



**Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann**  
Tipperary County Council

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD, NENAGH AT 11.00 AM ON 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 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; Karl Cashen, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Sonja Reidy, Senior Executive Planner; Peter Fee, A/Senior Executive Engineer and Aven Melia, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

Cllr. P. Bugler congratulated The Lough Derg Marketing Group on being awarded 'Best Local Authority Tourism Innovation' award at the Irish Tourism Industry Award ceremony at the Clayton Hotel on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. She said she was proud to be associated with this award and it was a wonderful occasion. Cllr. M. Ryan said that he was proud to receive this award on the night.

Cllr. P. Bugler congratulated Aine McCarthy, Tourism Officer on the birth of her baby boy.

**Item 1.**

**Minutes of January Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan and resolved that the minutes of the January Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 be adopted.

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to derelict buildings saying that gardens should be included when investigating a property and include same when issuing letters to owners. He said that the Council should have the right to investigate same and go into the buildings, he asked that this be tackled as a matter of urgency. Cllr. J. Carroll supported this. It was agreed that this be raised with Environment Section.

**Item 2. Action Plan**

The Action plan from the February meeting was noted.

**Item 3. Briefing from Planning Section**

Mr. K. Cashen and Ms. S. Reidy attended from Planning Section and circulated a report to Members. K. Cashen advised Members that the Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister Simon Coveney launched the public consultation phase for "Ireland 2040: Our Plan", this will replace the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020. He said submissions for the first stage of consultation should be made by 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 and that the Planning Section is currently preparing a draft submission which will be presented to the Elected Members for their consideration at the County Council meeting in March 2017. Furthermore a workshop has been scheduled with the Elected Members in Thurles Municipal District Office on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 to discuss the scope of submission and to identify priorities and opportunities for Tipperary in the new national planning framework.

Cllr. M. Ryan said that the launch of the National Planning Framework has been arranged for the same day in Waterford at 10.30 a.m. Mr. K. Cashen said he would clarify same in the morning.

In regard to Cluster Guidelines Mr. K. Cashen advised that the Council has appointed Kenneth Hennessy Architects to prepare Cluster Guidelines. He said the process will include consultation with key stakeholders, agents and Elected Members. It is intended that the Guidelines will be completed by July 2017.

K. Cashen advised members that the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs launched a Built Heritage Investment Scheme in February 2017. Tipperary County Council has been allocated €50,000 under the scheme. Applications are now invited up until the 28<sup>th</sup> February from property owners of protected structures for grant assistance to undertake conservation works.

He advised that Tipperary County Council in partnership with Teagasc, Tipperary Energy Agency and Gurteen College, has commenced work on organising the Energy in Agriculture event, which will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017.

Cllr. S. Morris referred to the importance of the National Spatial Strategy. He said that the East had grown to a level which was not

sustainable. He also referred to the proposals to take water from the Shannon. He said that Kerry, Clare, Limerick and Tipperary councillors should come together to make a proper submission.

Cllr. H. McGrath supported Cllr. Morris. He said he could not understand why there was not a focus on Shannon Airport. He said it should be used as a major hub and for tourism purposes. He feels this should be included in the Spatial Strategy.

Cllr. G. Darcy said that the last Spatial Strategy did nothing for Tipperary. He said that the previous Mid West Regional Authority had changed the Regional Guidelines to bring Nenagh in as part of the core. Under the last Government Shannon Airport became an independent entity. Shannon was recovering and had opened up several new routes. Dublin Airport could not cope. Shannon Airport had not been promoted in the past. There would be problems arising from Brexit. There would be opportunities for hi-tech industry. There was a young skilled workforce available. LIT and UL provided opportunities. He said he sees no reason why firms cannot come to the Mid West Region. They needed to be positive as members in relation to the future of the Region. He welcomed funding regarding the heritage scheme.

Cllr. M. Ryan agreed with previous speakers regarding the National Spatial Strategy and said that Nenagh Municipal District should make a submission.

