

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT JOINT POLICING SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK HELD AT THE DEEBERT HOUSE HOTEL, KILMALLOCK, CO. LIMERICK ON THURSDAY, 21st October, 2021, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor Martin Ryan, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Carey, Donegan, Egan, Mitchell, E. Ryan, and Teefy.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Transportation and Infrastructure (Mr. B. Kennedy), Meetings Administrator (Ms. D. O'Brien), Senior Executive Engineer, Cappamore-Kilmallock (Mr. T. McKechnie), Clerical Officer, Cappamore-Kilmallock (Ms. H. O'Neill).

Also in attendance: Superintendent An Garda Siochana, Mr Paul Reidy (Bruff) and Superintendent An Garda Siochana, Mr Dermot O'Connor (Roxboro).

The Cathaoirleach, M. Ryan welcomed all to the meeting

Matters Arising

The Elected Members wished to acknowledge the work undertaken by An Garda Siochana to support the Brothers of Charity in Southill.

1. Policing Issues in the District

Bruff Division

Superintendent Reidy proceeded with the statistics for the Bruff Division

- Burglaries down to 9 in Q3 2021 compared to 20 in Q3 2020
- Thefts decreased from 25 in Q3 2020 to 24 in Q3 2021.
- Assault cases increased, from 15 in Q3 2020 to 19 in Q3 2021.
- Drunk driving incidents increased by 1 from 5 in Q3 2020 to 6 in Q3 2021.
- Drug driving also increased. There have been 9 incidents since the 1st Jan 2021.
- Significant increase in fraud cases and phishing – and increase of 138% since Q3 2020 (13 in Q3 2020 v 31 in Q3 2021)
- Burglaries are nearly all occurring during the daytime. Engagement between the Crime prevention officer and the media regarding safety in the home continues to raise awareness of prevention of burglaries. It was noted that a lot of homes still do not have house alarms.

It was noted that there were 140 checkpoints in the Municipal District.

Further to an incident of Anti-social behaviour in Kilmallock in September, An Garda Siochana were praised for attending the scene immediately and taking a proactive approach, which led to an arrest on the 5th October. It was noted that those arrested have been charged and are on strict bail conditions.

Garda Reidy also updated the Elected Members that they had engaged with the Traveller Mediation Service and arranged mediation between those involved.

The Elected Members were also advised of a serious incident in Ballylanders on the 14th October, in which the Armed Support Unit were called out, and the incident was diffused without injury. An arrest was undertaken.

An update was provided on the outcome of a serious assault in 2017 in Bruree. Two individuals were arrested, and the trial has just concluded at which they were convicted.

It was noted that nightclubs would be opening again that weekend, and various high level GAA matches were planned. Additional resources were being provided by An Garda Siochana from other districts to ensure that there would be adequate cover for these events. The need for resources in the north of the Municipal District was highlighted again by the Elected Members and noted by Superintendent Reidy.

Roxboro Division

Superintendent O'Connor welcomed Superintendent Reidy.

The report from the Roxboro Division proceeded as follows (reporting on year to date):

- There was a decrease in burglaries (4) and an increase in thefts (29) compared to the same time in 2020.
- Antisocial behaviour decreased (7 in 2021 compared to 17 in 2020).
- Crimes against the person totalled 11
- Assaults increased from 6 in 2020 to 8 in 2021.
- There was an increase in Road traffic collisions from 34 in 2020 to 47 in 2021
- There was an increase in Drug and drink driving incidents, from 1 in 2020 to 11 in 2021. (of these 11, 7 related to drugs and 4 related to drink).

It was noted that there has been a change in personnel in Caherconlish Garda Station. Gda John Cotter has moved to Bruff and been replaced by Gda Tom Casey.

Any Other Business

The Elected Members thanked the Superintendents for their presentations, and welcomed Superintendent Reidy. Superintendent Reidy also acknowledged the work of Superintendent John Ryan while he was in his position in Bruff.

It was noted that at the time of the incident of Anti Social Behaviour in Kilmallock, the CCTV cameras were not operational, and this has been highlighted with the Digital Head of Strategy.

“Make Way Day”, an initiative undertaken by the Step Forward Disability Group in Hospital, was brought to the attention of the Superintendents, outlining that the event aims to raise awareness of ensuring that parked cars do not cause disruption to those with disabilities navigating the footpaths.

Councillor Donegan advised the attendees that October was Crime Prevention Month with a focus on Digital Fraud.

Superintendent Reidy also advised that the Gardai provide supports to schools in relation to Road safety etc., and if there is an issue regarding digital images being circulated in schools, parents can bring this to the attention of the Gardai and the DPS Unit.

A concern was raised by the Elected Members regarding drugs and their availability in communities. It was questioned as to how it was possible to increase prevention and raise awareness among young people of their dangers, and also to deal with the issue of antisocial behaviour among young people and the use of and possession of dangerous weapons e.g. slashhooks.

Superintendent Reidy advised that a new drugs unit has been established, but the availability of drugs is still a large problem. He also highlighted that resources are being allocated to increasing drug driving arrests, and towards education and engagement with schools. Also that there is a need for additional resources for the Gardai, but they are utilising the existing resources to their best use. The Garda Youth Diversion programme was also mentioned, which deals with underage crime and prevention of criminal activity among youth, which has proved very effective.

For first offences or for those possessing cannabis for their own use, cautions are being issued (adults).

Any dangerous weapons used during the incident of antisocial behaviour in Kilmallock have been seized.

A suggestion was made that a presentation on the Community Alert Programme be delivered at the next JPC meeting and the Meetings Administrator agreed to arrange this.

A question was raised regarding the availability of Free Legal Aid to repeat offenders, and those found guilty. Superintendent Reidy confirmed that this was a matter for the courts to decide.

All members thanked the Gardai for all their efforts and work throughout the pandemic to date.

A suggestion was made to provide additional time for the next meeting, and start 30 minutes earlier.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____