



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD, NENAGH AT 1.30 PM ON 23rd OCTOBER 2015

Present:

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

Also Present:

Mr. Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Michael Hayes, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance; Mr. Gerry McGarry, Financial/Management Accountant; Mr. Aidan Fennessey, Senior Executive Officer; Ms. Michelle Maher, Senior Staff Officer; Mr. Sean Lonergan, Senior Staff Officer; Ms. Attracta Lyons, Administrative Officer; Ms. Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer and Ms. Lorraine Treacy, Staff Officer.

Before the meeting commenced, Cllr. G. Darcy referred to the official opening of Lisbunny Lawn Cemetery and the launch of the CCTV System in Nenagh. He complimented the Municipal District, the former Town Council and the Gardaí on the work that went into acquiring the system. He said that there was a huge benefit to businesses and residents to have 16 CCTV cameras in the town and that it was great value for money at a cost of €70,000. He suggested that there should be a push to get funding nationally for CCTV systems in other towns in the district. Cllr. Darcy concluded by wishing Nenagh Éire Óg all the best in the County Final.

Cllr. M. O' Meara said that he wished to be associated with the remarks about Lisbunny Lawn Cemetery and the CCTV, which he said were seen as very positive initiatives. He suggested that the Council write to the Minister for Justice

and request that the initiative be rolled out on a pilot basis in the Nenagh Municipal District. He added that it would be a vitally important pilot in Tipperary in light of the recent meeting held in connection with rural crime.

Cllr. M. Ryan also wished to be associated with the previous remarks and in particular wished to compliment the former Nenagh Town Council members.

Cllr. J. Carroll concurred with the previous speakers saying that it was a tremendous asset for the town of Nenagh. He added that he hoped it could be rolled out in other towns and along the motorway.

Cllr. P. Bugler said that the CCTV was a marvellous scheme and wondered if mobile CCTV cameras could be used in smaller areas like Ballina, Newport and Rearcross.

Mr. M. O' Connor said that Lisbunny Lawn Cemetery looks very well which is a credit to the Town Foreman and the Contractor. Referring the CCTV system, he said that it was exceptionally good and that the Gardaí were delighted with it. He added in the long term, consideration must be given as to whether the Local Authority or the Department of Justice should be funding such systems. He went on to say that if the system is to be expanded to other towns it must be remembered that some Garda Stations are not manned.

Cllr. S. Morris also extended his best wishes to Nenagh Éire Óg Hurling Team and to the Camogie Team in the County Finals. He thanked the Council staff for assisting with the erection of flags and bunting.

Cllr. G. Darcy advised the members that a meeting of the Standing Order Committee had been held to discuss the starting time of meetings. He said having discussed the matter, the Committee has decided not to amend the starting time of the meeting.

In response, Cllr. S. Morris stated that there is a danger of taking democracy away from the people. He said that meetings are taking a lot of time and Nenagh Town Council members were not afraid to work late at night. He added

that in years to come people will not put their name on a ballot paper because of the number of days they would have to take off work to attend meetings. He concluded that he wanted to put in an objection to the timing of the meetings.

Cllr. H. McGrath asked that if the time for workshops could be set outside of the monthly meetings.

Cllr. G. Darcy agreed that being a Councillor takes up a lot of time and said that every effort will be made to try and facilitate members and staff with regard to the timing of meetings and workshops outside of the monthly meetings.

Referring to workshops, Ms. R. Joyce advised the members that the planning section wished to hold a workshop with the members on Taking in Charge and have proposed 10.00 a.m. on 19th November. The members agreed to this proposal. In advance of the workshop, Cllr. S. Morris requested further clarification on the taking in charge of Ormond Keep.

Ms. R. Joyce also advised the members that, as a mark of respect for Garda Tony Holden, the meeting with the Gardaí which was due to be held on 15th October was adjourned. Ms. Joyce proposed that the adjourned meeting would take place at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday 17th December subject to the availability of Superintendent Noonan. The members agreed to this proposal.

Item 1.

Minutes of September Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Meara and resolved that the minutes of the September meeting held on 17th September be adopted.

Item 2.

Update from Housing Staff

Mr. S. Lonergan circulated details on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) to the members and explained the contents of same. An up to date report on housing services in the Nenagh District was also circulated.

Cllr. S. Morris enquired if everyone who signs up for the Housing Assistance Payment will be the responsibility of the Council. He also enquired as to how the Council is contacting people about the scheme. He added that emergency housing

is full to the brim and that there is a need for the Council to get back into building houses.

