

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN CIVIC OFFICES, CLONMEL ON FRIDAY
AT 11 AM ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

Present

Cllr. Phyll Bugler, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs. Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Bourke, K; Browne, M;
Carroll, J; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Doran, D; Dunne, D; English, P;
Fahey, J; FitzGerald, M; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; Hogan, J; Hourigan,
M.Hanna; Kennedy, R; Leahy, D; Lonergan, M; Lowry, M; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E;
Morris, S; Murphy, Marie; Murphy, MI; O'Meara, E; O'Meara, MI; Ryan, J; Ryan, M; Ryan, S;
Smith, M; Wood, T.

Also Present

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive; S. Carr, C. Curley, P. Slattery, S. Keating, K. Cashen, M.
Shortt, K. Cashen, M. O'Connor, Directors of Service; L. McCarthy, Head of Finance; J.
Cooney, SE; M. Moroney, G. Walsh Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

Cllrs. L. McLoughlin, J Bourke, H. McGrath

Item 1.1

Proposed by **Cllr. S. Hanafin** seconded by **Cllr. M. Smith** and resolved

**Minutes of
Council Meeting
held on 10th July
2017**

"That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th July 2017 in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
Co. Tipperary, as presented be adopted".

Item 2.1

It was proposed by **Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan**, seconded by **Cllr. E. O'Meara** and resolved:-

**Conferences
/Seminars
/Training**

"That pursuant to Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001 and having regard to (i)
the benefits likely to accrue, (ii) the general interest of this administrative area and of the local
community (iii) the estimated cost of the proposed attendance and the provision made for
such purposes in the annual budget, hereby nominate those listed hereunder to attend the
following Conferences/Seminars/Trainings:-

Seminar/ Conference/ Similar Event	Dates	Venue	Nominees
Kerry County Council "Building Sustainable Communities"	6 th Sept 2017	Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, Co. Kerry	Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. MI. Murphy Cllr. MI. FitzGerald Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. MI. Smith Cllr. E. O'Meara Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. K. Bourke Cllr. D. Leahy Cllr. L. McLoughlin Cllr. MI O'Meara Cllr. J. Ryan Cllr. J. Carroll

			Cllr. J. Hogan Cllr. J. Crosse
SEAI "Irish Wind Energy Research"	13 th Sept 2017	Wilton Park House, Wilton Place, Dublin 2.	Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. M. FitzGerald Cllr. M. Ryan
National Federation of Group Water Schemes "16 Annual Rural Water Services Conference"	14 th Sept 2017	McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris, Co. Mayo	Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. E. Moran
AILG "Wellbeing for Councillors"	14 th Sept 2017	City North Hotel, Gormanstown	Cllr. Ml. Smith
AILG "Wellbeing for Councillors"	19 th Sept 2017	Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway	Cllr. M. FitzGerald Cllr. E. Moran Cllr. J. Fahey Cllr. E. O'Meara
AILG "Wellbeing for Councillors"	23 rd Sept 2017	Silver Springs Hotel, Cork	Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. P. Bugler Cllr. R. Molloy Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. M. Ryan Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. Ml. Murphy
Irish Council for Social Housing "Social Housing the next Phase"	27 th & 28 th Sept 2017	Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick	Cllr. J. Ryan Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan
LAMA Autumn Seminar	28 th , 29 th & 30 th Sept 2017	Hotel Minella, Clonmel	Cllr. J. Ryan Cllr. M. Lonergan Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. S. Ambrose Cllr. Ml. Murphy Cllr. M. Anglim Cllr. E. O'Meara Cllr. M. FitzGerald Cllr. J. Hogan Cllr. G. Darcy Cllr. R. Kennedy Cllr. J. Crosse Cllr. L. McLoughlin Cllr. A. Moloney Cllr. M. O'Meara
LA Touche Legacy "Creating a New State"	29 th & 30 th Sept 2017	Greystones Golf Club	Cllr. M. Smith

Item 2.2
Reports on
Conferences

Proposed by **Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan** seconded by **Cllr. E. O'Meara** and reports noted.

Item 3.1

Section 183
Notice

Disposal of
Lands at Friar
Street, Cashel to
Cashel handball
Club

Proposed by **Cllr. M. Browne**, seconded **Cllr. R. Kennedy** and resolved

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, we hereby approve the disposal of lands located at Friar St., Cashel, to Cashel Handball Club, in accordance with the terms of Notice under the above Section as circulated on 29th August, 2017.”

