



**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE JULY MEETING OF NENAGH  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 10.00  
AM ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

<b>Present</b>	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, John Carroll, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, John "Rocky" McGrath, Séamus Morris, Michael O' Meara, Phyll Bugler and Ger Darcy
<b>Also Present</b>	<p>Mr. Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Barry Murphy, District Engineer and Mr. Donal Murphy, Staff Officer.</p> <p><b>Housing:</b> Mr. Pdraig Ryan, Senior Social Worker; Mr. Jim Dillon, Administrative Officer; Mr. Sean Lonergan, Senior Executive Officer; Mr. Kieran Malone, Executive Engineer; Ms. Lindsay Cleary, Youth Work Ireland, Tipperary.</p> <p><b>Community and Economic Development:</b> Elaine Cullinan, Economic Development Officer.</p> <p><b>Cultural Services:</b> Melanie Scott, Arts Officer; Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian.</p>
<b>Item 1. To note any Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest</b>	None
<b>Item 2. To consider and adopt Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020</b>	It was proposed by Cllr. John Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Joe Hannigan and resolved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2020 be adopted.
<b>Item 3. To consider and adopt Minutes of June Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020</b>	It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Hannigan, seconded by Cllr. John Carroll and resolved that the minutes of the June Meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 be adopted.
<b>Item 4. To consider and adopt Minutes of Adjourned June Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020</b>	It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Hannigan, seconded by Cllr. John "Rocky" McGrath and resolved that the minutes of the Adjourned June Meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 be adopted.



**Item 5.  
To receive  
briefing from  
Housing Section**

Ms. Lindsay Cleary, Resettlement Worker with Youth Work Ireland Tipperary delivered a presentation on the Tipperary Refugee Resettlement Programme which is set to accommodate 12 Syrian refugee families in Nenagh. She outlined that accommodation had been secured for around 50 individuals who have been staying at emergency reception centres in Waterford, Ballaghaderreen and Mosney since their arrival from camps in Jordan and Lebanon last November. She outlined several initiatives which would be undertaken, aimed at helping the new arrivals to integrate successfully including:

- Working with the local primary and secondary schools.
- The ETB putting aside resources for language classes.
- Multi Lingual Covid 19 guidelines from the HSE and action plan regarding issues such as social distancing.
- Working with local sports clubs so that they will have training to help integrate the families.
- Raising awareness with the local community including through social media and an online Zoom meeting of the refugees arrival and the involvement of locals in welcoming initiatives such as the Befriending Programme.

Cllr. S. Morris spoke of Nenagh's reputation of being a 'Stranger's Paradise' and that, while he supported the programme, he was surprised to learn that houses had already been sourced in Nenagh at a time when there are 789 applicants on the waiting list for council housing in the district.

Other members, while welcoming the presentation, outlined similar concerns to Cllr. S. Morris and acknowledged the difficult task of the resettlement programme. Cllr. J. Hannigan referenced the successful integration of asylum seekers in Borrisokane but noted that this situation was different as the asylum seekers were housed in private properties whereas now the council is involved. He also queried if there would be additional families coming next year and subsequent years. He said it was imperative that the public representatives meet with the Department. Cllr. M. O' Meara asked if the Department might fund the accommodation of 12 families from the council's housing list. Cllr. H. McGrath requested that the Cathaoirleach be kept informed at each stage in the process.

Councillors requested that a meeting be arranged with the Department.

Ms. Cleary, in response to members concerns, accepted that the situation is challenging. She highlighted that the resettlement programme is a Department of Justice directive and that it is happening in every county in Ireland. She outlined that she would meet with residents groups and address any concerns they



may have.

Padraig Ryan advised that a definite timeline for the arrival of the refugees is still pending from the Department. He advised the purpose of the presentation was to update the members. He advised that councillors and local residents would be advised of the locations where the Syrian families would be housed two weeks before the families arrive. He advised the matter of sourcing extra houses would be raised with the Department.

Housing circulated a report that gave an update on the following:

- Housing Construction
- Capital Assistance Scheme Voluntary Housing
- Housing Grant Allocations 2020
- House Purchases 2020
- Housing Loan Applications
- Tenant Purchase Scheme
- RAS and Leasing 2020
- HAP 2020
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses

The report showed Tipperary County Council has a total of 789 approved applicants on the housing waiting list in the Nenagh Municipal District. Cllr. F. Bonfield queried what percentage of housing applicants were already in accommodation through HAP, RAS and other housing schemes.

