

**Monthly Meeting of the Members for the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District
held via ZOOM on 24 June 2021 at 2.00pm**

In the Chair: Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald

Members Present: Cllr. David Dunne, Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro, Cllr. Kevin O'Meara, Cllr. Kieran Bourke.

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services;
Ms. Marie O'Gorman, District Administrator;
Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer;
Ms. Liz McGrath, Staff Officer;
Ms. Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer, Community & Economic Development;
Mr. Jonathan Cooney, A/Senior Engineer, Housing Capital;
Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer, Housing Capital;
Mr. Seán Lonergan, Administrative Officer, Housing;
Mr. Tony O'Neill, Senior Executive Technician, Housing.

1.0. Welcome

Item 1.1
Summons and Prayer:

The summons was taken as read.

Item 1.1.1.
Suspension of Standing Orders:

On the proposal of Cllr. Kieran Bourke seconded by Cllr. Kevin O'Meara it was resolved to suspend standing orders to permit conduct of the meeting via ZOOM.

Item.1.2.
Conflict of Interest Declaration:

None to record

Item 2.1
Minutes of Monthly District Meeting 27 May 2021:

2.0 Minutes of Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of the 27 May 2021 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro seconded by Cllr. Kevin O'Meara and were signed by the Cathaoirleach.

3.0. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

Item 3.1.
Update from
the
Community and
Economic
Development
Directorate.

A comprehensive report prepared by the Community & Economic Development Directorate was circulated and taken as read. The Cathaoirleach welcome Ms. Margo Hayes attending on behalf of the Community and Economic Development Directorate and she updated in relation to the following schemes; Community and Social Inclusion Section, LEADER funding, CLAR funding, and Community Enhancement Programme.

She indicated that Ballysloe had been nominated in the "Pride of Place" awards, and stated that new PPN officers had been appointed. She further confirmed the position in relation to SICAP, and events around Comhairle na nÓg, Bridgewater House's recent 'Africa Day' held on 25th May 2021, and updated regarding the Migrant Integration Survey and Migrant Strategy.

Technical difficulties causing interruption to Ms. Hayes' connection meant that other matters were suspended pending reconnection.

On resumption of connection, Ms. Hayes informed the meeting of the outdoor dining initiatives throughout the county and outlined the position in relation to Broadband which project was being led by Simon Howe, available to the Members via email simon.howe@tipperarycoco.ie to answer any queries that may arise.

Ms. Hayes noted that a sum of €1,960 was made available to Carrick M.D. for the painting enhancement Scheme 2021 and she updated in relation to the 'Slow Adventure Campaign'.

Concluding her presentation, Ms. Hayes informed the meeting that the Digital Hub at Stable Lane would feature in the "TIPP – THIS PLACE, THIS TIME" publication.

Ms. Hayes then addressed queries raised by the Councillors as follows;

Cllr. David Dunne

- Complimented Bridgewater House on 'Africa Day'.
- Stated that the Government was sending mixed messages regarding the provision of outdoor dining as apparent from scenes depicted in the media.

Cllr. Kevin O'Meara

- Agreed that there was a disconnect with the information being received from Government, citing as an example, the proposal of turning old pubs into 'wi- fi' pubs. The idea was not as generic as the headline suggested.

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- Welcomed the availability of wi fi on the streets of Carrick-on -Suir.

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro

- Enquired if there was funding available for citizens to be trained in technology?

Ms. Hayes undertook to research with LEO and revert.

Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald

- Agreed that there was confusion in relation to the outdoor accessories grant. He informed the meeting that owners of wet pubs only received notification in the previous two days of their eligibility.

Item 3.2.
Update from
the
Housing
Directorate.

A report prepared by the Housing Directorate was circulated and taken as read. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Jonathan Cooney, A/Senior Engineer and Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer of the Housing Capital Section. Mr. Sean Lonergan, Administrative Officer and Mr. Tony O'Neill, Senior Executive Technician also attended presenting their respective reports for consideration.

Members raised issues as follows:

Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald

- Informed the meeting that a number of windows in houses in his area were not of an adequate standard.
- Enquired about the CAS 1 application for Fethard.
- Enquired of the average cost to retrofit a dwelling.