This Section 183 Notice requires the building to be used as

- (a) Handball Club
- (b) As a centre for the promotion of the social, recreational, cultural, community or general development of the local community.

Item 3.2

Section 183
Notice

Lease of building
at rear of Old
Civic Offices,
Friar Street,
Cashel to
Tipperary Mid
West Radio

Proposed by **Cllr. M. FitzGerald**, seconded **Cllr. M. Browne** and resolved

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, we hereby approve the lease of building at rear of Old Civic Offices, Friar St., Cashel, to Tipperary Mid West Radio, St., Michael’s St., Tipperary Town, in accordance with the terms of Notice under the above Section as circulated on 21st August, 2017.”

This Section 183 Notice was required for the lease of the building for Social/Community use.

Item 3.3

Section 183
Notice

Disposal of
property at
Aughvolyshane,
Borrisoleigh to
the Cooke Estate

Proposed by **Cllr. S. Hanafin**, seconded **Cllr. M. Smith** and resolved

“In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of property, consisting of 0.049ha contained in Folio No. TY16946 Area Plan No. 1M situate at Aughvolyshane, Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on 21st August 2017”.

This Section 183 Notice was required for a rectification of Title.

Item 3.4

Section 183
Notice

Disposal of
property at
Coolnamuck
Road, Carrick-
on-Suir to
Carrick United
Soccer Club

Proposed by **Cllr. K. Bourke**, seconded **Cllr. D. Dunne** and resolved

“In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, and that pursuant to the powers contained in Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of portion of property at Coolnamuck, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, circa 0.82 ha, in the townland of CARRIGBEG within the Barony of IFFA AND OFFA EAST, within the county of TIPPERARY, to the Carrick United Soccer Club, in accordance with the terms of the notice under the above Section, as circulated on the 1st September 2017”

This Section 183 Notice was required for 5 year leasehold for Amenity use with a grant of freehold on receipt of final payment.

Item 3.5

Local Property

Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance referred to Report circulated and made a presentation on the proposed variation for 2018 to the Local Property Tax (LPT).

Tax

Consider the Local Adjustment Factor in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Property Tax (Local

Adjustment Factor)

Regulations 2014.

- He referred to the requirement to consult with the CPE and that a decision on the LPT Adjustor was required to be notified to Revenue before 30th September 2017.
- The General Municipal Allocations would be considered at the Borough and District Meetings in October 2017 and the Statutory Meeting was proposed to be held on Friday 17th November 2017.
- Meetings in relation to agreeing the Schedule of Municipal District Works would take place post Budget.
- He advised that the LPT was introduced in 2013 and is based on the market value of all residential properties in the State. It is administered and collected by the Revenue Commissioners.
- It was noted that the National Funding Model provides for an equalisation mechanism whereby 80% of all LPT Receipts within the Local Authority Area of which the LPT is raised, is retained and the remaining 20% is re-distributed through the equalisation mechanism.
- He advised the Members that the total LPT to be provided in 2018 would be €25,951,602 made up as follows:
 - LPT retained locally - € 9,463,283
 - From Equalisation Fund - €16,488,319

Tipperary is the largest beneficiary of this equalisation distribution in the Country.

He outlined the key income streams for the Council in determining the Annual Revenue Budget namely

- The LPT Local Property Tax/General Purposes Grant
- Local Property Tax Variation (if applicable)
- Income from Goods & Services
- Income from Grants & Subsidies
- Commercial Rates – Harmonise over 4 years
- Miscellaneous Income

and the various expenditure demands and requests that would require funding in 2018, namely

- Insurances
- Housing Maintenance/Voids
- Roads/Footpaths
- Taking Estates in Charge
- Landfills
- Greenway(Towpath) Signage/Maintenance, Cycle Lanes
- Art Centres – Excel, Clonmel and Nenagh Art Centres, Cahir Craft Granary
- Leisure Centres – maintain hours in Roscrea, Thurles and Carrick-on-Suir
- Libraries – Book Fund/Staff Cover
- Co Funding matching funds
- Visitor Facility for Ormond Castle

He stated that the objective of the budget was to maintain all current services, however sufficient funding was not available to meet this objective and therefore an increase in the LPT was sought.

Noting that Tipperary was the highest net beneficiary of LPT from other local authority areas and was heavily reliant on equalisation redistribution, it was also noted that there was a Low Valuation Base in Tipperary for LPT relative to other local authorities (13 of 31) and relative to average of all local authorities. Every 1% increase in LPT in Tipperary generated an additional income of +€118,291.

