MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD, NENAGH AT 10.00 AM ON 15TH DECEMBER 2016

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

Also Present: Mr. Marcus O’ Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Michael Moroney, Community & Economic Development; Ms. Attracta Lyons, Economic Development Officer Peter Fee, A/Senior Executive Engineer and Auven Melia, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus Morris

Item 1. Minutes of November Meeting
It was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. G. Darcy and resolved that the minutes of the November Meeting held on 17th November, 2016 be adopted.

Item 2. Action Plan
The Action plan from the November meeting was noted.

Item 3. White Flag Award
Mr. T. Mackey, Leisure Centre Manager, Mr P. Hennelly, Leisure Centre Supervisor & Mr. K. Butler, Lifeguard attended the meeting. Ms. R. Joyce outlined details of the White Flag (bronze medal) award which had been achieved by Nenagh Leisure Centre and the silver medal in relation to accessibility. Cllr. P. Bugler commended Tom Mackey and his staff for all the hard work done to achieve this award. Cllr. H. McGrath said that the public speak highly of Nenagh Leisure Centre on their professionalism and courtesy. He congratulated the Management & Staff. Cllr. G. Darcy said it is an excellent facility and congratulated everyone involved.

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Cllr. M. Ryan extended congratulations to Jake Morris on being awarded Munster Minor Hurler of the Year.

**Item 4. To receive briefing from Community & Enterprise**

Mr. M. Moroney & Ms. A. Lyons attended from Community & Economic Development Section and circulated a report to the Members. Ms. A. Lyons went through this report and welcomed any questions. All members welcomed this very comprehensive presentation.

Cllr. M. O’ Meara asked if a similar Town & Village Renewal Scheme would be available for 2017. He expressed concern regarding the composition of the LEADER Evaluation Committees and considered that the Local Authority Members were being precluded. He said Members are democratically elected by the locals and should have a role on the Evaluation Committee. They could excuse themselves in any cases where there was a conflict of interest. There should be at least one Councillor on the Committee and if possible one from each Municipal District.

Cllr. M. O’ Meara further added that having planning permission in place prior to approval is an expensive addition for rural committees who would not know whether or not they would get funding. He welcomed that the Ormond Way route had been finalised and considered this had huge potential. Cllr. O’ Meara also referred to signage which he said was exceptionally poor in some areas and he requested local authority assistance in this matter.

Cllr. G. Darcy supported Cllr. M. O’ Meara’s comments. He welcomed that the Ormond Way walking route was finalised and said that we do not realise the benefit of this yet. He also said that when complete, it will be up to the Council to get the benefit out of it. He welcomed the Tourism initiatives and spoke of the importance of building a tourism product. He also welcomed the project for Borrisokane which is being funded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and said this is a very useful scheme to develop towns and villages and help promote their attractions and assist the Tidy Towns groups with their efforts.

Cllr. H. McGrath made reference to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme saying that he doesn’t think there is enough investment from Government in rural town initiatives. There is confusion between rural and urban and it is important to create a balance. He also said that there should be proper investment in Shannon Airport to bring tourists into Ireland and link to all our regions, i.e. Clare, Galway,
Limerick etc. He feels Shannon Airport should be doubled in size. He wondered why Shannon Airport is not being pushed as a hub for the southern region for both commercial and tourism purposes.

Cllr. J. Hannigan said he believes that Lough Derg is being underutilised and there are lots of opportunities. He welcomed the REDZ funding and wondered if similar funding would be available next year. He further added that there is a void in regard to walking routes from Sli-Eala to The Beara Breifne Way. He considered there was potential for a product in Ireland which could be marketed similar to the Camino in Spain. He also referred to the historic offerings such as the monastic settlements in Lorrha. He referred to the allocation for marketing and wondered if this was providing Value for Money.

In relation to the Town & Village Renewal Scheme he said there were lots of opportunities for smaller towns and villages but they needed to get together proactive committees. They needed to be prepared and shovel-ready to avail of opportunities. He highlighted the need to get the message out to groups and spoke of the PPN as a way to advise on funding sources. There was a need to have a cohesive plan to link a blueway and a greenway along the shore of the lake.

Cllr. M. Ryan supported Cllr. H. McGrath’s comments regarding Shannon Airport. He wondered if the local areas are being marketed enough in our own county.

Cllr. P. Bugler asked if the Lough Derg Canoe Trail was built and wondered if it will be 2017/2018 before we see a result. She said more taxi services would be very welcome in the area. She is delighted about the Ormond Way saying this will re-vitalise towns and villages - she wondered when this will be marketed. There was a need to put a plan in place and to talk to walking groups, restaurants, hostels, etc. She wanted to make sure this will be utilised.

Cllr. F. Bonfield concurred with Cllr. P. Bugler saying that we need to get Ormond Way out there, marketing is the next step.