In responding, Mr. J. Cooney A/S.E. undertook to revert in relation to the CAS1 application and advised that bringing a house to B2 standard cost an average €27,000.

Cllr. David Dunne

- Commended work carried out by the Council at Marian Avenue, Carrick on Suir.
- Queried why the Council was not utilising schemes for insulation of dwelling as provided by SEAI.
- Requested that a report be circulated in relation to turnaround of vacant houses
- Wished it to be recorded that he was in full support of the "Housing First" initiative despite his initial scepticism and he wished every success with the programme.

Mr. S. Lonergan, A.O, thanked Cllr. Dunne for his comments and informed that there were currently 12 "Housing First" units in the county. With recent approval from the Department there would be 6 more established in the south of the county and 12 additional units in the north of the county in 2022. He also stated that the programme was not without its difficulties but that its success depended on support from all quarters including that of the elected members.

Cllr. Kevin O'Meara

- Informed the meeting that he was aware of people who wished to purchase their homes but with the onset of COVID they had used their savings and were no longer in a position to avail of the Tenant Purchase scheme. He

considered that there many obstacles for tenants to overcome in seeking to purchase their homes.

- Sought update on new houses under construction at Mullinahone.

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- Enquired about security of tenure for RAS tenants referring to circumstances of a particular case.

Mr. Lonergan, in response indicated that he would revert to Cllr. Bourke in relation to that case.

- Sought information in relation to the programme for the replacement of windows and doors and considered the lack of fairness for some tenants who had been living in their houses all their lifetime and had not had their windows and doors replaced; while new tenants had the benefit of new windows and doors which were replaced while they were waiting to take up their new tenancy.

Responding to these matters, Mr. J. Cooney A/S.E. indicated that the Mullinahone houses were part of a 12-month construction programme due for completion in 2022.

He indicated that windows and doors were replaced in a planned maintenance programme- Phase 1 - rolled out in the 3 southern districts between 2015 and 2020. For Phase 2, rented houses in the 2 northern districts would be upgraded under the 'Midland Retrofit' funding stream which was a government initiative seeking to upgrade 500,000 housing units. By 2022, 130-150 houses would have attained this standard.

Mr. Cooney noted that Districts had carried out similar planned maintenance works at year end when funding became available, and noted that the Department was moving towards a planned maintenance programme instead of the 'voids programme' in 2022; he concluded that this would address some of the concerns raised.

'Repair & Lease Scheme' and 'Buy & Renew Scheme'.

Mr. Tony O'Neill delivered a comprehensive presentation on the topics of the '*Repair & Lease Scheme*' and the '*Buy & Renew Scheme*'. Members raised issues as follows:

Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald

- Complimented the presentation and stated it was a welcome initiative given the number of derelict properties in the county.

Cllr. David Dunne

- Wished Mr. O'Neill well in his new role and stated that he had an important job particularly in light of the County Development Plan.
- Enquired whether there was sufficient financial support for a person to avail of the scheme. He also stated that if the Council could achieve value for money as outlined in the presentation, that would be a positive outcome.
- Enquired about the possibility of using properties that were tied into the *Fair Deal Scheme*.

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- Speaking of his own experience in renovating an apartment, he considered the available €60,000 limit of funding under the scheme to be inadequate.
- He also considered it a disadvantage to be 'locked in' to the local authority.
- Pointed out that a person must hold freehold title to a property and many people were excluded as they were subject to ground rents.
- Enquired if a public representative who was a property owner, could avail of these schemes?

Cllr. Kevin O'Meara

- Requested that a list of the vacant properties in the District be shared with the elected members.
- Considered that the scheme had great potential;
- Enquired if there was a target/ budget assigned to each district.

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro

- Informed the meeting that there were a number of properties which could be targeted in the Carrick M.D.
- Suggested that Tidy Towns groups could be used as a link to assist Mr. O'Neill in identifying property owners and she thanked him for his ongoing support.

In response, Mr. O'Neill indicated that he had one case on hands involving a lien under "*Fair Deal*".