Cllr. J. Hannigan said it was very important this time that the Nenagh area becomes part of the Strategy. It was a must that Nenagh is recognised as a place where there is an opportunity for FDI. He asked if a map could be provided of what was bought in Stereame. He referred to the cluster guidelines and asked if there is a plan as to what use it can be put to and how they could encourage people to buy in. He commended the Authority on developing the Energy in Agriculture Conference. He referred to the growth of energy from digesters in Europe and said that there was an opportunity for reduction of carbon gases.

Cllr. M. O' Meara welcomed the report. He suggested that the Council should have meeting/workshop with Limerick City Council as

there was a golden opportunity for Tipperary to benefit from Foynes, Shannon Airport and to enhance what is on offer in Limerick.

Cllr. J. Carroll welcomed the document. He referred to the need to have proper planning for residential/commercial development. Communities needed to be fit for purpose. There needed to be forward planning as to where houses would be. There was a need to formulate a submission at county level first and then go the Limericks, Clares, etc. He also welcomed the Energy in Agriculture Conference. He paid tribute to the staff in Planning Section.

Cllr. P. Bugler said that we really need to work with Limerick/Clare County Council so that we get the best deal possible for Nenagh Municipal District. She added that being near Limerick is a great advantage particularly for places like Ballina.

Cllr. M. Ryan proposed that first of all there should be a meeting with representatives from Bunkey/Castleconnell. This was seconded by Cllr. M. O' Meara.

Mr. K. Cashen said that the issues relating to the National Planning Framework can be discussed further at the workshop.

Ms. S. Reidy advised members that a lot of work has been done in the background regarding the National Planning Framework, adding that Tipperary is in two regions. She said that work is advanced on a co-ordinated response in the Mid-West region, identifying Limerick as a main growth area with Nenagh, Shannon and Ennis acting as feeders into it.

She clarified that Tipperary will be involved in three submissions – one from the Mid-West, one from the South East and one from Tipperary County Council. Brian Beck, Senior Planner is involved in all of these. The contents of the submissions will be presented at the workshop. While there has been a call for submissions the Regional Planning Framework has not yet been prepared. There would be a further opportunity for input when the draft was published.

She advised that the appointment of Kenneth Hennessy Architects is to prepare cluster guidelines only. They are consultants, not

employees. In regard to Stereame, she advised that she is preparing a master-plan for this area. She is talking to other property owners and the plan will be brought back to Members.

Ms. S. Reidy advised that the Renewable Energy Strategy will encourage anaerobic digesters. Tipperary Energy Agency has provided the necessary training to Planners and representatives from the Tipperary Energy Agency attend pre-planning meetings as required. She advised that grid connections are outside of the planning regulation.

**Item 4. Proposals for the allocation of General Municipal Allocation 2017**

Proposals in relation to the allocation of the General Municipal Allocation as circulated by email were agreed by the members on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hannigan, seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan. Cllr. Ryan called for further funding for small villages. Cllr. J. Carroll asked that more focus be put on tidy town groups. Cllr. J. Hannigan wondered if the Council could organise a conference similar to the National Tidy Towns Conference for local tidy towns groups to encourage/show our appreciation to each group. Cllr. P. Bugler agreed with Cllr. J. Hannigan saying that each group have great volunteers.

**Item 5. Taking in Charge Cluain Caoin, Borrisokane Road Nenagh**

Mr. M. O' Connor referred to Director of Service Report to Members that was circulated previously. No objections or representations were received. He advised members that the area immediately opposite the apartment block including the lights, do not form part of this Taking in Charge.

It was proposed by Cllr. H. McGrath and seconded by Cllr. G. Darcy and agreed "that pursuant to the provision of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, and being satisfied that the roads are of public utility, and having considered the financial implications for the local authority and any submissions made, it is hereby ordered that the Roads serving the Housing Estate know as Cluain Caoin, Borrisokane Road, Nenagh be declared to be public roads. In addition the open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains and service connections within the developments are taken in charge as outlined in the maps which were on public display during the prescribed period and the Director of Service's Report to Members for the February 2017 Nenagh Municipal District Members Meeting".

