

Minutes of January Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 23rd January 2023 at 11am

Members Present: Councillor Micheál Anglim, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Tony Black
Councillor Declan Burgess
Councillor John Crosse
Councillor Michael FitzGerald
Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan
Councillor Roger Kennedy
Councillor Máirín McGrath
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

Officials Present: Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Director/Administrator
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. James Murray, Senior Roads Engineer
Mr. Paul Farrell, Executive Engineer
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer
Environment & Climate Change Directorate
Mr. Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Michael Anglim, opened the January meeting and welcomed everyone. Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer. He called the roll and confirmed the attendance of the Municipal District members.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Michael Fitzgerald proposed a civic reception, being the greatest honour the Councillors could bestow, for Shane O'Connor and Liam Carew who won the BT Young Scientist Award. He noted that it was a marvellous achievement for Liam and Shane, the school and the town. Councillor Kennedy seconded the motion which now requires approval of the Council's Corporate Policy Group. The Cathaoirleach noted that it was a huge achievement and also congratulated the school and their parents, as the students have done the town proud. He confirmed that it was 1989 when Tipperary last had a winner. The Cathaoirleach also wanted to acknowledge the recent winners of the Pride of Place Awards over the weekend including Councillor Andy Moloney and Cahir Tidy Towns and Tipperary Men's Shed. Councillor

Moloney wanted to acknowledge the support of the District and Marie Cox who did huge work to support their application.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

2.1 Minutes of December Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on 20th December, 2022

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District December meeting held on 20th December 2022 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

Matters arising from the minutes

Councillor Marie Murphy requested an update in relation to broadband in Cahir that was raised at last month's meeting. The District Administrator confirmed that he has received a report from C&ED Section which he will be circulating.

3.1 Environment & Climate Action Directorate

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Michael Moroney, S.E.O., and Ms Orla Kelly, A.O., Environment & Climate Change Section to the meeting. Mr. Moroney referred to the report circulated with the agenda and briefed the members on the new Community Climate Action Fund of €700,000 which will be administered by the local authority. He confirmed that the scheme will be advertised in the next 4 to 6 weeks and small, medium and large projects will be considered. A workshop will be held with the members before the scheme is advertised and Marie O'Donnell has been appointed Community Climate Action Fund Officer.

Councillor Crosse thanked the Environment Section for their report and stated that it was great news that funding would be available for community groups. He asked if there was a maximum amount of grant funding and what the criteria would be. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) thanked the Directorate for their report and in relation to the Derelict Sites Act noted that there are 40 property owners that have been requested to carry out works. She noted that there are a significant number of derelict sites in Tipperary Town and she asked how many are on the Derelict Sites List. She noted that the derelict sites are having a negative impact on their neighbouring properties and Council intervention is required. Councillor Fitzgerald welcomed Michael Moroney and his two queries referred to burial grounds. Firstly, he requested an update on Monard and if the option to acquire lands from Tipperary Co-op behind the monument has been explored. He stated that people had the right to be buried in their own place. It was confirmed by Mr. Moroney that the site identified proved not suitable due to the quality of the soil and negotiations are currently taking place with Tipperary Co-op. Secondly, some years ago, drainage was put in at Kilfeacle burial ground and a farmer gave

permission for it to drain into his land. However, the drainage is no longer functioning and the area is flooding again. Councillor McGrath thanked Mr. Moroney and Ms Kelly for the report and the funding announcement. She asked when will the fund be open to applications. She also referred to Molough New Cemetery in Newcastle and advised that the footpaths between the graves are lifting and need to be repaired. She also requested clarification on who is responsible to carry out repairs and grass cutting. She also noted that there is an increase in the incidents of dumping since Christmas and a lot of the material could be recycled at one of the civic amenity sites. She also congratulated the team on the successful prosecution at Loughlin Bridge. Councillor Anglim asked for an update on the extension to the graveyard in Ardfinnan. He previously raised this query at the Plenary Council meeting and wasn't satisfied with the response that the Ballybacon and Grange Burial Grounds are available. He referred to a field available in Ardfinnan and asked if the Council would provide assistance in dealing with archaeological issues because there are only 7 spaces left in the graveyard in Ardfinnan. Councillor Burgess thanked Mr. Moroney and his team, and he asked if the household waste surveys were continuing because it is a very proactive way for the Council to prevent illegal dumping. He noted from the report that 58 surveys were carried out, 9 were deemed non-compliant and he requested details of where in the district the surveys were carried out. Councillor Crosse supported Councillor Fitzgerald in relation to the burial ground at Solohead/Monard. He appreciated that there are criteria for soil testing and suitability, however he requested that common sense would prevail and if the Council could write to the Department and request flexibility. He noted that it was a very sensitive subject and a solution needed to be found because people had a right to a burial ground. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) also supported Councillor Fitzgerald and requested an update on waste enforcement actions. Councillor Murphy requested details on how many covert cameras are in use and does each environmental officer have at least one. Councillor McGrath supported the Cathaoirleach on the issue of limited space left in Ardfinnan cemetery.

