

Fingal Joint Policing Committee Meeting – Friday 1st September 2023

Item 02 - Questions for Noting

1.	<p>Deputy Duncan Smith T.D. (To DMR-North)</p> <p>Question: To ask the Superintendent to give consideration to the provision of a crime prevention information event for the general public in Swords and Donabate at the earliest possible time.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>In the second and third quarter of this year, Swords Community Policing Unit have conducted a number of crime prevention events within the Sub District including at the annual Flavours of Fingal at Newbridge House, at Jones Garden Centre Donabate which was in association with the IFA, and also at Fingal Older People’s Conference in partnership with Fingal County Council.</p> <p>These Garda information stands provided an opportunity to engage with the wider Swords community in an informal manner and enabled promotion of the new Garda Property App, the delivery of crime prevention advice specific to the farming and rural community, as developing strengths and ties with our diverse new communities. It is proposed that similar events will be held in the last quarter of 2023.</p>
2.	<p>Deputy Duncan Smith T.D. (To DMR-North)</p> <p>Question: To ask the Superintendent to outline his plans to provide Garda car and foot Patrols for the Swords and Donabate areas over the Halloween period.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Operation Tombola 2023 is a specific Garda policing plan developed and in situ to address the policing challenges surrounding the Hallowe’en period. It comprises of scheduled school talks to primary school students as per the Garda School Talks Programme, additional beat and pedal cycle patrols of designated “hot spots” and on the days leading up to Hallowe’en, the availability of assistance from Divisional Public Order Units if required.</p> <p>Both the Swords and Donabate areas will be included in the District Operation Tombola plan and will receive appropriate attention.</p>

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3.	<p>Cllr Anthony Lavin (To DMR-North)</p> <p>Question: How many Gardai are stationed in Malahide and to show this information in tabular format over the last 5 years</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Currently allocation of members to Malahide Garda Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Inspector• 1 Sergeant• 15 Gardaí• 1 Juvenile Liaison Officer• 1 Detective Sergeant• 9 detective Gardaí <p>The numbers of members in Malahide over the last 5 years is currently being examined and will be provided at the next meeting</p>
4.	<p>Cllr Anthony Lavin (To DMR-North)</p> <p>Question: To update the FJPC on the commitment to extend the opening hours of Malahide GS</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>At present we are not in a position to extend the opening hours of Malahide Garda Station, this is being reviewed regularly in line with numbers of members in the District.</p>

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5.	<p>Cllr Adrian Henchy (To DMR-North)</p> <p>Question: To ask An Garda Siochana what are the plans both currently and into the future to provide for a visible Community Policing approach for Donabate-Portrane focusing on Crime prevention rather than Crime responses.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>There are two community policing members allocated to the Donabate Portrane area. At this time there are no plans to allocate any additional community policing members to this area.</p> <p>Divisional resources such as those from the Roads Policing Unit and the Burglary Response unit provide additional supports to the Swords regular units by means of proactive patrols and traffic enforcement operations in the Donabate area.</p>
6.	<p>Cllr Adrian Henchy (To DMR-North)</p> <p>Question: To ask An Garda Siochana is the current Garda Station building in Swords fit for purpose in order to meet the current and future policing needs of the Swords and surrounding areas including Donabate Portrane and Rural Fingal?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The allocation of a new Garda station for the Swords and Donabate area is a matter for consideration by senior Garda management. At this time there are no such plans in place for same.</p>

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7.	<p>Cllr Ann Graves (To DMR-North)</p> <p>Question: The standing down of the response team in Swords over the summer months have a huge impact on the increase in anti-social behaviour, particularly by youths in the area and specifically in the Swords Rivervalley Park. The community Gardaí and the response team had proved really positive and while issues with resourcing and prioritising other areas are understood, this should not be to the detriment of communities.</p> <p>The visibility of community Gardaí and the work of the response team has over the past year been really positive and noted by residents in Swords who feel safer in their communities, it would be a shame to have this progress wasted. Please confirm that this was only during the summer months and that the response team will be back in action in September.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The Swords Community Response Team was a temporary unit set up to deal with issues of anti-social behaviour in the Swords Sub District and involved the redeployment of Gardai from the regular units in Swords.</p> <p>There are two Community Gardai who have responsibility for the area outlined above and they regularly engage with the local community on matters of concern. In addition, two members are currently employed on an overtime basis on Friday and Saturday evenings to deal with anti-social behaviour in the Swords area, which includes the Swords Rivervalley Park.</p> <p>The re-establishment of the Swords Response Team will be examined by the management team in September.</p>
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8.	<p>Cllr Tania Doyle (To DMR-West)</p> <p>Question: Can An Garda Siochana confirm the establishment strength versus actual operationally available of members as of July 2022 and July 2023?</p> <p>Response:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="261 510 1349 653"><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>C/Superintendent</th><th>Superintendent</th><th>Inspector</th><th>Sergeant</th><th>Gardai</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2022</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>23</td><td>130</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>24</td><td>120</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	C/Superintendent	Superintendent	Inspector	Sergeant	Gardai	2022	1	2	5	23	130	2023	1	2	6	24	120
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9.	<p>Cllr Tania Doyle (To DMR-West)</p> <p>Question: Can An Garda Siochana in Blanchardstown confirm when foot and mountain bike patrolling is scheduled to commence throughout Dublin 15?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>In order to maximise Garda resources in D15 there is a blended approach to policing which includes both Overt / Covert patrols and includes Vehicular, Mountain Bike and Beat Patrols. The type of patrols performed in any specific area is based on the policing needs and geography of that area. In order to ensure that needs are being met would Cllr Doyle be in a position to discuss the areas of concern so that they may be addressed.</p>																		
10.	<p>Senator Emer Currie (To DMR-West)</p> <p>Question: To ask the JPC what measures are being put in place to tackle the increase in car break-ins in Beechwood and Barnwell by youths in early morning and evenings?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Both Overt and Covert patrols have been increased in the Ongar area in response to this reported issue. Any information that residents may have regarding this issue should be forwarded to Blanchardstown Garda Station.</p>																		