

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

Members Present: Councillor Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Micheál Anglim,
Councillor Tony Black
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 Dave Carroll, A/Director of Services
Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Mr. Michael Begley, Administrative Officer
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer

Finance Directorate

Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance

Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer. He called the roll and confirmed that all the Municipal District Members were present at the meeting. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Declan Burgess, welcomed everyone to the October Municipal District meeting and commenced the meeting.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

2.1 Minutes of September Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on 25th September 2023.

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District September meeting held on 25th September 2023 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Marie Murphy, seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

Matters arising from the minutes

Councillor Ryan (Shiner) referred to Councillor Hanna Hourigan's recent request for a special meeting with housing in relation to Glen Court, Emly and to a serious problem which arose in the last week when the pumping station ceased working and resulted in raw sewage in the estate. She confirmed that the taking in charge application was lodged in 2013. Councillor Hanna Hourigan wanted to concur with Councillor Ryan (Shiner) and advised that she contacted Uisce Eireann and the problem is now much worse with the heavy rain. The residents need to be able to discuss issues with the receiver and Ms. Ann Marie Devaney, Planning Section hasn't been able to find a solution. Uisce Eireann says its Tipperary County Council and the Council has no solution. Councillor Crosse wanted to support the previous speakers and noted that it is horrific for residents who are victims of an unfinished estate and he asked if there is a site resolution agreement. Mr Dave Carrol advised the Members that the owner has been identified and the Council wrote to him on Friday evening. He acknowledged that the heavy rain has compounded the problem and he has arranged for tankers to go in this morning. He also confirmed that the Council has again written the owners today. Councillor Hanna Hourigan acknowledged the update and confirmed that she is extremely disappointed that she spent 10 days ringing Uisce Eireann, Denis Holland, Anne Marie Devaney and no one picked up the phone to notify the Councillors who have been dealing with the issue on behalf of the residents. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) shared Councillor Hanna Hourigan's frustration and she requested that the District serve a derelict site notice and she didn't see any reason why the Council couldn't exercise their powers and noted that it is not a DPI estate and it is being ignored by Tipperary County Council. Councillor Burgess welcomed the response and recommended that the District proceed with the meeting between planning and housing to find a solution.

Councillor Anglim requested an update on his motion in relation to the Big Belly Bin and in particular the Councils commitment to speak to environment. Councillor Burgess asked when the EV chargers in Friar Street Car Park will be live and the District Engineer confirmed that Easygo have made an application to ESB Networks and they are waiting on a connection.

3.1 Consider the Draft Budgetary Plan 2024

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance, to the meeting.

Mr. Connolly referred to the District's Draft Budgetary Plan circulated with the agenda which is in a similar format to last years. He highlighting the GMA for 2024 which is the Districts discretionary budget, however he recommended that some of the GMA be held for seed capital for match funding projects. He noted that based on 2022 census figures, there has been a small increase in population and this has been reflected in the GMA monies. He anticipated that there will be a roads increase and that environment and recreation will be similar to 2023. He

advised that the Schedule of Municipal District Works will go before the Members in due course.

Councillor Burgess asked if there will be extra funding for inflation given the increased cost of doing business. He also asked if a review of the current staff structure will take place given the increased work load. He noted that this District is the victim of its own success given the significant amount of new walkways and amenity spaces that require maintenance.

Councillor Fitzgerald welcomed the allocation and noted that this is not the final document and there may be an opportunity for change at the main Council meeting. Councillor Murphy acknowledged that the GMA is for discretionary funding and that seed funding should come from central government otherwise there would be nothing left and this District does not have capacity to for seed capital funding. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) referred to staffing levels and the huge workload in the District and also supported the other Councillors that seed funding should not come from the GMA.

In response Mr. Mark Connolly confirmed that there is no inflation fund for 2024 which is now 6-7%. He confirmed this is a huge hurdle together with staff levels which is all part of the budget process. He confirmed that there is always demand for additional staff and additional funding. He advised that budgets are about making choices and some difficult choices have to be made. He confirmed that they are trying to maintain the spend for 2024 and that the larger projects are part funded from central funds.