The effect of a 10% increase on householders would be

LPT Valuation Band	Year 2017 €	Variation +10% € Increase In Year
€0-100,000	90	9
€100,001-150,000	225	22.5
€150,001-200,000	315	31.5

Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan proposed an adjournment for 15 minutes, seconded by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**, which was agreed.

Following resumption of the meeting, Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, acknowledged the difficult decision the members had to make but the decision was critically important to council services. A point had been reached where the level of services currently being provided could not be maintained with the same level of funding. Over the last number of years services had been maintained across all departments and he highlighted in particular the Council's own resources in roads maintenance and housing maintenance. The general municipal allocation together with a number of tourism promotions had also been introduced. Mr. MacGrath informed the members that if there was not an increase in the LPT, the County's Arts Centres and Leisure Centres would have to reduce their services and in preparing the Budget for 2018, funding for roads, housing and the General Municipal Allocation would also need to be re-examined.

He assured members that monies generated from an increase in the LPT would be spent fully on local services in the County and stressed that an increase would be for 2018 only and it would revert to the members next year to decide on the LPT for 2019.

Following further debate and consideration, it was proposed by **Cllr. M Hanna Hourigan**

“That pursuant to the provisions of Part 4 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act, 2012 (as amended) and the recommendation of the Chief Executive Mr. Joe MacGrath, dated September, 2017, that Tipperary County Council increase the LPT adjustor for 2018 by 10% with 5% of this increase allocated to the General Municipal Allocation.”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**.

A counter proposal was proposed by **Cllr. P. English**

“That pursuant to the provisions of Part 4 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act, 2012 (as amended) and the recommendation of the Chief Executive Mr. Joe MacGrath, dated September, 2017, that Tipperary County Council decide not to adjust the LPT adjustor and retain the Local Property Tax for 2018 at current levels.”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. S. Morris**.

There was a lengthy debate on the motions.

Members who spoke in opposition to an increase in the LPT, referred to the financial hardship that an increase would have on families who were struggling at the moment, it was the same sector that were being constantly asked to pay for services and it was the duty of Central Government to fund any shortfall in the funds of the local authority.

Members in favour of the increase spoke of the difficult decision to be made while also stressing their duty to ensure the continuation of services in the county at current levels.

The Meetings Administrator stated that as the motion proposed by Cllr. P. English was a direct negative to the motion of Cllr. M. Hanna Hourigan, he would proceed to take a vote on the motion as proposed by **Cllr. Hanna Hourigan** and seconded by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**.

The following vote was recorded

	Comhairleoir	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
1.	Ambrose, Siobhan	√			
2.	Anglim, Micheál	√			
3.	Bonfield, Fiona	√			
4.	Bourke, Joe			√	
5.	Bourke, Kieran		√		
6.	Browne, Martin		√		
7.	Bugler, Phyll	√			
8.	Carey, Catherine		√		
9.	Carroll, John	√			
10.	Crosse, John	√			
11.	Darcy, Ger	√			
12.	Doran, David		√		
13.	Dunne, David		√		
14.	English, Pat		√		
15.	Fahey, John	√			
16.	FitzGerald, Michael	√			
17.	Goldsboro, Imelda	√			
18.	Hanafin, Seamus	√			
19.	Hannigan, Joe	√			
20.	Hogan, John			√	
21.	Hourigan, Mary Hanna	√			
22.	Kennedy, Roger	√			
23.	Leahy, Denis		√		
24.	Lonergan, Martin		√		
25.	Lowry, Michael		√		
26.	McGrath, Hughie			√	
27.	McLoughlin, Louise			√	
28.	Molloy, Richie		√		
29.	Moloney, Andy		√		
30.	Moran, Eddie		√		
31.	Morris, Seamus		√		
32.	Murphy, Marie	√			
33.	Murphy, Michael	√			
34.	O'Meara, Eddie	√			
35.	O'Meara, Michael		√		
36.	Ryan, Jim	√			
37.	Ryan (Coole), Mattie	√			
38.	Ryan, Sean	√			
39.	Smith, Michael	√			
40.	Wood, Tom	√			
	TOTALS	22	14	4	

The Meetings Administrator advised the Council that the motion was decreed carried with 22 voting for the motion, 14 against and 4 members absent.

Item 5.1

Presentation

Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to take the presentation by Comhairle na nÓg;

Ciara Fanning, Kate Corcoran and Caoimhe Woods, representing Comhairle na nÓg were invited to make the presentation, which gave an overview and update of the work of the Youth Council over the last 12 months.

