

Item 3

Questions for Noting

1	<p>Pat Doyle</p> <p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Can Fingal County Council subsidise personal alarms, handheld or on body, to oaps?2. Can the Community Alert local system be brought into the Digital Age at a reasonable cost to our most vulnerable citizens? <p>Response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fingal Co. Council do not have a role in this and as such there is no provision in the budget for same.2. Community Alert is a community safety programme for rural areas with an emphasis on older and vulnerable people. It operates as a partnership between the community, An Garda Síochána and Muintir na Tíre. It works on the principle of shared responsibility for crime prevention and reduction. <p>In relation to the J District, it is an urban area and does not have Community Alert program which is a Garda initiative in Rural areas, however, this is</p>

mitigated with the active community engagement as part of our core policing through dedicated Community Policing units.

In relation to the R District, there are currently no plans to introduce such a scheme in the Swords Sub District. Community Alert is a community safety programme for rural areas and the current demographic of the Swords Sub District does not lend itself to same.

The pilot scheme Swords "See it Say It" is in currently in operation in the Swords Sub District and is considered an effective means for reporting anti – social behaviour and enables efficient deployment of Garda resources to designated areas.

2. Ray Smyth PPN

Question:

1. The FPPN representatives request a list of Community Garda, the operational area of which each of the Community Garda operates and how best to grow engagement with community groups.
2. The FPPN representatives request Fingal County Council to provide details of the number & location of CCTV cameras installed by them in the Fingal area. The cost of the provision and installation of these cameras and the number which are operational.

Response:

1. There are two community Gardaí listed in the **Howth District** which cover Baldoyle/Sutton/Howth areas:

- Gardaí Frank Fay & Laura Murphy

The following Gardaí are attached to **Swords Community Policing Unit** and their general areas of responsibilities are as follows:

- Garda Tom Murphy – Abbeylea, Thornleigh, Millers Glen, Elmwood. St. Cronan's, Swords Manor
- Garda Rebecca McGowan- Rivervalley, Boroimhe, Ridgewood and environs
- Garda Daragh Hynes – Donabate, Portrane, Rivermeade, Rolestown
- Garda Tom Doherty – Donabate, Portrane, Rivermeade, Rolestown
- Garda Dong Dong Zheng – Main Street Swords & Environs
- Garda Pamela Harte, Main Street Swords & Environs
- Garda Elaine Duffy, Holywell, Boroimhe, Rivervalley and Ridgewood
- Garda Fergus Garvey, Applewood, Thornleigh, Millers Glen.

There are 14 Garda members attached to Community Policing in the Y District.

The following Gardai are attached to the Blanchardstown District

- Garda Daire O'Neill Tyrellstown
- Garda Chris O'Connor Tyrellstown
- Garda Alex McDermott Castleknock/Carpenterstown
- Garda Barry Tormey Hartstown/Huntstown & Blakestown/Mountview
- Garda Karen Baxter Castleknock/Carpenterstown
- Garda David Shorthouse Ongar
- Garda Seán Breheny Blanchardstown Village
- Garda Terry Nevin Corduff / Waterville / JCM.
- Garda Ray Shiels Corduff / Waterville / JCM

Gardaí continue to liaise closely with both the local community and relevant stakeholders.

2. [Fingal County Council - CCTV Cameras](#)

LIST OF LOCATIONS FOR COUNCIL CCTV & RECORDING EQUIPMENT MONITORING

as of 24th February 2021

Council Buildings

- Swords
- County Hall
- Executive Car Park
- Seatown Rd. Staff Car Park
- Watery Lane Depot
- Blanchardstown Civic Offices
- Coolmine Depot.
- Balbriggan Civic Offices

Libraries

Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Donabate, Garristown, Howth, Malahide, Rush, Skerries, Swords. Fingal Mobile Library HQ (Coolmine).

Public Parks

- Ardgillan Regional Park
- Balbriggan Allotments
- Bremore Castle
- Corduff Park
- Malahide Castle & Demesne
- Millennium Park
- Newbridge House
- Santry Demesne
- St. Catherine's Park Lucan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swords Town Park• Turvey Nature Reserve

3. Councillor Adrian Henchy

Questions

1. To ask the Superintendent to provide an update including timelines on the recommissioning of a mobile satellite Garda clinic to serve the Donabate Portrane peninsula and are there any plans in tandem with this clinic to also establish an outreach youth cafe?
2. To ask the Superintendent to provide an update on Community Policing operating out of Swords Garda station and if a strategic summary can be given on the day to day policing plan covering the Donabate Portrane community?

