from 52 to 40.

Crimes Against the Person

Murder & Murder Threats

Chief Superintendent Myers outlined that there was 1 murder in the first quarter of 2016 and none in the same quarter for 2017 and murder threats remained unchanged at 2.

Assaults Causing Harm/Minor Assault

He pointed out that assaults causing harm had decreased by 4% from 24 to 23 and minor assaults had risen by 2% from 64 to 65 in the period. He stated that although the increases and decreases could be seen as small that overall these crime incidents were viewed as high.



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Criminal Damage & Public Order

Chief Superintendent Myers commented that both arson and criminal damage had dropped by 25% and this was very encouraging, he clarified that arson crime had fallen from 4 to 3 and criminal damage from 60 to 45 in the same quarter. He pointed out public Order offences decreased from 177 to 160, down 10%, and drunkenness offences were up by 12% from 101 to 113 adding that there was plenty of work to be done in this area.

Drugs & Offensive Weapons

Drugs

He stated that the possession of drugs for sale or supply was up by 85% from 13 to 24 and this was a significant increase. In reference to the possession of drugs for personal use this figure had increased by 38% from 73 to 101 in the period. He informed the meeting that an additional Sergeant has been assigned to the Tralee Division to deal with drug crime and an improvement in this area was assured.

Possession of offensive weapon

He confirmed that this statistic had increased considerably by 300% from 2 to 8.

Traffic

Traffic Collisions - Fatal

Chief Superintendent Myers confirmed that one fatal traffic collision had taken place in the first quarter of 2017 compared to none in the same period in 2016. In relation to serious injury collisions he stated that these figures had decreased from 46 to 1 a 50% in the same time, a decrease of 75%.

Intoxicated while driving

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

He noted that statistics were still high for these crimes as Driving under the influence of drugs had increased by 200% from 1 to 3 and driving under the influence of drink saw an increase of 8% from 61 to 66. He remarked that trends are continuing to increase and this is also due to increased checkpoints and he stressed that despite efforts the message is not getting out to the public.

Drink Driving Gender breakdown by Age for Q1 2017

He referred to the breakdown and graphs which outlined that 21-30 year olds account for 31% of offences with 701 being male and 8 female. He noted that despite the high penalties for these offences the message is still not reaching this age group. In reference to the time of incidents for drinking offences he outlined that the highest number of incidents in the first quarter of 2017 was between 10pm and 2am. Chief Superintendent T. Myers outlined the types of drugs seized in the same period noting that cannabis herb accounted for 76% of seizures with cocaine next at 8% while methadone was 1%.

Chief Superintendent T. Myers concluded by stating that Rally of the Lakes event had been a huge success again due to the huge resources brought in from Limerick, Cork and Dublin and he complimented Superintendent F. Murphy and his team for a successful event. He stated that a lot of good work was being done by An Garda Síochána and announced that Community policing was back in the Killarney area, 2 new vehicles acquired for Tralee and Castleisland, upgrade works to



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commence on Garda Stations in Tralee and Glenbeigh, upgrade in IT so that all Garda Stations would be on line for PULSE by the end of the year as well as additional training for CAB. He added that the main concern at present was the burglary figures and it was hoped that the trends would decrease.

Cllr. N. Kelleher thanked Chief Superintendent Myers for his report and on behalf of himself and his colleagues in Killarney MD he commended the Ring of Kerry organising committee and the Garda team in Killarney for a successful event.

Cllr. M. Cahill queried as to whether An Garda Síochána are any closer to justice in relation to a specific murder case in Killorglin? He queried as to whether the robberies were carried out by roaming gangs? In relation to CCTV he sought an update stating that vehicle registration cameras were very successful. He welcomed the works to the Garda stations remarking that they give a great sense of security to the public. He referred to the upcoming proposed ban on shooting and hunting at night stating that it was of huge concern to the public. Cllr. N. Kelleher replied that this matter should be referred to the Minister. In reply Chief Superintendent T. Myers confirmed that the murder case was very active and a great response had been received from the community to same and he encouraged anyone who had information to come forward. He clarified that burglaries were being carried out by travelling criminal gangs, some of who were on bail and others on curfews and he stated that An Garda Síochána were very conscious of the victims of crime and had increased checkpoints to address this.

