



**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD VIA ZOOM AT 10.00 AM ON 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

<b>Present</b>	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, John Carroll, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, Michael O' Meara, Phyll Bugler, Séamus Morris, Ger Darcy, John "Rocky" McGrath
<b>Also Present</b>	Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Barry Murphy, District Engineer and Ms. Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officer.  <b>Community &amp; Economic Development:</b> Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer  <b>Housing:</b> Mr Liam Ryan, Senior Executive Architect  Brian Beck, A/Director of Services
	Before the meeting started Cllr. O'Meara asked the members and the public to be mindful of the difficulties that have been encountered by the local charities and to give them support this Christmas where possible.
<b>Item 1. To note any Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Item 2. To consider and adopt Minutes of November Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>	It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. McGrath and resolved that the minutes of the November Meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 be adopted.
<b>Item 3. To agree a name for new development at Woodville Close, Nenagh</b>	Liam Ryan, Senior Executive Architect outlined three proposals in relation to the naming of new development at Woodville Close, Nenagh.  Cllr. O'Meara proposed the name of Coill an Chaisleáin for the new development, this was seconded by Cllr. Bonfield and unanimously agreed.
<b>Item 4. To receive update from Community &amp; Economic Development</b>	The report from Community & Economic Development was circulated to the members.  All members welcomed the update. Cllrs. Hannigan and H. McGrath raised concerns about the regeneration of vacant buildings in town centres back into residential/commercial premises.



	<p>Ms. K. Prendergast acknowledged the difficulties involved and referred to the scheme outlined on page 30 of the report. The scheme is the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme. Specifics of the scheme will be emailed to each district with details for each town. Tax incentives are also available to help bring back these properties into use. She will put together details of what schemes are available to property owners. The Towns First initiative will also be launched shortly.</p>
<p><b>Item 5. To receive presentation on Centre of Excellence</b></p>	<p>Mr. B. Beck gave a presentation on the Centre of Excellence.</p> <p>All the members welcomed the presentation and complimented the team behind the initiative. Cllr. Bugler queried if a business plan would be in place, if there will be an anchor tenant and how much energy is expected to go back to the grid. Cllr. H. McGrath asked about the possibility of a linkage to the Tyone/hospital area. He asking about incorporating the proposed Transport Hub at the Railway Station and referred to the importance of linking Martyr's Road to the town and upgrading Friar St. and Abbey Lane to make them as user friendly as possible.</p> <p>Mr. B. Beck informed members that Grant Thornton are engaged to update and review the 10-year business plan. There will be a number of partners for the building rather than anchor tenants. At the moment it is difficult to tell how much will be going back to the grid as the technology is progressing all the time. Discussions are ongoing with a developer about opening up the backlands to Tyone/hospital area.</p>
<p><b>Item 6. To receive presentation from Nenagh Historical Society</b></p>	<p>This presentation did not take place as the Nenagh Historical Society were not in attendance.</p>
<p><b>Item 7. To receive briefing on Waterways Ireland proposed development for Dromineer</b></p>	<p>Mr. M. O' Connor gave a presentation on the proposed Waterways Ireland development in Dromineer. This will involve the provision of 20 extra mooring berths. The proposal was welcomed by the members but concerns were raised about the derelict building in the area, abandoned boats at various locations along the lakeshore, casual trading and the capacity of the existing toilet and shower block in Dromineer. An Environmental Assessment will have to be undertaken for the extra moorings and once this is complete an application for planning permission will be submitted. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that mooring areas that are under Waterways Ireland control are policed regularly for abandoned boats, the issue is in relation to local authority-controlled moorings particularly in Garrykennedy and Terryglass. Discussions in relation to the derelict building have been ongoing with Planning.</p>



