



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CHAMBER, NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT AT 8.30 AM ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2017

Present:

Cllrs. John Carroll, Phyll Bugler, Fiona Bonfield, Ger Darcy, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, Seamus Morris, Mattie Ryan 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 Aven Melia, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

Ms. C. Curley, Director of Services, Mr. D. Purcell, A/Senior Executive Officer and Ms. M. Maher, Senior Staff Officer, Housing Section

Cllr. J. Carroll welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr. M. Ryan and Cllr. H. McGrath thanked the members for their co-operation in having this meeting at 8.30 a.m. to accommodate those who were travelling to a Regional Assembly Meeting on the National Planning Framework.

Cllr. H. McGrath wished Cllr. S. Morris well for the future and said that he had been through a lot and he had done so with dignity. Cllr. J. Carroll concurred with Cllr. H. McGrath and added that it was a difficult time for Cllr. S. Morris and his family and that he had his full support. All members wished to be associated with same.

Item 1.

Minutes of October Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. G. Darcy and resolved that the minutes of the October meeting held on 19th October 2017 be adopted.

Ms. R. Joyce read out the following response from Ms. R. Guinan regarding Coty:- *"Coty will shortly invite the Inter Agency group (EI, DSP, TCC, ETB, LEO, LEADER, Teagasc etc.,) to provide support to staff by way of an information day or series of interactions as appropriate taking account of shifts, location etc. TCC Official will organise whatever is deemed suitable to meet the needs of COTY employees. You are aware that the LEO is talking to HR section in COTY in terms of*

Minutes of November 2017 Nenagh Municipal District Meeting

enterprise supports and to individual employees in terms of starting their own business. Tipperary County Council is following up on EGF Unit in the Department of Education & Skills to see if our combined job losses across the County would qualify Tipperary for an EGF. The Department will revert in due course as the scheme is specific to sectors now and our losses span a number of manufacturing industries”.

Cllr. S. Morris said that this response infuriates him and that he is disappointed that staff are an afterthought. He said that he asked for workers to be included over five months ago. He feels this is too little too late and that the only reason he got a response is because he highlighted this issue at the October meeting.

Mr. M. O’ Connor said that the structure was set up by the Minister at the time and that the Council cannot set up a separate structure. He added that there are two aspects to consider i.e. workers getting employment and getting someone into the state of the art factory.

Cllr. J. Carroll offered to make contact with Ms. R. Guinan and to facilitate a meeting with her and Cllr. Morris.

In regard to Notice of Motion No. 1197 passed at the October meeting the following report was read out by Ms. R. Joyce:- *“having considered your representations, the relevant taking in charge provision of the 1993 Roads Act, the condition of the road and nature of its use, the Council has decided that it would be not appropriate nor consistent with the provisions of the Act to initiate the taking in charge process in this case. The Council has come to this decision for the followings reasons:-*

- *The road is not of ‘general public utility’*
- *The road would require a substantial capital investment to bring it up to a standard where it could be considered for taking in charge. Tipperary County Council is not in a financial position to carry out the works necessary to bring the road up to such a standard.*

The Council recommends that an application is made under the Department of Transport funded Local Improvement Scheme as a means of having the condition of the road improved with a relatively small contribution coming from residents and landowners. It is expected that this scheme will be open to new applications in 2018”.

Cllr. M. Ryan said he was not happy with this response.

Item 2. Action Plan

The Action plan from the October meeting was noted.

Item 3. Briefing from Housing Section

Ms. C. Curley, Mr. D. Purcell and Ms. M. Maher attended from the Housing Section and their report was circulated to members. Ms. C. Curley gave an outline for the housing construction projects 2015 – 2017 which include Cloughjordan – Part 8 will be advertised in the next month, Mulkear View a Stage 2 application has been submitted to the Department for approval, for Borrisokane a stage 2 application has been submitted. A Masterplan has been prepared for Stereame and submitted to the Department and for Portroe a stage 1 application has been approved.

Ms. Curley advised that the scheme for Housing Adaptation Grants for private houses is open for new applications with an allocation of €3,032,731. An allocation of €457,437 has been received in respect of Housing Adaptation grants for local authority houses. In regard to vacant houses an allocation of €1,271,522 has been granted with 15 vacant houses in Nenagh MD.