Cllr. P. Bugler stated that there was a lot of housing difficulties in the Ballina area with one or two buildings not up to standard.

Cllr. M. O' Meara agreed with Cllr. Morris with regard to the need for the Council to be building houses. He added that the previous policy of accessing land was very cost effective and that there was a great opportunity at the moment to purchase houses and land at a low price. He went on to say that he would encourage the local authority to be proactive in this regard.

Cllr. J. Carroll complimented the housing staff on their efficiency and requested a timeframe for the 17 vacant houses.

Cllr. H. McGrath enquired if the tenants who receive the Housing Assistance Payment remain on the Council housing list. He said that often the ultimate goal of applicants is to get back into an area where they would have family.

In reply, Mr. S. Lonergan said that a tenancy under HAP is considered to be a private tenancy and therefore the Council will not be responsible for policing anti-social behaviour. In reply to Cllr.'s Morris's query on how contact is made with potential applicants, Mr. Lonergan advised that as soon as an applicant is approved for housing they are issued with a HAP package. He added that once applicants are signed up for HAP they can be considered for other housing supports.

Mr. A. Fennessy concurred with the compliments to the housing staff. He said he agreed with the comments in relation to emergency accommodation and said that access to B&B accommodation is getting more difficult. In reply to Cllr. Carroll's query on vacant properties, Mr. Fennessy advised that works are in progress on five houses, five are at tender stage and one is for sale. He advised that significant resources had been received for voids and an application was made for an additional €240,000. He added that adverts re Housing Adaptation Grants will appear in newspapers in the next week or two with a closing date of the end of January.

Cllr. S. Morris said that the housing situation is in crisis. He expressed concern over the Council not being responsible for tenants under the HAP scheme. He said that most tenants are fantastic but some are causing problems. He went on to say that privatising social housing has failed. He referred to the problem with homelessness and said that fourteen children are in emergency accommodation in Thurles.

Cllr. H. McGrath agreed with Cllr. Morris. He said that he would be worried if the Council has no control over anti-social behaviour. He said that early intervention by a Tenant Liaison Officer is essential as there was a requirement to look after the rest of the community.

Mr. S. Lonergan said that he noted the members comments in relation to anti-social behaviour. He advised that everyone who is applying for HAP must apply for social housing first and as part of this process will have to be Garda vetted. He added that if through the Garda Vetting a history of anti-social behaviour appears there must be engagement with the Tenant Liaison Officer before the tenant is entitled to the payment however the agreement is between the landlord and the tenant and there would not be ongoing intervention.

Mr. A. Fennessy added that the Council is paying a subvention towards the rent and does not get involved in the contract between the tenant and the landlord therefore a Tenant Liaison Officer cannot get involved.

Cllr. J. Carroll said that housing is very fragmented with the PRTB, HSE and the Local Authority all involved. He said that it was a national issue that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Fennessy said that he accepted that the members had some concerns about the scheme. He said that the matter could be discussed further at the Housing SPC Meeting which was due to take place on 16th November.

Item 3 (a):
To receive presentation on
the Draft Local Economic &
Community Plan

Ms. A. Lyons gave a presentation on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan.

Cllr. G. Darcy complimented Ms. Lyons on her presentation. He said that the last Spatial Strategy did not work well for North & South Tipperary and that it was very important to prompt the people in power of the advantages that a rural county can have in relation to tourism and artisan food.

Cllr. J. Carroll welcomed the presentation and stressed the importance of prioritising social inclusion and capacity building. He said unfortunately less people are engaging and they are not given the due recognition that they deserve. He referred to a number of issues including accessibility, broadband, transport, utilisation of existing community centres for economic and social development, tourism, intangible heritage such as sport, music, song and dance and putting into practice a proactive approach to energy efficiency.

Cllr. M.O' Meara welcomed the policies referred to in the presentation and queried how they tie in with the Local Enterprise Office and Enterprise Ireland. He added that there was a role for Councillors to encourage people to work with the enterprise boards.

Cllr. S. Morris referred to a meeting with the IDA and said that there is a lot of work to do to get enterprise to the area. He said that he was surprised to note that Lough Derg was not mentioned in the presentation as an asset. He went on to say that he was horrified to note that Waterways Ireland are turning off the electricity supply to the marinas in November and requested that the Council contact Waterways Ireland to stop this from happening. He also referred to the lack of an adequate road network between North and South of the county, the deficit in bus transport, lack of good quality Broadband and dis-improvement in the mobile network over the past year.