	<p>The issue regarding the capacity on the toilet and shower block is being addressed by an application from Nenagh MD and Fáilte Ireland under Platforms for Growth. It is expected that the application for permission will be submitted in January to An Bord Pleanála.</p>										
<p><b>Item 8. To approve allocation of funding under Contribution to Clubs &amp; Organisations</b></p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Darcy and resolved that in accordance with the terms of the Contribution to Clubs &amp; Organisations Grant Scheme the payment of grants be made to the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="509 645 1474 835"> <thead> <tr> <th>Club/Organisation</th> <th>Recommendation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nenagh Ormond Brass Band</td> <td>€450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rathcabbin Tidy Towns Association</td> <td>€250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Darcy and resolved that a contribution in respect of Christmas Lights be made to the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="509 1014 1474 1133"> <thead> <tr> <th>Club/Organisation</th> <th>Recommendation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ballingarry Tidy Towns</td> <td>€600</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Club/Organisation	Recommendation	Nenagh Ormond Brass Band	€450	Rathcabbin Tidy Towns Association	€250	Club/Organisation	Recommendation	Ballingarry Tidy Towns	€600
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<p><b>Item 9. To update members on projects &amp; events</b></p>	<p><b><u>Killaloe Bypass, Shannon Bridge &amp; R494 Upgrade</u></b>            Planning procedures and the Oral Hearing have been completed. Design was substantially completed in Q2 2020. The Tender Prior Information Notice (PIN) was published in December 2019. A minor works contract for site clearance and laying a section of sewer is substantially complete. Tenders for the works contract were received in November 2021 and are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that the main contract will be awarded in Q1 2022 and subject to DoT approval, the works will commence in Q1 2022. The scheme will take approximately 3 years to complete. Clare Co Co received an allocation of €4m to progress this scheme in the current year.</p> <p><b><u>R498 Latteragh Realignment</u></b>            Part 8 procedures have been completed and preliminary design work is completed. The CPO was published in August 2020, an Oral Hearing was held on 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the CPO was confirmed on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 without modifications. Tender documents have been prepared for the appointment of a consultant to carry out the detailed design, procurement and supervision of the Works contract. We have now received comments on the tender documentation from the DoT and expect</p>										



that following a tender competition that a consultant will be appointed in Q1 2022. The consultant is expected to have the tender documentation prepared by mid-year so that a works contractor can be appointed by Q3 2022 and, subject to final approval and DoT funding, begin work on site before the end of 2022.

**N52 Borrisokane Streets Improvement Scheme.**

The scheme is now substantially complete and snagging of the main contract works is currently taking place.

**N65 Carrigahorig to Balleiragh Bridge Strengthening**

Flooding of a short section of the N65 north of Carrigahorig results when Lough Derg lake rises significantly during severe flooding events. The most recent flooding events took place in 2019, 2015/2016 and 2009.

The Council cannot carry out physical works to raise the road level at present due to a number of significant constraints and engineering challenges in determining a suitable solution/road scheme to prevent the road from flooding. The main issue here is there are two Natura 2000 sites (Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC and Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA) located immediately adjacent to the proposed project. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79 / 409 / EEC). The road in this location is also built on soft peaty ground. On the basis of its proximity to the two Natura 2000 sites any significant works to raise the road level at this location requires planning consent from An Bord Pleanála. Preparations for a planning submission to An Bord Pleanála are underway and due to the significant environmental and ecological sensitivities several studies have been conducted and completed to-date by the Council to determine flood risk, ecological, environmental and other impacts/constraints and also an initial assessment of ground conditions has been completed. Once planning consent is obtained, the Council will complete the detailed design process. A ground investigation has now been completed and the scheme has been formally categorized as a Minor Improvement Scheme. The Council will now seek approval from TII to appoint a consultant to continue with the preliminary design.

**N65 Carrigahorig Village Pavement Improvements**

Tipperary County Council is preparing a pavement improvements and safety scheme for the N65 at Carrigahorig Village. The scheme involves:

- 1) road pavement improvement works



- 2) addressing a number of road safety issues
- 3) the renewal and widening of footpaths in the village
- 4) the extension of footpaths to the speed limit on the Portumna side and to the R493 Terryglass Road on the Borrisokane side of the village
- 5) public lighting improvements
- 6) some public realm improvements.

Feasibility work has been completed and the Preliminary Design stage has commenced. Land acquisition for footpath widening and extension works is currently underway. Subject to land acquisition it is expected that preliminary design work will be completed and the Part 8 for the scheme advertised in 2022.

**Newport Town Park:**

Further progress meeting was held with the consultants and contractors on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Arrangements for security of site over Christmas period are being put in place. Contractors will continue to work on site up to 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will resume again on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Further progress meeting is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Revised programme of works is to be submitted based on completion and opening in March 2022. Access to grassed/landscaped areas will be considered in context of ensuring that seeding and planting have been allowed time to take hold.

**Outdoor Enhancement – Covid Measures, Nenagh:**

- Hanley's Place – works substantially complete. Planting to be completed at appropriate time. Minor outstanding works to be completed early in 2022.
- Kenyon St – outdoor furniture currently being manufactured and scheduled for installation in Q1 2022.

**John's Lane Car Park:**

- Installation of EV charging points being progressed in conjunction with Roads & Environment Section – this is likely to be completed in Q1 2022.
- Landscaping on-going.

**Emmet Place/Mitchel St:**

- Car park has been opened to the public
- Remaining works will be completed early in the New Year
- Draft Car Park Bye-Laws have been put on public display and consultation has commenced with the Garda Commissioner and the Nenagh Garda Superintendent



**Tourist Office:**

- Tourist Office is now open to the public Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. all year round
- Over the Christmas period the Tourist Office will be closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> January both dates inclusive
- Tour Guide/Information Officer Victoria Lee is providing tours and information to visitors. She is also reaching out to local accommodation providers, local hospitality sector and other businesses to build up a database of information and is inviting them to provide information that can be shared with visitors
- Minister of State in the OPW, Patrick O' Donovan, called to visit the Tourist Office during his recent visit to Nenagh – he also visited Nenagh River by the Town Park, Nenagh Castle and North Tipperary Genealogy & Heritage Centre.