Cllr. H. McGrath queried the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme regarding who decides on the builder specification on extensions. While acknowledging the €30,000 that is available he stated that the occupational therapists recommendations often mean that building costs come to €45,000. He queried the need for air conditioner to be specified when natural ventilation could be used. He queried if a meeting could take place with an occupational therapist.

Cllr. M. O' Meara queried the payment by the council of grants directly to the client as opposed to the contractor. He cited two cases where the contractor had done the work but found it difficult to get paid by the client.

Cllr. J. Hannigan queried the low take up of housing loans and thought that customers were being put through the mill to get housing loan approvals.

Cllr. S Morris acknowledged the excellent work being done in the past 6 months by Housing staff. He raised a concern about an issue in Barr an Chnoic regarding fire safety. He also warned of the current Covid 19 crisis and was fearful of people on the



	<p>Pandemic Unemployment Payment becoming homeless.</p> <p>In reply to queries raised, Mr. Sean Lonergan advised around 65 per cent were in receipt of social housing support. He also advised that there were 57 vacant houses in the district of which 17 are available for letting. He was also pointed out that the council had exceeded every target set by the Department.</p> <p>Mr. Kieran Malone advised that the €30,000 grant figure was a national figure. He outlined that the occupational therapist tries to be reasonable and doesn't feel that the occupational therapist goes overboard. He advised Cllr. S. Morris that Housing were aware of the issues in Barr an Chnoic and that they would try to contact the owners but that the council owned only one apartment.</p> <p>Mr. Jim Dillon in response to Cllr. J. Hannigan's query on the low uptake of housing loans acknowledged that the number of applications was low but that they were valid. Applications were invalidated due to lack of savings or savings pattern. In reply to Cllr. M. O' Meara he advised that the Housing Adaption Grant is a grant to the applicant and that the agreement was between the client and the contractor and that it is not the council's role to arbitrate between the two parties.</p>
<p><b>Item 6. To receive briefing from Community / Economic Development Section</b></p>	<p>A progress report was circulated to Members. Ms. E. Cullinan gave an update on the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ LECP – Community</li><li>➤ Community Response Forum</li><li>➤ Community Response Line</li><li>➤ Mapping of Services and Community Response Hub</li><li>➤ In this Together</li><li>➤ Local Development Strategy/LEADER</li><li>➤ Joint Policing Committee</li><li>➤ Children's and Young Person's Services Committee</li><li>➤ Jigsaw</li><li>➤ Age Friendly Tipperary</li><li>➤ Suicide Prevention</li><li>➤ Comhairle na nÓg</li><li>➤ Sign of The Times</li><li>➤ What's on in Tipperary</li><li>➤ Tipperary Sports Partnership</li><li>➤ FAI</li><li>➤ Strategic Projects Unit EU part-funded Projects</li><li>➤ Economic &amp; Enterprise</li><li>➤ Retail Sector</li><li>➤ Green Business</li><li>➤ Craft</li><li>➤ LECP – Economic</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Tourism</li><li>➤ Local Enterprise Office Measure 1 and 2 Programmes</li><li>➤ Online Trading Voucher Scheme</li><li>➤ Micro Finance Ireland</li><li>➤ Student Enterprise Awards 2020</li><li>➤ National Broadband Plan</li><li>➤ Broadband Connection Points in the Rural areas of the County.</li><li>➤ Commercial Broadband Development</li></ul> <p>Councillors welcomed the report and spoke of the importance of broadband in rural towns and villages. Issues relating to poor broadband in certain areas by Lough Derg were raised.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Bugler expressed concern that there was no reference to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands in the tourism section of the report. She sought the attendance of the council's Tourism Officer at future meetings. She sought a copy of the minutes of meetings from the Lough Derg Marketing Group and queried what the €25,000 funding for the walking and hiking campaign was for.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Morris acknowledged the good work done in relation to broadband and paid tribute to the role of LEADER. In relation to business grants he noted there were a number of grants available but stated that business people were exhausted from filling in forms.</p> <p>In response, Ms. E. Cullinan advised she would refer the feedback in relation to broadband back to the Broadband Officer Simon Howe. She advised that she will raise the issues in relation to tourism with the Tourism Officer. She further advised that the €25,000 funding was for PR / marketing purposes.</p>
<b>Item 7. To receive briefing from Culture / Library Services Section</b>	<p>A progress report was circulated to Members. An update was given on the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Online Storytime and Arts and Crafts.</li><li>➤ E-resources by Tipperary Libraries.</li><li>➤ 'ReCOVER Together' initiative by Tipperary Museum and Tipperary County Council.</li><li>➤ Museum – launch of 'Rediscovery of Mick Delahunty's Lost Recordings'</li><li>➤ Heritage Report – The attendance of the Heritage Officer to address the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht on the subject of the Commemorations programme 2020-2023 in December 2019.</li><li>➤ Applications were submitted to the Heritage Council for funding under County Heritage Plan for 2020.</li><li>➤ Tipperary Bealtaine Festival was re-imagined and conducted</li></ul>