It was noted that Comhairle na nÓg (Youth Councils) were established in 2002 as part of the National Children's Strategy, in accordance with the UN Convention of the Child; Article 12. They were overseen and funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and supported and administered by Tipperary County Council. Youth Work Ireland - Tipperary was contracted to deliver and support the County Comhairle and their work plan. In Tipperary there was an elected 40 member youth council (12 – 18 years) who represented schools and youth groups across the county and whose objective was to give Young People a voice at local level. They developed links to Policy Makers through the County Council, their Steering group and the wider community. The full County Comhairle meet every 6 - 8 weeks with subgroups meeting in between in geographical areas
The future aims of the branch included:-

- Continue to work on mental health and wellness theme in Tipperary as a permanent action.
- LGBTQ awareness and support.
- Vote 16 and making sure youth have a voice.
- Continue to work on making Comhairle diverse and inclusive of all youth reflecting the County
- To get involved both locally and nationally in the 'issue for youth'
- Seek more representation of the county council on our steering group in order to keep a constant link with the council and to reflect the geographical spread of the county.

Members thanked Comhairle na nÓg for their presentation and they then withdrew from the meeting.

Item 4.1

Consideration of Management Report

The Management Report with a focus on directorates based in Clonmel as circulated with the Agenda was noted and considered by the Council.

Community & Economic Development.

Item 4.2

Green & Blue Infrastructure Draft Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 4.2 Green & Blue Infrastructure Draft Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways as part of the Management Report. Mr. Michael Moroney, Head of Unit, Community & Economic Development made a presentation to the members.

He advised the Members that the Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways had been developed to enhance green and blue infrastructure within the county and maximise the environmental, social and economic benefits that can be gained from the increased protection and management of the environmental resource. As the two primary waterways in the County, the River Suir and Lough Derg, and their tributaries, were critical components of the ecological biodiversity of the County, and were consequently core to the green and blue infrastructure network. The Masterplan Roadmap was intended for all stakeholders – government, community and voluntary groups, the private sector, research community and other relevant parties – that are involved and who facilitate and support the protection and enhancement of natural and built heritage, health and wellbeing and socio-economic growth.

This Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways had identified high level green and blue infrastructure assets and networks within the county,

specifically within the River Suir and Lough Derg. It was the intention that the Masterplan Roadmap would act as a portfolio of ideas for future projects/actions (ecological, infrastructure, education, community, research, promotional etc.) to submit for funding to future calls for proposals from various sources. A list of potential funding sources had been outlined within the Masterplan Roadmap, however, it was in no way an exhaustive list of funding availability, and new funding opportunities may arise in the future. The actions help to address environmental, social, economic and infrastructure needs within the study area. The Masterplan Roadmap was not a standalone document, as it was intended that the indicative actions set out in the document would contribute positively to the development of a robust evidence base for the local development framework, assisting in informing future policy, statutory plans and land use planning, driven principally through the County Development Plan. The Masterplan Roadmap also complemented the River Basin Management Plan as many of its actions would contribute to improved water quality, and thus helping to meet River Basin Management Plan objectives as set out under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The Members approval was sought to the draft as submitted and the commencement of the public consultation process.

This was proposed by **Cllr. J. Carroll**, seconded by **Cllr. P English** and agreed.

It was requested that the public consultation period would be increased to 6 weeks and this was agreed.

Broadband

It was agreed that Eir would be invited to attend a meeting of the Council regarding the rollout of broadband in the County.

Ms S. Carr, advised that the tender process for the National Broadband Plan was in the final stages and the revised National Broadband Plan (NBP) intervention map was available on the Department's website with three colour coded categories for roll out namely:-

- Blue represented areas where commercial operators were either currently delivering or have plans to deliver high-speed access;
- Light blue represented rural locations where Eir were planning to deliver high-speed access by the end of 2018;
- Amber represented the areas that would require state intervention and were the subject of the current, lengthy procurement process.

Scheme of Capital Grants

Members were advised that a call for proposals for the Scheme of Capital Grants for Community Facilities & Amenities would be advertised at the end of September.

Water and Environment

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Items 8.1 and 8.2 Notice of Motion Ref 1134 and 1135 submitted by Cllr. T Wood and Cllr. J. Hogan as part of the Management Report on Water.

