

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District held via ZOOM at 2:00pm on the 27th January 2022.

In the Chair: Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald

Members

Present: Cllr. Kieran Bourke, Cllr. D. Dunne, Cllr. I. Goldsboro, Cllr. K. O'Meara.

Apologies: None

Attending:

**Carrick on Suir
Municipal District**

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services;
Ms. Marie O'Gorman, District Administrator;
Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer;
Ms. Liz McGrath, Staff Officer.

Directorates:

**Environment &
Climate Action**

Ms. Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer;
Ms. Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer;
Mr. Ruairí Boland, Senior Executive Engineer.

**Culture, Library
Services and Fire &
Emergency Services**

Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian.
Dave Carroll, Chief Fire Officer

**Road Transportation
& Infrastructure**

Mr. Liam Brett, Senior Engineer.

Welcome and introduction

Item 1.1.

**Summons and
Prayer.**

The summons was taken as read.

Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Council.

Item 1.2.

**Conflict of Interest
Declaration.**

None to record.

Item 1.3.

**Suspension of
Standing Orders.**

On the proposal of Cllr I. Goldsboro, seconded by Cllr. K. O'Meara, it was unanimously agreed to suspend standing orders in order to permit the meeting to proceed via 'zoom'.

Consideration of Minutes

Item 2.1.

**Minutes of the
Monthly meeting
of CoSMD held on
the 16/12/21**

The minutes of the Carrick on Suir Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on the 16th December 2021 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. I. Goldsboro, seconded by Cllr. K. O'Meara and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

3.1.

Report of Environment & Climate Action Directorate:

The report from the Environment & Climate Action Directorate, duly circulated, was taken as read. Following consideration of same the elected Members raised matters and concerns as follows:

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Sought report [*in due course*] in relation to conditions of licensed dumping site adjacent to the N24 at Pill Road addressing the following queries;
(a) whether EIS was carried out or required prior to issuing licence in this case; (b) were there conditions applied requiring the site to be prepared to receive waste in advance of commencement? (c) what measures were in place to prevent 'seepage' to groundwaters in context that waste disposal related to skip hire? (d) were there any controls in place to monitor the activity? (e) was it permitted to have stockpiled waste visible from the road? (f) was planning permission required for this facility and (g) what were conditions attaching to same?

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- With less negative reportage over the airwaves recently in relation to fly-tipping, he commended the Council's efforts and measures taken to deal with the problem;
- Suggested that new initiatives were called for in relation to dog-fouling.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald:

- Requested that robust 'litter pickers' be provided to Tidy Towns Groups as those available locally were of poor quality.
- Reported that signage placed at Fethard bottle banks was obstructed and asked that it be cleared.
- Queried [*hypothetically*] whether footage taken by members of the public, of persons permitting their dogs to soil in public area(s) would be admissible evidence to facilitate a prosecution of such case by the Council.

Cllr I. Goldsboro:

- Queried when the National Spring Clean was due to commence.

Cllr. K. O'Meara:

- Stated that there was no impact from signage prohibiting dog-fouling and suggested that prosecution was the only way to get the message across.

- Queried whether there were adequate supplies in stock for Tidy Towns groups participating in the National Spring Clean.

Ms. Marion O' Neill responded as follows:

- Confirmed that she was aware of the site adjacent to the N24 and indicated that proceedings were initiated in this case; she undertook to revert to Cllr Bourke directly on the matter.
- Confirmed that the "National Spring Clean Campaign" would be launched in early March and would be accompanied by promotional activities rolled out by the Environment Section; she also confirmed that litter pickers and gloves would be provided as requested.
- Referred to recent public awareness initiatives which highlighted many issues but particularly littering issues in scenic areas; it was intended to provide customised signage at 5 or 6 identified scenic sites to increase public awareness.
- Informed that the Council had provided high-vis vests during 2021 with printed slogan "*My dog supports a clean environment*" as part of awareness campaign tackling the issue of dog fouling.
- Confirmed that evidence used in prosecutions must be obtained by the Dog Warden – as legislation required to establish proof of ownership and production of dog licence etc. She undertook to forward the relevant legislation, which was considered inadequate.

Ms. Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer, stated that under normal conditions, Environment Staff members went out on the ground to make dog owners aware of their responsibilities and it was intended that with the lifting of Covid restrictions, more of those initiatives would take place in the coming months.

Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer referred to the successful piloting of 12 solar compactor (Big Belly) bins in the Carrick on Suir MD, noting that it was intended to continue with their use. There were 8 bins trialled in Carrick on Suir, 2 in Fethard and 1 each in Mullinahone and Killenaule. The company conducting the pilot was successful in a recent procurement process and it was intended to purchase those already in place and to close out the pilot. He stated that he would consider how best to progress the initiative and thanked the staff of the Environment Section for their work in this area and for the funding allocation associated with same.

Cllr D. Dunne, requested a report on the results of the trialling of the 'Big Belly' bins, and reiterated his request for the placing of a litter bin at Carrickbeg. Councillors Fitzgerald and Goldsboro requested provision of 'Big Belly' bins at Drangan and Ballingarry respectively.

