

**Questions for An Garda Síochána & Fingal County Council – GENERAL**

1.	<p><b>Fingal PPN's Community Safety, Crime and Policing Linkage Group - Mr. Myles Caulfield</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> As the Joint Policing Committee is an initiative between An Garda Síochána and Fingal County Council, I wish to ask FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL how many falls have been caused by the Kerb Protected Cycle-ways which have been installed in Fingal during the last year. And what steps have been taken to remove the kerbs and eliminate this danger.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Many measures were taken to ensure the visibility of the scheme - the full length of the segregated cycle lanes is lit with street lighting, high reflective road markings, flexible bollards with reflective bands have been provided to highlight the presence of the kerb protected cycle lanes, and finally a buff coloured and red coloured surfacing has been placed in the cycle lane to provide a contrast against the kerb.</p> <p>Our contractors have completed works on the recommendations from the Non-Motorised User Audit . These works included a number of elements which will make the road safer for all road users. In particular, the junction build outs have been completed with new drop kerbs and tactile paving, this means shorter crossing distances for pedestrians and hence improved safety. We have also installed new uncontrolled crossing points which will provide more safe crossing locations for more vulnerable road users with shorter intervals between crossing points.</p> <p>We have figures on the number of incidents that have been reported to Fingal County Council. As a number of these are currently referred to our legal teams, details cannot be made available. We continue, however, to review any reports of incidents and the scenarios surrounding them. There has been a significant drop off in the report of incidents since the epoxy resin has been provided and the Phase 2 works that have been undertaken.</p>
2.	<p><b>Deputy Louise O'Reilly</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> To ask the JPC for an update on the status of the Task Force for Swords which was agreed at a previous meeting</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The establishment of a Crime Task Force to deal with crime in Swords was proposed to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) at its meeting on <b>31<sup>st</sup> July 2020</b>. At the time no details on the formation, structure, purpose etc. was considered. It was agreed that the Director for Operations and Chairperson of the JPC meet with An Garda Síochána to consider a working model for Fingal The matter was raised at the JPC meeting on <b>30<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b> and the Executive agreed to discuss with the An Garda Síochána and Housing.</p>

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	<p>At the JPC meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the Executive having consulted with the AGS, outlined to the Committee that the Department of Justice were now currently running 4 Community Safety Forum pilots. These forums will inform part of the new policing legislation – Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill. The drafting for the bill was launched by the Minister for Justice in April 2021 and when enacted will repeal the Garda Síochána Act 2005 in its entirety. Having also consulted Fingals Housing &amp; Community Directorates there are currently no resources to service a Crime Task Force for Swords which would be similar to that in Blanchardstown.</p>
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### Questions for An Garda Síochána – DMR-N

3.	<p><b>Deputy Louise O'Reilly</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> To ask the JPC for an update on the installation and monitoring of cameras in Swords town and Malahide as per announcement made in May indicating that they would be installed in both Malahide and Swords – given the length of time we should be in a position to receive a report on their success to date and to get some feedback from AGS on the response from residents</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The temporary CCTV system was installed for the summer period in Malahide on foot of a request from the Superintendent in the area. Unfortunately due to data controller issues the system was not able to go live as hoped and as a result the cameras were not deployed in Swords. No CCTV was operational in either town over the summer period</p>
4.	<p><b>Councillor Robert O'Donoghue</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Anti-social behaviour Lusk</p> <p>That the JPC note the area in the vicinity of the Centra and the adjacent Kilhedge Lane/Chapel Farm in Lusk and monitor the levels of anti-social behaviour and keep under review allocations of Garda resources/patrols to attend to patterns and reports of ongoing issues of youth anti-social behaviour (fighting/drinking) at the location in recent weeks on weekend nights</p> <p><b>Response:</b> An Garda Síochána at Balbriggan District are aware of ongoing challenges in this area. Personnel at Lusk have been tasked to pay particular attention to the areas concerned. The local Community Garda is engaging with the community in order to address issues.</p>