Response:

1. The recommissioning of the Garda satellite clinic for the Donabate area is under examination by local Garda management. Consideration for same was delayed due to the recent high levels of Covid infections, and the subsequent NPHET guidance on Covid prevention and public safety. At this time, there are no plans to establish an outreach youth café.
2. There are currently 9 members attached to Swords Community Policing (one Garda Sergeant and 8 Gardaí). Two of these Gardaí are allocated to the Donabate/Portrane area. The Donabate and Portrane areas are included in the 2022 Coolock District Policing Plan with the areas patrolled by Gardaí from the regular units in Swords as well as those on community policing.

4. Alan Farrell TD

Questions

1. To ask the details of Garda efforts to prevent crime in Fingal through mechanisms such as the Youth Diversion Programme.
2. To ask the number of Gardaí serving the division and to provide relevant information.

Response

1. Crime prevention initiatives across each district include:

Operation Irene: This operation is continuing throughout the division, liaising with the stakeholders in this case (Irish Rail).

Operation Tara: This operation has had success in recent weeks with monumental drug seizures and arrests throughout the division.

Operation Caomhnaigh and Faoiseamh: Both operations are currently in place throughout the division supporting victims of domestic abuse.

Operation Soteria: This operation is continuing to run throughout the DMR North to ensure assaults and other crimes which occur in a public place are dealt with in a proactive manner.

Operation Fogra: This operation focuses on tackling drug intimidation throughout the DMR North.

Other crime prevention initiatives include school talks, Neighbourhood Watch, Business Watch, both uniformed and undercover patrols and beats and general policing activities.

In respect of the Youth Diversion Programme, aims include preventing the re-committal of offences by young offenders as well as allowing for young people who commit criminal offences or anti-social behaviour to be dealt with by means of a caution rather than a formal process of

	<p>charge and prosecution. Community Gardai continue to regularly engage with young people in the Swords area, building sustainable and positive relationships.</p> <p>2. 582 Members of Garda rank serving this division.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Councillor Anthony Lavin</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>1. Can you give a report on the operation of the CCTV that was to be installed in Malahide last year giving an explanation as to how it is being operated and advise if it has led to any convictions etc.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>1. The Council received a request from the Superintendent in the area to install CCTV infrastructure in Malahide and Swords last year. CCTVs were installed in Malahide, however, they did not become operational as An Garda Siochana were not in a position to host the supporting infrastructure in the local station due to issues around GDPR and the role/assignment of data controller. As a consequence the cameras never went 'live' in Malahide and the infrastructure was subsequently removed as it was on hire. CCTV was not installed at any point in Swords as the same concerns arose.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Councillor Ian Carey</p> <p>Question</p> <p>1. Local litter pickers in Swords are continuing to find 'silver bullet' type gas cannisters in local parks, even during winter. They are often confused about whether to report this to the Gardaí. This is obviously a</p>

worrying trend that the Gardaí will want to stay on top of. Has there been an increase in solvent abuse linked to these cannisters? What approach is being taken by the Gardaí to dealing with this? And how would you suggest locals report these cannisters?

2. Can I get an update on how the new laws relating to scrambler bikes have been working in the Swords area? Has there been a reduction in scrambler use in parks? Have the laws been used yet?

Response

1. An Garda Síochána are not aware of an increase in solvent abuse in the Swords area. However, anecdotal evidence would suggest that these gas canisters (Nitrous Oxide, used legally in the medical and catering industries), have in recent years been used as a psychoactive substance (Laughing gas).

In the event members of the public find these canisters, they should report these findings to An Garda Síochána. This will enable local Garda Management to allocate resources and target areas where persons may be engaging in such dangerous behaviour.

2. The use of scrambler bikes is strictly prohibited under the Fingal County Council Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws and enforced by Park Rangers on the ground. The Council have no records of enforcement taken to date. This is done on an ongoing basis by the Rangers.

The proposed legislation – *The Criminal Justice (Public Order)(Quad Bikes and Scramblers) Amendment Bill 2021* is currently at Bill stage, and will allow for increased powers for Gardaí to seize scramblers. The Council will review the new legislation when enacted and will continue to work closely with An Garda Síochána around the issues related to the use of scramblers and quads in Public parks and on public lands

7. Councillor James Humphreys

Questions

1. Is there an update on the "See Something Say Something" national text alert system, and if the national scheme that was discussed at previous meetings is not going ahead are their plan to introduce the scheme for Donabate that was previously announced at the JPC be implemented?
2. On foot of the increase criminal damage been experienced, particularly over the Christmas period, by residents in the vicinity of the Playground adjacent to Broadmeadow Linear Park in Swords. Can the area, when possible, be patrolled on foot or bicycle patrol at dusk.