Ms. A. Lyons noted Cllr. M. O’ Meara’s comments regarding LEADER and said she would feed this back. She said the matter regarding planning permission has been raised with the Department. In regard to the Ormond Way she agreed with Members saying it is critical to have it marketed and it is another addition to the attractions of Lough Derg. She also confirmed there would be workshops organised with traders/tourism product providers to ensure they were aware of the product in place. Familiarisation trips had been organised on a county wide basis.

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She noted Cllr. H. McGrath's comments regarding Shannon Airport.

Mr. M. Moroney advised that there is an indication that funding will continue next year under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and the REDZ Scheme. There are other opportunities under Fáilte Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Youth Infrastructure etc. He said they are trying to develop a list of potential projects and be more pro-active. The list will be compiled early in 2017. He advised that they are looking at what is already in an area and what the gaps are.

Cllr. H. McGrath raised concern regarding the possibility of Cycling Ireland pulling the date for the Visit Nenagh Cycle Classic from Nenagh for 2017. This event attracts professional riders and is a very popular family event in Nenagh, Cllr. McGrath urged that this event be secured for Nenagh. Cllr. G. Darcy supported Cllr. H. McGrath. Ms. A. Lyons advised that she would follow this up with Elaine Cullinan, Sports Partnership Co-ordinator. Mr. M. O’ Connor confirmed that the Council has had discussions with members of the Visit Nenagh Classic Committee and advised that there are issues with regard to the proposed date however he advised that a letter has been issued to Cycling Ireland and he hoped there would be a satisfactory resolution.

Cllr. M. Ryan referred to the submissions being made by the Council and the Regional Authority in relation to the retention of the Ballybrophy rail line.

Cllr. P. Bugler referred to the Water Skiing Championships which were previously held in Ballina and asked if they could be got back. Ms. A. Lyons said she would follow up on this Elaine Cullinan.

Item 5.  
Update on Projects

Newport Town Park
Ms. R. Joyce advised that the land acquisition was being progressed and that the brief for the appointment of the design team was being drafted by the consultant.

Gills Garden
No update since previous meeting.

Community CCTV Scheme
Ms. R. Joyce advised that Mr. J. O’ Riordan has prepared reports and these have been circulated to each group for a response.

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It was agreed by Members to write a letter to Minster for Justice and Equality calling for a further extension for funding to enable the provision and maintenance of CCTV at other locations.

**Nenagh Traffic Management Plan**
No update since previous meeting.

**Ballina Twinning**
A review of trip to Basse-Goulaine, France was circulated to Members. Cllr. P. Bugler gave an overview of the trip. M. O’ Connor said it was a very successful trip and considered that it has a lot of potential for tourism and students alike.

**Borrisokane Street Renewal**
Mr. M. O Connor advised Members that revised pedestrian and traffic counts were completed. They were now re-looking at the design and when this was completed there would be further local consultation in January. TII approval would be required and it was hoped to bring a revised Part 8 in February.

Cllr. M. O’ Meara said it is vitally important that another year does not go by with the state of the Main Street. It was important that the works go ahead. Cllr. J. Carroll concurred with these comments. Cllr. G. Darcy asked when the results of the studies would be available. He said the job needed to be completed as soon as possible. He also said that the Council has to be mindful of the Ploughing Championships taking place in Offaly this year and the Galway Races. These events will result in a lot of traffic going through Borrisokane. Mr. M. O’ Connor said that the Council has to get agreement from locals and require their good will and co-operation. Mr. O’ Connor reminded Members that if we do not go ahead with this project, TII will have other towns that would be willing to take this funding.

**Bord Gais Project**
An update from Bord Gais was circulated to Members, this outlined the areas where there are live gas mains, where the gas main is only laid and where plans are to lay the gas main. Cllr. H. McGrath wondered if restoration works could be done while doing other works. Cllr. J. Carroll supported Cllr. H. McGrath saying that if people
saw the finished product, it would help however Mr. M. O’Connor advised that if this is was put in place, the town could become a building site. He advised that works need to cause minimum disruption. It is anticipated that it will be at least September before works are concluded. In response to a query from Cllr. J. Hannigan he confirmed that contributions had been received from Bord Gais towards the cost of road restoration however he reminded members that there had not been much money spent on roads in Nenagh in advance of this project. It was known that reinstatement would be required therefore some of the roads were not in good condition prior to the work being carried out.

**Update on new Shannon Crossing at Ballina/Killaloe**

Mr. M. O’Connor advised Members that objectors made an appeal, however the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal. Mr. M. O’Connor agreed to confirm timeframe for Notices to Treat. Approval would be sought from the Department for the next stage.

**R498 Latteragh**

Mr. M. O’Connor advised that an Environmental Impact Screening Report was carried out and it confirmed that no formal EIS is required therefore the Part VIII can proceed. A topographical study has been completed and groundworks investigations are commencing. He said it is anticipated that Part VIII will be in April.

Cllr. J. Carroll advised that the car was still in ditch at Latteragh and asked that relevant landowner be contacted again.