Ms. C. Curley further advised that there are 693 approved applicants on the housing list in the Nenagh District. 40 expressions of interests have been received to-date under the Repair & Leasing Scheme for which not all houses are suitable. In regard to the Tenant Purchase Scheme Ms. C. Curley advised that the existing guidelines remain in place, however if a review of the criteria is received from the Department she will advise members. 161 applications were received with 52 applications now closed and 46 letters of offer issued.

Cllr. J. Carroll welcomed the Housing Adaptation grant schemes. He asked if there is a figure regarding the homeless and if the figure regarding the approved applicants has increased or decreased. He wondered what determines a vacant house.

Cllr. P. Bugler asked if the design for the houses in Mulkear View will be similar to the existing design. She paid tribute to St. Vincent de Paul, Upperchurch who received a Special Recognition Award at the ICSH Allianz Community Housing Awards held recently and asked that a letter be sent acknowledging their achievement.

Referring to the 13 contracts engaged re RAS Cllr. P. Bugler said she thought this would be higher. In regard to the Repair & Leasing Scheme she asked if the cap at €40,000 was too low and asked that a letter be sent to Minister E. Murphy asking that the cap of €40,000 be increased.

Cllr. S. Morris asked that the Members be advised when the Council have purchased a house in an estate, adding that he gets calls frequently re acquisitions in estates like Drummin Village. Referring to the Military Barracks site he said he wants the building demolished adding that it would sort out a lot of issues including traffic congestion, housing and extra land for the CBS. Cllr. S. Morris asked that the Council write to the Department of Defence and find out who owns it and to see why this cannot be used with a focus on Rebuilding Ireland. He said there should be EU funding available to redevelop the site.

Cllr. M. O' Meara asked what the realistic timeframe is for the housing project for Borrisokane. In regard to the Tenant Purchase Scheme he said he is aware of a situation where the tenant is finding it difficult to get through this process successfully.

Cllr. J. Hannigan raised concern regarding the Repair and Leasing Scheme where two clients are experiencing difficulty completing the scheme

In response to some queries raised above Ms. C. Curley replied as follows:-

A vacant house is deemed vacant once a tenant leaves. A total of 410 persons presented homeless to date with approx 50% of these being repeat presentations. She advised that the situation is monitored and they constantly review cases. In regard to the number of approved applicants in July 2015 the figure for approved applicants was 637. She said that progress is being made to reduce the list and that they are using every option they can including RAS/Long Term Lease.

Members will be kept appraised of houses purchased by the Council but not until the sale is agreed. She confirmed that the Council are not buying houses in Drummin Village. In regard to the Military

Barracks site, Mr. D. Purcell advised that the property is a protected structure and the site is complex given that there are private houses there along with an Eircom base and several right-of-ways. He said it is an issue that needs to be tackled but there are many issues there in respect of Roads, Planning, Environment etc and it would shift the Council's focus away from its housing priority which is to deliver houses as quickly as possible.

Mr. M. O' Connor said it is a very important site and could indeed help with traffic problems in the area. He said there are issues with right-of-ways on this site. It is owned by the Department of Defence. He said the Council could write to the Department but it would have to be with clear intentions as to what is wanted for this site. He said he recalls that 2007 or 2008 that the private sector was invited to redevelop the site however there was opposition to demolishing the buildings. The first issue is the planning status and there are conflicting opinions on whether that status should remain.

Cllr. J. Hannigan feels this is outside the remit of the Housing Section. He said there are potholes in the site and that the Department should be advised of same.

In regard to RAS contracts, Ms. C. Curley advised that the figure is for Nenagh MD and that targets for the District are being exceeded. In regard to the Repair and Leasing Scheme she advised that the scheme is new and that from experience to date the cap of €40,000 is reasonable however she said it would be kept under review. It would be premature to review it at this stage. In regard to Mulkear View, Mr. D. Purcell advised that no decision has been made regarding the design however he said they will keep the design of the other houses in mind.

In regard to timeframes for construction, she advised that there is a four stage approval process. A group has been set up to try to speed up the process.

**Item 4. To approve grant to
Iniscealtra Residents Association**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan seconded by Cllr. F. Bonfield and resolved that €500.00 be paid to Iniscealtra Residents Association.

Item 5. Update on Projects

Newport Town Park

Feedback has now been received from the Playground Committee and from local residents. This has been sent to the Consultant for consideration.

Gills Garden

The contractor has been appointed in respect of the masonry works on the walls and work is commencing.