Item 8.1

Motion No. 8.1 (Ref 1134) was proposed by **Cllr. T. Wood**

Notice of Motion

"Due to ever increasing concerns about the lime content in many domestic water supplies throughout this County, this Authority calls on the relevant Minister and Department to seriously seek solutions to same".

Lime Content in Domestic Water

Supplies

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-

Many domestic water supplies in County Tipperary emanate from groundwater sources extracted from the natural limestone bedrock which is a feature of the geology of the county. However, these groundwater sources produce hard water, with a lime content, which may give rise to issues perceived by consumers in relation to the resulting limescale after boiling. Such supplies have a high calcium and magnesium content, which are contributors to hardness.

It is widely accepted by the medical community and by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that hard water is overall beneficial for human health as it provides a good source for essential calcium, which is important for the prevention of osteoporosis. It also plays a role in the prevention of cardiovascular disease. However, customers may notice significantly different characteristics in a hard water supply, when used, compared to a previous soft supply, which they may have used. Customer issues tend to relate to the following:

- scum present in tea and coffee made from boiled water;
- scale build up on kettles and appliances; and
- damage to heating elements and reduction in efficiency of heating units and other appliances, e.g. showers, washing machines, dishwashers, etc.

It is acknowledged that a film or scum may be noted on the surface of water after boiling due to the precipitation of calcium and magnesium and that this precipitation effect of heated water can give rise to scale formation in kettles, clogging of immersion heating systems, etc. Advice on how to mitigate the effects on household appliances should be obtained from suppliers.

However, Tipperary County Council, as the agent of Irish Water, can assure such customers that samples of their water supplies are tested regularly by staff from the laboratory services of the Water Services Section of the Council. Samples are analysed either in-house or by an external laboratory, as required. Tests confirm that these supplies are in full compliance with the requirements of the relevant drinking water regulations, which are the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014. These water supplies are, therefore, deemed fit for human consumption.

It must be understood that, notwithstanding the issues referred to above, hard water is NOT in breach of the relevant drinking water regulations and is unavoidable in areas of County Tipperary served by groundwater sources. There are no upper or lower limits for either water hardness or for calcium or magnesium in the drinking water regulations. Similarly, the WHO does not set a limit for hardness in drinking water on the grounds that hardness of water is not a health concern.

Government policy in Ireland does not require Irish Water, as the water services authority, to soften public water supplies. Consequently, Irish Water does not make provision for the installation of softening equipment at a water supply source, nor is Tipperary County Council, as the agent of Irish Water, in a position to do so. The decision on whether water is to be softened is up to the individual consumer. Many consumers do decide to install water softening equipment. However, in such cases, it is advised that water for drinking purposes be bypassed from any softening process. This is to ensure that the consumer obtains the optimum medical benefit from the water supply, i.e. hard water may be used for drinking purposes while softened water may be used for non-drinking purposes.

While Tipperary County Council, as the agent of Irish Water, regrets any inconvenience caused to consumers as a result of the hardness of their water supply, it can assure them that their water is very safe to drink and complies fully with the relevant drinking water regulations.

It was agreed to forward the motion to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD.

Item 8.2

Notice of Motion

Development Levies

Motion No. 8.2 (Ref 1135) was proposed by **Cllr. J. Hogan**

"I am calling on Irish Water to reduce the excessive development levies imposed on new developments in County Tipperary. These levies are based on a temporary measure where Tipperary County Council transferred a higher proportion of levies into water infrastructure in order to improve the network. The action by Irish Water has doubled the levies charged to people who wish to build a house. The charges are the highest in Ireland and should be immediately reduced for those granted permission and those seeking permission in the future. Irish Water are irresponsible by placing crippling, punitive charges on development in Tipperary. No excuse is acceptable".

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-

Prior to the establishment of Irish Water on 01 January 2014, a new development proposal in Co. Tipperary, requiring connection to drinking water and/or wastewater services, attracted:

- a connection charge, the quantum of which would have been assessed by the relevant water services authority; and
- a development contribution levy, as required by the parent grant of permission and assessed in accordance with the relevant planning authority development contribution scheme (of which there were 9 in Co. Tipperary).

Upon the establishment of Irish Water, the power of a planning authority to require the payment of a development contribution for water and/or wastewater services fell and any decision to grant permission issued after that date does not include a condition requiring the payment of such development contribution. In addition, a developer seeking connection to drinking water and/or wastewater services must apply directly to Irish Water for such connection.