**Knockalton**

Mr. M. O’Connor advised that there is no update on this matter. Cllr. H. McGrath asked if this project would start in 2017. Mr. M. O’Connor said he is confident that this would commence in 2017, he confirmed money is secured for these works.

**Clár Funding**

Mr. P. Fee advised Members that funding was sanctioned for the following schools:- Kilruane, Ardcroney, Ballinree, Lorrha and Redwood/Lorrha. All Members welcomed this and thanked Peter for his work. Mr. M. O’Connor advised that funding for this came very
late and if a similar scheme is available next year other areas would be considered, however it must be in the Clár area.

**Item 6.**
**Update on Roadworks Programme**

All Members present complimented Mr. P Fee and his team on all the work undertaken in 2016.

Cllr. J. Hannigan wondered what the proposals are for Fortmoy. He advised that the road at Kilcarron needs to be looked at. He asked if there was an update on drainage at Carrigahorrig, he does not want a reoccurrence of flooding experienced in 2016.

Cllr. G. Darcy supported Cllr. J. Hannigan regarding Kilcarron. He urged the Council to erect stronger signage at this location.

Cllr. P. Bugler asked for an update on Ballina overhead ESB cables and drainage at Cullina, Ballina.

Mr. P. Fee advised that Fortmoy is a priority project under Low Cost Safety Measures for next year for a staggered junction and hopes it will be successful. He will investigate the road at Kilcarron with the view of erecting repeater signage. In regard to the N65 Carrigahorrig, he advised that this is a TII project.

In response to Cllr. P. Bugler’s queries regarding overhead ESB cables, Mr. P. Fee advised that ducts were not there as they thought and what is there is sub-standard. He further advised that ESB are compiling a report and it is anticipated that this will be available in mid January and will identify what needs to be put in. The design will be done in late January.

In regard to drainage at Cullina, he advised that the Design Brief should be available in February.

Cllr. F. Bonfield said works completed recently on the Grange Road, Ballina was a great success, and locals were very happy.

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Item 7.

**Engineer's Checklist**

Cllr. F. Bonfield noted that works are underway to complete pedestrian crossing at Clonbealy, Newport. She asked if there was any update on works to footpath in this estate.

Cllr. P. Bugler wondered if there is any update on car park for Ballina. Mr. P. Fee advised that the number of suitable locations is limited however he is in discussions with a landowner regarding a potential site.

Cllr. P. Bugler referred to a speeding problem going into Ballina. Mr. P. Fee advised that he would re-survey area again and monitor the situation.

Cllr. M. O' Meara asked that Walsh Park cross be put back onto checklist and asked that the lighting and signage be looked at, at this junction.

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to the junction at Grange/AIPB as being a most dangerous junction. He also referred to a dumping problem on the N52 at Ballylusky (Borrisokane side of Ardcroney) this is a wide area where trucks pull in and is being used for dumping – could signage be erected as a deterrent?

Cllr. J. Carroll complimented the Council on works done to bridge at Castletown/Shesaharoe. He asked if the footpaths in Old Road Estate, Silvermines could be given priority as they are extremely dangerous.

Cllr. M. O’ Meara said that the road surface at Riverstown junction on N52 is deplorable and asked if the Council would apply to TII for funding regarding works, traffic calming and footpaths.

He also asked that the road from Riverstown to Killeen National School be looked at.

Mr. P. Fee advised that there is not much scope for traffic calming at Riverstown as it is narrow however he will start off by taking speed tests.

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It was agreed to put the following back onto checklist - no centre line at Anglers Rest, Rathcabbin.

**Item 8. Notices of Motion**

**Notice of Motion No. 890 submitted by Cllr. Mattie Ryan**

"that Nenagh Municipal District liaise with Residents of Silvermines to ensure that the speed limits are adhered to"

Cllr. Mattie Ryan requested that this Motion be deferred to the January meeting.

**Item 9. Delegated Employee Orders**

A list of Delegated Employee Orders from 13th November, 2016 to 12th December, 2016 as circulated to the members was noted.

The following correspondence was noted:

1. Email from Killeen National School thanking Council regarding awards evening

**Item No: 11 Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations**

Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following:
- Mrs. Alice Gleeson on death of Tommy Gleeson R.I.P
- Ms. Margaret Cleary on death of Matt Cleary R.I.P

Votes of Congratulations were passed to the following:
- Jake Morris on being awarded Minor Hurler of the year

**Item 12. A.O.B**

A general discussion took place on concerns held by many regarding the Dublin Water Project. It was agreed that the Executive would liaise with Mr. S. Keating, Director for Water Services and request a further workshop with Irish Water.

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Cllr. P. Bugler thanked everyone for their co-operation throughout the year and extended best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

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

Signed: [Signature]
Cllr. P. Bugler
Cathaoirleach

Date: 19.1.2017

Signed: [Signature]
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 19.1.2017