Community CCTV Scheme

The contractors are commencing works subject to having the necessary consents in place and power supplies etc.

Nenagh Traffic Management Plan

Workshop with Members and a public information session took place at the end of October. Approx. 50 attended the public consultation.

Bord Gais Project

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that most of reinstatement works in town centre are complete. Works are still to be done on Ciamaltha Road and Thurles road. He advised that works will not take place in the town centre in the lead up to Christmas.

Update on new Shannon Crossing at Ballina/Killaloe

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that a meeting is due to take place with Clare County Council on Monday regarding the brief.

Latteragh

Approval has been given to continue scheme. It is expected that an allocation will be given next year.

Borrisokane

A detail design is being prepared. This will go to tender in the New Year. Cllr. M. O' Meara asked when will works commence. Mr. M. O' Connor said it will be Q2, 2018.

Knockalton

The consultants are preparing detailed design and tender documents and it is anticipated that this will go to tender very shortly.

Carrigahorrig

No update since the October meeting - preliminary surveys and site investigation works are ongoing

Nenagh Tourist Office

A site meeting with consultant and other parties is being arranged which will take place within the next few weeks. Works are on-going to facilitate the move of Foróige to the Motor Tax Office.

Garden of Remembrance, Cloughjordan

Snagging to be completed and finalisation of installation of sculptures.

Town and Village Renewal

Works on Lewis Lane will be carried out in 2018.

Nenagh 2020

Arrangements will be made to have a meeting of those interested in participating on the Committee in the near future.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to rural crime and especially to an incident that took place recently in Coolderry and asked that Nenagh Municipal District take the lead to establish CCTV in Borrisokane and other areas. Cllr. J. Carroll supported Cllr. J. Hannigan adding that rural areas are starved of Gardaí and that CCTV will come more and more into focus. Cllr. M. O' Meara supported previous speakers and said that Borrisokane would be an ideal town for CCTV with a number of roads leading out of Borrisokane. Cllr. G. Darcy also supported previous speakers and asked if the Council could get involved to assist communities? Cllr. S. Morris said that rural Ireland is under attack and that there is no road that a robbery hasn't happened on. He said people are afraid in their own homes. He added that rural Ireland is being used for drug drop offs.

Mr. M. O' Connor said that CCTV is proving very effective. He said that the current scheme is badly designed and that nationally only two or three have taken it up. He said the 40% community contribution is too high and that the scheme needs to be redesigned. Cllr. J. Hannigan said it was his understanding that the local authority

provides the 40% rather than the community, Mr. M. O' Connor said that this was not the case and that the responsibility to raise the 40% lies with the community. Mr. M. O' Connor added that Nenagh MD can't do a solo run on this that any strategy on CCTV must go through the JPC.

It was agreed that the matter be raised at the Community Safety Committee Meeting which was due to take place after this meeting. It was also agreed that this matter be referred to JPC Committee and giving the fact that Community & Economic Development will be attending the December meeting, they will be asked to incorporate a report based on this scheme for the Members at the December meeting.

Referring to a funeral that took place in Nenagh recently, Cllr. S. Morris asked that representatives from Pavee Point be invited to meet the Members.

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to the matter of dangerous road side trees that was raised at the October meeting and wondered if a meeting could be arranged with other bodies including, ESB, IFA, Eircom adding that the cutting down of trees is a dangerous job and said that the Council should assist where possible.

Cllr. F. Bonfield agreed and said that something should be done in conjunction with other districts.

Cllr. J. Hannigan concurred with Cllr. G. Darcy and asked that an audit should be done and funding provided for same.

Cllr. M. O' Meara said this was an annual problem. He said that the message isn't getting through to people that a landowner is responsible. He wondered how the Council can tackle this problem going forward. He said that people should be correctly informed regarding the implications and liability.

Cllr. P. Bugler supported previous speakers and agreed with Cllr. J. Hannigan that an audit is necessary. She specifically referred to dangerous trees at Ard Coillte, Ballina and on the R494 at Roolagh junction and asked that landowners of these trees be written to.

Cllr. J. Carroll said that he feels the audit should be carried out by the landowner and that a safe code of practice/guidance documents be issued by the Council.

