

Monthly Meeting of the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District Members held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carrick-on-Suir on the 23rd of July, 2015 at 2:00pm.

In the Chair: Cllr. Eddie O'Meara

Members Cllr. Kieran Bourke

Present: Cllr. David Dunne
Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro

Appologies Cllr. John Fahey
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin

In Attendance: Mr Pat Slattery, Director of Services
Mr Martin Nolan, District Administrator
Ms Nicola Keating, District Engineer
Ms Fiona Crotty, Staff Officer
Ms Anne Dunne, Assistant Staff Officer.
Ms Kathleen Prendergast, Administrative Officer, Community and Economic Development
Mr Aidan Fennessy, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section

Minutes of Meetings: On the proposal of Cllr. Kieran Bourke, seconded by Cllr. David Dunne the minutes of the Annual Meeting and the June Monthly Meeting were adopted and signed by the Cathaoirleach, subject to the minutes of the monthly meeting being amended to record the commitment made by the District Administrator to have the floating debris at the marina removed as soon as possible.

Matters Arising from Minutes: Cllr. Kieran Bourke raised the issue of removal of debris from the marina. The District Administrator reported that arrangement had been made to have the debris removed, and that this work was scheduled to take place

on the 11th of August, 2015. Cllr. Kieran Bourke expressed his dissatisfaction with the delay in dealing with this matter. Cllr. Kieran Bourke also expressed dissatisfaction in relation to other issues, including the delay in spraying of weeds on the main street, and the delay in removal of illegally dumped rubbish from a private site. He stated that he intended to resign as Leas Cathaoirleach because of these issues. The District Administrator responded in relation to the points raised.

**Update from
Director of
Housing**

Mr Aidan Fennessey, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section apologised to the members for the inability of the Director of Services to attend the meeting, and gave the members a report on the following matters:

- Capital Housing Projects
- Vacant Houses
- Applications for rehousing
- Housing Grants

Members asked Questions as follows:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke:

- Location of Houses that need major refurbishment
- Priority 2 Adaption Grants
- Reason why priority changes following Occupational Therapist Visit.

Cllr. David Dunne:

- Comparative figures for approved applicants, to show progress
- Position in relation to casual vacancies
- Position in relation to building or acquisition of houses

Cllr. John Fahey:

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro:

- Availability of energy efficiency schemes

Cllr. Eddie O'Meara

- Adaption Grants

The Senior Executive Officer responded as follows:

- The priority on adaption grants is based on a medical assessment, and may change when an Occupational Therapist visit takes place. Priority 2 cases will be dealt with when the priority 1 cases have been dealt with. There are currently 174 priority 1 cases outstanding.
- Casual vacancies can arise for a number of reasons, including the death of the tenant. Where a vacancy occurs due to a death, it may take several weeks before the County Council obtains possession of the house. The Council will act with sensitivity in such cases.
- The most effective way at present to obtain new stock is through purchase rather than construction. The County Council is seeking suitable houses in the Carrick-on-Suir District.
- There are no plans for energy efficiency schemes at present. These schemes depend on the availability of funding.

**Update from
Director of
Community
and Economic
Development**

Ms Kathleen Prendergast gave an update on the work of the Community and Economic Development Directorate. Her presentation covered the following:

- Local Enterprise Office
- Childcare
- The public participation network
- Community Development
- Joint Policing Committee
- Rural Development Programme
- RAPID
- Playgrounds
- CCTV Projects
- Arts, Heritage and Culture
- County Museum
- Sports Partnership

The members asked the following questions:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke:

- Location of jobs in Carrick district whose creation was assisted by the Local Enterprise Office.

Cllr. David Dunne:

- Arrangements in relation to playground management.

Cllr. Eddie O'Meara

- Position in relation to opening of Town Hall in Fethard
- Position in relation to planning permission for the Fethard Town CCTV scheme.

Ms Prendergast responded as follows:

- The position in relation to the Fethard Town Hall would be checked out, and a response made.
- The position in relation to planning permission for the Fethard CCTV scheme would be checked out, and a response made.
- An Audit of management procedures in the county was being carried out, which would lead to best practice guidelines in relation to playground management for all operators.
- The detail of individual projects assisted by the Local Enterprise Office was protected by the freedom of Information Act, but the office would make as much information as possible on the geographical spread of job creation available.

**District
Engineer's
Report:**

The following matters were raised in relation to the District Engineer's Report:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke:

- Trial holes at Ormonde Castle.
- Email from Board of Management, Newtown School, in relation to a planning application

Cllr. David Dunne:

- Progress on the Greenway
- The replacement of the barrier at Arrigans Lane.

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro:

- Patching of Road at Lismalin Bridge
- Work at Kilusty School
- Work at Red Cross, Ballingarry.

The District Engineer responded as follows:

- Work on the Greenway has started
- The replacement of the barrier at Arrigan's Bohereen will be followed up
- A draft report on the trial holes at Ormonde Castle was being considered by the County Council
- Such assistance as was possible would be to Newtown School.
- The patching of the road at Lismolin would be examined
- The work at Killusty School should be completed at September
- The work at Ballingarry should take place between September and the end of the year.

**District
Administrator's
Report:**

The District Administrator brought the following items to the members attention:

1. Water and Environment Directorates will be attending at the September meeting.
2. The Heritage Section ran a small grants scheme for projects raising awareness of or gathering data on local heritage. The fund for the scheme was €6,000.00. There were nine successful applicants, and details are circulated at the meeting

Schedule of

It was proposed by Cllr. Kieran Bourke , seconded by Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro and agreed that the following schedule of meetings be adopted:

Meetings

Meeting	Date	Time
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 25 th of June, 2015	2.30p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 23rd of July, 2015	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 24 th of September, 2015	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 22nd of October, 2015	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 26 th of November, 2015	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Friday, 18th of December, 2015	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 28th of January, 2016	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 25th of February, 2016	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 24th of March, 2016	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 28th of April, 2016	2.00p.m.
Monthly Meeting	Thursday, 26 th of May, 2016	2.00p.m.
Annual Meeting	May/June 2016.	

Date to be
determined at
April Monthly
meeting

**Report on
submissions
on Parking
Strategy**

A report on the submissions received in relation to the review of the Carrick-on-Suir Parking Strategy had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The District Administrator informed the meeting that most of the submissions sought the retention of the current regime, in particular in relation to the retention of the twenty minutes grace period in Main Street, New Street, and Kickham Street.

Other issues included the regime in the St Nicolas Car Park, the prevention of displacement into residential areas, the promotion of the service, enforcement, particularly at Sean Kelly Square, and the provision of parking for motor homes.

Cllr. Kieran Bourke asked that the flow of traffic in Carrick-on-Suir also be investigated.

**Notices of
Motion:**

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro No.468

That Carrick on Suir Municipal District members support my motion in writing to the Minister of Justice asking that due to the lack of Garda Resources in rural areas, that they would consider installing CCTV Cameras in rural villages which would act as a deterrent to anti social behaviour, that is increasing on a daily basis and combat drug and alcohol abuse in public places.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. David Dunne

The report on this motion was as follows:

If adopted, the notice of motion will be brought to the attention of the Minister for Justice and Law Reform.

The notice of motion was agreed.

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro No.469

That Carrick on Suir Municipal District survey all existing heritage structures in the district, particularly the Slievardagh area and provide a

solution to those that are not protected and are currently in a state of disrepair, such as the Copper Steeple etc. The Coal Mining industry provides a significant part of the history of this area and residents and organisations are concerned for their deterioration, and if issue was addressed, going forward this would be an ideal opportunity for a Slievardagh Coal Mining Trail or informational tours in the area.

The notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. Kieran Bourke

The report on this notice of motion is as follows:

'Tipperary County Council has an extensive list of structures, protected under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and contained in the Record of Protected Structures in each of the Development Plans in the County. Each of the respective Records of Protected Structures (RPS) lists the location and description of the structure and its reference number on the RPS. The heritage structures in the Carrick on Suir Municipal District which are protected are listed in Appendix 5 of the South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009 and the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan.

The review of the Record of Protected Structures is generally carried out during the review of the Development Plan. However, the Planning Authority intends to undertake a county-wide review of the Record of Protected Structures within the lifetime of the North and South Tipperary County Development Plans. It is anticipated that background research and survey work will commence in 2016. Structures including those of local interest that meet one or more of the categories of special Interest set out in Section 51 (1) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 2.5.4 of the DOEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines may be considered for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

It is recognised that many buildings associated with the coal mining industry are an important aspect of architectural and social history and can contribute to the heritage tourism to the County. The structures in the Slievardagh area associated with the coal mining industry will be considered in any forthcoming review.'

Adding to the report, the District Administrator told the meeting that

there was a modest grants scheme for heritage buildings, and that a suitable group might seek funding from the South Tipperary Development Company for such work.

The motion was agreed.

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro **No.470**

That Carrick on Suir Municipal District provide public lighting from Mill Road, Ballynonty to the village of Ballynonty. This is a major health and safety issue as this area is in complete darkness. A minimum of two lights would make a significant difference in this area.

The notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. David Dunne

The report on the notice of motion is as follows:

'Unfortunately, the Carrick-on-Suir District does not have a budget for new public lighting and has not had one for many years. This issue will be considered next year when preparing the 2016 works programme, subject to the budget allocation received'

Expanding on the report, the District Engineer said that the County Council would consider the construction of a footpath, which would include a public lighting element, at this location next year.

The motion was agreed.

Cllr. David Dunne **No.471**

Now that there is optimism that public sector pay increase maybe possible that Tipperary County Council purpose to the government to address the issue of hiring embargo on the recruitment of on the ground workers for Carrick on Suir Municipal District.

The notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. Kieran Bourke .

The report on the notice of motion was as follows:

'Since the introduction of public sector moratorium a number of years ago, and with the decline in the availability of funding, the number of staff in local authorities across the country has reduced very significantly by approximately 25%. The effect of this is that only critical posts have been sanctioned for filling by the Department and even then, in many instances, we have been approved to fill posts by means of temporary rather than permanent contracts. The vast majority of approvals received from the department have been in respect of outdoor posts e.g. fire fighters, water and waste water caretakers.

As part of the merger a very significant workforce plan was drafted in respect of staffing requirements for the newly merged authority. This Plan was accepted by the Department in 2014, and where vacancies arise, or request for new staff, the department will take account of the staff structure set out in the agreed Workforce Plan.

Carrick Town has lost staff over the last number of years, which have not been replaced, and in this regard a review of staffing requirements in Carrick town is taking place. However, any increase in staff in the town will need to be in line with the overall workforce plan in place for Carrick Municipal District.'

Expanding on the report, Mr Pat Slattery, Director of Services stated that the staffing situation in Carrick Municipal District was being examined at present.

Cllr. David Dunne accepted the report.

Cllr. David Dunne No.472

Call on this municipal district to draw up a priority list of council houses needing windows and doors and to start a program to install these as soon as possible.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro

The report on this motion was as follows:

'The Municipal District Office is responsible for the day to day maintenance of council houses. Major improvement works, such as the update of windows and doors are organised centrally on a programmed basis as funding allows. As part of the routine maintenance of houses, individual houses are assessed for improvement works as they are inspected, and a record is maintained of those houses where it is considered that replacement works are warranted. The Housing Section is aware of this record, and these houses will be considered for improvement works when funding becomes available.'

Following discussion, the report was accepted by Cllr. David Dunne.

Cllr. David Dunne No.473

That this council install carbon monoxide detectors in all houses in the district.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kieran Bourke

The report on this motion was as follows:

'Carbon Monoxide detectors are mandatory in all new houses. It is the practice to install detectors in existing houses where stoves are installed or repaired. Detectors will be installed in new lettings from now on There is no programme at present to install detectors in all houses.'

Cllr. David Dunne accepted the report

**Any Other
Business**

Congratulations. On the proposal of Cllr. Eddie O'Meara, seconded by Cllr. Kieran Bourke, the members congratulated Cllr. Louise McLoughlin on the recent birth of her daughter. Mr Pat Slattery, Director of Services and other staff present joined in congratulating Cllr. McLoughlin.

Weeds in Main Street Carrick-on-Suir. Cllr. Kieran Bourke raised the issue of the growth in weeds in Main Street in Carrick-on-Suir. The District Administrator responded that the street was sprayed regularly, had been most recently sprayed on the morning of the 21st of July.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed 
District Administrator

Signed; 
Cathaoirleach

Date: 24/09/2015