On the proposition of Councillor Marie Murphy, seconded by Councillor John Crosse, the Allocation for 2024 was noted.

The Cathaoirleach expressed his disappointment that there was no increase for the rise in inflation and proposed that we write to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to request that the supplementary support provided to Local Authorities in 2023 is provided again to Local Authorities in 2024. Councillor Crosse presumed that inflation was included every year. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) requested clarification in relation to staffing levels even in comparison to 5 years ago and noted that each town in the District has positive works in progress, however we need the staff to maintain these new spaces. Councillor Moloney thanked Mr Connolly and raised the same issue he raised last year in relation to estates being taken in charge and noted that 11 estates have been taken in charge and there is no extra money. He acknowledged the great work to take them in charge and he noted that the GMA is not increasing but he asked if there is going to be provision for estates and referred to Emly which was discussed at the beginning of the meeting. He noted that residents bought a house in good faith and when problems happen which are not the Councils problem, we have to solve them, when there is no board of management or management company. Councillor McGrath thanked Mr Connolly and seconded that the District write to the Minister because there is a huge concern that not

having this funding available in 2024 will result in significant challenges for providing services in 2024. Councillor Kennedy also expressed his disappointment that we are not getting an increase and this District will suffer more than smaller Districts due to our success. He referred to the projects in all our towns and the number of estates being taken in charge and stressed that work is required to maintain them. He also supported the call to write to the Minister. Mr Connolly acknowledged that it is particularly challenging that funding isn't available in 2024 for inflation and he appreciated that the Members are not happy. He advised that strategically we have to look at how we increase our own income for example commercial rates and every year we have to grow our income. He noted that no local authority would have inflation built in to their budget. In relation to staff levels he agreed to discuss same with Mr Dave Carroll, District Manager. He accepted that there is an increase in population, new housing stock and inflation is a problem given that lack of an inflation fund. The Cathaoirleach requested that a copy of the letter be circulated to the Members.

3.2 To agree three (3) priority national roads items for this District, for inclusion on the agenda for annual meeting with transport Infrastructure Ireland

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the opportunity to meet with the TII and sought proposals from the Members. Councillor Fitzgerald proposed the N74 junction with Kilfeacle which is a busy cross roads. Councillor Kennedy highlighted safety measures on the N24 from Monard to Cahir. Councillor McGrath referred to hedged cutting on the N24 and noted that the TII cuts around the road signs and then the Council has to engage another contractor to cut back growth to improve sightlines at junctions. She advised that there is no logic and there should be greater cooperation. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) recommended that pressure should be put on to highlight the importance of upgrading the N24 and noted that there was another crash at Bohercrow this morning. Councillor Moloney asked the Cathaoirleach to request details in relation to a lead in time for projects. Councillor Anglim requested that Ardfinnan Bridge remain on the agenda.

3.3 Review of Draft Tipperary LECP

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Margo Hayes, C&E to the meeting. Ms Hayes made a presentation to the Members on the Framework for the Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029.

Councillor McGrath advised that she is a member of the Economic Development and Enterprise SCP and wanted to thank Ms Hayes and her team for all their work. Councillor Moloney noted that 29.8% of the population of Cahir is non-Irish and he highlighted how important this document is and he doesn't believe that all members of the community completed a census and this figure may be higher. He acknowledged the great work already done by Ms Hayes in relation to social inclusion and that Cahir has the 7th highest population of non-Irish. Councillor Kennedy also noted that Tipperary is the lowest in the Country for the

number of houses build. Councillor Burgess advised that he was involved in hosting the Chomhairle Na nÓg engagement on Climate Action which was very successful. Ms Hayes also confirmed that there was online consultation and sectoral engagement with lone parents and traveller groups. She also acknowledged Councillor Burgess who led the consultation with young people. She advised that the LCDC have set up a working group who are developing an action plan. Councillor Fitzgerald acknowledged the work of community groups and the projects approved for funding. He noted that Minister Heather Humphries is dedicated to rural Ireland and he also included her predecessor Michael Ring TD.

3.4 District Engineer's Report

The District Engineer's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda and Mr. Swords advised the Members that it can be seen from the report that the majority of the works are completed.