Cllr. P. Bugler referred to the Lough Derg Lakelands and said that it needed the same investment as the Wild Atlantic Way. She mentioned the importance of tourism to the area.

Item 3(b)
To consider and adopt a
statement on the Draft
LECP

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan and resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(c)(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Reform Act 2015, it is considered that the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan is consistent with North & South Tipperary County Development Plans and the Regional Planning Guidelines in the context of the core strategy and it is therefore recommended for consideration by both the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic policy Committee and the Local Community Development Committee.

Ms. A. Lyons advised the members that under REDZ Scheme €150,000 funding has been provided for the Ormond Way, Nenagh Arts Centre and the Borrisokane Area. She said that the Council had received a Letter of Offer and Contract this week and is in the process of contacting the respective partners to move the projects along. All the members welcomed the announcement of the funding.

Item 4.
To consider and adopt the
Draft Budgetary Plan 2016
for Nenagh Municipal
District.

Mr. L. McCarthy advised the members that a County Council Budget Workshop is scheduled to take place on 9th November at which proposals for rates harmonisation will be outlined to the members. He advised the members that the sum of €117,925 was the proposed figure in relation to the General Municipal Allocation for the Nenagh Municipal District which is in line with last year's allocation based on the population of the district.

Ms. R. Joyce stated that when the GMA figure was presented to the members last year it was done so under five headings. She said that it proposed to have the same headings this year and to come back to the members with a more detailed proposal after the overall budget process has been finalised.

It was proposed by Cllr. F. Bonfield, seconded by Cllr. S. Morris and resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 58(e)(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Draft Budgetary Plan prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act as considered by the members be and is hereby adopted without amendment.

Item 5.
Taking in Charge of
Cullenagh Estate

Referring to the proposed Taking in Charge of Cullenagh Estate, Mr. M. O' Connor said that a tremendous amount of work had been carried out and a lot of hurdles overcome. In particular he mentioned the work carried out by Mr. J. McGuire, the Planning Section and Cllr. P. Bugler. He advised that the proposed taking in charge had been advertised and no objections/observations had been received. He went on to say that he was obliged to advise the members of the financial implications of the proposed taking in charge, in that works in the order of €8,000 for public lighting were required. He recommended that the members take the Cullenagh Estate in Charge.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bugler, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll and resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, this Municipal District hereby agrees to declare the Roads serving the Housing Estate known as Cullenagh Estate (Derg Hill, The Rose, Lakelands, Lakeview, Lakeview Heights, Slí Cuilleann, Slí Rohan) Ballina to be a public road and take in charge open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains and service connections within the development as per the map which was on public display during the prescribed period and as outlined in the Director of Service Report to Members for the October 2015 Municipal Meeting.

Cllr. P. Bugler said that it was a great day for the residents of Cullenagh who have been seeking to have the estate taken in charge for over 12 years. She said she had herself raised a number of defects, facilitated a number of meetings and put forward a Notice of Motion in March 2014 to include the estate in the application for Special Resolution Funding which was successful. She said that the problems with the estate resulted from developers not complying with planning permissions and it was important that the Council ensure that this does not happen again. She wished to thank Mr. B. Beck, Mr. J. McGuire, Ms. A. Daly, Mr. M. Hayes and Mr. M. O' Connor for their work in relation to the taking in charge. She also wished to thank David Bridges and Michael P. O' Meara and former councillor, John Sheehy.

Cllr. F. Bonfield said that it must be noted that, without the Special Resolution Fund, provided by the Department of the Environment, the taking in charge of the estate would not

have got over the line.

Item 6.
To nominate member to
board of Tipperrary
Transport Coordination
Unit Ltd

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. M. O' Meara and resolved that Cllr. P. Bugler be nominated to the board of Tipperary Transport Coordination Unit Ltd.

Item 7.
To note Draft polling
Scheme for County
Tipperary.

Ms. R. Joyce advised the members that the Draft Polling Scheme is on public display at the moment and submissions in respect of same can be made to Corporate Services by 30th November 2015.

Cllr. G. Darcy said that he was concerned over how people in the new polling areas will be notified of the changes. He said there was a need for communication in a more comprehensive way.

Cllr. S. Morris referred to previous representations he had made at a workshop earlier in the year as to the necessity of informing people of the changes. He noted that the Electoral Commission had made no provision to notify people and he thanked the Council for agreeing to take on the task.

Item 8. Action Plan

The Action Plan from the September meeting was noted.