Furthermore, the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), which is the independent economic regulator for public water and wastewater services in Ireland, approved the application of interim connection charges by Irish Water, with effect from 01 January 2014, until the harmonisation of such charges on a countrywide basis could be finalised. This "business as usual" approach provides that current charges for water and/or wastewater service connections are the equivalent of the water and wastewater portion of the development levies and connection fees previously included by local authorities in their levies/fees structures up until 31 December 2013.

These fees are the equivalent of:

- connection fees;
- that portion of development levies which the local authorities were formerly entitled to charge for water and/or wastewater infrastructure; and
- supplementary development contribution schemes (where applicable).

The previous local authority connection fee is now called a works fee and the previous local authority development levy (for water and/or wastewater connections) is now called an infrastructure fee.

Any customer who wishes to seek a detailed breakdown of the connection charge being imposed by Irish Water is entitled to such breakdown from the New Connections section of Irish Water.

It is understood that Irish Water is currently preparing a submission to the CER in relation to the harmonisation of connection charges, which will provide for a new charging mechanism. This submission is expected to be examined by the CER in late 2017, followed by a period of public consultation, prior to finalisation and implementation during 2018.

Following consideration of the motion by the Members, it was agreed to refer the Motion to Irish Water for its consideration and response.

Members urged that water development charges be regularised as soon as possible.

Grants – replacement of lead piping.

At the request of members it was agreed that further advertising of grants would be considered.

Davitt Street, Tipperary

It was agreed that works by Irish Water in Davitt Street, Tipperary would be discussed at September Tipperary/Cashel Municipal District Meeting.

Irish Water

Mr. Keating referred to the various matters being raised by members at Council Meetings in relation to water specific issues. It was suggested that a workshop with Irish Water would be held on the 27th October, 2017 in Thurles Municipal District Office to deal with Tipperary specific issues and to agree the format for future Irish Water Clinics. This was agreed.

At the request of members it was agreed that an opportunity for members to make individual representations would be considered as part of the workshop.

Environment

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 8.1 Notice of Motion Ref 1139 submitted by Cllr T Wood as part of the Management Report on Environment.

Item 7.3

Motion No. 7.3 (Ref 1139) was proposed by **Cllr. T. Wood**

Notice of Motion

"In recognition of the work carried out by Tidy Towns Committees in co-operation with this Council, of the individual efforts made to make buildings or properties presentable, and with pride in our Premier County, this Authority seriously considers introducing a by-law whereby a standard is set and owners of property, residential or otherwise, are obliged to keep them in a presentable manner".

By-Law

Property Upkeep

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. E. O'Meara**

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-

This motion proposes that Tipperary County Council would introduce a legal instrument in order to control the standard to which property owners must maintain land or buildings across the county such that they do not detract from the general appearance of their neighbourhood.

Municipal District staff already work closely with tidy town committees and town centre forums to identify areas of concern within the many towns and villages across the county. Town Forum Action Plans and Annual Tidy Town reports also highlight areas requiring attention. A variety of funding sources are then available to tackle issues highlighted – including tidy town grants, town and village enhancement schemes and the painting grant scheme.

This is the preferred method of identifying and managing the appearance of our towns and villages. Where such approaches are not successful, local authorities already have powers under the Derelict Sites Act of 1990.

The Act defines a derelict site as any land (including a structure) which detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the immediate vicinity. The Act places a duty on owners and occupiers of land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that land does not become derelict. Where a council decides that this duty is being neglected, the Act gives it the power to serve notices and otherwise achieve

an improvement to the condition of the offending property.

Given the above and the inherent challenges in attempting to be overly prescriptive in setting standards for the presentation of land and buildings, it is considered that further bye-laws are not required at this time.

The reply to the motion was noted, however, Members referred to a number of derelict site problem areas throughout the County and Mr. Sean Keating, D.O.S. undertook to have these areas examined.

Housing

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 7.4 Notice of Motion Ref 1148 submitted by Cllr P. English as part of the Management Report on Housing

Item 7.4

Motion No. 7.4 (Ref 1148) was proposed by **Cllr. P. English**

Notice of Motion

“That Tipperary County Council request the Government to develop a local authority led emergency response to the Social housing crisis in the Country”.

Social Housing

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. M. Lonergan**

Crisis

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-

The Governments National Housing Plan- Rebuilding Ireland which is being delivered in partnership with Local Authorities is an action-driven plan with 5 pillars which set out to:

Address the needs of homeless people and families in emergency accommodation; accelerate the provision of social housing; deliver more housing; utilise vacant homes and improve the rental sector. Tipperary County Council will continue to utilise each pillar of Rebuilding Ireland in order to address the housing needs of families and individuals in county Tipperary.