Response

1. The "See It Say It" is a pilot which was piloted in the Swords area. It was a joint initiative between Fingal County Council, Fingal Chamber and AGS. As the initial launch was at the beginning of Covid the Council did look to relaunch the pilot text alert system in Swords and extend it to Donabate. However, the Council were informed in June 2021 that the developer/owner of the app was in discussions with An Garda Siochana with regards to the app. Following correspondence by the Council with AGS in June 2021 it was confirmed that AGS Community Relations are currently looking to transition the Inbound Text service from the *See It Say It* to the Eir solution using the same 50555 number. Community Relations and ICT are carrying out testing to confirm that the new functionality of the National Eir solution is suitable and matches or supersedes the local expectation. It is therefore not possible for the Council to introduce the scheme to Donabate.
2. An examination of the Garda PULSE system has not indicated an increase in criminal damage in the playground at Broad meadow Linear Park. Where incidents of such nature do occur, members of the

public are encouraged to report same and an appropriate policing response can be implemented.

Local community Gardaí have been informed of these concerns and will patrol the area accordingly.

8. Councillor Robert O'Donoghue

Questions

1. Lusk Garda Station

The joint policing committee's provide a report on plans/scope for the full-time opening of Lusk Garda Station. The rise in population in the town has brought its challenges regarding anti-social behaviour and additional resource would be very much welcomed in the community.

2. Rush Garda Station

The Joint Policing Committee's provide a report on plans/scope for the full-time opening of Rush Garda Station. The rise in population in the town has brought its challenges regarding anti-social behaviour and additional resource would be very much welcomed in the community.

Response

1. There are plans for the redevelopment of Lusk Garda Station to future proof the station based on population growth predictions. These are being progressed with Garda Estate Management and the OPW, however they are dependent on funding being made available.

Opening the station would have significant implications for providing a 999 response service. Currently resources exist for providing a response service or manning the station, not both. Opening the station 24 hours a day would not be a good use of Garda resources based on the limited number of available Gardaí and the demand for community based and crime response services.

	<p>A weekly community policing drop in service is to be established in the coming months similar to that in Rush. This will provide a set time during the week when people can attend the station with certainty of opening hours. Community Gardaí can meet with members of the public who cannot make it to the station at these times and who may not be able to travel to a 24 hour station.</p> <p>2. Opening Rush station would have significant implications for providing a 999 response service across the policing district. Response policing services for the area are provided by Lusk station.</p> <p>Providing a full time response service from Rush is not practical with two Garda Stations (Skerries and Lusk) within a short distance. It would require a huge increase in district resources which are not realistic. Any increase in resources will be allocated to Lusk Garda Station. This will ensure a more efficient response service across the Rush/Lusk area, rather than a fractured multi-station approach.</p>
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<p>9</p>	<p>Senator Emer Currie</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>1. To ask about the prevalence of cyberbullying and escalation of online rows to real fights and the measures being taken by the Gardai in dealing with this.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>An Garda Síochána is acutely aware of the prevalence of cyberbullying and the escalation of 'online rows to real fights'.</p>
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An Garda Síochána engage and educate the public by means of the Schools Programme in regards to online safety for both primary and secondary level schools.

An Garda Síochána also engage with the wider public in relation to Personal Safety Programmes such as the 'Use Your Brain not Your Fist' campaign to reduce the incidents of assaults. These programmes are delivered as part of Operation Soteria.

10. Councillor Tania Doyle

Question

1. Will An Garda Síochána commence foot patrols throughout the Ongar Ward as soon as practicably possible and can the number conducted year ending 31st December 2021 be advised please?
2. Are An Garda Síochána aware of what is referred to as "Sulkey Racing" taking place along the N3 (Dublin/Meath Border). Videos of these "activities" are being posted on social media involving an "activity" on the N3 as recently as Sunday 13th Feb 2022 (pic attached for reference only). Research by animal welfare organisations has identified a trend for these so called "races" being held at weekends. Can An Garda Síochána mount an Operation (calling in resources from Garda HQ, other Divisions and their Units and Sub Units if so required) so as to identify person(s) involved directly or indirectly and take appropriate enforcement measures for any breaches of Roads Traffic and Animal Welfare Legislation against those person(s).

Response

1. Gardai take a targeted approach to crime and anti-social behaviour in the K District. The type of patrols conducted depends on the

particular issue/location and may take the form of either overt or covert patrols.

As the weather improves the instances of mountain bike patrols will increase as this provides a greater level of visibility and coverage than traditional foot beats. In areas where mountain bike patrols are unsuitable, foot beats will take place. The number of such patrols are not recorded.

2. The detection of 'sulkey races' can be difficult to detect as they are intermittent and not widely advertised. Often gardai only become aware of such races when notified by the public that they are actually taking place.

Previous successful operations have been conducted in targeting such races and they will be considered again if An Garda Síochána has intelligence that a race is planned for a particular time and location.