In response Mr. Moroney confirmed that the call hasn't issued for the Community Climate Action Fund yet and the criteria haven't been finalised. He confirmed that the total fund amounts to €700,000 and the maximum grant amount will be €100,000. 10% of the fund will be allocated to projects up to €20,000, 40% of the fund to projects €20,000 to €50,000 and 50% of the fund to project between €50,000 to €100,000. However, this may change if there is a large number of large applicants and they are expecting that the scheme will be oversubscribed. Projects that will be considered are clubs and community groups that are looking at sustainable solutions, new heating systems, sustainable travel, food waste project e.g., bio-compost gardens. The projects should build awareness, promote recycling and environmental measures. Mr. Moroney also highlighted other funding streams available through the LEADER Programme and LAWPRO. The funding timeline is 18 months and it is expected that there will be another tranche at a later date, however this scheme should launch in the next 4 to 6 weeks. In relation to Councillor Ryan (Shiner's) query under the new directorate there is a need to put in place a new robust structure to tackle dereliction and trying to

bring properties back into use. There are currently 10 properties in Tipperary Town on the Derelict Site Register. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) asked if she could send details of properties directly to the Environment Section that she has concerns about and she was encouraged to do so. Mr. Moroney confirmed that the household waste surveys were carried out across the district including Cashel, Tipperary, Lattin and Ardfinnan. The staff target areas where complaints are received and it was confirmed that further surveys will continue for the rest of the year. Mr. Moroney confirmed that they do not have fixed cameras. They have 12 cameras that move around the county depending on where the greatest needs are, and they are continuously in use. He confirmed the Section continues to run awareness campaigns with the Environmental Enforcement Officers. Prosecutions are difficult and it is an extensive process to build a robust case and the section always seek costs. The Section also tries to get as much publicity as possible around successful prosecutions. In relation to burial grounds, particularly Monard they are actively trying to identify suitable sites and there is an intensive assessment procedure. Regarding Ardfinnan, correspondence has been sent to the Department seeking advice on the possible presence of a national monument. Councillor Anglim advised that local people and the landowner are not aware of anything of archaeological merit and surely mitigation measures can be put in place before the site will be deemed not suitable. He referred to planning permission granted on the site to build houses and that archaeological issues were never raised. The query in relation to Molough New Cemetery will be brought to the attention of Ruairi Boland, Senior Executive Engineer. Councillor Moloney said there should be more household surveys because there is more dumping in the countryside. Ms. Kelly confirmed that they continue to get information from household waste surveys and the section continues to carry out training with new tenants together with the Housing Section. Councillor Moloney also raised concerns about residents on the Tipperary Road, Cahir who are causing an obstruction on the public footpath by leaving their bins out. He was advised that there are Bye Laws in place that prohibit this and they will follow up with the residents and it will be emphasised with the new Council tenants at Abbey Street, Cahir. The District Administrator advised that this is one of the issues on the agenda of the district meeting with the Environment and Housing Sections. He also wanted to highlight LAWPRO's Community Water Development Fund and inform the members that the closing date for applications is the 7th February, 2023.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Moroney and his team.

3.2 District Engineer's Report

James Swords, District Engineer, advised the Members that they are currently waiting on roads budgets to be allocated and he confirmed that tenders have gone out for road projects. He confirmed that the Schedule of Municipal Works will be brought to the February meeting and the LIS Scheme is open for applications until the 13th February, 2023. Councillor Anglim referred to applicants who have already been approved, and enquired if they need to submit

