

Fingal Joint Policing Committee Meeting – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

Item 4

Questions for Noting

1	<p><b>Cllr Ann Graves</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>To ask the JPC for an update on proposed works in Swords Station, what improvements will be made and when are they likely to take place and be completed?</p> <p>The station is not fit for purpose, there is a hoarding to the side of the station for a number of years, egress from the station in cases of emergency result in driving across a pedestrian walk way.</p> <p>The population in Swords and surrounding areas that are serviced by the station is growing year on year, the number of Gardaí is not sufficient to service that growing need, but the station is not suitable for the number of Gardaí in the station. There have been proposals over the years to relocate the station – while this is still the best option, in the meantime the station needs to be upgraded to facilitate members of the public and members of the Gardaí and administrative staff working in the station.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>This is a matter for the Minister for Housing to address, however it is the understanding of AGS that the upgrade of Swords Garda Station is high on a Government list for completion.</p> <p>Recently, OPW have carried out some works to Swords Garda Station and there is a proposal in relation to the hoarding that is currently in place. Consultation is currently taking place in relation to the current station.</p> <p>Additional Gardaí have been and continue to be allocated to Swords Garda Station (3 new Garda members this week alone).</p>
---	--

2. Louise O'Reilly T.D.

**Question:**

That the JPC agrees to the setting up of a Drugs Task Force in Swords. This has become a major issue in the area and drug dealing and the crimes associated with it is causing huge issues across estates. While local Gardaí are very responsive they don't have the resources necessary to tackle this scourge on communities.

**Response:**

The North Dublin Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force has been in place since 2003. It has 3 centres one of which is based in Applewood Village in Swords – service provided include but is not limited to:

Treatment and rehabilitation services for people who use drugs and/or alcohol – including SMART Recovery, Addiction Counselling, relapse prevention groups, alcohol groups, assessment, key working, care-planning and referral to residential treatment

Specialist treatment services for young people aged 12-24 who are using drugs and/or alcohol

Family support services including: specialist support for families impacted by drug related intimidation, groups and evidence based one to one interventions for people impacted by someone else's drug/alcohol use including 5 step method, parents workshops, drug education for family members, shared care and a range of other interventions

In relation to drug related intimidation the Task force has just completed a recruitment process for DRIVE coordinator to lead on drug related intimidation and violence programme which will see a network of DRIVE leads, the development of DRI training, DRIVE committees and other resources in conjunction with the Gardaí. Its family support service continues to provide free and confidential supports to hundreds of families across

	<p>Fingal many of whom are from Swords who have been impacted by drug related intimidation</p> <p>More info can be found on <a href="http://www.ndublinrdtf.ie">www.ndublinrdtf.ie</a></p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Clr Tania Doyle</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>Standing Order 13.5 change from the existing wording:</p> <p>"With the consent of the Chairperson, urgent and important questions may be put without notice in exceptional circumstances, if the information is readily to hand. The Agenda paper for a JPC Meeting shall contain no more than two questions from any one member. The latest day for submission of questions for inclusion on agenda for meetings of the JPC or any one of its committees shall be fourteen days before the date of the meeting"</p> <p><u>to now read:</u></p> <p>"With the consent of the Chairperson, urgent and important questions may be put without notice in exceptional circumstances, if the information is readily to hand. The Agenda paper for a JPC Meeting shall contain no more than FIVE (5) QUESTIONS from any one member. The latest day for submission of questions for inclusion on agenda for meetings of the JPC or any one of its committees shall be fourteen days before the date of the meeting"</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Questions and answers provided form part of the official record of the JPC and the procedure for Questions is provided for in the Standing Orders.</p> <p>The Standing Orders for the JPC were agreed and approved by the JPC on 6/3/2020. Standing Order 13.5 provides for Questions from Members as follows:-</p>

*With the consent of the Chairperson, urgent and important questions may be put without notice in exceptional circumstances, if the information required is readily available. The agenda paper for a JPC Meeting shall contain not more than **two questions** from any one member. The latest day for submission of questions for inclusion on agenda for meetings of the JPC or any one of its Committees shall be **fourteen days** before the date of the meeting.*

It is not recommended that the Questions increase from 2 to 5 for Members. In accordance with the JPC Guidelines under the Garda Síochána Act 2005 Members of the JPC may ask the relevant Garda and local authority representative questions on matters contained in their report or other matters for which they have responsibility and which are relevant to the work of the JPC. Such questions should not take up a disproportionate amount of the time available for the meeting, and the main business of the JPC meeting must be devoted to progressing items on the annual work plan.

4. Cllr Ian Carey

**Question:**

Garda records of non-fatal vehicle crashes

Do the gardaí keep records of non-fatal vehicle crashes that they have been made aware of? And is this information being made available to Local Authorities who could use such information to inform decisions around traffic calming and road safety.

**Response:**

The annual county figures for road fatalities and serious injuries is recorded by the Road Safety Authorities. Details of the figures (attached) for the county of Fingal for 2013 – 2021 is included in the Fingal Quarterly Report to the JPC.

