

Fingal Joint Policing Committee Meeting – Friday 2nd June 2023

Item 02 - Questions for Noting

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| <p>1.</p> | <p>Cllr Tania Doyle</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To request An Garda Siochana to undertake a sustained high visibility presence and enforcement on the Ongar Distributor Road in Dublin 15 given two recent high impact collisions where NON PSV MPVs were proceeding within the Bus Lane and at excessive speed.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The recent Road Traffic Collision that occurred on the Ongar Distributor Road is currently under investigation and a file is currently being prepared for the DPP. The Ongar Distributor Road is currently being monitored by the Roads Policing Unit at Blanchardstown Garda Station with a view to addressing issues.</p> |
| <p>2.</p> | <p>Cllr Tania Doyle</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To request an Garda Siochana to undertake a sustained overt and covert presence and enforcement within the Hazelbury Park Public Park, Littlepace Open Space (Pitches) and the Ongar Open Space at Stralem, to combat the use of scramblers within these areas in line with the excellent enforcement undertaken in recent months throughout the area.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Gardai attached to Blanchardstown have increased their presence in the Hazelbury Park area and the surrounding estates with a view to identifying the Users/Owners of Scramblers in the area. Residents/Stakeholders who have any information identifying the Users/Owners of Scramblers in the area are requested to please contact Blanchardstown_community@garda.ie.</p> |

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| 3. | <p>Cllr J.K. Onwumereh</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask the An Garda Siochana to look into the indiscriminate and dangerous parking of articulated trucks along the Waterville Road and other roads in the Area, and to confirm what action, if any is being taken to prevent the ongoing inconveniences to residents and motorists and other road users and most importantly to prevent possible accident(s).</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>This area is currently being monitored by Community Policing and Roads Policing Unit attached to Blanchardstown. Would Cllr Onwumereh be in a position to provide details of the persons reporting this issue so that Gardai attached to Blanchardstown can take an official report of the matter and obtain some additional details?</p> |
| 4. | <p>Cllr Robert O'Donoghue</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask the Superintendent to provide the number of pulse incidents recorded in Lusk in the First Quarter of 2023?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>1135 incidents were recorded on PULSE in Q1 2023. This number, however, reflects Garda activity, much of which is not necessarily related to crime (patrols, checkpoints, attention and complaints incidents, referrals to TUSLA, missing persons etc.).</p> |

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| 5. | <p>Cllr Robert O’Donoghue</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask the Superintendent to provide a breakdown of overall crime statistics in the Balbriggan DMR North District and if possible, to include the year-on-year change.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The Central Statistics Office has responsibility for providing such crime data. Details are available on Crime and Justice - CSO - Central Statistics Office.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Cllr Ian Carey</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask the Superintendent if consideration can be given to setting up a Local Policing Forum for Swords? This could involve local representatives, local youth leaders, local business representatives, drug and alcohol task force representatives, and other relevant stakeholders. The group could meet every two months, or quarterly, to discuss issues specific to the Swords area. There have been some really positive improvements in community policing in Swords in recent months, with residents’ groups in particular, and this would be a good way to build on that and include other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The Gardaí in the Swords have established a dedicated Swords Community Response Unit. This Unit deals with areas that require a community response and areas with anti-social behaviour. This Unit provides high visibility in the Swords area and they provide patrols which cover all of the Swords and Malahide sub-districts. The unit are also involved in providing checkpoints in local areas to provide visibility. To date this unit has had a high success rate with public order arrests and tackling the issues of anti-social behaviour.</p> |

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| 7. | <p>Cllr Ian Carey</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask what steps are being taken to deal with the recent increase in scrambler usage in the St Cronan's area of Swords?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The establishment of the Community Response Unit in Swords has provided increased Garda presence in the St. Cronan's area of Swords, and they are tasked with tackling the issue of scrambler usage and other public order issues in the area.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Senator Emer Currie</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask An Garda Síochána what measures are being put in place to curb the rapidly rising use of helium canisters amongst teenagers?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>This issue is under constant review by Gardaí attached to Blanchardstown. A number of seizures have taken place and Community Policing Blanchardstown are making efforts to obtain information on this topic which can be delivered as part of the schools program in D15. It is currently illegal to supply or import Nitrous Oxide for Human Consumption under the <u>Physicoactive Substance Act</u> but government are currently looking at bringing forward legislation to control nitrous oxide under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as a Class C drug.</p> <p>DMR – North advise the following:</p> <p>Active patrolling and education regarding the dangers in using same. We encourage the community to advise An Garda Síochána</p> <p>Nitrous oxide is a gas that is inhaled recreationally for its rapid but short-lived feelings of euphoria, relaxation, calmness, and sense of detachment.</p> <p>In most cases, small cartridges of the gas intended to make whipped cream are inserted into a cracker and used to fill party balloons, from which the gas is inhaled.</p> |

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| | <p>At present, nitrous oxide is not a controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977. It can be legally sold for catering and industrial purposes.</p> <p>The Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2010 prohibits the sale, importation or exportation of psychoactive substances; under this legislation, it is illegal to sell nitrous oxide for its psychoactive properties.</p> <p>D/Superintendent Seamus McCormack of the Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau has offered to make an awareness presentation to the next JPC if requested and there is no scheduling conflicts.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Senator Emer Currie</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask An Garda Síochána on if they plan on a vitally needed increase in non-vehicular patrols around Huntstown/Hartstown/Ongar area?</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 ensure that needs are being met would Snr Currie be in a position to discuss the issues in these areas further.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Deputy Duncan Smith TD</p> <p>Question</p> <p>To ask the Superintendent to provide a progress report on the provision of the <i>See Something Say Something</i> text alert initiative across the Donabate peninsula and to confirm if he plans to continue this initiative in the Swords area</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>At present the “See it Say It Scheme” requires maintenance which An Garda Síochána are making every effort to resolve. To date this issue has not been resolved.</p> |

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| 11. | <p>Deputy Duncan Smith TD</p> <p>Question</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 upcoming busy summer period with huge numbers visiting the peninsula</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>At present there are two Community Policing Gardaí from Swords Community Policing Unit assigned to Donabate. They carry out regular patrols in the area and provide a high visibility presence in the area. Operation Irene will commence for the summer months and this will provide extra visibility of Gardaí in the area including mountain bike patrols, motorbike patrols and beat patrols.</p> |
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