Item 3.2.

Attendance from Culture & Library Services and Fire & Emergency Services Directorate:

Culture & Library Services

A detailed report on the recent activities of the Library Services as circulated was taken as read and welcomed by the elected Members.

Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian, proceeded to inform that with restrictions in place, the library services had increased their virtual presence and gained 1000's of new customers from home and abroad. It was hoped to retain those new customers and he envisaged that a 'hybrid' model would prevail – both 'in-person' attendance while maintaining their digital presence.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, welcomed the re-opening of services and conveyed best of luck to Mr. Dullaghan and staff on behalf of the elected members.

Fire & Emergency Services

Mr. Dave Carroll, Chief Fire Officer attended the meeting. Responding to a query from Cllr. D. Dunne regarding the protocol for summoning the Fire Brigade in the event of an oil spillage, he clarified that the Fire Brigade had no control over calls placed to the Regional Control Centre, via 999/112 calls. He confirmed that Gardaí or members of the public could instigate such a call, and that it was mainly the Roads Section who would respond initially to an out-of-hours call, and in turn would summon the appropriate fire brigade.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Fire Officer for his clarification.

Item 3.3.

District Engineer's Report.

Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer indicated that the Roads Allocation for 2022 was not yet notified and he took the opportunity to review the 2021 Road Programme which was substantially completed. He committed to present his draft Roads Programme to the March 2022 monthly meeting for adoption, noting that he would endeavour to incorporate as many of the Councillors' requests as possible.

Mr. Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, Roads Directorate, provided updates on the Council's efforts to secure additional resources, liaising with various funding streams to supplement budgets where possible. He noted that a very healthy allocation of €6.6m was secured under the Active Travel Programme and the Council's agenda of projects compared very well with those of other local authorities. He indicated that the Department of Transport allocation was imminent and that an increase in the allocation was expected.

3.3./

Referring to the Local Improvement Scheme, Mr. Brett encouraged the Councillors to prompt their constituents to apply under this funding stream.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Expressed her appreciation of the challenges associated with provision of pedestrian crossing at Killenaule.
- Requested that consideration be given to including traffic calming at Crosscannon and at River Street, Killenaule in the programme.
- Sought attention for the Bridge at the Creamery at Ballingarry, which appeared to be 'hit' regularly.
- Stated that the surface at R691 at Ballingarry Creamery needed urgent attention – its condition was particularly concerning in wet conditions and the cause of 'near misses'.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Requested that consideration be given to providing traffic calming solution to address speeding at Lisadobber.
- Welcomed impending works to Cláirín Bridge; requested that attention be given to the footbridge at Árd Mhuire-Collins Park. Referring to the recent Tipperary – v – Wexford match hosted at the Swan Club grounds, he deplored its condition and suggested that it needed regular cleaning.
- Reported that ESB tree-cutting practices left half the trees insitu which was unsightly and unacceptable, particularly at the rear of the Fairgreen.
- Deplored the condition of the N24 at the Pill Road with markings blacked out, mini roundabout invisible; he witnessed a jeep drive right over the central island at Aldi which would have caused significant damage to an ordinary car.
- Requested examination of the entrance and exit at Supervalu car park, the site of 'near misses'.
 - Requested that consideration be given to providing markings on the Suir Blūeway to identify distances, as are provided on the Kilmeaden-to-Waterford leg of the Greenway, providing great assistance for emergency services in the event of accident or injury.

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Concerned that there was a short window remaining to complete tree pruning and urged early completion of the programme, in view of interference from trees to householders in vicinity of St. Mary's Cemetery.
- Reported malfunctioning public lighting on the N24 Clonmel Road.
- Queried when works to the N24 would start. Deplored the condition of the road at O'Mahoney Avenue and Pill Road. Referred to trench

3.3/

cut by Irish Water Contractors 2 years ago which required patching in the interim. Stated that this was an ongoing saga since 2014 – urged Senior Engineer to put pressure on TII to commence without further delay.

- Queried whether the commitment to deliver car parking spaces at Orchard Crescent would proceed in the current year

Cllr. K. O'Meara:

- Condemned the government decision to drop the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project. He considered the condition of the road made it a priority and expressed the opinion that it created an embarrassing first impression of the South East to tourists and other road users accessing via Rosslare.
- Referring to the imminent TII project for the N76, he requested that advance notice be given to businesses in Grangemockler of the commencement of the works/diversions.

Cllr M. Fitzgerald

- Queried when NTA-funded lights would be installed at Cloneen village.
- Suggested that consideration be given to developing looped walks within Coillte-owned lands. Giving Slievenamon as an example, he noted that there was no proper signage in place. Many of the country roads were too dangerous for walkers.

In response, Mr. Corby noted the above comments and stated that he would examine the issues raised in an effort to address same.

Mr. Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, stated that he understood the Councillors' frustration in relation to the N24 contract and while progress had been made, it was not at the rate that was wished.