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5.	<p><b>Councillor Robert O’ Donoghue</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Lusk Garda Station</p> <p>That the JPC give a report on any proposed measures for the fulltime opening of Lusk Garda Station, particularly at night-time on the weekends given recent reports of anti-social behaviour on the rise in the town.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The opening of the GS in Lusk is resource dependant. However, personnel levels have recently been increased with an aim to provide mobile patrols on a 24 hr basis. Station opening is necessarily limited to allow for members of An Garda Síochána to patrol the Lusk/Rush area.</p>
6.	<p><b>Councillor Adrian Henchy</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> To ask An Garda Síochána are there any plans in the short to medium term to look at improving the Garda visibility across the Donabate Portrane peninsula whether it be fixed patrols in the area or if consideration would be given to once again piloting a weekly Garda clinic in Donabate from 7-8pm?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> As part of the Christmas Operational Order, patrols will be continued in the Donabate/Portrane area which will include road traffic patrols and anti-burglary/theft patrols. There is no current plan to operate a Garda Clinic in Donabate, at this time</p>
7.	<p><b>Councillor Adrian Henchy</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Given the close proximity of Donabate train station to the centre of Donabate village and a number of incidents where visiting youths coming on and off the train at Donabate train station have engaged in serious anti-social behaviour and then left via the train station in Donabate, are both An Garda Síochána and Irish Rail happy with the CCTV system covering in and around Donabate train station and does this system readily and easily identifies any potential suspects of criminal behaviour.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> An Garda Síochána continue to liaise with all stakeholders. Regular meetings take place between AGS and the National Transport Authority where all modes of public transport are discussed and policing plans are discussed.</p>

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	<p>In relation to the matter of Donabate, Iarann Eireann have a control room that allows the Gardaí access to view and download CCTV on request. To date, this camera system has assisted in a number of investigations.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Ann Graves</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> To ask the JPC to seek additional resources to deal with the needs in Swords and to cater for the town's population. In a town with a population in excess of 40,000 the numbers of Gardaí are insufficient to deal with policing requirements. The increase in crime is apparent and the Gardaí are working the best they can with the resources they have but they have to cover such a wide expansive area is not possible with the numbers they have.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The allocation of resources is a matter for consideration by the Minister for Justice and Senior Garda Management. Local Garda Management would welcome additional resources to the Swords Policing District.</p> <p>We in the Coolock District (Coolock, Swords and Malahide) continually amend or adapt the policing plans in line with the needs of the community and Swords Gardaí will continue to be proactive with the resources available.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Ann Graves</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> To ask the JPC to ensure more visibility of Gardaí within communities, there have been a number of great initiatives such as the late-night leagues which have been a great success. There is no substitute to making residents feel safe that seeing Gardaí out and about in their area.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The J District has increased the Community Policing Units across the District in the past 12 months. There are now 2 Sergeants and 14 Gardaí who are dedicated Community Policing Gardaí within the District.</p> <p>Gardaí attached to this District will continue to be involved in local Community initiatives, where possible, and continue to nurture relationships with residents and local Youth and Elderly groups across the "R" District. We currently have 19 Garda members involved in the late night leagues which is an excellent commitment from the local Gardaí.</p>

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10.	<p><b>Councillor Duncan Smith</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> To ask the Garda Superintendent if he has plans to increase Garda presence in Donabate especially in the vicinity of the Town Centre on an ongoing basis and especially during the Christmas holiday period.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> As part of the Christmas Operational Order, patrols will be continued in the Donabate/Portrane area which will include road traffic patrols and anti-burglary/theft patrols.</p>
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Questions for An Garda Síochána – DMR-W

<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Pamela Conroy</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Can an update be provided on the operation to tackle dangerous driving by those gathering at the Maxol Service station in Ballycoolin on the Corduff Rd (and other locations) and racing up and down the N2-N3/Cherryhound Tyrrelstown Link Road at night, including the next steps which can be taken to deal with this ongoing issue.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Both the Road Policing Unit and Community Policing Blanchardstown are taking a joint approach to tackling this issue. There are regular checkpoints in these areas to tackle the individuals involved along with High Visibility Patrols. As a result individuals have been caught for driving dangerously and are currently being prosecuted for these offences along with other road traffic matters. The Road Policing Unit are also liaising FCC and the Maxol Service Station regarding this issue.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Pamela Conroy</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Given the safety concerns at Coolmine Woods, arising from several recent incidents, has consideration been given to installing CCTV in the area, as has been done in Millennium Park?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Community Policing Blanchardstown, the Crime Prevention Officer Sgt Connolly and FCC have been in consultation in relation to Coolmine Woods with a view to finding practical solutions to address the issues raised. An Garda Síochána do not have the authority to install cameras in Coolmine Woods and were not responsible for the installation of cameras in Millennium Park.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p><b>Councillor John Walsh</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> To ask for a report on the impact of scrambler bikes on the Royal Canal towpath and measures being taken by An Garda Síochána to control such activity.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Anti-Social Behaviour has been reported along the Royal Canal Walk Way with Gardai at Blanchardstown increasing their patrols of the area to address the issue.</p>

