



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD,
NENAGH AT 10.00 AM ON 15th JUNE 2017**

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

Also Present: Mr. Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services, Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator and Auvén Melia, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

Welcome: Cllr. P. Bugler welcomed all present to the Annual Meeting of the Nenagh Municipal District.

She said it was an honour to serve as Cathaoirleach of Nenagh Municipal District since June, 2016. She referred in particular to a number of events that took place during her tenure in office, namely

- Civic Reception for the U14 football team from the Helal club in Gaza which was organised by Nenagh Friends of Palestine
- Launch of Terryglass Arts Festival with the Cathaoirleach of the County Ms. Siobhan Ambrose and Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer. This was a wonderful launch with fantastic traditional Irish music.
- Gleeson Clan Gathering held in the Scouts Hall in August, 2016 which was organised by Nora O' Meara from the Genealogy centre and members of the Gleeson Clan.
- Opening ceremony of the Optimist National Sailing Championships at Dromineer. This was a spectacular event and a wonderful tourism attraction for the area. Lough Derg Yacht Club was established in 1835 and has hosted many national and international sailing events.
- Another highlight of 2016/2017 was that the legal hurdles to the Shannon Crossing were cleared. Clare County Council was able to serve Notices to Treat to landowners on the Shannon Crossing.
- Nenagh Enterprise Town held in the Scouts Hall was a spectacular event. She said it was wonderful to see so many stands set up by local businesses in the area.

- Nenagh Castle Fest on a wonderful sunny Saturday afternoon. This event was organised by Cllr. H. McGrath.
- Another highlight of the year was that agreement was reached for acquisition of land for Newport Town Park. This park will be of great benefit for the town of Newport.
- Awards Ceremony in Athlone where Nenagh Leisure Centre was awarded the White Flag National Standard. A big thank you goes to Tom Mackey, Peter Hennelly and all the team at Nenagh Leisure Centre.
- A very special event held in 2016 was the Nenagh MD awards ceremony. This ceremony congratulates all volunteers in tidy towns, graveyard committees and green schools. Volunteers are national patriots who give so willingly of their time to have our towns and graveyards in pristine conditions. She added she also addressed the Regional Tidy Towns Awards night where Birdhill, Terryglass and Silvermines received awards.
- The commemoration of Fr. Alex Reid in Belfast in January, 2017 was a very special occasion. This commemoration of Fr. Reid was organised by Tipperary and Antrim County Boards to mark Fr. Reid's outstanding contribution to the peace process in Northern Ireland. The late Fr. Reid was a native of Nenagh and a joint recipient of the Tipperary Peace Convention Award. Cllr. Morris and his family also attended this commemoration.
- She met the Ambassador of Finland, Jaana Teckenberg, when she visited Borrisokane as part of the blue school initiative. The Ambassador was really impressed with facilities at Borrisokane Community College. She also visited Borrisokane Library and Terryglass.
- In February she attended Irish Tourism Industry Awards with Cllr. M. Ryan where the Lough Derg Marketing Group received the award for the best "Local Authority Innovation". These awards are regarded as the "Oscars" of the Irish Tourism Industry. A special thank you goes to Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive Officer and Áine McCarthy, Tourism Officer who have worked so diligently on the Lough Derg Marketing Group.
- Last but not least, the work on the twinning of Basse-Goulaine with Ballina/Killaloe is a wonderful project. Delegates from Basse-Goulaine visited Ballina/Killaloe in April 2017 and visited St. Anne's Community College. Initial contacts have been made between the teachers of St. Anne's Community College and the teachers in Basse-

Goulaine. We hope to develop this project further during the summer months.

She thanked her fellow Councillors for their co-operation and help over the last year and in particular the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. M. O' Meara. She also thanked the staff of Nenagh Municipal District and in particular Mr. M. O' Connor and Ms. R. Joyce for their assistance and guidance. She also thanked the members of the press.

Cllr. S. Morris said that Cllr. Bugler should be proud of what she has achieved in her role as Cathaoirleach. He also referred to the many students she has helped within that year and he personally wished to thank her for that. He said that the Municipal District was a huge area to represent and that the members worked well together and supported each other under the guidance of Cllr. P. Bugler.

Cllr. H. McGrath concurred with Cllr. S. Morris and said that Cllr. P. Bugler always made herself available and was approachable and courteous.

Cllr. M. O' Meara said as Leas-Chathaoirleach it was a joy to work alongside Cllr. P. Bugler. He said she was a terrific Chairperson and he wished her all the best.

Cllr. F. Bonfield said it was nice to have a female Chairperson and said that Cllr. P. Bugler did great work in her year as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. M. Ryan concurred with previous sentiments and said that Cllr. P. Bugler had a very busy year. He thanked Cllr. M. O' Meara for his input as Leas-Chathaoirleach and said that the Municipal District was working well together.

Cllr. J. Carroll complimented Cllr. P. Bugler and said her approach was always pro-active and positive.

Cllr. J. Hannigan also complimented Cllr. P. Bugler on her achievements throughout the year and said that Cllr. P. Bugler had a huge part to play on work completed.

Cllr. G. Darcy congratulated Cllr. P. Bugler on her performance throughout the year. He said she has achieved an amount of work.

Mr. M. O' Connor thanked Cllr. P. Bugler on his own behalf and on behalf of the Staff of Nenagh Municipal District for her very hard work throughout the year. He said she led the team well and that she was a pleasure to work with.

Item 1
Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. M. Ryan proposed Cllr. J. Carroll as the new Cathaoirleach of the Nenagh Municipal District, Cllr. F. Bonfield seconded the proposal. There were no other proposals.