	<p>online.</p> <p>➤ Artist support schemes including the awarding of 4 young musician bursaries.</p> <p>Members welcomed the report and acknowledged that due to the Covid-19 situation the Arts had to seek new ways of working. Reference was made to the very innovative online content by the Nenagh Arts Centre and the fact people were tuning in from overseas.</p>
<b>Item 8. To review nominations for Nenagh Town Team Steering Committee</b>	<p>It was agreed that Cllr. J. Hannigan would replace Cllr. H. McGrath to represent the Nenagh Municipal District on the Nenagh Town Team Steering Committee. The members now on the committee are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Séamus Morris, Cathaoirleach</li><li>• Cllr Joe Hannigan</li><li>• Cllr Phyll Bugler</li></ul>
<b>Items 9. To update members on projects &amp; events</b>	<p><b><u>Newport Town Park</u></b> The contract for Newport Town Park was signed on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. This was followed later that afternoon by the sod-turning on site. The contractor has begun mobilisation works such as erection of signage on site. The ESB have undergrounded their cabling but an ESB area outage has to take place before the ESB works are complete. In the meantime works required in relation to invasive species are almost complete.</p> <p><b><u>Newport Enhancement Plan</u></b> Elected members received a briefing from Nic de Jong, Consultant on 30<sup>th</sup> June on the preparation of the Newport Enhancement Plan. The next stage will involve a public engagement process to obtain input from the community. Details of arrangements will be made available as soon as possible.</p> <p><b><u>Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement, Tourism and Mobility Plan</u></b> The members of Nenagh MD and Killaloe MD were both briefed in July on this project. The Plan is being prepared by a design team led by consultants Downey Planning &amp; Architecture and is expected to take approximately six months to prepare. A public consultation process will be undertaken in early Autumn.</p> <p><b><u>Town Revival Initiatives</u></b></p> <p><b>a) John's Lane Car Park</b> Work is currently on-going on the required surveys and tests and the procurement of a consultant to prepare the tender documentation.</p>



**b) Painting & Enhancement Scheme**

The Painting & Enhancement Scheme for the towns of Nenagh, Borrisokane Ballina, Cloughjordan and Newport have been advertised. To date a total of 36 applications have been received and 21 letters of provisional approval have issued. The remaining applications are either in the process of being assessed or further information has been requested.

**c) Establishment of Town Team**

A meeting was held with the Nenagh & District Chamber of Commerce and work is on-going on identifying participants for the Town Team and its sub-groups and on preparing a first draft of an action plan for consideration.

**Emmet Place/Mitchel Street**

The tender documentation for this project has been published on e – tenders with a closing date for receipt of tenders of the 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**Tourist Office/Banba Square**

The tender documentation for this project has been published on e – tenders with a closing date for receipt of tenders of the 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**Town & Village Renewal – Ely O’ Carroll Place**

Work is progressing on going to tender on this project.

**Nenagh Digital Hub**

It is hoped to progress the Part 8 for this project as soon as possible.

**Historic Structures Fund**

A conservation architect has been appointed to progress works on Newport Courthouse which received funding under the Historic Structures Fund. First priority based on available budget will be to undertake works required relating to the roof.

**Town & Village Renewal 2020:**

Following assessment of Expressions of Interest received under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Nenagh MD has been invited to submit an application in respect of a project in Ballina which includes the provision of a 25 metre long, single span footbridge with hardwood timber decking and ornamental lighting 5 metre downstream of the existing bridge, provision of footpaths and a pedestrian crossing to Willowcliffe Housing Estate. Work on preparation of this application is progressing.



**RRDF Funding:**

An allocation of €650,000 has been received under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for Nenagh Historic & Cultural Quarter - A Tourism-led Regeneration Plan. This is a Category 2 funding stream which will facilitate the planning and design work necessary in order to allow a Category 1 application to be submitted for implementation of the project which centres on the Gaol, Nenagh Castle and Banba Square. Fáilte Ireland, the OPW and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are partners in the project. A Project Delivery Group is now being established to progress this. The first steps will be the engagement of consultants to act as the design team in order to proceed with the preparation of the detailed design and planning phases. In total this process will take approximately 12 months.

