



**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CHAMBER, NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT AT 9.15 AM ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

- Present** Cllr's John Carroll, Phyll Bugler, Fiona Bonfield, Ger Darcy, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, Mattie Ryan, Seamus Morris and Michael O' Meara.
- Also Present** Mr. Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Peter Fee, A/Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. Auen Melia, A/Assistant Staff Officer.
- Mr. Gerry Robinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services; Ms. Marion O' Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Ruairi Boland, Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. Anne Peters, Executive Engineer, Environment Section.
- Item 1. Minutes of December Meeting** It was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. G. Darcy and resolved that the minutes of the December meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 be adopted.
- Item 2. Action Plan** The Action Plan from the December meeting was noted.
- Item 4. Briefing from Environment Section** It was agreed to proceed to Item No. 4. Ms. M. O' Neill, Mr. R. Boland and Ms. A. Peters attended from the Environment Section and their report was circulated to members. Ms. M. O' Neill advised that Mr. R. Boland has joined the Environment Section and will be progressing works at Boher, Cloughprior and Kilmore Burial Grounds. Ms. M. O' Neill gave an update on community services, civic amenity sites, control of dogs, derelict sites, litter enforcement, public awareness, waste management, environment protection and description of complaints received.
- Cllr. M. O' Meara asked for an update on the Shannon Vermicomposting. He said he would encourage active engagement with the local community and agree a programme that is acceptable. He said that condition of the road must be brought up to a proper standard prior to removal of materials. He referred to the Anglers Rest and said there is a huge problem with dumping. He is aware it is a private property however he urged the Council to take some action to get it cleaned up. He said it is the first property one passes when travelling down south from the midlands.



Cllr. G. Darcy supported Cllr. O' Meara regarding Shannon Vermicomposting adding that the road in its current condition will not be able for the traffic. He too asked that the Council work in conjunction with the local community. He referred to the castle in the old graveyard in Ardcroney and wondered if something other than scaffolding could be erected as it is causing some difficulty when being adjudicated for the Tidy Towns competition. He also advised that the ivy is starting to creep up the castle again and asked that this be looked at. He asked for more information on the Anti Dumping Initiative.

Cllr. S. Morris commended the work done by those at rescue shelters for dogs and urged that people who want to buy or get rid of dogs should consider this as an option. He said there is a huge level of dumping taking place at the moment and it is destroying communities and villages. He made reference to a small refuse collector who went out of business because he did not have the pay by weight facility on his lorry and felt that this does not help the situation. He called for the introduction of a waiver system to be considered. He too referred to Shannon Vermicomposting and said that the community of Rathcabbin deserves the waste to be taken away however it should not be taken from one part of the county into another part. He said that Ballymackey Environmental Group must be considered in all aspects of this. He wondered why the material cannot be taken to an incinerator in Dublin.

Cllr. H. McGrath supported Cllr. S. Morris regarding Shannon Vermicomposting and asked that the members be kept appraised. Referring to derelict houses he said that a lot of residents do their very best to keep their estate looking well however he said it is unfair to residents when there are two or three houses in the middle of an estate that are derelict and have been so in excess of ten years. He called on the Executive to look at this and bring more enforcement regarding Derelict Houses. He asked how effective the mobile cameras are.

Cllr. J. Carroll supported Cllr. H. McGrath regarding derelict sites. He asked for an update on Boher and Kilmore burial grounds. He too supported Cllr. S. Morris regarding dumping and said that the law should be rigidly enforced.

Cllr. M. Ryan complimented the Council on their work regarding control of horses. He too is concerned regarding the amount of rubbish on roads in particular on Sunday mornings.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to a problem which he encountered over



Christmas regarding refuse bins left out the night before by a business for collection the following morning however the refuse ended up being strewn around the place and he wondered what advice/solution can be given to alleviate this problem. He supported previous speakers regarding Shannon Vermicomposting. He said he is concerned with the amount of plastic getting into water and asked that Nenagh MD take the lead regarding raising public awareness. He said that when people are purchasing items they should ensure the item is eco-friendly. Cllr. H. McGrath concurred with Cllr. J. Hannigan and said that a lot of waste packaging comes from on-line shopping.