He stated that while the €60,000 was the prevailing limit under the scheme, it was designed merely to fund those elements that would bring a property up to PRTB rather than a total renovation.

Mr. O'Neill stated that he wasn't aware of a target/budget allocation for each District, but in relation to the Buy and Renew Scheme he indicated that if the property were suitable the Council would proceed with it.

He concluded by undertaking to forward FAQ's to the elected members for their information and looked forward to receiving their assistance in identifying owners of properties within their District.

Item 3.3

**District
Engineers
Report:**

The District Engineers report had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and the District Engineer gave an update on various projects.

Members raised issues as follows:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- Sought update in relation to provision of carparking at Orchard Crescent and stated that he was assured that the works would be carried out in 2021
- Welcomed the return to work at Castle Heights and complimented the upgrading of the Blueway.
- Enquired about the status of public street lighting at Comeragh College.

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- Requested a meeting to be convened with the relevant stakeholders in relation to the flood defences.
- Commented that he was happy that debris had been removed from drains but considered that this would result in more water going to the treatment plant as a consequence.
- Enquired about the resurfacing at Rack Hill and Ashpark.
- Indicated that a footpath was required at St. Marys Graveyard.

Cllr. David Dunne.

- Enquired if a disabled survey has ever been carried out in Carrick having particular regard to motorised wheelchairs.
- Enquired about the removal of the vegetation on the flood wall and the spraying of weeds around town.
- Enquired about provision of signage for the Blueway in relation to the use of bells on bicycles.
- Asked that consideration be given to provision of bollards and bins on the Blueway.
- Complimented the build-outs on Main Street
- Supported Cllr. Bourke's request for car parking at Orchard Crescent
- Sought update on road crossing at the Journey man on Sir John's Road.
- Enquired about the policy relating to provision of speed ramps in estates and if, as a district can it be referred to the full Council for further consideration.

Cllr. Kevin O'Meara

- Suggested that there was a risk that the road programme would not be completed by the years end.
- Stated it was essential that the resurfacing of housing estates occurred
- Cllr. O'Meara stated that there were a number of bridges in the County which require attention.
- Enquired about the repair of the cemetery wall at Killaghy Burial Ground.
- Enquired about gaps in the roadworks in Mullinahone and the footpath in Fethard Street, Mullinahone.

- Suggested that representatives from Carrick M.D needed to meet with representatives from Kilkenny County Council in relation to the N76.

Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro

- Enquired if the works at Killenaule School could be completed before the school reopens in September.
- Expressed concern at the speeding issue on the road at the Old Graveyard, Ballingarry and requested that signage be erected to indicate the presence of the burial ground.

Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald

- Complimented Council staff on how well Drangan and Cloneen villages were presented.
- Enquired about the CLAR funding for Drangan School.
- Sought information in relation to monthly cost of providing the new bins.
- Expressed concern about drainage issues on Inchikieran Road, and suggested that Carrick M.D. could be the leader as a district on this matter. He suggested that a survey be carried out towards finding a solution.
- Requested that the District Administrator write to the businesses in Grangemockler to arrange a meeting with them.

In responding to these matters, the District Engineer confirmed as follows;

- The Blueway upgrade just completed was phase 1 and that additional funding would be sought to complete further surfacing.
- The contractor associated with Comeragh College, [BAM] had submitted a query in relation to the public lighting which was being addressed by Mr. Michael Tierney, Roads Section.
- He also indicated that the OPW engineer assigned to this area was not amenable to a meeting being convened. He also clarified that Roads Capital had carried out drain cleaning on the system and tonnes of debris had been

removed. He suggested that this action may be part of the solution.