He indicated that the Active Travel funding stream would be put to best use to supplement town funding that was required to be diverted to address rural 'red' roads over coming period, noting that of the €1,021,000 drawn down, it was mostly spent in town areas.

Item 3.4.
District
Administrator's
Report.

Littleton Labyrinth

The District Administrator informed the meeting that it was intended to commence the Part 8 Planning Process for the Littleton Labyrinth with publication of statutory notices in mid-Feb. With the public display of 4 weeks and 2 weeks thereafter for receipt of submissions and observations, it was likely to be placed on the agenda for the

April monthly meeting. She clarified that because the project spanned two separate municipal districts, it would be presented to the Plenary Council for consideration and adoption. This was welcomed by the elected Members.

Festivals and Events Grants Scheme 2022

The District Administrator noted that the deadline for receipt of applications under the Festivals and Events Grants Scheme 2022 administered by the Arts Office was initially advertised as the 28th January. However, she informed that the deadline was extended for a further 2 weeks to the 11th February 2022, and that the details were published on www.tipperarycoco.ie. This was noted.

Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme 2022

The elected Members were informed of the revised Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme for 2022 currently advertised in print media, on social media and on www.tipperarycoco.ie. It was noted that material was also circulated to all auctioneers and solicitors within the County to publicise the incentives available to reopen retail or office-based businesses with a specific focus on targeting new business.

Joint Meeting of Piltown MD and Carrick on Suir MD

The District Administrator referred to contact received from Mr. Michael Arthurs, District Administrator at Piltown Municipal District seeking to arrange a joint meeting of the respective Municipal Districts. Similar contact took place between the respective Cathaoirlioh. It was proposed by Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne and unanimously agreed that the meeting would proceed and be conducted 'in-person' on the 2nd February 2022 at 10:00am.

The District Administrator indicated that meeting summons and agenda would issue from Piltown Municipal District accordingly.

Item 3.5. General Municipal Allocation 2022

Referring to discussion which took place at a Councillors' workshop earlier on even date, the District Administrator summarised the proposal for management of the 2022 general municipal allocation of €116,197 as follows:

Community Grants Scheme (<i>approx. 40 groups</i>)	€50,000
Community Festivals-	€10,000
- <i>Ballynonty Field Festival, Fethard Summer Festival,</i>	
- <i>Kickham Country Festival, Ballylynch Festival</i>	
Municipal Festivals (<i>Clancy Festival</i>)	€2,500

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Multi District Festivals & Events	€1,000
- <i>Tipperary Age-Friendly Bealtaine Festival</i>	
- <i>Tipperary Mental Health Festival</i>	
Feasibility study for community CCTV for Carrick on Suir	€5,000

It was recommended that the balance should be utilised to provide

- match-funding to support applications under respective funding streams such as ORIS [*Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme*], Town and Village Renewal projects, Active Travel Schemes, RRDF Cat 1 and 2 projects;
- leverage funding from bodies such as Arts Council, Heritage Council;
- contribute to traffic analysis in order to move forward on progression of Coolnamuck Master Plan;

It was proposed by Cllr. I, Goldsboro, seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne and unanimously agreed to proceed as recommended.

It was further agreed that a monthly report would be provided in relation to expenditure under this heading.

Chief Executive's/Delegated Officers' Orders

Item 4.1 - 4.3

Delegated Officers' Orders 28566, 28433 and 28647 as circulated were duly noted.

Correspondence

Item 5.1.

Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications National Broadband Plan Newsletter_ Winter 2021 was noted.

Any Other Business

Item 6.1

Resumption of In-Person Monthly meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne and unanimously agreed that the February 2022 monthly meeting would be held 'in-person' at the Municipal District Office

Item 6.2.

Correspond with Minister for Transport

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne and agreed to write to the Minister for Transport to protest in the strongest possible terms his decision to scrap funding from the N24 Waterford to Cahir Upgrade Project (*notwithstanding that the Plenary Council was*

seeking a face to face meeting with the Minister in relation to this matter).

Item 6.3.

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022 at Carrick on Suir

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. D. Dunne informed all present that the St. Patrick's Day Parade would be going ahead in Carrick on Suir this year, with a theme of celebrating frontline workers and commemorating all those lost to Covid-19.

Item 6.4.

Campaign to reopen St. Brigid's Hospital, Carrick on Suir

Cllr. D. Dunne also availed of the opportunity to highlight that Conor Kane of RTÉ had contacted the committee involved in the campaign to reopen St. Brigid's Hospital Carrick on Suir and that the RTÉ crew would attend at the hospital grounds at 12 noon on Saturday 29th January to provide coverage of the campaign.

Item 6.5.

Mullinahone Junior Ladies Football

Cllr. K. O'Meara, with the permission of the Cathaoirleach conveyed best wishes to Mullinahone Junior Ladies football in their upcoming challenge in the All-Ireland Final. Cllr. M. Fitzgerald joined in the well wishes, applauding their marvellous achievement.

This concluded the business of the meeting. (15:50)



District Administrator



Cathaoirleach

24th February 2022