Ms. M. O' Neill advised that the matter regarding the Anglers Rest will be referred to Mr. D. Corbett, Environment Section. She confirmed that correspondence has been sent to owners however no response has been received to date. She agreed that road side dumping is an issue and advised that a Kerb-Side Litter Campaign will be launched shortly. In regard to the mobile camera, she advised that a number of litter fines have been issued as a result of this. In response to query raised regarding anti dumping initiative, she advised that a community group must be in place and this initiative is due to be launched in the next couple of weeks. She advised members that, if there are known black spots in any areas, they should advise accordingly.

In response to the queries raised regarding Shannon Vermicomposting, Ms. A. Peters advised that the waste which consists of 35,000 tonnes is not suitable for incineration as some of the material was food waste and it is not known where it came from. She confirmed that Tipperary County Council is working with Ballymackey Environmental Group however she advised that no final decision has been made yet regarding its relocation and she confirmed that members would be kept up to date on this matter.

Cllr. S. Morris asked that once a decision is made a meeting be set up between the community groups of Ballymackey and Rathcabbin together with the members. He said he wants to ensure that everyone is reasonably happy. In regard to waiver system, Ms A. Peters advised that a €75 waiver system on medical grounds is being considered nationally however further details are awaited. She advised that members will be notified when further details are available.

In response to queries raised regarding burial grounds, Mr. R. Boland advised that Ardcroney, Cloughprior and Kilmore are



recorded as national monuments and work requires a conservation architect. He advised he would look at the issue raised by Cllr. G. Darcy in Ardcroney.

In regard to Boher he advised that there are a number of technical issues but that they are at an advanced stage. Once issues are resolved this will be progressing to Part 8.

Cllr. M. Ryan asked if there is any progress with Kilmore and wondered if there is any funding available to facilitate better parking at graveyards in particular at Kilnaneave graveyard. Mr. R. Boland advised that he has meet with landowners in Kilmore and is progressing same. He said he was not aware of funding regarding parking facilities at burial grounds.

Cllr. M. O' Meara complimented all involved with works in Lorrha burial ground. He wondered if a design policy could be drawn up to standardise the height/size of headstones. Mr. R. Boland advised that a policy is being drafted at the moment and that it will be going to a sub-committee of the SPC and then to the full SPC in the next couple of months.

**Item 3.  
Briefing from Water  
Services Section**

Mr. G. Robinson attended from Water Services Section and a report was circulated to members. He gave an update on Irish Water Infrastructural Projects on water and waste water, Network Portfolio Delivery, Irish Water Capital Delivery Programme and the Rural Water Programme. He advised that Irish Water had held a workshop for members at the end of October at which they took down details of local issues. The next workshop would be in late February and this would be a good forum at which to bring up issues.

Cllr. M. Ryan asked how Irish Water can justify charging what they do for water connections. He also complimented the Water Services Section on the work done under the Rural Water Programme. He also referred to the drinking water quality results which were 99% and complimented all involved.

Cllr. G. Darcy complimented Mr. A. Smith from the National Federation of Group Water Scheme and Water Services staff on a project carried out in Ardcroney N.S. called Water Quality and Awareness.

Cllr. H. McGrath asked that a loose manhole cover be looked at on Ormond Street. He said it is rattling every time a vehicle drives over it, and that it is ongoing for well over a year. He referred to a



flooding problem on the Dublin road experienced by residents and said that this problem only became evident following works by Ervia.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to the taking in charge of estates and said that Irish Water are looking for wayleaves in respect of some estates that were built over 25 years ago and that they won't take same in charge unless they have these. Cllr. J. Hannigan asked why Tipperary has a higher price for connections than other counties and asked when it was going to be equalised.

Cllr. P. Bugler asked for an update regarding works in Ballina. Cllr. J. Carroll also referred to Ballina and said that it is imperative that the road surface is reinstated to a proper condition. Referring to the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Ballycommon he asked for a contact name for people who want to connect.

Mr. G. Robinson replied to some queries as follows:-

- In regard to the equalisation of charges for water connections he indicated that this is being looked at nationally however he advised members that they could raise this issue at the next workshop.
- He advised that some CCTV work had been done in relation to the Dublin Road and more needs to be done.
- In response to the matter raised relating to taking in charge, he advised that it is imperative that access is available if an issue arises. A wayleave is therefore required. It does not matter how old the estate is. If there are issues these could be raised at the workshop.
- He advised that in Ballina the first section of works will take place from the roundabout down to Goosers. The next section will be Quarry Lane for approx 500m down to the bend. He confirmed that footpaths will not be affected. Cllr. P. Bugler asked that the traffic be taken in to account when carrying out these works.
- In response to the query on the timeframe for the Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant he advised that for any treatment plant Irish Water do an initial assessment and decide what capital works if any are to be done. It can take twelve months to make a decision. Environmental and other constraints are taken into account. It can take a number of years before any construction takes place.
- He advised that applications for connections go through Irish Water.