the application form again. The District Engineer confirmed that a decision has been made to reassess all the applications therefore applicants previously approved are required to reapply. Mr. Paul Farrell confirmed that everyone on the road needs to be included. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) wanted to thank Mr. Swords and Mr. Kilmartin for the speed cushions at Clarkes and asked if they could look at the sequencing of the traffic lights on Tipperary town's Main Street to see if they can be improved to allow greater flow of traffic. She also asked who is responsible for maintaining the walkway from Limerick Junction to Tipperary Town because there is a lot of rubbish, and it has become very muddy and requires maintenance. Councillor McGrath thanked the District Engineer for the report and asked if the internal allocation for the red roads had been decided and if so how much? In this regard she wanted to proposed Barnahown, Araglen in the Cahir area. She also advised that she had been contacted by residents in the Meadows, Ballyporeen and Upper Main Street in relation to public lighting and speeding. She also asked when the pedestrian lights at the crossing in Ardfinnan will be turned on. Councillor Declan Burgess requested an update on the Knockavilla Project and asked if the design would be brought to a workshop. He also wanted to thank the District for the proposed investment on the Old Road, Cashel and asked for a timeline on the works. He noted that the tender process is ongoing to provide additional car parking spaces at Friar Street Carpark and this is welcomed by locals and businesses. Councillor Marie Murphy advised the meeting that the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine is having a public consultation on the management of deer in Ireland and she requested that the District make a submission. She noted that deer cause extension damage to vehicles and thanked the district who deal with dead deer on the road very quickly and have put up signage to warn motorists. Councillor Anglim seconded this proposal and noted that there has been an explosion in the deer population. Councillor Kennedy wanted to concur with Councillor Burgess in relation to Knockavilla. He also wanted to highlight the issue with Ukrainians in Dundrum and the need for a bus stop and road markings. He requested the District to liaise with Sean Lonergan to seek funding from Government for ancillary services. He also advised that the lights from Dundrum village to the rectory are not working. He also concurred in relation to the issue of increased deer population and recommended that more culling licences be granted because it has become a traffic safety issue. He also requested that the bushes at the Palace side of the Circular Road in Cashel be cut back. He also noted that there was no feedback from Ruairi Boland on when the trees will be trimmed at the graveyard in Cashel because it is impacting on graves and is contributing to anti-social behaviour. Councillor Marie Murphy wanted to thank Mr. Paul Farrell for dealing with the numerus locations of water lodging on the road. Councillor Moloney requested an update on the SuperValu junction in Cahir and he also asked if there is an update in relation to the RRDF funding. Councillor Anglim referred to the trees in Ardfinnan across from Lamberts bus yard and requested that they be trimmed.

In response the District Engineer confirmed that they will liaise with the TII in relation to Limerick Junction to Tipperary town and that the district usually apply for Geo App funding for maintenance and will also organise to do a litter pick.

The District have received no red roads allocation to date and it is hoped that it will be a similar amount to last year. The District Engineer confirmed that he had been in touch with Michael Tierney to ensure that there is no issue with the street lighting at Upper Main Street, Ballyporeen. In relation to Knockavilla a draft plan has been received however funding has to be progressed before the design is complete. The District Engineer confirmed that the Old Road Cashel project is expected to be completed in a week and a half with a final surface to be completed in 6 weeks' time. He also confirmed that the tenders have gone out for Friar Street Carpark, and it is planned to start work in two weeks. He advised members that the public should make a submission in relation to the Management of Deer Consultation. He also confirmed that he will liaise with Sean Lonergan in relation to a bus stop at Convent Cross, Dundrum and the faulty street lights will be reported to Michael Tierney. He also agreed to look at the hedge on the Circular Road and contact Ruairi Boland in relation to the trees. He confirmed that Active Travel are looking at the SuperValu Junction Scheme. The District Administrator confirmed that no correspondence has been received in relation to the RRDF allocation for Cahir and that the District is ready to go to tender. Councillor Hanna Hourigan requested an immediate clean up on the Limerick Junction to Tipperary Town walkway and the District Engineer agreed to investigate the possibility of getting a mini digger for a clean-up. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) confirmed that there are overgrown briars and that Iarnrod Eireann should be contacted in relation to overgrown briars on the railway bridge. Councillor Moloney referred to the €200,000 funding for the walkway and the N24 Improvement Scheme is still a number of years away, however he requested that ducting for lighting be installed. It was confirmed that the District will be liaising with the ARUP team. Councillor Kennedy referred to the 35 vacant houses in the housing report and asked for a detailed breakdown for the next meeting regarding minor repairs and where they are in the district. Councillor McGrath acknowledged the work of Housing Section staff and noted that there are 12 houses on the CBL in the Cahir area. She also wanted to support Councillor Murphy in relation to the deer survey.

3.3 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) thanked the District Administrator for getting the River Ara Walkway open before Christmas and thanked the District Engineer for getting the final bit of tarmac completed. She requested a bin at the Glenview Square end and that dog mutt mitt dispensers be installed. She raised concerns in relation to the number of retail closures on the Main Street in Tipperary which is a severe blow to the town. She requested one-hour free parking in the centre and if there are other measures available. Councillor Black also supported Councillor Ryan (Shiner) in relation to the opening of the River Ara Walkway and that it is a lovely amenity for the town, however he did also request bins to be put in place and referred to a section of fencing which had been removed.