**Killaloe Bypass, Shannon Bridge & R494**

Planning procedures and the Oral Hearing have been completed. Design is underway and is expected to be completed in Q2 2020. The Tender Prior Information Notice (PIN) was published in December 2019. The tender competition for the works contract will commence in Q3 2020 and will be completed in Q2 2021. Subject to availability of funding it is anticipated that construction will commence in Q2 of 2021 taking in the region of 3 years to complete.

**R498 Latteragh Realignment**

Part 8 procedures have been completed and design work is underway. Pre-CPO consultation with landowners is ongoing. Department approval to publish the CPO has been obtained and subject to COVID-19 restrictions, publishing of same is expected to take place in July 2020 with an Oral Hearing expected to take place later in 2020.

**N52 Borrisokane Streets Improvement Scheme.**

Final road surfacing work on the Main Street has been completed and removal of overhead cabling on the Main Street has commenced. Work was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID crisis and re-opened again in May 2020. Remaining works include erecting new public lighting on the Main Street, re-surfacing of a section of the Birr Road and the Nenagh approach and repairs to the bridge at the bottom of the Main Street. The scheme is expected to be completed in Q3 2020.

**N65 Carrigahorig to Balleiragh Bridge Strengthening**

This scheme involves raising of the road level to mitigate flooding of a section of this road. Preliminary design work is underway and is expected to be completed in Q4 2020 following completion of a ground investigation with detailed design commencing in 2021.



	<p><b><u>N65 Carrigahorig Village Pavement Improvements</u></b></p> <p>The change in approach has been agreed in principle with the TII. Preliminary design work has been completed and funding is being sought from the TII to carry out the final design and carry out the pavement improvement works, road safety elements and footpath extension works. It is anticipated that detailed design work will commence later in 2020.</p> <p>Members welcomed the report. Cllr. G. Darcy complimented everyone involved in the preparation of the RRDF funding application for the Historic Quarter. It was proposed by Cllr. H. McGrath, seconded by Cllr. J. Hannigan and agreed that Minister Patrick O’ Donovan be invited to Nenagh to see first hand the Historic &amp; Cultural Quarter. Members were advised that it is proposed to recruit a Project Manager in each District as projects are progressed through funding under the RRDF/URDF.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. F. Bonfield, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll and agreed that in accordance with the terms of the Contribution to Clubs and Organisations Scheme, a grant of €350 be paid to the Longhouse Field Committee.</p>
<p><b>Item 10. To receive update on Works Programme</b></p>	<p>Mr. B. Murphy gave an update on the Works Programme including the following items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Restoration Improvement Works</li><li>➤ Restoration Maintenance Works</li><li>➤ CIS Works</li><li>➤ LIS Works</li><li>➤ TII Grants Works</li><li>➤ IBP Footpath Works</li><li>➤ Development Funding Works</li><li>➤ GMA Funded Works</li></ul> <p>Cllr. J. Hannigan requested that works at Drominagh Bridge would be carried out by September. He also sought resurfacing works on the Borrisokane to Birr Road.</p>
<p><b>Item 11. To note Engineer’s Checklist on roads matters</b></p>	<p>The proposed approach to the Checklist as discussed by the sub-group was outlined and agreed for implementation from September. Cllr. S. Morris thanked the committee who reviewed the checklist.</p> <p>The following items were requested to be added to the Checklist</p> <p>Cllr. M. O’ Meara requested that a Pedestrian Crossing be provided on the main N65 at Towerhill. He also requested that the warning lights at Kyle school be looked at as they appear to be too near the school at the Borrisokane side. Cllr. G. Darcy and</p>