Cllr. H. McGrath thanked all involved in getting this taking in charge to this stage. He said it's good for the residents and he was delighted to see the Council and Developer coming together to get this over the line. Mr M. O' Connor said that it is important now that the Developer progresses the Section opposite the apartment block.

## **Item 7. Update on Projects**

### Newport Town Park

Ms. R. Joyce advised that any tenders received have been assessed and it is hoped to appoint the design team within 2 weeks.

### Gills Garden

Ms. R. Joyce advised that Nic de Jong carried out inspection as previously advised. She advised that tender documents are being prepared.

### Community CCTV Scheme

Ms. R. Joyce advised that report has been issued to each group.

### Nenagh Traffic Management Plan

Ms. R. Joyce advised that we are progressing matters regarding the re-location of business premises from Emmet Place. Cllr. H McGrath asked for clarification as to the timeframe for another public forum on the Traffic Management Plan. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that this would not take place until the main Ervia works were complete. Works could not be progressed while these works were taking place. It was likely to be September before there would be further consultation.

### Borrisokane Street Renewal

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that a meeting was held with businesses regarding proposed changes. He said that agreement has been reached on a lot of issues however there are still some issues regarding the pedestrian crossing. Cllr. M. O' Meara requested that members be given the opportunity to view the revised proposals before they went back on public display. Mr. M. O' Connor said there would be no problem with this.

#### Bord Gais Project

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that works are continuing at Martyr's road and that works on the Dublin road will be next.

Cllr. S. Morris said that the works taking place on Martyr's road were causing bigger problems than had been anticipated. Motorists have been using an adjoining premises as a rat run to avoid traffic. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that this would be discussed with the contractor. Mr. P. Fee advised that works on Martyr's Road would be on-going for three weeks. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that the Dublin road closure would probably prove the most disruptive of all. Cllr. J. Hannigan said it is important that, when works are on-going on the Dublin Road, people don't use the CBS to get access to the Summerhill area. Cllr. J. Carroll wondered if some traffic could be diverted away from the Dublin side of town via Ballintotty. Mr. M. O' Connor said that we have to be mindful of the businesses in this area.

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

Mr. M. O' Connor said there was no update on this since the last meeting. Cllr. P. Bugler requested details of timelines. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that they are not our timelines. Funding would control progress. Approval from the Department to fund the next stage would be required before it could go ahead.

#### R498 Latteragh

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that topographical study and ground investigation works are now completed. We are now proceeding to a detailed design followed by Part 8. Cllr. M. Ryan welcomed this. Cllr. J. Hannigan said that there were 3 accidents in the last month in this area. Mr. M. O' Connor said that he was acutely aware of this.

#### Knockalton

Mr. M. O' Connor said that with new senior engineer appointed to Roads Capital, he is confident that works will commence this year.

#### Nenagh Tourist Office

Ms. R. Joyce advised that the next stage is to engage consultants regarding the design of the new tourist office.

Garden of Remembrance, Cloughjordan

Ms. R. Joyce advised that works will commence on this project soon.

Carrigahorrig

Mr. M. O' Connor said that there are a series of studies that have to be done and then it would be necessary to go back to seek funding for the scheme.

Ms. R. Joyce advised Members that burial ground maintenance grant and tidy towns grant scheme have been advertised. The closing date is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that the construction of the new First Data building has commenced and works for the development of a carpark with 300 car parking spaces will start on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Cllr. H. McGrath asked what the rest of the area will be used for. Mr. M O' Connor replied that a masterplan is being prepared for the area at the moment and will be brought before the Members as soon as it becomes available. He said that the Disposal of Land to Nenagh Eire Óg will be bought before the members at the March meeting of the County Council.