Mr. M. O' Connor said that through the Roads SPC contact will be made with the relevant bodies. He added that the Council will provide assistance where possible including granting a road closure and traffic management if required. In regard to the Council carrying out an audit Mr. M. O' Connor said he was totally against carrying out an audit on trees which would be on private property. He added that he has no problem doing a public campaign for the next season.

Item 6. Update on Road Works Programme

A progress report on the 2017 Roadworks programme was distributed to members.

Item 7. Engineer's Checklist

The Engineer's Checklist was circulated to the members.

Cllr. P. Bugler said that many signs are dirty and are in need of a cleaning. She said that more signage is required approaching bridge on R446 from the Ballina side. She asked if a clean-up could be done in Ballina opposite Flanagan's prior to the Christmas markets on 23rd December, 2017. She asked that flooding at Kilmastulla be kept on checklist.

Cllr. M. O' Meara said that the directional signage at Lisadonna Cross is inadequate, there is no sign pointing to Borrisokane. He asked that the following flooding problems be investigated - Carrig village at White's pub and in Rathcabbinn towards the Birr road.

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to Angler's Rest and wondered will the centreline be done this year.

Cllr. F. Bonfield said that the Clare Glens got a battering during the recent storm and wondered when the Tipperary side will be re-opened. She wondered when the speed resurvey at Lackamore school will take place. She advised there is debris from the storm on Boher

Road, Ballina and she asked if maintenance works could be carried out on the Lower Annaholty road.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to the R493 and called for special funding for the upgrading of this regional road. He said that this road will be a tourist route as a result of the recent media announcement regarding funding for the Lakelands. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that there is no scheme in place where one can apply for funding for a specific regional road bearing in mind that there are a number of other regional roads.

It was agreed to ask Ms. M. O' Sullivan, A/Tourism Officer to the December meeting of Nenagh MD to give an update in relation to the media announcement regarding funding for the Lakelands.

Cllr. J. Carroll raised concern at works taking place in regard to the public water scheme in Birdhill. He said the works were contracted by Irish Water adding that disrespect was shown to be local community. Mr. P. Fee advised that the road closure will be lifted this week and that he would liaise with Irish Water/Water Services Section regarding this matter.

Item 8. To consider Notices of Motion

None

Item 9. Delegated Employee Orders

A list of Delegated Employee Orders up to 13th November, 2017 as circulated to the members was noted.

Item 10. Correspondence

None

Item No: 11. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following:-

- Ms. Sharon Leenane on the death of Mrs. Margaret Mulcahy, R.I.P.
- Mr. Philip Teefey on the death of Mr. Joe Teefey, R.I.P.
- Mrs. Teresa O' Reilly on the death of Mr. Joe Teefey, R.I.P.
- Mr. Thomas Hickey on death of Mrs. Catherine Hickey, R.I.P.

Votes of Congratulations were passed to the following:-

- Burgess Duharra Camogie team on winning the Munster Final last Saturday.
- Margaret O' Sullivan, A/Tourism Officer to congratulate all associated with the "Taste of Lough Derg Breakfast" held in Garrykennedy recently.
- Cahir Enterprise, Business and Training Centre to congratulate all associated with winning a Merit Award at Bank of Ireland Enterprise Awards.

Item 12.

A.O.B

Cllr. P. Bugler asked that the Lakelands be included as an item on the Agenda going forward.

Cllr. J. Carroll referred to the "Taste of Nenagh" event held recently and said it was an outstanding success. He complimented Mr. M. O' Connor, Ms. R. Joyce and the Chamber of Commerce for their input. It is hoped that this is an annual event. Cllr. P. Bugler paid tribute to Cllr. J. Carroll for his work on this event.

Cllr. J. Carroll referred to the "Taste of Lough Derg Breakfast" held recently and said that this too was a very positive event.

Ms. R. Joyce reminded Members that the Municipal District Awards evening will be held on Thursday, 23rd November at 6.30 p.m. She further advised that the Christmas Lights will be turned on, on the 2nd December, time to be confirmed.

Cllr. P. Bugler reminded Members that the South East Regional Tidy Towns Awards ceremony is taking place on Monday night 20th November in the Abbey Court Hotel.

Cllr. S. Morris advised Members that Carmha Community Group are holding a recovery awareness night on 23rd November in the Arts Centre and everyone is welcome to attend.

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

Signed:  Date: 21.12.2017
Cllr. J. Carroll
Cathaoirleach

Signed:  Date: 21.12.2017
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator