

Monthly Meeting of the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District Members held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carrick-on-Suir on the 22nd of October, 2015 at 2:00pm.

In the Chair: Cllr. Eddie O'Meara

Members Cllr. Kieran Bourke

Present: Cllr. David Dunne

Cllr. John Fahey

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro

Cllr. Louise McLoughlin

In Attendance: Mr Pat Slattery, Director of Services
Mr Martin Nolan, District Administrator
Ms Nicola Keating, District Engineer
Mr Seamus Loughlin, Executive Engineer
Ms Fiona Crotty, Staff Officer

Mr Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance

Mr Adan Fennessy, Director of Services, Housing

Mr Sean Lonergan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing

Ms Margo Hayes, Community and Enterprise Development Officer

Ms Attracta Lyons, Economic Development Officer

Minutes of Meetings: On the proposal of Cllr. David Dunne, seconded by Cllr. John Fahey the minutes of the Special meeting held on the 23rd of September, and of the Monthly Meeting held on the 24th of September were adopted and signed by the Cathaoirleach

Appointment of Director of It was proposed by Cllr. John Fahey, seconded by Cllr. David Dunne and agreed that Cllr. Kieran Bourke be nominated as a director of the

**Tipperary
Transport Co-
ordination Unit
Ltd.**

Tipperary Transport Co-ordination Unit Ltd.

**Draft Budgetary
Plan**

The Head of Finance outlined to the meeting that the overall General Municipal Allocation for the County was €500,000, and that this was divided between the districts on the basis of population. The expenditure under the General Municipal Allocation was controlled by the elected members and is supplemental to the overall budget for the district. The general municipal allocation for 2016 will be €68,745, which is the same level as 2015.

The District Administrator outlined that the 2015 allocation had been expended as follows:

Assistance to Tidy Towns Committees	€7,500
Assistance to Cemetery Committees	€3,500
Painting Scheme for Carrick-on-Suir	€4,000
Sporting Facilities Scheme	€7,500
Assistance to Residents Associations	€3,000
<u>Spent to date</u>	<u>€25,500</u>

After discussion it was agreed to hold a workshop on Tuesday the 27th of October, 2015 to discuss the balance of the 2015 General Municipal Allocation.

The members raised the following questions in relation to the overall budgetary process:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- How is the overall budget for the Carrick-on-Suir District allocated and spent?
- Position in relation to rates equalisation?
- Allocation for maintenance of the Carrick-on-Suir Marina?

Cllr. Eddie O'Meara

- Need for allocation for secondary and tertiary roads
- Rates were a burden for businesses throughout the District

The Head of Finance responded as follows:

- The allocations for projects had not yet been finalised, and members would be informed of these at the proposed workshop or at the budget meeting.
- The allocation for road maintenance comes from own resources and from grants. Grant allocations were not yet known with certainty.
- When the allocations for the District were known, a schedule of District Works would be prepared which would be brought to the District Members for Approval.
- The question of rates harmonisation would be addressed at the member's workshop.

It was then proposed by Cllr. Kieran Bourke seconded by Cllr. David Dunne and resolved as follows:

that pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), the Draft Budgetary Plan 2016 for the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District be adopted, as per attached Schedule:

Schedule

CARRICK-ON-SUIR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN 2016

	€
	Municipal District
General Municipal Allocation	68,745
Increase/decrease in other charges	
Total (A)	68,745
To finance Gross Revenue Expenditure	Municipal District
Details of Proposed Expenditure	proposed expenditure
General Municipal Allocation	68,745

**Update from
Director of
Housing**

Mr Sean Lonergan, Senior Staff officer in the Housing Section, made a presentation to the members on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). The members asked the following questions:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- Did the Council have a role in ensuring that rents were within the HAP level?

Cllr. David Dunne

- Level of payment low compared to rents.
- Were the resources available to carry out the required inspections?

Cllr. John Fahey

- What was position if tenant went into arrears?

The following responses were made:

- Discussions were on going in relation to inspection resources
- There was an obligation on tenants to source property within the rent limits but the County Council had no role in ensuring that rents were within the limits
- The County Council does not condone the practice of paying a higher rent than the HAP limits
- Experience shows that rent arrears under the scheme are

low. However, if arrears arise, the HAP payment to the landlord will cease.

Mr Aidan Fennessey then gave a progress report in relation to the activities of the Housing Section within the Carrick-on-Suir District.

Members asked questions as follows:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- Asked whether there was any difficulty obtaining money to repair vacant houses
- Raised the problem of Anti Social Behaviour, and asked for a workshop in relation to particular cases.
- Raised the allocation of houses, and whether it was fair to single men

Cllr. David Dunne

- Asked that the report could be made available in advance of the meeting
- Asked what resources were available for dealing with void stock
- Asked for details of Energy Efficiency Works
- Asked whether the number of housing applicants had increased or decreased
- Asked whether Council had been offered houses by the National Asset Management Agency

Cllr. John Fahey

- Asked whether the County Council would purchase sub standard houses.