Item 9.
Update on Projects

Nenagh Municipal District Awards Evening

Ms. R. Joyce advised the members that the adjudication process for the Municipal District Awards is underway and it was proposed to hold the awards evening on Thursday 26th November at 7.00 p.m.

Gills Garden

Ms. R. Joyce advised that the final layout drawings are being amended by the Consultant before submission to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

Nenagh Traffic Management Plan

Ms. R. Joyce advised that the Consultant is working on the Report on the Submissions. She also referred to the visit to Westport on 13th & 14th November to review the one-way

system in place there.

Cllr. J. Carroll enquired as to the next step in the process. Mr. M. O' Connor said that it is hoped to bring back a report on the submissions to the members early in the New Year.

Newport Town Park

Ms. R. Joyce advised that negotiations on land acquisition are being progressed.

She went on to thank all those who voted for Nenagh Town Park in the Irish Landscape Awards. She said that the Town Park came third in the Public Realm Design category and joint second in the People Choice Awards category.

Cllr. S. Morris said that the design of the Town Park was fantastic. He enquired if a report in relation to the fencing off of the river had been received from the Consultants. Mr. M. O' Connor advised Cllr. Morris that the report was still awaited.

Town Centre Initiative

Ms. R. Joyce advised that the payment of grants is being processed at present.

Referring to the Retail Forum, Ms. Joyce advised the members that two meetings have been held to date with a third meeting due to take place next week. She said that there has been good buy in from retailers. She added that the group has carried out a SWOT analysis and is aiming to draw up a 3 year Action Plan.

Tidy Towns 2015

Ms. R. Joyce referred to the fantastic results received by Tidy Towns Committees in the Nenagh Municipal District. She said that 23 committees entered from the Nenagh District with every one of them increasing their marks from a minimum of 6 to a maximum of 21.

In particular she congratulated the following centres on their achievements:

Terryglass & Birdhill – Gold Medal
Silvermines – Silver Medal
Nenagh – Bronze Medal

Dromineer – Special Endeavour Award

She commended the amount of voluntary work that is carried out by all Tidy Towns Committees. She concluded by saying that the increase in marks is very positive and that the Council was very glad to assist with funding.

Cllr. G. Darcy also commended the volunteerism in Tidy Towns Committees and thanked all the groups for their hard work.

Cllr. P. Bugler congratulated Nenagh Tidy Towns Committee on achieving a Bronze Medal. She also referred to Ballina Tidy Towns Committee which increased its marks by six and Newport Tidy Towns Committee which increased its marks by 11.

Cllr. J. Carroll said that a small number of people are involved in these types of committees and he encouraged the wider community to get involved.

Roadworks Programme 2015 & CIS Schemes

Mr. M. Hayes advised the members that both the CIS Schemes and the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Kilruane are complete.

Cllr. M. O' Meara complimented the road works that had been done this year and enquired when a new 3 year programme would be put in place. Mr. M. O' Connor said that he is expecting that the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government will be requesting a new 3 year programme soon.

Cllr. H. McGrath requested an update on Knockalton Hill.

Cllr. J. Carroll referred to the realignment at Latteragh. He said that the river is continually undermining the road. He enquired as to how much progress has been made on the project.

Cllr. M. O' Meara referred to condition of the R489 Birr to Portumna Road. He requested an update on the Main Street in Borrisokane and the works at Ballyhaden.

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to the junction at the School in Lorrha and advised that the landowner has agreed to dedicate a piece of land in order to facilitate an improvement to the junction.

In response to Cllr. McGrath's query on Knockalton Hill, Mr. M. O' Connor said that a meeting was taking place the following week with landowners.

Cllr. J. Carroll requested an update on the Shannon Bridge Crossing. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that the decision of the Judicial Review is still awaited. Cllr. Carroll said that he was very disappointed that it was being delayed so long as it is a vital piece of infrastructure. Mr. O' Connor said he too was disappointed but that it was out of the control of the Council.

Item 10.
Engineer's Checklist

Cllr. M. Ryan requested that stop signs be provided on the Cunneen Road going out to the R497, at Ballycarn on the Foilduff side and at Barnagore. He also noted that signposts are dirty and requested that they be cleaned.

Cllr. S. Morris referred to speeding at Ballycarrido and the Blean Road Bridge.

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to Walsh's wall at Tyone which was recently knocked down. He enquired if a chevron sign or road markings could be considered at this location.

Cllr. M. O' Meara referred to the Anglers Rest on the Banagher Road which he said is in a derelict condition. He referred to the Mouse House Bridge at Drominagh which he said is structurally weak. He also referred to flooding at the Hall in Rathcabbin, signs for Carney Village and the mass path at Ardan which is overgrown.