Cllr. M. Kennelly welcomed the JPC to Listowel. He stated that the increase in burglaries was very worrying but that technology was a great weapon for rural Ireland with neighbourhood watch and text alerts playing a vital role in security and this was working very well. He pointed out that as these crimes predominantly happen at night that increased Garda patrols are required in these hours. He queried as to whether there is a staffing issue for night time? He commended the great work done by An Garda Síochána in the Listowel area. He referred to the increase in drink drivers numbers and the times of these offences asking was there an urban/rural divide? He stressed the need for more taxis and community services. He welcomed new Garda recruits and the new CCTV scheme. In reply Chief Superintendent T. Myers commented that rosters were made in advance in 10 hour shifts and there are overlaps on certain nights to cover public order, he added that it will be monitored.

Cllr. J. F. Flynn welcomed the 5 extra Garda recruits adding that more was needed. He suggested a roaming Community Policing Unit for rural areas stating that Garda presence is needed. He requested a breakdown of where burglaries are taking place and trends in relation to same. He commended the text alert scheme and encouraged communities to sign up and thanked Diarmuid Cronin for his work in this area. Cllr. J.J. Culloty agreed stressing the benefit of the text alert scheme as it prevents criminal movement. In reply to comments regarding roaming Community Policing Unit Chief Superintendent T. Myers stated that Superintendents can direct as needed in their Districts. He confirmed that a breakdown of burglaries can be given and he praised the Text and Community Alert campaigns.

S. Roche referred to the increase in burglaries stating that it was a very worrying trend. He pointed out that mid/south/west Kerry had been particularly hit by these crimes and despite efforts of An



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Garda Síochána that conviction rates were limited. He stated that Operation Thor should continue to combat these criminal gangs and the need for CCTV cameras so as to track the movements of these gangs. In reply Chief Superintendent T. Myers confirmed that Operation Thor will continue.

Senator M. Daly in referring to the 5 additional Gardaí to the County queried what number was necessary long term and is a more innovative approach to Garda resources needed on the ground? In relation to the upcoming proposed ban on shooting and hunting he stated that any incidents where public are in danger would be helpful to the Minister. In relation to the increased burglaries he asked would a system of 3 convictions and tagged work? He added that a system such as this could be used more widely especially for professional criminals and those out on bail etc as 5% of criminals are responsible for 82% of crimes. In reply Chief Superintendent T. Myers stated that it is a challenge for An Garda Síochána resources but it is something they manage. He welcomed the point regarding the tagging system stating that Operation Thor targets persistent offenders. He added that bail laws are very restrictive and that An Garda Síochána will object to bail when needed.

B. Morrell referred to the recent terror attack in Manchester and queried the emergency response in place here for a major incident. He pointed out that ambulance numbers are limited at present and this was very worrying. Cllr. J.J. Culloty agreed stating he had also highlighted this issue and there was a need for another ambulance in his area. Cllr. N. Kelleher commented that additional ambulances are needed on a daily basis as well as for a major emergencies and he put it to HSE representatives present to follow this up. In reply Chief Superintendent T. Myers confirmed that there had been a security review meeting in Dublin recently, the threat to Ireland was Moderate (possible but not likely) and emergency plans were under review. C. O'Sullivan confirmed that Kerry County Council have a Major Emergency Plan in place for the County in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, Fire Service, voluntary response agencies, HSE etc. He explained that this plan had been utilised for severe weather alerts. He stated that both himself and the Chief Executive of Kerry County Council, Ms. Moira Murrell, are on the Southern Regional Inter Agency Committee.

Cllr. D. Quigg concurred with previous speakers stating that the issue of increased numbers of drink drivers needs to be addressed via the education system as it is clear there is another generation that feel its ok to drink and drive. In reply Chief Superintendent T. Myers that these statistics were of great concern and campaigns are being done around the county to promote this.

D. Cronin commented that the text alert and CCTV schemes have a vital role to play in combating burglaries. He emphasised the role of the JPC and Kerry County Council to advocate to the public the value of keeping a log of items they own. This log book of item's serial numbers helps Gardaí return stolen goods to correct owners, deter the sale of stolen property and deter the theft of such items as they will be detected and a prosecution will follow. He added that the public would feel more secure if this log book was widely used. In reply Chief Superintendent T. Myers referred to the successful meeting in Ballygarry Hotel recently and reiterated D. Cronin's comments regarding the importance of the log book.

C. O'Leary welcomed Community Policing for Killarney.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERS QUESTIONS



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Cllr. N. Kelleher:

1. *"Barraduff garda station is still an active garda station but is never manned or open to the community/public. A lot of money was spent on this and we need to have it open to the community each week."*

Cllr. N. Kelleher stated that there had been a large spat of burglaries in this area and he has written to the Minister for Justice seeking clarification on the status of the Garda station as the public want and need to have this station in use. He confirmed that the Minister's Department had replied stating that it was a resources issue and he sought an update on same.