- He undertook to ascertain if there was funding available for the car park at Orchard Crescent and to check the position with regard to Rack Hill and Ashpark.
- Mr. Corby stated that he would liaise with the Environment Section and revert in relation to provision of footpath at St. Mary's Cemetery.
- Informed the meeting that 'Capta Simmons' funding stream was generally available and he would check if there is any available to carry out survey in Carrick on Suir.
- He undertook to follow up on the vegetation, weed spraying and signage, and informed that there were access difficulties associated with collection of bins on the Blueway; notwithstanding, he undertook to liaise with the Clonmel Borough District in relation to this matter.
- Clarified that it was Council policy not to provide speed ramps in housing estates; however, the first step in assessing their requirement was the carrying out of a speed survey
- Mr. Corby indicated that he would check if there was funding available for surfacing in housing estates.
- Indicated that was aware of those bridges that needed attention.
- Confirmed that a contractor had been engaged to plaster the wall at Killaghy Burial Ground
- Undertook to address gaps in the roadworks at Fethard Street Mullinahone and informed that there was IPB funding available for footpaths
- W.C. stated he would liaise with the contractor to arrange for completion of works at Killenaule before school resumed in September.
- Undertook to follow up on provision of signage at Ballingarry Burial Ground.

In concluding, the District Engineer undertook to follow the drainage matter at Inchikieran Road, and indicated that he would have a report prepared for the July meeting on cost of replacing new bins

Item 3.4

District

Administrators

Report:

The District Administrator brought the following issues to the attention of the members:

Tipperary County Council were successful in their grant application for funding under the Community Monuments Fund, in the sum of €19,680. The funding, provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was for the preparation of a conservation plan for the clock tower in Carrick-on-Suir.

The members responded as follows:

Cllr. Kieran Bourke

- Complimented District Administrator on the accurate minute circulated following the meeting with Minister Butler.
- Complimented the feasibility study which was commissioned for the Bog Field in Carrick Beg.

Cllr. David Dunne

- Expressed his satisfaction in relation to the feasibility study prepared for the Bog Field and welcomed the funding obtained for the Clock Tower plan.

Cllr Kevin O'Meara

- Acknowledged the progress in relation to the Bog Field.

The District Administrator informed the meeting that she would revert to the members regarding the feasibility study.

Item 3.5

General

Municipal

Allocation

Update:

A schedule of 5 no. community grants which were eligible for grant assistance (previously circulated) were recommended for approval by the District Administrator. The awarding of the grants was proposed by Cllr. Kevin O'Meara, seconded by Cllr. David Dunne and agreed.

A schedule of 8 no. tidy towns grants which were eligible for grant assistance (previously circulated) were recommended for approval by the District Administrator. The awarding of the grants was proposed by Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro, seconded by Cllr. Kevin O'Meara and agreed.

Item 3.6

**Assistance of
Bodies under
Section 66 of
the Local
Government Act
2001.**

A schedule of 6 no. burial ground grants which were eligible for grant assistance (previously circulated) were recommended for approval by the District Administrator. The awarding of the grants was proposed by Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro, seconded by Cllr. David Dunne and agreed.

4.0 Chief Executive / Delegated Employee Orders

Chief Executive/Delegated Employee Orders as circulated were noted as follows;

Item 4.1

**DEO number
25905**

Section 254 Licence for the placement of tables and chairs on the public footpath outside the Carraig Hotel, Main Street, Carrick-on-Suir from 1st June to 30th September 2021.

The position was noted.

Item 5.1.

5.0 Correspondence

Acknowledgement from Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley TD dated 4 June 2021 re motion 2176 tabled by Councillor I. Goldsboro – duly noted.

Item 5.2.

A letter from Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer with Kilkenny County Council leading the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project concerning the 2 – year period for the route selection stage was discussed.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Dunne and seconded by Cllr. M. Fitzgerald to arrange a meeting with Kilkenny Council to discuss the proposed N24.

Item 6.1.

6.0 Any Other Business

**Carrick on Suir
RRDF Project:**

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Service referred to the recent webinar which took place on the 16th June and he acknowledged all involved. He notified those in attendance that the webinar video was uploaded to www.tipperarycoco.ie website and that a comment box facility was included should members of the public have any questions or comments.

He also informed of his intention to arrange a meeting with members of Carrick on Suir Business Association, presenting them with an opportunity to clarify any issues in relation to the proposal.

Given that the application date was brought forward, it would now be necessary to commence the Part 8 in July in order for the matter to be listed on the September 2021 monthly agenda for decision.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



District Administrator



Cathaoirleach

22 JULY, 2021

Date