Cllr. J. Carroll said it was an honour to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Nenagh Municipal District. He thanked his proposer and seconder. He complimented the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas Chathaoirleach for their work.

Cllr. J. Carroll said that the following will have a strong focus for him in his term as Cathaoirleach:-

- Revitalisation of Urban Centres.
- Commencement of infrastructural improvements in our larger urban centres, with particular reference to surface improvements on our town's streets and the restoration of condition of footpaths throughout the town.
- He wished to pay a special tribute to the resilience of the business owners and residents of Nenagh for enduring much hardship during the gas and sewerage works within the town over a sustained and long period and said the public representatives have a responsibility to acknowledge this support by working pro-actively to ensure continued improvements throughout the town.
- He will continue to work proactively with all elected members and the executive of this Council to further promote economic activity and to seek new and innovative ways to highlight what Nenagh and its environs have to offer at very many levels.
- Continued rural decline with our smaller towns and villages must be tackled at national level, but we as a local authority have a role at local level to ensure that our revised county development settlement strategies are innovative and developmental and financial provision to be made at national level to facilitate local authorities in upgrading our aged waste water treatment systems in very many of our smaller towns and villages in rural Tipperary.
- Our smaller towns and villages must see sustainable growth into the future in order to attract local business and retain vital community based services.
- Key focus should be the upgrading of existing community facilities and the provision of new community facilities where necessary as there is an

urgent need to have active community based centres to act as focal points for community interaction whether sporting, recreational, social and economic as we continue to see continuous decline and withdrawal of existing state services.

- Continued Tourism Promotion – continued focus on tourism potential throughout our Municipal Districts with special emphasis on promotion of Lough Derg and all it has to offer, our rich store of intangible and built heritage throughout the length and breadth of the Nenagh Municipal District, our sporting heritage, and to place a greater focus on the potential of so many renowned rivers that flow through or straddle our towns and villages which have the potential to further enhance the tourism potential of the area and to create recreational linkages to and from Lough Derg.
- Fast tracking the long awaited bye-laws within the amenity areas and straddling Lough Derg as the current situation is causing frustration within many development groups, angling organisations, tidy towns along the lakeshore and is leading to ongoing decline in community based activity.
- The need to focus in on the tiny minority who continue to dispose of their waste with little care or understanding on what the impact of discarded litter has on the local economy and the environment. All of us Elected Members will continue to highlight the need to provide new technologies such as drones and hidden cameras to identify this tiny minority and to publicly name and shame them for their illegal activity which negatively impacts on their own area and their neighbouring communities.
- Traffic safety and driving behaviour within our towns/villages and throughout the rural communities requires extra vigilance by the Gardaí.
- Continued focus on potential of renewable energy throughout the county with a greater degree of involvement by the local community in all aspects. The county has seen significant advancement in the roll out of renewable energy and we are currently in the top four counties in Ireland in installed wind capacity, and we are making steady progress in actively promoting Solar Energy throughout Tipperary with a total of 260mw awaiting grid approval from the ESB. In the current and very volatile economic climate globally, it is hugely important for the county to be less dependent on oil imports and will be a positive attribute in attracting new business opportunities into the county into the future.
- Taking account of the current housing shortage and where the state is now in the process of providing thousands of new housing units throughout the country he would like to see the provision of Solar Panels being mandatory on all new housing units, as this process will result in cheaper

energy for the individual but much more importantly will result in a greater degree of community acceptance, which is fundamental in attracting the wider community involvement in renewable energy.

In conclusion Cllr. J. Carroll thanked his fellow Councillors for their support today and said he is looking forward to working with all the elected members and the council executive during his term of office.

Item 2.
Election of Leas
Chathaoirleach

It was proposed by Cllr. H. McGrath, seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan and resolved that Cllr. S. Morris be elected as Leas Chathaoirleach.

Cllr. M. O' Meara congratulated Cllr. J. Carroll and said that he brings a vast experience with him and in particular his expertise in renewable energy. He said he was delighted to see a focus regarding litter. He also congratulated Cllr. S. Morris.

Cllr. G. Darcy congratulated Cllr. J. Carroll and said that he has developed a wealth of experience and has great knowledge of Lough Derg and renewable energy. He said that Cllr. J. Carroll has his support. He congratulated Cllr. S. Morris on his appointment.

Cllr. P. Bugler congratulated Cllr. J. Carroll and Cllr. S. Morris and said she was looking forward to working with them on promoting the tourism of Lough Derg.

Cllr. S. Morris wished Cllr. J. Carroll all the best for the year ahead as Cathaoirleach and said that the role as Cathaoirleach brings with it huge work and huge duties but he said that Cllr. J. Carroll will be well able for it. He too thanked his proposer and seconder.

Cllr. J. Hannigan wished Cllr. J. Carroll and Cllr. S. Morris well in their respective roles. He said he was delighted to hear Cllr. J. Carroll's itinerary for his term and said he would give him his full support.

Cllr. J. Carroll said he hoped to try and condense debates regarding matters, he asked for patience and support going forward and said that if someone has serious matters to discuss he would be amenable to allowing same to be raised.

Mr. M. O' Connor congratulated Cllr. J. Carroll and said that he looked forward to working with him.

Cllr. H. McGrath extended an invitation to the new Cathaoirleach to attend the Nenagh Castlefest which takes place on the weekend of 23rd June.

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

Signed: 
Chr. John Carroll
Cathaoirleach

Date: 20.7.2017

Signed: 
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 20.7.2017