It was agreed that the motion would be referred to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy, TD for consideration and response.

Ms Clare Curley, D.O.S. stated that this Council was accelerating the Re-building Ireland process locally and recent appointments to the Housing Section had given the Council more control of the design and building process.

Housing Maintenance issues in Templemore/Thurles District

In response to issues raised by Templemore/Thurles District Members in relation to the process for housing maintenance complaints, it was agreed to follow up this matter with the Municipal District. Members referred to the poor state of repair of the housing stock in Templemore and commitments given to deal with certain property at 14 Park View West and it was agreed to revert directly to the Councillor concerned with an update on this matter.

Energy Efficiency Works

The final houses under Phase 1 of the Energy Efficiency Works had been tendered and tenders received are currently being assessed. It is proposed to seek Departmental approval to proceed to Phase 2 once Phase 1 is completed.

Voluntary Housing Cashel Town

It was clarified that Voluntary Agencies had not contacted the Council regarding housing development in Cashel but that the Council were open to engaging with all voluntary agencies.

Tenants Registration Board

It was noted that there was a legal obligation on landlords to register all private residential tenancies and there were penalties for landlords who did not register.

Vacant Dwellings

All offers to purchase vacant dwellings were examined by the Council and there was a wide range of criteria to be examined in reaching a decision on the suitability of the dwelling.

Item 6.1

Chief Executive and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to 31st August 2017 were noted.

Consideration of CE Orders for the period to 31st August, 2017

Item 7.1

Motion No. 7.1 (Ref 1136) was proposed by **Cllr. M. Ryan**

Notice of Motion Rural Development Department

"I am requesting Tipperary County Council to establish a rural development department under the remit of Director of Service".

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. I. Goldsboro**

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-

Tipperary County Council's (TCC) Strategic framework for action during the lifetime of this Council is set out in its TCC Corporate Plan 2015-2019, and this will act as the driver for economic development including rural development, social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability within the County.

The organisational and management structure within TCC was devised to reflect the ambitions identified in the corporate plan. In this regard, 'rural development' is a key focus of all directorates in TCC and staff work cross-directorate to support rural communities through:

- enterprise and employment,
- maximising rural tourism and recreation potential,
- fostering culture and creativity in rural communities and
- improving rural infrastructure and connectivity.

Rural development is therefore at the core of all our work, and the following examples seek to reinforce this:

- The council operates a municipal district structure (with 5 MDs) providing services locally to the people of Tipperary, and each MD has a Director of Services assigned responsibility for coordination of services with the districts;
- Unlike many other counties, TCC has a director of service with sole responsibility for Community and Enterprise which enables a very strong focus on rural development.
- A Director of Service has been given special responsibility for our town and village centres and to identify actions that will ensure that they are attractive and vibrant places to shop, live and visit,
- Two Local Enterprise Offices were established in Nenagh and Clonmel and to further support rural development, and the Council provides a number of locations within the county which are designed to enable businesses to operate on favourable terms with council support.
- The council has created the post of Broadband Officer to assist the roll out and improvement of rural broadband.
- The council's arts, heritage, tourism, sports and museum staff work together and with all other sections to delivery many rural services and festivals towards making Tipperary a great place to live and visit.

The above is not exhaustive, but is illustrative of the fact that 'rural development' is core to the

ambitions and operations of TCC. Each county has sought to achieve its ambitions using different models and organisational structures. There is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to rural development. Different rural areas have different needs and require different solutions, depending on their local assets, their peripherality, population density, etc. However, there are common issues affecting Tipperary and the Action Plan reinforces the efforts of organisations whose work programmes and plans already collectively contribute to rural development in Tipperary. The model adopted in TCC as set out above is both robust and flexible in an every changing environment, and it is considered very relevant to the needs of the people we serve and towards the local deliver of the objectives identified in the National Action Plan for Rural Development.

Cllr Ryan referred to the range of difficulties facing rural communities including lack of broadband, reduced transport options and closure of post offices and garda stations.

Mr. Joe MacGrath stated that the Council supported rural development and promoted a number of initiatives across various departments.

Item 7.2

Notice of Motion

Japanese Knotweed

Motion No. 7.2 (Ref 1137) was proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy, in the absence of Cllr. S. Ryan .**

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. S. Hanafin**

"That Tipperary County Council would give details of the plans to treat and eradicate Japanese Knotweed in the county particularly on National and Regional roads".

