



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD, NENAGH AT 10.30 AM ON 15th JANUARY 2015

Present:

Cllrs. Fiona Bonfield, John Carroll, Ger Darcy, Hughie McGrath, Séamus Morris, Michael O' Meara, Mattie Ryan, Phyll Bugler and J. Hannigan.

Also Present:

Mr. Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Peter Fee, Executive Engineer; Mr. Michael Hayes, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. Brian Beck, Senior Planner, Mr. Gerry Robinson, A/Senior Engineer Ms. Lorraine Treacy, Staff Officer, Mr. Brendan Quinn, Mr. Pascal Grey and Ms. Barbara Farrell, from the Fleadh na Mumhan Committee.

Cllr. Fiona Bonfield welcomed Brendan Quinn, Pascal Grey and Barbara Farrell from the Fleadh na Mumhan Committee.

Item 1.
Minutes of December Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Darcy, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll and resolved that the minutes of the December Meeting held on 18th December 2014 be adopted.

Item 2.
To receive presentation from Fleadh na Mumhan Committee

Barbara Farrell gave a presentation on Fleadh na Mumhan which will take place in Nenagh from 12th to 19th July 2015.

Cllr. P. Bugler thanked the Committee members for their attendance at the meeting and stated that there has been Fleadh Cheoils in Ballina for the last number of years which have been a great success. She added that it was a long time since there was a festival in Nenagh and stressed the need to work closely with the Tourist Office in Nenagh to highlight the event and the availability of accommodation in the District.

Ms. B Farrell advised that the Committee are trying to

source accommodation in Terryglass, Ballina and other villages and towns in the District. Ms. Farrell added that in her opinion, North Tipperary is undersold as a tourist destination and the end aim of the committee is get people to come and see the vibrant area.

Cllr. G. Darcy welcomed the committee and complimented them on their presentation. He referred to the Paddy O' Brien festivals that were held in Nenagh which were a tremendous success and stated that this was a unique opportunity to showcase the district. Cllr. Darcy concluded by saying that he was 100% supportive of what the Committee are trying to achieve.

Cllr. M. Ryan welcomed the presentation and also referred to the success of the Paddy O' Brien festival. He wished the Committee all the best with the upcoming event.

Cllr. M. O' Meara welcomed the Committee members and stated that he hoped that the festival will be a tremendous success. He added that it will be what you make of it and it will be up to the public to embrace it. He encouraged people living in Nenagh and the surrounding areas to support the event. Cllr. O' Meara concluded by complimenting the Committee on running the event on such a small budget and wished them the best of luck.

Cllr. H. McGrath wished the Committee well and complimented them on taking on such a huge undertaking and said that the event will be great for the town and surrounding areas.

Cllr. S. Morris thanked the Committee for bringing the event to Nenagh. He added that there was a need to put Nenagh on the map and applauded the Committee for taking on the task and said that he will support them in whatever way he can.

Cllr. J. Carroll also welcomed the presentation and said the event was very important for the promotion of our cultural heritage, social interaction and the economic viability of the town. He offered his support and help to the Committee and said he looked forward to what would be a fantastic weekend.

Mr. B. Quinn stated that the Committee will require help from the community over the weekend that the Fleadh is taking place. He added that if people get involved in

helping with the Fleadh, they will then be likely to assist with other festivals.

Cllr. J. Hannigan welcomed the Committee and commended them on their presentation. He stated that he was a firm believer in PR and complimented the Committee on their logo. Cllr. Hannigan went on to say that Tourism in the region is undersold and the Fleadh could be a catalyst for future events. He hoped that some events could take place in the surrounding villages and suggested that the Committee contact people in the villages to bring them on board.

Cllr. S Morris enquired if the Committee had contacted local groups about parking facilities. Ms. B Farrell advised that the Nenagh AFC has offered its facilities for camping and the parking of caravans.

Mr. B Quinn stated that the Fleadh was held in Killarney last year and every effort was being made to show that Tipperary can also put on a good show. With regard to the budget for the event, Mr. Quinn stated that the event could be run on a smaller budget but that this would mean running it from one centre but the Committee wanted to have the events in four to five locations so as to spread people around the town.

Cllr. P Bugler enquired about where the performances would take place. Mr. B. Quinn advised that the performances will take place in the Vocational School, St. Mary's Secondary School, the CBS Primary and Secondary Schools, Abbey Court Hotel, the Arts Centre and possibly the Scouts Hall.

Cllr. J. Carroll enquired about accommodation for the event. Ms. B. Farrell advised that it was hoped to have an Accommodation Officer in place this week and the aim was to get people to stay in the locality.