Councillor Kennedy wanted to thank Mr Swords and his team for the excellent work, however wanted to highlight an issue with flooding at the Green, Cashel because the drains are not able to take the water. He also highlighted an issue with flooding on the junction with Boherclough Street, however the levels should be dealt with when the roundabout is going in. Councillor Kennedy also requested an update in relation to the plan for Dualla Road and Wallors Lot particularly the underground stream. He also noted that many roads are damaged in mountain areas due to forestry work and flooding. Councillor Kennedy want to thank the team for the remedial work that was done, which saved many houses from flooding last week. Councillor Murphy asked when will the public lighting on the Active Travel project in Ballylooby be installed. Councillor McGrath thanked the District Engineer for the report and requested an update on the Knockaun Bridge and she referred to the severe flooding in Cork and requested funding for flood alleviation works on the Goatenbridge to Newcastle Road. She referred to climate change funding to raise the road and urgently needed drainage. Councillor Fitzgerald referred to the recent flooding which inflicts so much trauma on a household. He referred to the issue in The Green raised by Councillor Kennedy which is the same issue he raised some time ago and was advised the works were done. He asked about the funding available for extreme weather events and referred to a video on his phone of Rearfadda, Cappawhite. He also spoke about a elderly lady in Milltown, Cullen who is constantly flooded. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) requested an update on the traffic lights on Bansha Road and she also asked if there was any Active Travel money available which could be spent in Tipperary Town. She also asked if there is a date for the works to commence on the N74. Councillor Moloney referred to flooding on the motorway which was caused by blocked drains and Coillte agreed to do works, however nothing has been done. He stressed that Coillte are not fulfilling their obligation. Councillor Kennedy referred to the Active Travel works in Cashel on the Cahir Road, particularly the junction at Tesco and the pedestrian crossing. He noted that there are lines on the road but no lights which is confusing.

In response the District Engineer noted that there is a history of flooding at the Green and improvement works were carried out to the foul sewer. In relation to Boherclough Street he confirmed that work on the roundabout should commence in 2 to 3 weeks. He confirmed that consultants have been engaged to survey the ground water at Dualla Road and Wallors Lot. They are currently at monitoring stage and the project will take 9 to 10 months before a report will identify any issues and recommend solutions. Regarding Cappawhite the District Engineer confirmed that Coillte have agreed to a CIS Scheme in the area. He also agreed to follow up with Mr. Paddy Crowley in relation to the Active Travel queries. The bridge at Knockaun is on schedule and is due to be completed by the end of November. Mr Swords also confirmed that the Climate Action Adaption Grant application is due to be submitted in the next week and the Newcastle / Goatenbridge Project is one of the projects. Regarding the N74 project he confirmed that the tenders are being assessed at the moment and he will speak to Roads Capital Team regarding an update. The District Engineer referred to Councillor Moloney's query regarding flooding on the motorway and confirmed that he spoke to an engineer with the TII two months ago and he gave a commitment to do the work. The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Swords and sought an update in relation to the public lighting on Ladyswell Street and the District Engineer agreed to seek an update.

3.5 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda and he was open to questions. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) requested an update in relation to the Tipperary to Limerick Junction Walkway. She also referred to the recent recruitment campaign to increase staff in the swimming pool and asked if there is now capacity to reopen fully at weekends. She acknowledged it is great to see the swimming lessons back to full capacity. Councillor Murphy referred to the recent Part 8 approval for the Library in Cahir and asked if approval has now been received to move to tender stage on the Cahir Regeneration Project. She noted that it has been a year since the funding announcement. She asked when the Festival and Events for 2024 will be announced. She also wanted to congratulate all the Tidy Towns groups and commended them on the great results. Councillor McGrath referred to the boil water notice that has been in place in the Burncourt and Ballylooby area since July. She advised that she has requested an update from Uisce Eireann and is disappointed because this is a relatively new treatment plant. Councillor Moloney asked for an update on where Carrick on Suir are in relation to their RRDF project. He also referred to the boil water notice and also commented that it is one of the newest in the County and we can't get drinkable water. Councillor Murphy referred to the recent meeting with Uisce Eireann and this issue was raised. She appreciated that there has been a change in the criteria for imposing a boil water notice, however is disappointed with the lack of information provided to the public.