Cllr. F. Bonfield raised the issue of flooding at Tullow, Newport and Gencrue, Portroe. She also referred to a section of the road at Quarry Lane that is very narrow. She said it would be desirable to have it widened.

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to the footpath from the Tesco Roundabout to Brooklands Drive and to two dangerous buildings on Ormond Street. Cllr. G. Darcy supported Cllr. McGrath, saying that he had received similar complaints

about a derelict and dangerous building in CloughJordan.

Cllr. J. Carroll referred to the footpaths at Knights Crescent and Ballygraique which are flush with the road.

In reply to Cllr. McGrath's comments re the dangerous structure on Ormond Street, Mr. M. O' Connor advised that the property has been inspected and a report is being forwarded to the Environment Section for further action.

The members raised a number of other issues in relation to the Checklist which were responded to.

Item 11.
Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No. 540 submitted by Cllr. F. Bonfield

Following numerous requests from the public and as a matter of urgency from a health and safety aspect that this Municipal District call on the relevant Government Departments to source funding to have works done on the R503 road at Ballymackeogh Newport.

This section of roadway in its current state is of utmost danger to all users and it is the main travel road to Limerick from Newport, Rearcross, Kilcommon and Ballinahinch and surrounds. The traffic volume on this road is growing day by day and it is only a matter of time before someone's life will be taken on it.

As a member of a local CFR group I have also been approached by the Ambulance Department in Limerick asking for something to be done here. They cannot treat a patient in an ambulance on this section of roadway due to the condition of the road. Sections of this roadway are falling away day by day and I would urge this council to act on this immediately.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan.

Ms. R. Joyce read out a response to the Motion as follows:

"The Ballymackeogh section of the R503 is particularly narrow and verge width is limited. This section is approximately 1.0km in length and road pavement / verge widening would necessitate land acquisition and embankment construction, the cost of which would go well beyond the scope of the

District's annual restoration grant allocation.

In the past significant improvement works on Regional roads often qualified for funding under the Department's Specific Grant Scheme. This scheme is no longer in operation but in the event of its reinstatement, an improvement scheme involving road widening works will be considered for Ballymackeogh and other sections of the R503 where restricted widths apply.

In the meantime pavement surface improvements on this section of the R503 can be considered for inclusion in the next multi-Annual road works programme and a further application made to the Department of Transport for specific grant funding to progress the widening scheme"

Cllr. F. Bonfield suggested that the Council make a case to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government to provide funding for the works. Cllr.'s M. Ryan & J. Carroll supported Cllr. Bonfield. They said that the road was very dangerous.

Notice of Motion No. 541 submitted by Cllr. M. Ryan

I am requesting that Tipperary County Council erect a flashing warning sign at Rearcross National School.

Cllr. M. Ryan advised that he wished to withdraw the motion. He requested that Mr. M. Hayes meet with the Principal of the School in relation to provision of a footpath.

Notice of Motion No. 542 submitted by Cllr. M. Ryan

I am requesting that Tipperary County Council repair Coonmore Bridge as soon as possible

The motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll.

Ms. R. Joyce read out a response to the Motion as follows:

"Remedial works to the parapet wall at Coonmore Bridge will commence on Monday, 26th October and will be

completed by Friday, 30th October"

Item 12.
Delegated Employee Orders

A list of Delegated Employees Orders from 1st September 2015 to 30th September 2015 as circulated to the members was noted.

Item 13.
Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

1.	Letter from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in connection with the review of the Building Regulations.
----	--

Item 14.
Votes of
Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of sympathy were passed to the following:

- Mr. Jim Casey, Knocknacree, Cloughjordan on the death of Sonny Kelly.
- Mr. Tony Conway, pallas, Toomevara on the death of Michael Conway.
- Mr. Tom Kirby, Mountpleasant, Ballymackey on the death of Breda Kirby

Votes of congratulations were passed to the following:

- Mr. Mossie Finn, Secretary, Burgess/Duharra Camogie Club on Burgess/Duharra Camogie Club winning the County Final.

Item 15.
A.O. B

Mr. M. O' Connor advised the members that landowners of the road which services the scenic area at Tountinna, have agreed to dedicate the road as a public road and the Council now proposes to commence this process. This was agreed to by members.

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

Signed: 
Cllr. Ger Darcy
Cathaoirleach

Date: 19/11/15

Signed: 
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 19/11/15