Cllr. Eddie O'Meara

- Given that the allocation for South Tipperary County Council for Disabled Persons Grants was higher than the current allocation for all of Tipperary, was the current allocation adequate?
- What method was being used to dispose of surplus housing stock?
- Asked whether applicants should be allowed to refuse

housing offers

Responses were given as follows:

- The allocation for Disabled Persons Grants was the fifth highest in the country, and the highest outside the main cities.
- Surplus housing stock would be sold through a public tendering process
- The allocation for refurbishing vacant stock was generally capped at €30,000 per house, although special cases could and were being made.
- In general, a housing authority cannot carry out Phase II energy efficiency works until all Phase I are complete. North Tipperary County Council had completed all of its Phase I works prior to the merger, and a case was being made to allow the northern districts proceed to phase II. This would not prevent the completion of phase I in the southern districts.
- The number of housing applicants had increased as a result of the introduction of HAP. All strands of the housing strategy were being used to address housing needs.
- The council had applied to reduce the number of permitted refusals from two to one.
- Dealing with anti-social behaviour was hampered by the need to gather evidence. However, recent changes in legislation had improved matters, and the Director of Service asked that the process be allowed to go through.
- It was agreed to have a workshop on anti-social behaviour, if possible before the proposed workshop on the 27th of October.
- Housing allocations were based on need in the area when a house becomes available. This is a statutory requirement.
- In relation to single people, the major problem is the non availability of suitable accommodation.
- The County Council had been offered 48 houses by NAMA in two locations. There was no housing need in one

location, and the second location was considered unsuitable for social housing.

- Sub standard houses might be bought where there was funding available to bring the house up to standard, and the overall transaction represented value for money.

**Consideration of
Local Economic
and Community
Plan**

Ms Attracta Lyons, Economic Development Officer, outlined the process to date to prepare the plan. Ms Margo Hayes, Community and Enterprise Development Officer, outlined the provisions of the plan in relation to community matters.

The members raised the following issues:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- Level of broadband supply needs to be the same in all towns
- Need for an incubation centre in Carrick-on-Suir

Cllr. David Dunne

- Need for continued social support

Cllr. John Fahey

- Position in relation to implementation of Tourism Trails
- Coverage of Bord Failte's Ancient East

Cllr. Eddie O'Meara

- Measures needed to revitalise villages and town centres

The response was as follows:

- The villages and towns were being addressed through Rural Economic Development Zones and Town Centre Initiatives.
- Broadband will be addressed through the National Broadband Plan through which private operators will be supported.
- A workspace plan is being prepared for the county.
- A map showing that part of Tipperary that is covered by Ireland's ancient east is being prepared.
- A Strategic Marketing Plan for Tourism for the County is being prepared.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kieran Bourke, seconded by Cllr. Louise

McLoughlin and resolved:

That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 66C(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2001, inserted by Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and having considered the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan, and considering it to be consistent with the core strategy and objectives of the development plan and any applicable regional spatial and economic strategy or regional planning guidelines as required by Section 66C(4) of the Local Government Act 2001 (inserted by Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014), the following statement is adopted for consideration by Tipperary County Council:

'The Local Economic and Development plan should contain provisions for the promotion of village and town centres, for equal access to Broadband for all towns in the county, for an incubation centre in Carrick-on-Suir, for the implementation of tourism projects, and for the support of vulnerable families'

- Change in chair** At 15:35 the Cathaoirleach left the meeting, and the chair was taken by Cllr. John Fahey
- District Engineer's Report:** The District Engineers Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and the District Engineer outlined the main items in the report.
- The following matters were raised in relation to the District Engineer's Report:
- Cllr. Kieran Bourke:
- Complemented the District Engineer and her staff on the work that has been done
- Cllr. David Dunne:
- Asked whether the programme would be completed before the end of the year.
- Cllr. John Fahey

- Asked in relation to the bridge in fethard

The District Engineer responded as follows:

- The bridge in Fethard will be progressed
- Black top jobs would be finished by the end of the year. Jobs funded from development levies may continue into next year but funding would not be affected.

**District
Administrator's
Report:**

The District Administrator brought the following items to the members attention:

1. The County Tipperary Draft Polling Scheme had been circulated to the members last week. The scheme is on display in the offices. Representations should be made to the Corporate Services Section, Tipperary County Council, Civil Offices, Clonmel not later than the 30th of November, 2015. Will be adopted by the members at their plenary December or January meeting.
2. Request that a workshop be held to discuss planning matters in advance of the November Meeting at 1:00 pm. This was agreed.
3. The Local Employment Office is advertising a Christmas Retail Support Grant to be spent on advertising, promotion or street entertainment. Grants will be in range €500 to €4,000. Closing date is 6th of November, 2015.
4. In relation to the official opening of Lismolin Bridge, the Minister for transport had been invited, but was not available. Accordingly, the Minister for the Environment had been nominated to perform the opening, which would take place on the 30/11/2015 at 11:00 am
5. WEEE Collections would take place as follows:
 - a. Car park in Fethard, near bottle banks 21/11/2015
 - b. Fairgreen Carpark, Carrick, 21/11/2015

It was agreed to hold the workshop on taking in charge at 1:00 pm

on the 26th of November as requested.