**Ely O Carroll Place / Ball Alley Lane:**

- We are still awaiting receipt of the ground recessed lights to allow this project to be completed.

**Banba Square:**

- Final claim has been submitted to the Department under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for works at Banba Square involving public realm, undergrounding of services and street furniture

**Outdoor Dining Grants:**

- Grants have been paid in respect of 46 properties within Nenagh MD in accordance with the Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme
- 5 applications were refused as they did not meet scheme requirements

**Newport Enhancement Plan:**

- Revised draft Plan was received from the consultants and a meeting held with them to go through its provisions
- We have requested them to examine proposals for potential projects and to provide this schedule
- They are currently working on this and are meeting on site with TCC engineers on a few matters
- They will let us have a revised plan in January 2022 and we will then agree the date for a workshop with members on same



**Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement, Tourism and Mobility Plan:**

- Plan has now been endorsed by the elected members of both Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council
- In 2022 potential funding opportunities will be examined

**Ballina Access Promenade & Viewing Area:**

- Notification has been received from An Bord Pleanála granting permission subject to conditions
- Awaiting decision on funding application under Town & Village Renewal Scheme

**Nenagh Historic & Cultural Quarter:**

- Consultants presented report to the Steering Group on the outputs from the market research conducted by Red C in conjunction with other members of the Design Team (Event and CHL)
- Market research was based on three concepts:
  - 800 years of historic development
  - Nenagh as a market town & links to food
  - Nenagh as a gateway to Lough Derg
- Research was on a targeted basis and focused on Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, France, Germany and the United States
- The final report from Stage One is currently being finalized and the process for Stage Two is being considered. During Stage Two the Business Case and the examination of the options to deliver on the concepts will be explored.

**Nenagh Centre of Excellence:**

- Grant Thornton Consultants have been appointed to review and update the Preliminary Business Case – preliminary meeting has been held with them
- Briefing is being provided to members by Brian Beck, Chair of the Steering Committee at the December District Meeting.
- Rogerson Reddan Associates have been appointed to prepare the tender documentation for the appointment of the Design Team – the Department must sign off on the Preliminary Business Case before we can progress to appointment of the Design Team
- A working group has been established to consider the preparation of a Communications Strategy.
- Meetings of the Steering Group and the District Delivery Group are on-going



**Nenagh Traffic Management Plan:**

- Consultants are currently progressing the design work required.
- Works at Emmet Place/Mitchel St. will need to be completed before this can be progressed – the introduction of the one-way system will not take place until 2022.

**Nenagh Transport Hub:**

- Engagement with NTA on the development of a Transport Hub and the proposed relocation of the bus stops to the Railway Station is on-going

**Platforms for Growth- Dromineer:**

- Work has commenced on preparation of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála – due to be submitted mid-January 2022

**Provision of Bus Shelters at Stereame:**

- Civil works have been substantially completed.
- The bus shelters will be installed in Q1 2022. This is dependent on the availability of the bus shelters from the supplier.

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:**

- Measure 2 2020: Contractor has substantially completed the works including a 650-meter footpath which has been constructed through bog. Signage and circa 11 stiles will be completed in Q1 2022.
- Measure 1 2021: Ballinderry River Walk has been approved for funding of €17,550 under this scheme.
- Measure 2 2021: Unfortunately, the application in respect of Cloughjordan was not successful with the funding application.

**Discovery Points (Castlelough & Lookout Portroe)**

- This project is being undertaken jointly by Tipperary, Clare and Galway.
- A delay was experienced because of land ownership issues in one of the other counties
- This has now been resolved
- Nenagh MD has provided feedback to consultants on their preliminary report.
- Final Report & Presentation is awaited.





**Stereame Housing Development**

- Following the tendering process a meeting of the Tender Evaluation Team was convened to assess submissions.
- This stage is currently being finalized and we will be moving to Stage 2 of the process in January – the assessment process is commercially sensitive.

**Rialto, Banba Square Nenagh**

- Application for RRDF Cat 2 Funding was submitted in July 2021 for Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub - Adaptive Re-Use of a Former Cinema (Protected Structure) and Outline Masterplan for Redevelopment of a town centre brownfield site.
- Decision on application is awaited – no indication has been made as to when there will be decisions on this funding call.