A date for the next Irish Water workshop will be agreed at the



February meeting. Cllr. J. Hannigan asked that the matters raised today be brought to Irish Water's attention so that answers can be given on the day of workshop.

**Item 5.  
Update on Projects**

➤ **Newport Town Park**

A revised design has been received and is under consideration. Works are on-going on the Site Resolution Plan for Mulkear View and it is anticipated that these works will be completed by 26<sup>th</sup> January.

➤ **Gills Garden**

A pre-start meeting is planned between the Consultant, Contractor and the Council for tomorrow (19<sup>th</sup> January). A meeting will also be held shortly with the Nenagh Clergy to discuss proposed works.

➤ **Community CCTV Scheme**

The CCTV system at Cooleen is operational since Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Gardaí have viewed the system and are extremely impressed with the quality of the system and the date provided by the ANPR camera. Work is on-going to finalise Birdhill and Burgess.

➤ **Nenagh Traffic Management Plan**

Property at Emmet Place has been vacated and is now in the ownership of Tipperary County Council. The next step will be the demolition of properties and the car park at Emmet Place.

➤ **Bord Gais Project**

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that reinstatement works on Ciamaltha Road are nearly complete. He said there is a slight delay with work on the Thurles road.

Cllr. S. Morris said he is concerned with the current state of road at Tyone adding that it is one of the main routes into the town. Cllr. H. McGrath said that Summerhill needs to be done too. He also asked that a yellow box at the entrance to Kenyon Street carpark and at Norbury Lane be reinstated. Cllr. G. Darcy supported Cllr's Morris and McGrath.

Mr. P. Fee advised that a meeting will take place later today with Ervia and further details will be confirmed.

Mr. M. O' Connor said that the town centre was a priority before Christmas and good work was done. He acknowledged that Tyone and Ormond Street needs to be done however he said that the



Ormond Street/Summerhill area is a problematic area and will need a road closure for works and it would be necessary to work with the schools.

➤ **New Shannon Crossing at Ballina/Killaloe**

Mr. M. O' Connor said that based on information received the full scheme is included in the next National Development Plan including the development of the bridge, upgrading of the R494 Ballina/Birdhill road and the development of Killaloe by-pass at the Clare side. This will now go as one scheme. He advised that the brief has been amended and is currently out to tender. He said it is anticipated to go on site in 2019. Members complimented all involved in getting this project to this stage and noted that it will be a huge benefit to the area. Mr. M. O' Connor acknowledged the support of the Councillors both in Tipperary and Clare County Councils.

➤ **Latteragh**

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that an allocation to progress this scheme is awaited. No grant allocations have been received yet.

➤ **Borrisokane**

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that TII announced funding of €2.5m for the Borrisokane scheme for 2018. It is hoped that tender documentation will be finalised in a month and TII approval will be sought thereafter. He said he would expect the tender process would take some time and it is anticipated that a contractor would be on site mid April. He advised that once the contract is awarded the contractor will be encouraged to start as soon as possible.

➤ **Knockalton**

Mr. M. O' Connor advised it is expected to go out to tender next month. Cllr. H. McGrath welcomed this update.

➤ **Carrigahorrig**

A number of studies have been done however staff resources are currently tied up with other schemes.

➤ **Nenagh Tourist Office**

A meeting with the consultant will take place in January.

➤ **Garden of Remembrance, Cloughjordan**

Woodland planting and snags will be completed as soon as the weather improves. Grass seeding is to be completed by mid March at the earliest, weather dependent. Glass print will be ready in two weeks, however installation will be held off until all other



works are complete. The printed plaques have been delivered, installation of these will also be held off until all other works are complete.

➤ **Nenagh 2020**

Cllr. S. Morris congratulated Mr. M. O' Connor and Cllr. H. McGrath on their recent meeting with Minister Moran. He asked that the Tipperary Library Service write to the Boston Library for the loan of the Treaty given to John F Kennedy by Sean Lemass and to have a home coming/festival in honour of its homecoming and ask Nenagh natives to come back to Nenagh for this. He asked that the jail block be incorporated too.

Ms. R. Joyce advised that a committee has been established to look at the planning of Nenagh 800. She said it is hoped that it would be a full year of events with participation by various clubs and organisations in bringing events to Nenagh. She agreed to make contact with Mr. D. Dullaghan, County Librarian to discuss the Treaty.

Cllr. J. Hannigan suggested holding an event for Butler and O' Kennedy families.

Cllr. M. O' Meara asked that the events be held not just in Nenagh to widen the remit to include other areas like the O' Kennedy ancestry of the Lower Ormond area.

➤ **Lakelands – Fáilte Ireland**

Letter has issued to the Business Development Officer of Fáilte Ireland requesting details in relation to the proposition and funding together with asking for their proposals to engage with elected members and industry.

**Item 6.  
Engineer's Checklist**

The Engineer's Checklist was circulated to the members.

Cllr. J. Hannigan said that it is a difficult time at the moment with the condition of roads. He asked that the Executive look at increasing outdoor staff and said that it is frustrating for staff and public alike. He asked that the Council officials come out and see the condition of the roads.

Cllr. J. Carroll supported Cllr. J. Hannigan regarding staffing adding that the Council are deficient on outdoor staff and asked that the numbers be increased. He welcomed the funding for national roads but said that local and regional roads are taking a hammering. He advised members that the chairs of the Municipal





District and the Cathaoirleach together with the Executive are attending a meeting with the TII next week. He referred to the need for continuous preventive maintenance and said the patching units are not fit for purpose based on the weather patterns being experienced.

Cllr. M. O' Meara said these problems arise on an annual basis and said that a national policy should be put in place to deal with local and regional roads. He feels that having the patcher out on roads at this time of year is pointless.

Cllr. M. Ryan said there is never enough money and roads are in an appalling condition.

Cllr. G. Darcy shared the frustration of his fellow councillors and said that having the patcher out this time of year frustrates people even more. He feels that the reason that gullies/inlets are not opened is as a result of low staffing levels. He also referred to the increased volume of heavy traffic and the toll this is taking on roads.

Mr. M. O' Connor said he is very familiar with the roads issues as referred to by members. He said he too regularly gets emails and telephone calls from people. He said that the non national roads allocation is awaited however he is hoping for an significant increase. He hopes the increase will be at least 20% extra this year but this would still be a long way off what was needed. He added that the budget needs to get up to €450/€500m ideally. He said that he would much prefer to do a proper overlay than patching roads however we are limited as to what can be done. In regard to staffing he said that this too is tied into funding and overall numbers.

Mr. P. Fee said that, while he noted the comments made by members, we have no choice but to keep potholes filled. He advised members that Tipperary County Council will be recruiting 6 permanent members of staff for the Nenagh Municipal District area and figures will be in line with the 2014 figures. In addition, about 10 temporary general operatives will be recruited in early February. Cllr J. Hannigan said he appreciated the reply but asked for a commitment during the good weather that water tables will be attended to.

Cllr. S. Morris asked that travelling on the Cloughjordan road be looked at together with roads at Lisgarode, Ballygibbon hill which has constant flow of water, Rathnaleen and Carrickaneagh.



Cllr. M. O' Meara asked that Kyleshinaun Lane, Cloughjordan, Carrig bog road, Stoneyacre, Cloughjordan, road along by Bonaham burial ground and the N52 at Lisgorrif be looked at. He noted that beech trees along by Cahalans on the N52 are blocking sightlines when coming down the hill.

Cllr. G. Darcy said that the condition of road along by the pedestrian crossing in Ardcroney village has deteriorated in the last couple of weeks. He also asked that road at Ballygibbon hill be looked at as the water is flowing from the hill down the road and is affecting the junction and Lower Graigue. He asked that the following roads be looked at: Loughaun, Cloughjordan, Munnia/Gurteen college and Ballinamurra, from the ball-alley to the Old Birr road. He again referred to arrows on the road which were removed before the junction at Ashley Park and said that these are needed at Congor too. Cllr. J. Carroll supported Cllr. G. Darcy regarding arrows at Congor. It was agreed that this issue be raised at the meeting with TII next week.