Cllr. J. Hannigan enquired if someone is interested in locating to this area what should they do? Mr. M. O' Connor said that the Council has received a number of approaches already and advised that any interested parties should contact the Council.

**Item 8. Engineer's Checklist**

Cllr. S. Morris referred to footpaths in Nenagh saying that eight women have fallen on footpaths recently. He said the condition of many of the footpaths in the town is very poor and called for regular footpaths surveys. Cllr. Morris also wanted a survey of disabled parking bays in Nenagh and suggested that a wheelchair user should be allowed assist the Council with this.

Cllr. J. Carroll said the footpath over bridge in Tyone needs to be looked at. He referred to the splendid new facility provided by Arrabawn but said this would present challenges in relation to set



down and parking at the local cemetery. He asked that this be put on the checklist.

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to overhanging branches on the N52 causing damage to mirrors of vehicles. He asked if the Council could renew white stakes on the road at Bantiss, Cloughjordan. He said the road at Loughaun, Cloughjordan and the road at Ballycrenode are in poor condition.

Cllr. M. O' Meara raised concern at the condition of bridge at the Ferry. He called for a structural audit to be carried out, adding that it's a very old bridge and that the wall is about to fall in. He requested that this be looked at by TII as a matter of urgency. He also referred to flooding at Gleeson's at Lordspark and asked if this could be looked at.

Cllr. H. McGrath asked that the footpath on St. Conlan's road be looked at along with investigating a lip on footpath at convent school. He said that Hanley's Place car park is being used as a dumping area.

Cllr. P. Bugler referred to the undergrounding of cables in Ballina and expressed her disappointment at the length of time it is taking. She asked that a caution sign be erected at Nicholas's house on Scrageen road near Tony Ryans. She asked that more signage be erected at Darcy's Bridge on R496. She wondered if a walkway could be provided from Willowcliff to carpark in Ballina.

Cllr. F. Bonfield called on the Council to find a solution for protecting pedestrians crossing the road at McGrath's bar, Newport adding that it is very dangerous.

Cllr. J. Hannigan advised that an area on the R493 at Grange road has collapsed on left hand side. He asked that the Muckloonmodere Bridge, Coolbawn be looked at. He added that the road at Firmount needs to be re-aligned. He asked if investment could be put into roads at Ballyscanlon, Brockagh and Muckloon adding that this is used as a walking route.

He asked that beech trees on the Shinrone road out of Cloughjordan and trees in Borrisokane be looked at with the view of establishing how stable they are.

Cllr. M. O' Meara called for lights at Walsh Park Cross which is used by a huge volume of traffic. He said he would like the council to carry out a traffic count at the location. Mr. P Fee said that the Council has a policy not to erect new public lighting outside speed limit signs. Cllr. G. Darcy said the location is identified as a settlement in the County Development Plan and would therefore qualify for lighting.

**Item 9. Agree date for Drainage Meetings**

Ms. R. Joyce advised that a date needs to be agreed to invite each group to the meeting. Cllr. Darcy called for the meeting to be as early as possible as last year works went too late. Mr. P. Fee said that it was important that the relevant GSS for each area attends this meeting. He further advised that Tom Ryan GSS is on leave for a time in March and he may not be able to attend the March meeting. It was agreed if Tom Ryan GSS is available that the ordinary meeting of Nenagh MD be held at 9.00 a.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> March with the committees attending at 12.00 however if he was not available it was agreed to invite groups to the April meeting. Cllr. Morris asked that one in every three municipal district meeting be held in the evening.

**Item 10. Notices of Motion**

None

**Item 11. Delegated Employee Orders**

A list of Delegated Employee Orders from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017 to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 as circulated to the members was noted.