In reply Superintendent F. Murphy agreed that the area had suffered due to the lack of use of the Garda station there. He stated with limited resources in mind he will consider the situation and will keep it under review and re-examine its opening hours with the hope of a permanent Garda station there in the long term.

Cllr. N. Kelleher welcomed these comments. Cllr. J.J. Culloty agreed.

2. *"When can we expect the appointment of extra community police positions in Killarney?"*

Chief Superintendent T. Myers had referred to this item in his report.

Donagh Hennebry:

"I would like to ask about the dangerous driving that takes place on Inch Beach and if there is any way that this could be patrolled more strenuously. According to the sign posts on entering the beach it says people can park up to one kilometre out the beach. But of course people go much further out towards 'the point' where they can see any Garda cars arriving from 2 or 3 kilometres away. More and more people are using the beach as a place to speed, drive dangerously and intimidate people using this public amenity, particularly on Sunday evenings.

Aside from the obvious noise pollution for people trying to enjoy the beach there is also the real fear that with the large number of children present that this is just a serious accident waiting to happen. Can anything be done in this regard?"

C. O'Sullivan stated that difficulty with Inch beach is the lack of adequate parking there and Kerry County Council don't have the resources to monitor the beach on a full time basis. He pointed out that this issue has been raised previously by Councillors and as Inch is a Blue Flag beach a Management strategy has been put in place and it will be monitored over the Summer period but at present the resources aren't there to monitor the beach beyond that. He referred to the Bye laws that were in place and encouraged the public to report any breach of these adding that evidence and witness reports are needed to progress an issue. D. Hennebry stated that witnesses are slow to come forward as may have to go to Court if case progressed. C. O'Sullivan stated that Kerry County Council would consult with An Garda Síochána regarding the issues at Inch Beach and provide any assistance there.

Cllr. M. Cahill:

"Can you put the matter of Anti Social Behaviour in Killorglin, on the Agenda for Friday's JPC meeting in Listowel."



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Cllr. M. Cahill referred to the ongoing issue of anti-social behaviour particularly at the playground and at the metal bridge areas which need to be addressed. He remarked that this issue prompted a public meeting which was held recently and he encouraged the reporting of these incidents to An Garda Síochána.

Cllr. J. F. Flynn concurred with the previous comments stating that Killorglin was usually a very quiet town and the locals are calling for action from An Garda Síochána and Kerry County Council regarding these issues. He asked the media to highlight the need for reporting such incidents.

Cllr. D. Quigg agreed with previous speakers stating that the outcry on social media has increased hugely regarding anti-social behaviour in Killorglin and the need for more Gardaí in the town adding that this gang were very confrontational and the issue needs to be dealt with.

S. Roche on behalf of the community sector stated that the behaviour of this group was unacceptable and an increased Garda presence is needed to target this group and to reassure the public.

Superintendent F. Murphy stated that he was unable to attend the public meeting in Killorglin. He confirmed that anti-social behaviour is in all places and he confirmed that these people have been before the Courts and curfews (mostly night time curfews) have been placed on individuals and An Garda Síochána have to operate within the legal framework and justice system constraints. He stated that the Gardaí will act when offences occur and are dealing with issues on the ground and he referred to the need for Bye Laws for the town to address public drinking etc. He confirmed that ASBO's (anti-social behaviour order) have been issued but there were constraints within the Public Order Act. He encouraged the public to report incidents saying that information and evidence is required for progress on these issues. He stressed that Killorglin was a priority at present and that a public order scheme is needed in the town as well as additional Garda resources. He assured the public that individuals causing trouble will be dealt with as the recurring offenders are dealt with in the Courts .

Cllr. Cahill thanked An Garda Síochána for their response reiterating the need for reporting such incidents. He stated that all stakeholders will discuss these issues together to address them.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn, Cllr. D. Quigg and S. Roche thanked Superintendent F. Murphy for his detailed update stating that this message needs to get out to the public and they would all work together to address these issues.

4. FUNDING OF COMMUNITY CCTV - PRESENTATION – BRIAN LOONEY

Cllr. N. Kelleher stated that Killarney's application is at an advanced stage. He added that all groups need to be assisted to access this funding to make our County safer.

B. Looney went through the details of the fund:

Amount of grant - €1m for next 3 years, funding up to 60% with max. of €40,000 (capital costs only). He explained that funding will be provided to the level necessary to establish successful and viable CCTV projects.

Deadline and Eligibility – no deadline ie. first come first served basis.



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Who can apply? – eg., community based organisations, Family Resource Centres, Local Authority, Chamber of Commerce etc. He added that Lead body must be a legally registered body.