Cllr. P. Bugler enquired if the accommodation has to be approved by Bord Fáilte. Ms. Farrell replied that it did not, that private accommodation can be used. She added that details of available accommodation will be on the Fleadh na Mumhan Facebook page and on the Munster Fleadh website.

Cllr. J. Hannigan enquired if there was a plan to pedestrianise some parts of the town. Mr. B Quinn advised

that it was intended to have a gig rig in the town so pedestrianisation of some areas would be required. Mr. M. O' Connor confirmed that it would be the intention to pedestrianise some areas.

With regard to advertising, Mr. B Quinn advised that the Committee's budget for advertising is €16,000. He went on to say that the Committee will be attending Fleadhs around the area in order to promote the event and the National Congress of Comhaltas will be advertising the event in Treoir magazine. Cllr. P. Bugler suggested that the Committee liaise with Waterways Ireland as they have given funding to the Scariff Water Festival in the past and may be interested in supporting the Fleadh.

Mr. M. O' Connor thanked the Committee for their presentation. He acknowledged that the pedestrianisation of some areas of the town may cause some inconvenience but it will be a huge benefit to have substantial numbers in the town and surrounding areas. Mr. O' Connor advised that the former Town Council had allocated €6,000 to the Fleadh Committee but that the municipal district members had this morning, agreed to allocate a further €14,000 to the Committee. He added that the Council is now a major sponsor and he would like to see that acknowledged in future promotional material. He concluded by saying that he looked forward to working closely with the committee over the next number of months.

Mr. B. Quinn, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the members for their contribution and comment. Mr. P. Grey also thanked the members and advised that the money will be used carefully.

Ms. B. Farrell thanked the members and stated that she looked forward to working with the Council. She concluded by saying that a fundraising event would take place in Arts Centre on the 24th January and she encouraged the members to support the event.

Item 3.
Receive response from
Water & Environment
Staff

Cllr. J. Carroll referred to fly tipping on regional roads and in particular on the old N7 from Tullaheady to the town, where he said there was in excess of 30 bags of rubbish dumped. He stated that people need to be heavily fined and named and shamed.

Cllr. M. O' Meara supported Cllr. Carroll. He stated that signs that were put up previously re periodic CCTV

surveillance were a good deterrent. He noted that there is no Litter Warden in North Tipperary at present and enquired if a new Litter Warden has been appointed yet. He added that an indirect effect of the closing of bogs has been that these areas are now more prevalent to fly tipping and therefore there was a need for more vigilance in these areas.

Cllr. S. Morris also referred to the lack of a Litter Warden in North Tipperary, which he said was not good as fly tipping has become a huge problem. He suggested that a mobile CCTV unit should be obtained as people have a tendency to dump rubbish in the same areas.

Cllr. M. Ryan stated that he has noticed the problem of litter and stated that there are good facilities in the recycling centre which people should avail of.

Cllr. G. Darcy agreed with the previous Councillors' comments and stated that fly tipping was a particular problem in rural areas which are three to five miles from a town. He stated that there appears to be a particular problem with fast food wrappers at the weekend and enquired if anything could be done to discourage same.

Cllr. J. Hannigan stated that there are great initiatives through the Green Schools Programme and that education was a key factor to eliminating the problem.

Cllr. P. Bugler referred to the problem of dog fouling and called for enforcement of bye-laws.

Mr. B. Beck agreed that litter is a problem. He stated that it is an individual issue and there has to be personal responsibility. He agreed that a lot of it is down to education and that while the Green School Initiatives are good, people are still dumping litter.

He went on to say that CCTV cameras do work but there can be difficulties in gathering evidence if people are dumping in the dark. The Council do prosecute where possible he added.

With regard to the queries raised in relation to the Litter Warden, Mr. Beck advised that one Litter Warden has retired and the other is on sick leave at present. He stated that approval to recruit a new Litter Warden has been received from the Department and it is planned to advertise the position shortly. He added that the Traffic Wardens in

the towns are also Litter Wardens and that roads staff have also assisted the environment section regarding the collection of rubbish. There are also plans, he stated, to bring the Environmental Enforcement Officer from Clonmel to assist in the clean up of litter black spots.

Regarding Cllr. Darcy's query on fast food packaging, Mr. Beck stated that most fast food outlets provide bins for people to dispose of the packaging but if people leave the outlet and dispose of the rubbish it is out of their control. All they can do, he added, is encourage people to dispose of it in a proper manner.

With regard to dog fouling, Mr. Beck advised that the Dog Warden tries to identify locations where dogs are walked but unless you see a dog in the act you can't prosecute the owner. He stated that 20,000 kits have been handed out free and that education is essential.