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:-

With respect to National Roads, the Mid West National Road Design Office, based in Dooradoyle, Limerick is dealing with any issues which arise.

With regard to Regional & Local Roads, the Council has set up a working group to formulate a policy in dealing with the issue. Our Customer Service Department has been advised to log any calls on the National Biodiversity Website www.biodiversity.ie.

The Council is also compiling a mapping system internally where the agglomerations will be identified. In addition, 2 study areas have been identified in the Carrick District and these will form the basis of future actions to be taken.

Item 8.3

Notice of Motion

Hospitality Sector

Motion No. 8.3 (Ref 1138) was not moved in the absence of Cllr. Marie Murphy and Cllr. M. Fitzgerald.

"That this Council supports the drinks industry and hospitality sector which supports 3,973 jobs in Tipperary and is a critical component of our offering to tourists, with tourism spend in Tipperary worth €12 million in 2016. This Council backs the "Support Your Local" campaign in calling for a reduction in excise tax on alcohol in budget 2018, in order to support local jobs, the hospitality sector and our local economy".

Item 9.1 to 9.8

Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted.

Items 10.1 to 10.3

Resolutions from other Local Authorities were noted.

South Dublin County Council

Resolutions from other local authorities

In regards to Cyberbullying and children, we ask SDCC

- 1) That SDCC look at what can be done in Libraries in all of SDCC to combat this growing and worrying issue. To ask that a campaign be looked at to deal with this issue that poses a serious threat to many children within our area. This should include all types of Social Media.
- 2) That SDCC write to the Minister for Children, Minister for Justice and Minister for Education and ask that they work together to combat this serious matter with both Legislation and an Education Programme in our schools and Education Campaign for Parents.

South Dublin County Council

Members of South Dublin County Council are calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone to increase investment in Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that children have access to quality, sustainable and affordable childcare with decent pay and conditions for professionals in the sector.

The Council recognises that Early Years Education are hugely dedicated professionals who care for and educate children during the most crucial years of their development. However the Irish Government lags behind other European countries in terms of how much we invest in Early Years Education. As a result, many qualified professionals are struggling to make ends meet and providers are struggling to stay open.

We call on Minister Zappone to put children first and invest in quality childcare and Early Years Education. We ask the Chief Executive to forward a copy of this motion to Minister Zappone and to copy it to all other City and County Councils.

Limerick City & County Council

That, Limerick City and County Council call on the Gaelic Athletic Association to halt the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic Games fixtures. Instead, RTE, TV3 or TG4 should be allowed to also screen these fixtures. Denying households who do not subscribe to SKY TV the right to view our National Games is a travesty.

Item 11.1

Expression of Votes of Sympathy

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following:-

- Cathaoirleach, Phyll Bugler on the death of her nephew, Patrick O’Keeffe
- Cllr. Mary Hanna-Hourigan on the death of her brother-in-law, Tony
- Cllr. C. Carey on the death of her grandmother, Bridget (Bridie) Keane
- Elaine Kenneally, Planning Section, Nenagh on the death of her mother Ellen Mary Cashen
- Karl Cashen, Director on the death of his Aunt-in-law, Ellen Mary Cashen
- Timmy O’Donoghue (Nenagh MD) on the death of his mother, Mary
- Tommy O’Donoghue (Water Services) on the death of his mother, Mary
- Pat McKeogh, Housing Section, Nenagh on the death of his mother, Anne
- Kathleen O’Neill former employee of South Tipperary County Council on the death of her father, Bill
- Matt Peters, Environment Section, Clonmel on the death of his grandfather, Bill
- Noel Cullen, Revenue Section, Clonmel on the death of his brother, Tom
- Gary Shanahan, Traffic Warden, Templemore-Thurles on the death of his mother, Christina
- Mary Fitzpatrick, Roads Section on the death of her mother, Kathleen
- Richard Bennett, Environment Section on the death of his mother, Doris

**Votes of
Congratulations.**

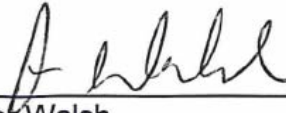
Votes of Congratulations were extended to the following:-

- Fergal Horgan on being selected to referee the All-Ireland Hurling Final 2017
- Best Wishes to Tipperary Ladies Intermediate Team contesting the Ladies Intermediate Final on Sunday 24th September 2017

The meeting then concluded.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: _____