In response the District Administrator thanked and appreciated the comments of the members. He confirmed that once weather permits the work will be completed on the playground and boardwalk. In relation to bins he noted that it is important to get the balance right and not have too many bins near the walkway and to encourage users to bring their rubbish home. He also confirmed that he will follow up on the fencing.

In relation to the closure of businesses, the District Administrator confirmed that this is a huge challenge facing many towns and the District will continue to work with and support the Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force. He referred to the Vacant Properties Workshop held last year and noted that parking is only one issue and there has to be a good offering to attract customers. He noted that there are 250 free parking spaces and that the District will continue to work with property owners and the Chamber of Commerce. Councillor Fitzgerald referred to the Council's Painting and Enhancement Scheme and asked if some of the large villages could be included like Clogheen and Cappawhite. He noted the three towns, Tipperary Cahir and Cashel have benefited and that this was supported by Tipperary Credit Union. He asked if the scheme could support Tidy Towns groups in villages where there is no support. He also raised a query in relation to the National Broadband Scheme and asked for clarification in relation to installation costs particularly where a property is less than 500m from the public road the installation of broadband is free and if a property is more than 500m from the public road there is an installation fee.

The District Administrator confirmed that under the Painting and Enhancement Scheme, support has been given to Ballyporeen, Clogheen and Cappawhite and it is hoped to extend the scheme to other villages. However, it would have to be a targeted approach and providing funding to specific villages working together with the Tidy Towns. The District Administrator also agreed to get clarification on the National Broadband Scheme and its policy regarding connection charges.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Tony Black (Ref. ID 2541)

That this council would install 3 bins in Canon Hayes Park, Tipperary Town. There used to be public bins in the estate but they were recently removed and never replaced. I would ask that the bins be provided where the old one was by the wall of the Blossomfield, on the green area at the side of Number 89 and on the green area at the side of Number 80. The estate is busy and is also popular for residents of the West End walking their dogs. The area needs public bins.

Reply

It's not Tipperary County Council's policy to install bins in housing estates. Under the Council's Waste Management Bye-Laws all households are required to have a waste disposal service or take their waste to an authorised waste facility.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner).

5.2 Councillor Michael Fitzgerald (Ref ID 2542)

That this Council request Irish Water to restore the Galtee Supply Scheme to all areas that it served before being transferred to the supplementary boreholes. This change has caused huge damage to the quality of the supply

Reply

Subject to the approval of Elected Members MD staff will write to Irish Water in relation to this matter.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess and it was agreed by the members that the District would write to Irish Water.

5.3 Councillor Michael Fitzgerald (Ref. ID 2543)

That this Municipal District fully support the application of Circle of Friends Cancer Support Centre in their application for S39 status which would enable the centre to continue the very valuable work they do in our community.

Reply

Subject to the approval of Elected Members MD staff will write a letter of support for Circle of Friends Cancer Support Centre in relation to this matter.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy and it was agreed by the members that the District would write a letter of support for Circle of Friends.

5.4 Councillor Michael Fitzgerald (Ref ID 2544)

That new piping be installed at Mountwilliam Kilfeakle to prevent road flooding. Local farmers have cleaned drains on their properties to help in any way but the pipe under the road is not big enough to take the water.

Reply

This location will be assessed and considered for inclusion in future drainage works.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended on the death of the following:

- Seanie Toomey, Shrough, Rathkea, Lattin, Co Tipperary
- Jim Kearns, Greenrath, Tipperary Town, Co Tipperary
- Helen Crosse-Concannon, Ballyreagan, Crecora, Co Limerick
- Anne Friel (Ryan Shiner) Leeds
- Carrie Acheson, Russellstown Lodge, Clonmel, Co Tipperary

6.2 Votes of Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Shane O'Connor and Liam Carew on winning the BT Young Scientist 2023 Award.
- Tipperary Town Men's Shed who was winner in the Community Well Bring Category at the Pride of Place Awards.
- Congratulations and best wishes to the two Tipperary Teams; Cashel Community School and Thurles CBS who are taking part in the Dr Harty Cup Final.

7.1 Correspondence from Jack Chambers TD, Minister of State at the Department of Transport and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Noted

7.2 Correspondence from Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform

Noted

7.3 Correspondence from Marie Phelan, Tourism Development Officer

Noted

7.4 Correspondence from Michael Scharmann, Mayor of Weinstadt

Noted

8.1 Any other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/  Dated/ 27-2-23
Cathaoirleach

Signed/  Dated/ 27/02/23
District Administrator