In response the District Administrator referred to Mr. Frank Cussen, Project Engineer for an update. Mr. Cussen confirmed that EIR want to install a cable therefore they have postponed resurfacing. He confirmed that EIR have made their road opening licence application to the TII and they are hoping it will be processed as quickly as possible. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) asked if this will affect the funding application and she was advised that there should be no effect. The District Administrator confirmed that the Festival and Events Grant applications will be advertised at the same time as last year. In relation to Castle Court Mr Frank Cussen confirmed that tenders for the demolition and site clearance went on etenders last Friday and will be available until the 17th November. It is hoped that a contractor will be on site before Christmas and he confirmed that there has been no update on the public realm element. Councillor Murphy accepted that re-advertising the Part 8 for the Library would have slowed things down but hoped everything could proceed now. The District Administrator in relation to the pool confirmed that there has been a number of recruitment campaigns and at the moment there is no change to opening times because public safety is paramount. He also confirmed that he will request an update from Uisce Eireann regarding the boil water notice. Councillor Murphy asked if there were contact details for NBI because she wished to make a compliant on behalf of a homeowner and was advised reps@NBI.ie.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Annmarie Ryan (Shiner) (Ref. ID 2697)

That this District upgrade the footpaths serving Limerick Junction from the train station to the N24 Junction and resurface the part of the Limerick Junction Road (towards the train station), yet to be completed.

Reply

This section of footpath and road surface will be assessed and considered for inclusion in future footpath replacement and road reconstruction works.

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

5.2 Councillor Andy Moloney (Ref. ID 2698)

That this Council include a footpath as far as the speed limit on the Ardfinnan Road, Cahir as part of any maintenance works to be carried out. It would help with pedestrian safety and traffic calming.

Reply

The proposal will be considered as part of any works in the area and future footpath installation projects.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Máirín McGrath.

Councillor John Crosse (Ref. ID 2705)

That this Council reinstate the yellow box outside the side entrance of Heffernan's on Kickham Street which was never reinstated after works on the Kickham Plaza and the one way system on Kickham Street.

Reply

Yellow boxes are not provided at private entrances.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Fitzgerald.

Councillor Roger Kennedy (Ref. ID 2709)

That this Municipal District examine ways to make the Junction in Dundrum village known as Golden Vale Cross a safer place for residents and commuters and take action accordingly.

Reply

The Municipal District has made an application under the Safety Improvement Scheme to carry out enhancement works on the R505 (Annacarty Road) approach. The Municipal District has also made an application under the Specific Improvement Scheme to review the entire junction and potentially design an alternative solution. The outcome of these applications will be known in Q1 2024.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan.

Councillor Roger Kennedy (Ref. ID 2710)

That a street light be erected on the Golden Road Cashel at the uncontrolled crossing at the edge of town in the interest of safety.

Reply

The Roads Department will investigate the feasibility of installing lights in certain locations, however we will need further information on the location of this crossing point. In addition, if this location is on the N74 the decision to install a street lights will be with TII and the Council.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess.

5.6 Councillor Declan Burgess (Ref. ID 2711)

That this Municipal District carry out a review for all our Disability Parking bays to ensure that they are properly marked and signed.

Reply

Such a review was carried out in 2022 and any issues that were identified dealt with at the time. The condition of all infrastructure is constantly being monitored by area staff and maintenance carried out as required. A similar review can be actioned in early 2024.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy

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


- Marie Crotty (nee Robinson), Kilsheelan, Co Tipperary


6.2 Votes of Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Clonoulty Rossmore for winning FBD Insurance County Junior A Hurling Championship Final
- Boherlahan Dualla for winning Immediate Hurling Final
- Galtee Rovers for winning the U19 Football Championship 2023
- All the Tidy Towns Association's and the GSS in each area because without the support of the GSS and their team it would be very difficult to get work done.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/  Dated/ 27/11/2023
Cathaoirleach

Signed/  Dated/ 27th of November 2023
District Administrator