5.	<p><b>Cllr Ian Carey</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>Trends in public order offences</p> <p>Are we seeing a continuation of the high rates of public order offences that were recorded during Covid? If so are special measures being taken to deal with this issue?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Long term trends for public order offences are stable.</p> <p>Specific challenges regarding drinking in public places that were seen in Covid times are not presenting in the same way. However, with the opening up of the night-time economy different public order challenges present themselves. Resources are allocated to meet demand on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>To address issues specifically related to summer time coastal public order issues Operation Irene is to commence in the immediate term. It will operate throughout the summer period, focusing on popular coastal areas and public transport.</p> <p>The current Community Policing members are targeting incidents of anti-social behaviour in their specific areas.</p>
6.	<p><b>Duncan Smith T.D.</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>To ask the Garda Superintendent has he received an application from Fingal County Council for the provision of double yellow lines fronting private properties in Corballis, Donabate and if so will he approve this application at the earliest possible time given the summer season is almost upon us and to note that last summer emergency services and residents were unable to access the road due to parking on both sides of the road.</p>

	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>All such applications are forwarded through Roads Policing Division, Dublin Castle who in turn will forward such an application to the local Superintendent for his/her views or observations. Supt Barry is familiar with this location and would support such an application if the local authority deems it necessary.</p>
7.	<p><b>Duncan Smith T.D.</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>To ask the Garda Superintendent to outline his plans to increase Garda presence in Donabate especially in the vicinity of the beach, railway station and Town Centre on an ongoing basis and especially over the busy summer period with huge numbers visiting the peninsula</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Operation Irene, is beginning in the District this weekend. This operation will assign extra Gardaí on high visibility beat patrols and also high visibility mobile patrols to the Donabate/Portrane areas.</p> <p>The current community police who have responsibility for the Donabate area will also be carrying out extra patrols in their area of responsibility.</p> <p>A number of Garda activities have been scheduled in the Donabate and Portrane areas including a number that will focus on all open areas and public transport hubs.</p>
8.	<p><b>Duncan Smith T.D.</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>To ask the Garda Superintendent to outline the procedure for the provision of CCTV within our villages and town centres and with regards to Donabate</p>

	<p>village would he prioritise proposals for the provision of CCTV within the village.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Due to GDPR, the processes of installing CCTV in local areas is currently under consideration and review. This is a national matter that AGS are in the process of advancing same with the assistance of Local Authorities. The current status is that AGS in Coolock District are awaiting the Garda Community Engagement Bureau to finalise a policy document in relation to same.</p>
9.	<p><b>Cllr Adrian Henchy</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>“To ask the Chief Superintendent what if any plans have been made regards physical infrastructure and service provision out of Swords Garda Station given the projected population growth for Swords and its surrounding district which includes the Donabate Portrane peninsula and Rural Fingal, for example is the present building at Swords fit for purpose to meet the current and present population of Swords and its surrounding areas and is there capacity at the current facility to expand into the future given the population is projected to be larger than most counties in Ireland”</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>This matter is being examined currently, with a view to upgrading the existing station. Work has been carried out on the station in the past year and the current Garda Station is fit for purpose for the number of members who are attached to it.</p>
10.	<p><b>Cllr J.K. Onwumereh</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p>

	<p>Following several complaints and representation, could this committee supply statistics of attacks on transit service providers such as delivery personnel, post men and women, courier services, taxi drivers and other transit service providers, and what strategy is An Garda Síochána deploying to arrest this ugly development in the county?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Garda attached to Blanchardstown are unaware of any significant rise in this type of crime. Could Cllr J.K. Onwumereh please provide more information and possibly the contact details of the reporting individuals so that Gardai can engage and investigate the circumstances around this issue thoroughly. Please forward any relevant information to <a href="mailto:blanchardstown_community@garda.ie">blanchardstown_community@garda.ie</a></p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Senator Emer Currie</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>To ask the Garda Superintendent to allocate Garda resources/patrols to monitor the vicinity of St Mochta’s Drive, Clonsilla, Dublin 15 given the ongoing issues of youths using laughing gas and partaking in anti-social behaviour in this particular area in recent weeks on weekend nights before the Summer holidays begin.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Community Policing/Task Force are aware of this issue and have increase their patrols of the area. This area will also be part of Operation Irene which will tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in D15 over the summer months. Garda Sean Breheny Community Policing will be engaging with residents on this issue. He will also link in with Senator Currie and any other representative as required.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><b>Senator Emer Currie</b></p>

**Question:**

That the JPC note Ongar Viillage and monitor the levels of anti-social behaviour at this location. To ask that Garda resources/patrols are appropriately allocated in order to address the increased reports of youth anti-social behaviour (drinking/property damage) in the area.

**Response:**

Ongar Village and the surrounding estates/green spaces will come under Operation Irene which will tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in the area. As part of this Operation Gardaí will increase patrols of this area. Garda David Shorthouse Community Policing has been nominated to link in with residents on this issue and will engage with Senator Currie and any other representative as required. Garda Shorthouse will also engage with Foróige with a view to redirecting the youths involved in Anti-Social Behaviour.