Approvals – 1. Letter of approval from JPC and it was agreed that the Crime Prevention sub committee will deal with these as they arise. 2. The Local Authority who must agree to act as the Data Controller. He stated that a balance between community safety and privacy must be found and added that the Municipal District Officer will liaise with the communities. 3. Garda Approvals ie. vetting of individuals as well as approval of Garda Commissioner.

Supporting Information & Proofs – Clear evidence of need and consultation, design with privacy impact, proof of sustained operational funding for at least 5 years.

Technical Guidelines – for cameras and recorders. B. Looney referred to the requirement for all cameras to be PTZ. He referred to the Crime Prevention sub committee meeting held last week where this item was discussed. He pointed out that the advice is that 3 fixed cameras covering an area of one PTZ camera will be more effective and more reliable than the PTZ. He confirmed that the Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána have been petitioned on this point.

Roles of the Local Authority – to act as Data Controller, sign off that any works undertaken have been completed to a satisfactory standard, grant payments will be made via the Council, LA will lead some schemes.

Recommendations – Work with MD Officers to advance schemes, submit KCC originated applications as soon as possible, establish process to assist and quickly fastrack non Council based applications, consider hosting workshops.

Cllr. J. Moloney queried the costs to communities, monitoring issues, location of Data Controller, privacy issues, movement of cameras to different locations where necessary and the amount and cost of signage needed.

Cllr. D. Quigg welcome the scheme highlighting the problem of running costs and referred to the need for an AMPR cameras in Killorglin.

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the scheme asking was it for built up areas? Cllr. N. Kelleher clarified that the scheme was for all areas and CCTV cameras will help tackle robberies.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn referred to the waiting time for Garda vetting stating this could impact on schemes.

B. Morrell referred to the fact that broadband is poor in a lot of areas and this will affect cameras and suggested crime prevention camera vans instead of speed vans. Chief Superintendent T. Myers replied that this would be considered in operations going forward.

S. Roche welcomed the scheme.

Following a discussion on the scheme B. Looney confirmed that it was up to local groups to fund operational side of schemes and that clever designs could reduce costs and the Community Support Fund could be accessed to assist in this and it was by agreement of the Councillors essentially. He stated that the preferred monitoring location would be at Garda Stations if possible or Local Authority premises or a community location. He stated that signage was mandatory.



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Cllr. N. Kelleher reminded the group that essentially the money available is small and the public need to be realistic with applications.

5. ADOPTION OF JPC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY & 6. OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM SUB-COMMITTEE WORK AND ACTION PLAN

Items 5 & 6 were taken together.

He updated the meeting with actions from the sub committee meetings held recently:

Crime Data & Information: Members are asked to consider the Communications Strategy draft and provide feedback in advance of the next subcommittee meeting. Member's suggestions or requirements for a public JPC website are also invited.

Road Safety

B. Looney referred to the Road Safety sub-committees recommendation of reporting road safety incidents to the Gardaí so that they are recorded on the PULSE system as well as being collated to be sent to TII.

Reflecting on the data presented by Inspector Sugrue from AGS Traffic Corps, the sub-committee is anxious that vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists) are particularly prominent in fatality and serious incidents. The sub-committee have proposed a number of actions:

1. They would like the JPC to support a call on the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Education and the RSA to develop a mandatory Road Safety Programme to be delivered in all primary and secondary schools and to consider a national cycling proficiency test.
2. They will engage with the organisers of major cycling events to include key safe cycling messages for registrants (to be provided by the Road Safety officer and Gardaí) and consider Road Safety stands at these events in the future.
3. A Road Safety programme will be run in autumn in the ITT. The County's Road Safety Plan will be launched in June.

Crime prevention & Response Presentation on Community CCTV to be made to the full JPC.

Community Cohesion This sub-committee was asked to assist in the identification and implementation of Local Policing Fora as required in the JPC Guidelines. The PPN and Gardaí will be asked to identify one community in each district (MD or Garda) to pilot L.P.F. and which will involve local reps, community reps, service delivery agencies and the Gardaí. The sub-committee will also co-opt more service providers as requested following a recent presentation to the Kerry Children's Services Committee and deal with particular community safety and cohesion issues on a thematic basis.

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



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B. Looney confirmed that the next sub committee meetings would be held on Friday 29th September and the date of the JPC was to be confirmed for October (20th).

8. AOB

S. Roche queried the attendance of PPN members at local meetings with An Garda Síochána at MD level. Cllr. N. Kelleher confirmed that this would be considered suggesting that it may be a Local Policing Fora remit.

The meeting concluded at 1p.m.