**Enhancement of Nenagh**

- Phase Two Enhancement Works, including remaining properties on Wolfe Tone Terrace and properties on Hanley's Place, have been completed.
- Installation of new bins in the town centre has been completed.
- A replacement programme for benches in the town centre that have become dilapidated/damaged will be agreed and progressed to procurement.
- Two smart benches, one at Banba Square and one at Nenagh Town Park will be become operational before year end.

**Streetscape Scheme**

- Payment of applications where works have been completed is on-going
- Property owners are encouraged to have the works completed as early as possible to ensure draw down within the framework of the scheme

**Christmas in Nenagh:**

- Christmas lights were turned on in Nenagh on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December by the Cathaoirleach in conjunction with Santa Clause and Trudi Lalor. This was part of a programme of music on the street co-ordinated by Spain AV



- Some further episodes of 'Nenagh Live' are currently planned by Spain AV – the Tourist Office will be used for the purposes of recording some of the material.
- The Christmas Tractor Run will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December
- Three hours free parking in Car Parks in Nenagh will be allowed from Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December
- A special 12 page supplement celebrating 800 years of Nenagh Castle has been produced by Nenagh Guardian (Simon O' Duffy in conjunction with Danny Grace) and is included in the current issue of Nenagh Guardian – you are advised to get your copy early as this will be a collector's item.

**Wifi4EU:**

- Free wifi under Wifi4EU initiative is now available in Nenagh Town Centre
- This was launched on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael O' Meara.
- There has been 4208 logins recorded on the Wifi4EU system since 1<sup>st</sup> July up to the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**Nenagh Leisure Centre Accreditation:**

- Received the Outstanding Award for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row in the National Quality Standard Awards
- National Quality Standard Awards are the only industry specific award for the Leisure, Health and Fitness sector in Ireland.
- Awards are given across the three levels - Outstanding (gold), Exceeded (silver) and Achieved (bronze).
- 79 facilities nationwide were awarded
- The awards reward excellence for facilities in the sector that meet the operational standards across 250 quality-based criteria and are endorsed by Sport Ireland.

**Grants Schemes 2021:**

Scheme	No. Paid 2021
Tidy Towns	26
Residents Associations	37
Clubs & Organisations	54

Other schemes for which processing is on-going are the Festivals & Events and the Painting & Enhancement Schemes.



	<p>Cllr. Bugler requested an update on the areas for WIFI 4 EU around town, when would a funding application be made for the access promenade in Ballina and the Shannon Crossing.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll complimented the Christmas Lights in Nenagh and Cllr. O'Meara complimented the launch of the WIFI 4EU, turning on of the Christmas Lights and the supplement in the Guardian.</p> <p>Mr. M. O'Connor acknowledged that the turning of the lights was an excellent event. Ms. R. Joyce informed members that you should be able to pick up the wifi anywhere on the town centre streets and that an application for funding for the promenade has been submitted under the Town &amp; Village Renewal Scheme.</p>
<b>Item 10. To update members on Works Programme 2021</b>	Mr. B. Murphy outlined that the drainage work in Templederry was completed but that Phase 2 of the job will be done early in 2022. Cllr. Bugler requested an update on the drainage at Congo, she was informed that this will be completed early in the new year.
<b>Item 11. To note Engineer's Checklist on roads matters</b>	The Engineer's Checklist was circulated to members and noted.
<b>Item 12. To consider Notices of Motion</b>	None
<b>Item 13. To note Delegated Employees Orders</b>	Noted.
<b>Item 14. To consider items of correspondence</b>	None
<b>Item 15. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations</b>	Votes of sympathy – None Votes of congratulations – None



<p><b>Item 16.</b> <b>Any other business.</b></p>	<p>Cllr. Hannigan raised the possibility of the members, the Director of Services and Senior Roads Engineer meeting with TII to discuss the consequences of the hail showers on the M7 between the Five Alley and Birdhill exits. He enquired about the possibility of putting extra signage in place in the interim to give advance warnings. Cllrs Carroll, H. McGrath and Darcy supported him on this request. They asked if VMS signs could be put in place on the hard shoulder to give warnings.</p> <p>Mr. M. O'Connor advised that there is an issue regarding hail events recorded on a number of roads. Met Eireann have conducted research, the roads cannot be treated for hailstones as it can be very localised and unannounced. TII have tried to improve the warning systems with reactions sensors and cameras. Gantry warning signs are in place, a VMS on a hard shoulder would create its own hazards. Awareness is a big issue, it may be necessary for the RSA to run a public awareness campaign. People are used to driving fast on the motorway and when these events happen speed may have to be reduced to 30 or 40 kph. He will ask about statistics in relation to this road.</p>
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This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify:-

Signed:   
Cllr. Michael O'Meara  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 20/1/2022

Signed:   
Ms. Rosemary Joyce  
District Administrator

Date: 20/1/2022