Cllr. M. O' Meara queried if the Council could legally ask people how they dispose of their rubbish. Mr. B. Beck stated that there is currently no requirement to state where one disposes of their rubbish. He said that this was more of a national issue rather than one for the Council.

Cllr. J. Carroll raised a query in connection with the capacity of graveyards in the District and in particular in relation to Garrykenny.

Mr. B. Beck advised that a survey of all the graveyards in North Tipperary has been carried out in order to identify any spare capacity. He went on to say that the purchase of land for graveyards takes considerable time as a lot of environmental assessments have to take place. He added that there are a number of graveyards where restrictions have been imposed on the purchase of a grave in advance because of capacity in order to ensure the retention of spaces for when a death occurs. He concluded by saying that it was envisaged that a Burial Ground Policy would be brought to the SPC and then to the full Council to deal with these issues.

Cllr. J. Carroll requested that consideration be given to those living locally and the elderly when the policy is being drafted.

Cllr. M. O' Meara requested an update on Shannon Vermicomposting. Mr. B. Beck advised that a draft report

was with the EPA at present and the Council is liaising with them in order to bring the matter to the next stage. He added that he hoped to have more information in the next month or so.

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to an announcement last October about the upgrading of the old stone culvert in Kenyon Street. He said that there was some confusion about whether the work was going to be carried out or not and requested clarification re same. Cllr. McGrath also enquired about the response times from Irish Water as he had not received a response from them following a recent query.

Cllr. J. Carroll referred to the upcoming review of the Development Plan and said it was important that a listing of the waste water treatment plants in the area was made available. Cllr. G. Darcy agreed with Cllr. Carroll and said that it was important to keep the pressure on so as to ensure that our towns and villages are catered for when Irish Water are allocating funds.

Mr. Gerry Robinson advised that Irish Water will be appointing consultants to look at the problematic areas in the sewerage system in Nenagh town. These works will follow on from the Gas works.

In reply to Cllr. McGrath's query on response times from Irish Water, Mr. Robinson advised that the Irish Water email is not manned 24 hours. The email address should only be used for general queries. The phone numbers should be used for emergencies.

With regard to details of the waste water treatments plants, Mr. Robinson advised that this information is available on the EPA website.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to situations where villages have no treatment plant and there is an opportunity to zone the land for residential development. He enquired about how the Council deal with the take over of the treatment plant from the developer. He also requested an up date on the Ballycommon Treatment Plant.

Cllr. P. Bugler stated that there appears to be a problem with the watermain opposite Goosers and Tuscany in Ballina as the road has to be repaired regularly. She also enquired if Irish Water has taken over the compound at Cullenagh and requested that the Tidy Towns be allowed use it.

Mr. G. Robinson advised that the Council is liaising with Irish Water regarding the water treatment plants in villages. He advised that the contracts in respect of the take over of Ballycommon Treatment Plant are with the Solicitor at present, with some legal issues to be sorted out. He concluded by saying that the issue with the old water pipe opposite Goosers has been brought to the attention of Irish Water and that he would seek clarification on the area at Cullenagh in Ballina.

Item 4.
To note Action Plan from
December Meeting

The Action Plan from the December Meeting was noted.

Item 5.
Update on Projects

Mr. M. O' Connor gave an update on projects as follows:

Lisbunny Burial Ground

Works are practically finished. The grass needs to establish before burials can take place.

Gills Garden

The Council is continuing to gather information requested by the Department of the Environment.

CCTV

Works will commence in the Garda Station on the 19th January. Thereafter works will commence on the erection of cameras on the individual buildings around the town. It is expected that all works will be complete in approximately 4-6 weeks time.

Nenagh Traffic Management Plan

It is anticipated that the Draft Nenagh Traffic Management Plan will be put on public display in February. Cllr. G. Darcy enquired if a public meeting will be held to discuss the proposals. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that the Council will meet with any groups who wish to discuss the proposals. Cllr. J. Carroll stated that there needed to be good interaction with business groups, while Cllr. P. Bugler stated that the issue should be advertised on Tipp FM and the newspapers. Mr. O' Connor stated that there was no doubt that the proposals would be controversial and advertisements will take place.

Newport Town Park

The Council is currently working on the issue of land acquisition and the engagement of consultants. Cllr. M. Ryan enquired if the Council was keeping on contact with

the local Committee. Mr. O' Connor advised that he was available to meet with them at any time. Cllr. P. Bugler raised the issue of the title for the Ball Alley and enquired how far had it progressed. Mr. O' Connor advised that the lands at the Ball Alley may require a CPO.