Cllr. H. McGrath asked that a sign on Pearse Street for Limerick be looked at with a view to replacing same with a smaller sign. He said that the sign in question is blocking some shop fronts. Cllr. J. Hannigan asked that potholes be filled around Aglish hall as there is an event on there next week. He said there is a potential accident spot at Gaulross coming from the Borrisokane direction, cars are turning left but there is a bad bend ahead and it could lead to an accident. He asked that when staff levels increase staff clean signs and fix ones that are not facing correctly.

Cllr. J. Carroll asked that there would be a more focused approach to responses from Councillor's representations on CRM. He asked that the junction at Carrigatoher post office be looked at. He said there is no lighting and poor signage. He advised that there is excess water ponding at junction for Ballinaclough on the Thurles Road. Cllr. J. Carroll said that he would bring up issues raised for TII at meeting and asked that if members had anything else to add to email it to him or to Mr. M. O' Connor.

Cllr. F. Bonfield asked that signs for Nenagh hospital coming off motorway be erected but Mr. M. O' Connor advised that signs are only erected on motorway where there is a 24 hour A&E service. Cllr. H. McGrath asked that the following matter be raised at the TII meeting – that gantry signs be erected at every junction on the motorways so that warning messages can displayed when necessary.

It was agreed to wait for roads allocation before setting date for



workshop.

**Item 7.  
Notices of Motion**

Notice of Motion No. 1257 submitted by Cllr. Seamus Morris:

“That this Municipal Council being one of the most affected Council’s in Tipperary due to the “Putting People First” government policy calls on Tipperary County Council to ask the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government as part of their current review to carry out an Impact Assessment on Tipperary due to the closure of all the Town Councils and Clonmel Borough Council and the amalgamation of North and Tipperary County Council’s into one council”.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Morris and seconded by Cllr. H. McGrath. The following response was read out by Mrs. R. Joyce:-

*As Members are aware, a workshop has been arranged for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at which the Local Electoral Area Review will be considered and if members wish this can be further debated on that occasion. Subject to the approval of the members, the matter will be referred to the Plenary Council for approval to forward to the relevant Minister for consideration.*

Cllr. S. Morris said that an impact assessment should be carried out as a result of the government’s policy “Putting People First” which he feels ended up putting people last. He said it has been very tough for Tipperary councillors to represent the public and considers that the abolition of the Town Councils was a mistake. He commended the Chief Executive and staff for managing the change and said that all the great projects were testament to the staff and councillors. He feels there is no point carrying out a review of the local electoral area boundary until an impact assessment on Tipperary is carried out.

Cllr. H. McGrath supported Cllr. S. Morris.

Cllr. J. Carroll said he has mixed views on this and would agree that the role of the councillor has diminished under the new setup. It is a fulltime role and this is an issue for people seeking to become a public representative. Cllr. Carroll said he would favour an enhanced role for councillors.

Cllr. J. Hannigan said he was new to this since 2014 but that when Town Councils were abolished it took away an opportunity for those towns to progress. In regard to the review of local electoral



area boundary he said he would love to know what is being proposed for this area.

Cllr. G. Darcy said he would not be in favour of having a council for just one town however he said he would not have an objection to what Cllr. S. Morris is proposing regarding the carrying out of an impact assessment. It was agreed to refer this motion to the Plenary Council to call for the Department to carry out an Impact Assessment on Tipperary.

**Item 8.  
Delegated Employee  
Orders**

A list of Delegated Employee Orders up to 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 as circulated to the members was noted.

**Item 9.  
Correspondence**

None

**Item 10.  
Votes of Sympathy/  
Congratulations**

Cllr. J. Carroll extended his deepest sympathy to the Powell family following an accident on the M7 on Tuesday.

Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following:-

- Mrs. Patsy Brassil on the death of Mrs. Bridie Curtin, R.I.P.
- Mr. John Joe Corcoran on the death of Mrs. Bridget Ryan, R.I.P.
- Mrs. Sharon Heenan on the death of Mrs. Maureen Clifford, R.I.P.
- Mr. Denis Quirke on the death of Mrs. Nora Quirke, R.I.P.
- Mr. David Hodgins on the death of Mrs. Margaret Hodgins, R.I.P.
- Mr. Duncan Hodgins on the death of Mrs. Margaret Hodgins, R.I.P.

Votes of Congratulations were passed to the following:-

- Sergeant Deborah Marsh and Garda Gerard Brassil on being honored with An Garda Síochána's Silver Scott Medal for bravery.
- Mr. Tim Cullinane on being elected IFA National Treasurer recently.