	<p>Cllr. S. Morris supported Cllr. M. O’Meara on the issue at Kyle School.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Hannigan requested a pedestrian crossing be looked at for Nenagh College. He also raised the issue of flooding at Kilbarron.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll requested that the sightlines at Ballyrusheen Junction be looked at. He also called for the hedge cutting on the Glencrue Road and referred to issues relating to the toilets at Garrykennedy.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Morris raised the issue of overhanging trees damaging mirrors on the road from the Lucky Bag’s into Nenagh.</p> <p>Cllr. F Bonfield called for tourist signs for Killoscully to be looked at.</p> <p>Cllr. J.R. McGrath sought an update on the bridge at Toor, Newport.</p> <p>In response Mr. B. Murphy advised the council would assess the options and best solution for a pedestrian crossing at Towerhill. In relation to the pedestrian crossing at Nenagh College he advised there is no obvious crossing point but noted it was easier to cross at the Junction of O’ Rahilly Street. He advised members that the issues at Kyle School and Ballyrusheen would go on the Engineers checklist. In relation to hedge cutting he advised that the council would write to landowners early in the season. The cleaning of signs is underway at the moment as resources had been used on the roadwork’s programme up to now. An update regarding the bridge in Toor will be provided to Cllr. R. McGrath.</p>
<p><b>Item 12. To consider Notices of Motion</b></p>	<p>Notice of Motion No: 1901 submitted by Cllr. M. O’ Meara.</p> <p>‘I ask this Council to contact the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment regarding the delivery of high speed fibre broadband in the Nenagh Municipal area. I am requesting that commitments made by the National Broadband Plan State Intervention are delivered immediately’.</p> <p>The motion was proposed by Cllr M O’ Meara and seconded by Cllr J Hannigan.</p> <p>The following response was read out by Ms. R. Joyce:-</p> <p><i>National Broadband Ireland (NBI) was awarded the National Broadband Plan Contract in November, 2019. NBI are a</i></p>



	<p><i>Wholesale Open Access Company dedicated to the rollout of a predominantly fibre to the premises (FTTP) network in the NBP-State Intervention Area (rural areas) which will be capable of delivering a future-proofed high speed broadband network, initially providing services of 150Mbps to the majority of homes. National Broadband Ireland (NBI) commenced their Road Surveys &amp; associated Network design Plans in the Tipperary - Cahir - Cashel Municipal District area of the County on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Every individual premises covered by the National Broadband Plan – State Intervention (NBP) in County Tipperary circa. 29,000 will be surveyed to ensure that a detailed delivery plan is prepared for each and every home and business. This will involve the granular analysis of the fibre route, design of required infrastructure and also detailed assessment of the delivery method to connect each individual premises.</i></p> <p><i>This process takes time and they are very conscious of the critical need for high-speed broadband to be delivered within the National Broadband Plan Intervention Area as soon as possible. A total of ten (10) National Broadband Plan - Broadband Connect Points, including for Aglish Community Hall, Killoscully Community Hall and Curreeny Community Hall, will be live in County Tipperary before the end of 2020 - which means that these locations will be connected to high-speed broadband before the rollout reaches the surrounding area.</i></p> <p><i>To date, NBI has completed radio link installations to two (2) Broadband Connect Point (s) in the County with a number of further installations planned for July/ August, 2020. The necessary electrical works / cabinet to facilitate for a radio link installation to each Broadband Connect Points have already been completed by Tipperary County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The purchase of equipment to include computer X 2, printer, projector and screen under the LEADER programme for each BCP is underway.</i></p> <p><i>A number of BCPs have been included in an application for funding under the Town &amp; Village Accelerated Projects for the upgrade of the hall to improve conditions so it can accommodate people in a digital hub environment. It is envisaged that these BCPs will give local people opportunities to avail of a number of online public services, such as processing CAP forms and applying for passports, but also to work remotely, to study, to keep in touch with family and friends and to trade online.</i></p>
<b>Item 13.</b>	Noted



<b>To note Delegated Employees Orders</b>	
<b>Item 14. To consider items of correspondence</b>	None
<b>Item 15. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations</b>	<p>Votes of Sympathy –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yvonne Kennedy, Mary McLoughney, Alice Brislane on the death of Charlie McLoughney, R.I.P.</li><li>• Sheila Ryan (Water Services) on the death of her father Patrick Ryan, R.I.P.</li></ul> <p>Votes of Congratulations – None</p>
<b>Item 15. Any other business.</b>	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll referred to issues relating to boy-racers and noise and speed. Ms. R. Joyce advised that a Community Safety Committee meeting would be held in either September or October and this matter could be raised with the Gardaí at that. Following discussion it was agreed to invite the Gardaí to attend a Community Safety Meeting on the date of the September District meeting at 9.30 a.m.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to issues with lifebuoys and queried if there was a need to survey same to ensure they are safe.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Morris expressed his disappointment of the recent NPHEP decision not to re-open pubs and also at the restrictions regarding the numbers of fans who can attend local GAA matches.</p>

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

Signed:   
Cllr. Séamus Morris  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 17/09/20

Signed:   
Ms. Rosemary Joyce  
District Administrator

Date: 17/9/20