Lough Derg Stimulus Projects

Mr. M. Hayes advised that the list of proposals for 2015 has not been finalised yet and that there was difficulty in getting proposals for the northern end of the lake. Mr. O' Connor added that unless the Council owns the lands, there will be difficulty to deliver on projects in 2015. Cllr. M. O' Meara enquired about the criteria for the projects and if Lorrha Heritage Trail could be included.

Roadworks Programme

The members were advised that the 2015 Roadworks Programme cannot be finalised until the allocations from the Department are known. It is anticipated that the Roadworks Programme will be presented to the members at the March meeting.

Cllr. M. Ryan enquired as to when the temporary workers were being re-employed and also requested an update on the 18 permanent posts. He also referred to problems at Chalkhill where the water tables are too high and the water is coming across the road and Seainin's Road, Templederry where there was an ongoing problem in three specific areas. He requested that this be looked at.

Cllr. G. Darcy welcomed the announcement about the approval to employ 18 permanent staff and also welcomed the fact that the temporary workers were being re-employed earlier this year.

Cllr. M. O'Meara supported Cllr. Darcy and welcomed the employment of staff in the northern part of the county. He added that some temporary workers have in excess of ten years experience and are a big addition to the Council. Cllr. O' Meara went on to say that while he welcomed the works that were carried out at Gaulross, cars were now travelling faster on the road and requested that the Council revert to the NRA to request that signs be erected to indicate that there was a dangerous junction ahead.

Item 6. **Engineer's Checklist**

Cllr. P. Bugler raised queries in connection with the Boher Road, Healy's Road, Lower Garrane, Ballinahinch, erection of signs to slow down in Ballina and the current position on

swipe cards in Ballina.

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to the road at Latteragh, where potholes are beginning to appear and also requested an update on Knockalton Hill.

Cllr. J. Carroll stressed the need to co-ordinate the maintenance schedule. He referred to the use of patching units and said they were not successful in wet weather. He called for the provision of delineators at Ballyrusheen.

Cllr. J. Hannigan also referred to the road at Latteragh , saying that it will require major funding going forward and suggested asking the NRA to take over the road and make it into a national road. He also stated that there could be improvements in sightlines along the roads if hedges are cut.

Cllr. M. Ryan supported Cllr. Hannigan, saying that it was a very busy road and there was a need to have a plan in place. He suggested that the Council liaise with Minister Kelly to advise him that the road needs to be upgraded.

Mr. M. Hayes advised that it was hoped to get the temporary workers back next week and that the recruitment process for the eighteen permanent staff would commence. With regard to Knockalton Hill, he advised that negotiations are still ongoing with the landowners.

With regard to the R498, Mr. O' Connor advised that the matter was raised with the NRA at a meeting held with them recently. He added that the best strategy would be to include the works on the Strategic Non-National Roads Programme but that unfortunately this programme is currently suspended. The matter would, he said, will be kept on the agenda.

Cllr. J. Carroll enquired if the Council has written to the Department about the road. Mr. O' Connor advised that the Council has written to the Department and that both himself and Mr. M. F. Hayes had spoken to the Department Inspector about the issue.

Cllr. J. Hannigan requested that a review of the disabled parking bays in Nenagh town be undertaken. He stated that there are a number of obstacles in the way along side some of the parking bays.

The members raised a number of issues in relation to

specific roads which were responded to.

Item 7.
Notices of Motion

None.

Item 8.
Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence:

1.	Letter from Shannon Commercial Properties re Lisbunny Business Park, Nenagh
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Item 9.
Votes of
Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following:

- Ms. Gillian Dillon, Limerick Rd., Silvermines on the death of Thomas Dillon.
- Mr. Joe Gilmartin, Clos Odhrain, Toomevara on the death of Pat Gilmartin.
- Mr. Patrick Hickey, Cummermore, Kilcommon on the death of Mary Hickey.
- Mr. Matthew O' Brien, Beleen on the death of Pearse O' Brien.
- Ms. Mary Garrigan, Lisgaród on the death of Josie Garrigan.
- Mr. Jimmy Hickey, Kilcommon on the death of Mary Hickey.

Votes of congratulations were passed to the following:

- Lough Derg Sub Aqua Club, Dromineer, Nenagh on hosting the 2015 Dive Ireland event in Nenagh.

Item 10.
A.O.B

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify.

Signed: Fiona Bonfield
Cllr. Fiona Bonfield
Cathaoirleach

Date: 19/2/15

Signed: Rosemary Joyce
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 19/2/15.