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	<p>There has been no recent reported incidents of Scrambler Motorbikes on the Royal Canal pathway but scrambler bikes is an issue within D15 that the Gardai are tackling. Community Policing Blanchardstown are working with FCC and Resident groups in specific areas to identify the owners of Scrambler bikes that are being driven dangerously.</p> <p>In addition, Community Policing Blanchardstown are working with Safer Blanchardstown on an initiative to introduce young people from D15 interested in Motocross to the Motocross Club facility in Mulhuddart so that these youths can learn the necessary skills required to manage one of the motorcycles along the responsibility attached to owning one.</p>
14.	<p><b>Councillor John Walsh</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> To ask for a report on anti-social behaviour along the Royal Canal and the measures being taken by An Garda Siochana to combat such anti-social behaviour</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Anti-Social Behaviour has been reported along the Royal Canal Walk Way with Gardai at Blanchardstown increasing their patrols of the area to address the issue.</p>
15.	<p><b>Councillor Daniel Whooley</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Could an Garda Siochana increase their presence and patrols in St. Josephs estate in Clonsilla? Residents from the new estate have raised complaints about an increase in burglaries and loitering in the estate.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Could contact details please be forwarded by Cllr Whooley for his contact within St Joseph’s Estate and Community Policing Blanchardstown will contact these residents with a view to addressing their issues.</p>
16.	<p><b>Councillor Daniel Whooley</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Could an Garda Siochana increase their presence and patrols along Ongar village and Ongar Woods? There has been an increase in bonfires in Ongar Woods, and it is believed that waste from nearby businesses and houses has been</p>

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	<p>stolen and burnt in these fires, and an increased presence would hopefully reduce these issues.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> As part of Operation Tombola Community Policing Blanchardstown approached all Shop premises in Ongar who were leaving rubbish at the rear of their shops with a view to getting this material stored in a safer manner until it could be taken away. These items were being used to start fires in the pedestrian laneway and Ongar Woods.</p> <p>In addition and with the support of FCC Operations Team when items were identified that may be used in a fire FCC were contacted and these items were taken away promptly.</p> <p>Could contact details please be forwarded by Cllr Whooley for his contact within Ongar and Community Policing Blanchardstown will contact these residents with a view to addressing their issues.</p>
17.	<p><b>Councillor Tania Doyle</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Following reports of robbery and theft against the person in the Barnwell Estate Dublin 15 and adjoining locations can An Garda Siochana undertake patrols and institute any measures they deem appropriate and necessary?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Contact has been made with the residents of the Barnwell Estate with a view to organising a meeting so that the issues raised with Cllr Doyle can be discussed in full. The option of forming a residents group in the area is also being considered.</p>
18.	<p><b>Councillor Tania Doyle</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Following reports of a scrambler recently being driven at high speed along the Royal Canal Towpath from The Old Schoolhouse to Clonsilla Rail Station can An Garda Siochana undertake patrols and institute any measures they deem appropriate and necessary including but not limited to cycle and foot patrols</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Anti-Social Behaviour has been reported along the Royal Canal Walk Way with Gardai at Blanchardstown increasing their patrols of the area to address the issue. There has been no recent reported incidents of Scrambler Motorbikes on the Royal Canal pathway but scrambler bikes is an issue within D15 that the Gardai are tackling. Community Policing Blanchardstown are working with FCC and Resident</p>

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	<p>groups in specific areas to identify the owners of Scrambler bikes that are being driven dangerously.</p> <p>In addition, Community Policing Blanchardstown are working with Safer Blanchardstown on an initiative to introduce young people from D15 interested in Motocross to the Motocross Club facility in Mulhuddart so that these youths can learn the necessary skills required to manage one of the motorcycles along with the responsibility attached to owning one.</p>
19.	<p><b>Councillor Ted Leddy</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Staff at Dunsink Observatory have been harassed and made feel unsafe due to joyriding and burned out cars at the location of their workplace which is at the bottom of a dead-end road. Can something be done to tackle this problem</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Could contact details please be forwarded by Cllr Leddy for his contact within Dunsink Observatory and Community Policing Blanchardstown will contact this person with a view to addressing these issues</p>
20.	<p><b>Councillor Ted Leddy</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> I have received numerous reports of extreme anti-social behaviour in the Sheepmoor estate in Blanchardstown. They range from joyriding, burned out cars, intimidation and vandalism of property. Is it the view of Gardai that the situation is very serious and is there a plan to tackle it?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Community Policing Blanchardstown along with FCC held a meeting with residents from Sheepmoor to firstly develop a better relationship and also to identify the main issues of concern within the estate. From this meeting individuals have been identified who are involved in Anti-Social Behaviour in the estate and other surrounding estates. These individuals will now be approached and this Anti-Social Behaviour will be addressed.</p>