**Item 12. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

1. Letter from Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government dated 13<sup>th</sup> January regarding role of Assigned & Design Certifier.
2. Letter from Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January regarding Community CCTV.
3. Email from Minister Marcella Corcoran Kennedy T.D.

dated 26<sup>th</sup> January regarding Local Improvement Schemes

4. Letter from Health Service Executive dated 30<sup>th</sup> January regarding University Hospital, Limerick

Cllr. S. Morris said he was not impressed with the reply from the Health Service Executive regarding University Hospital, Limerick. Cllr. J. Carroll said he would be attending a meeting of the Regional Health Forum West on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and that he would put forward a Notice of Motion to this meeting.

**Item No: 13.**

**Votes of Sympathy/  
Congratulatory**

Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following:-

- Mr. James O' Keefe on death of his father Mr. Batt O' Keefe, R.I.P.

Votes of Congratulatory were passed to the following:-

- Mr Ger O' Meara on being awarded Tipperarian Book of the Year, 2016 for the publication of "Lorrha People in the Great War"

**Item 14.**

**A.O.B**

None

**Item: 6. To receive  
presentation on  
Lough Derg Blueway  
Initiative from  
Waterways Ireland  
(12.30p.m.)**

Cllr. P. Bugler welcomed Mr. Eanna Rowe, Regional Manager, Waterways Ireland, Ms. Sharon Lavin, Head of Marketing and Tourism, Waterways Ireland and Ms. Deirdre O' Shea, Administrative Officer, Clare County Council. A presentation was given by Ms. Sharon Lavin. She welcomed any questions from the Members. All Members welcomed the presentation.

Cllr. G. Darcy said that tourism was a growth area and that more must be done to harness the potential of Lough Derg for tourism and job creation.

Cllr. M. O' Meara said that something was needed for North Tipperary, which derives little or no benefit from the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East. He referred to the job opportunities from tourism activity.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to the need for people to pull together and the need to sell the message to providers of the opportunities

that are there. He mentioned the facilities available such as Coolbawn Quay, the work being done by the service providers, food producers and craft people. He also referred to the opportunities relating to cycleways and walks.

Cllr. J. Carroll wanted to see greater information about fishing, swimming and heritage sites. He said coarse angling is the key tourist attraction on the lake.

Cllr. H. McGrath called for Nenagh town to be positioned as the “gateway to Lough Derg” and said visitors would be drawn to the area from the motorway.

Cllr. S. Morris said Irish Water’s plan to pipe water from the Shannon to Dublin could impact on the tourism potential of Lough Derg. He recalled how the level of the lake was recently dropped and people could not get their boats out.

Cllr. P. Bugler recalled how anglers came in droves from Germany and elsewhere to fish the lake for pike in the mid ‘90’s. She hoped that a suitably branded Blueway could be used to bring these visitors back again. She called on accommodation providers to upgrade the provision of storage for canoes etc. She referred to the amount of money invested in the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Ancient East and said it was necessary that a similar investment be made in another brand based on the waterways.

Mr. M. O’ Connor advised that the Council is planning to open a tourist office in Nenagh next year and it will have focus on Lough Derg and the town of Nenagh.

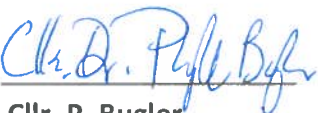
Mr. E. Rowe said the experience of the first blueway and the Greenways in Mayo shows there is definite scope for employment. He agreed that angling is on the way back and pike fishing could be fostered as a Blueway activity.

Mr. Rowe also agreed that Nenagh should be a “hub” for the Blueway in terms of accommodation and food options. He added that cruise hire is on the rise on the Shannon again, growing by 11% last year after 10 years of decline. He advised that Emerald Star is back to full capacity adding that private boat numbers are increasing too. There are around 8,500 private boats registered.

Cllr. F. Bonfield said it is a great amenity but it is vital that it is marketed.

Cllr. P. Bugler welcomed Ms. M. O' Sullivan, who is covering for Ms. A. McCarthy while on maternity leave, she added that she was looking forward to working with her.

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

Signed:   
Cllr. P. Bugler  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 16.3.2017

Signed:   
Ms. Rosemary Joyce  
District Administrator

Date: 16.3.2017