It was also agreed to write again to the Minister for the environment in relation to the opening of Ballylynch regeneration scheme.

**District Amenity
Grants Scheme**

It was proposed by Cllr. David Dunne seconded by Cllr. Kieran Bourke and resolved:

' That considering it be desirable to promote the interests of the local community, grants as outlined below be made pursuant to the provisions of Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Number	Group or Association	Work Assisted	Grant Amount
1	Reen heritage Group, Glengoole	Repair and replace existing fence, provision of platform, purchase grass cutting equipment	€500
2	Collins Park Residents Association, Carrick-on-Suir	Grass cutting and maintenance	€400
3	Ravenswood Residents Association, Carrick-on-Suir	Grass Cutting	€500
4	Killenaule Community Enhancement	Flowerbeds, shrubs,	€500

	Group		
5	Ballylynch Residents Committee, Carrick-on-Suir	Flower planting and waste removal	€250
6	St John Terrace Carrick-on-Suir	Waste Collection and grass curtting	€275
7	Woodview Heights Kilcash	Grass Cutting, Hedge Cutting, maintenance	€365
8	Convent Lane Residents Association, Drangan	Name plate and grass cutting equipment	€500
9	Clairin Residents Association, Carrick-on-Suir	Grass cutting and planting, maintenance of nameplates	€500
10	Treacy Park Residents Group, Carrick-on-Suir	Removal of waste, grass cutting nad purchase of lawn mower	€400
11	Seskin Court Residents Association	Recycling , maintenance and clean up of estate	€250
12	Manor Gate Residents Association	Upkeep of green areas, landscaping.	€400
		Totals	€4,840

**Joint meeting
with the
members for the**

Futher to an invitation from the members for the Piltown Municipal District of Kilkenny County Council, it was agreed to hold a joint meeting subject to an agenda being prepared in advance.

**Piltown
Municipal
District**

**Chief
Executives
Orders**

Notices of

Motion:

The list of Chief Executive Orders circulated was noted.

Cllr. Kieran Bourke No.512

That this Council provide coach parking in the New Street Car Park

It was agreed to defer this motion to the November meeting

Cllr. Louise McLoughlin No.531

That the road from Coolbawn Cross to Sygenstown be re surfaced as the road is in very poor condition and in need of urgent repair.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. David Dunne

The report on this motion was as follows:

Unfortunately, the St Johnstown Road L2303-2 is not on the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works. Therefore, it will not be resurfaced this year. It can be considered for the 2016 programme. In the interim, we will endeavour to carry out patching on this road as necessary.

The report was accepted.

Cllr. David Dunne No.543

That this Council carry out repairs to the footpaths in the older sections of St Mary's Cemetery, Carrick-on-Suir

The notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. Kieran Bourke

The report on the notice of motion is as follows:

'Major repairs to the footpaths will require capital input, and this matter will be considered for inclusion in Tipperary County Council's Environmental Capital programme.'

The report was accepted.

Cllr. David Dunne

No.545

That enforcement take place in relation to dog fouling

The notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. Kieran Bourke

The report on the notice of motion is as follows:

'Allowing a dog to foul a public place is an offence under the Litter Pollution Act, 1990. Tipperary County Council takes a number of actions to discourage this practice including signage, provision of bins, provision of bags and pooper scoopers, and the circulation of leaflets. Any person detected committing this offence by a litter warden will receive an on-the -spot fine of €150 and may be liable to criminal prosecution.'

Cllr. David Dunne, speaking to the motion stated that he had received numerous complaints in relation to this issue. While it was accepted that the dog owner was responsible, he would like to see more enforcement in this area.

Concurring, Cllr. Kieran Bourke asked that the dog warden be asked to patrol Carrick-on-Suir.

The motion was agreed.

Cllr. David Dunne

No.546

That steps be taken to mark navigational hazards on the estuary of the River Suir between Waterford and Carrick-on-Suir

The notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. Kieran Bourke

The report on the notice of motion is as follows:

'There are a number of hazards to navigation between Waterford and Carrick-on-Suir, and it unwise for a pleasure craft to attempt the passage unless the person controlling the vessel is familiar with the river or is under the direction of a person familiar with the river. Most of the passage is outside the jurisdiction of Tipperary County Council, and it is believed that there is no statutory authority under a duty to mark hazards in the channel. In the past a private company installed markers in part of the chanel for thier own activities, but these activities ceased and the markers have not been maintained and are not reliable. The Carrick-on-Suir Development Association are exploring ways in which this issue might be addressed.'

In discussion on this motion it was agreed that the representation of Tipperary County Council on the Waterford Harbour Board be clarified.

The motion was agreed.

Correspondence The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from the Water Services Section in relation to the reporting of complaints to Irish Water.

**Any Other
Business**

Guides at Ormond Castle. Cllr. Kieran Bourke stated that Ormonde Castle had not been included in the advertisement for guides issued by the Office of Public Works.

The District Administrator told the members that he had been informed by the Office of Public Works that because of the uncertainty as to the date of the reopening of Ormond Castle, the office would advertise for guides at a later stage when the opening date was known.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed 
District Administrator

Signed; 
Cathaoirleach

Date: 26/11/2015.