

Minutes of September Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 26th September 2022 at 11am

Members Present: Councillor Micheál Anglim, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Tony Black
Councillor Declan Burgess
Councillor John Crosse
Councillor Michael FitzGerald
Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan
Councillor Roger Kennedy
Councillor Máirín McGrath
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

Officials Present: Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Administrator
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. Paul Farrell, Executive Engineer
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer
Planning Directorate
Ms. Anne Marie Devaney, A/Senior Planner
Mr. Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Jonathan Flood, A/Senior Executive Planner
Water Services Directorate
Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Micheál Anglim, welcomed everyone to the September Municipal District meeting. Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer. He called the roll and confirmed that all the Municipal District members were present at the meeting.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

2.1 Minutes of July Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on 25th July, 2022

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District July meeting held on 25th July, 2022 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor John Crosse seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

Matters arising from the minutes

Councillor Moloney requested an update in relation to the request sent to Local Link to extend their service and an update in relation to the roundabout at Super Valu. A response has been received from Local Link in relation to Councillor Moloney's Notice of Motion and is attached under 7.3 – Correspondence. In relation to the roundabout at SuperValu the District Engineer confirmed that a traffic count is ongoing at present and Active Travel will have regard to this when considering design options.

3.1 Planning Directorate Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Anne Marie Devaney, Mr. Kieran Ladden and Mr. Jonathan Flood, Planning Section, to the meeting. Mr. Flood thanked the Cathaoirleach and advised the members that Tipperary County Council's Development Plan has been adopted. Ms. Devaney briefed the members on the Residential Zoned Land Tax which was introduced under the Finance Act, 2021 and will come into effect from January, 2024. The Planning Section are currently preparing draft maps which will go on public display from November, 2022 to January, 2023. Following the consultation phase a supplementary map will be prepared and put on display until June, 2023. There is also provision for appeals to An Bord Pleanala. Following the draft and supplementary stage the final map will be prepared by December, 2023 and a landowner will be liable for the tax from the 1st January, 2024. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) noted that according to the Tipperary Development Plan there is zoned land, serviced land, town centre, mixed use land and she asked if they will all be subject to the levy. She also asked if derelict sites are exempt. Ms Devaney confirmed the levy will apply to land with roads, footpaths, water services, zoned and suitable for housing. The Planning Report had been circulated to the members and questions were invited. Councillor Moloney requested clarification regarding a Regional Strategic Road for example the old N8 and if a sibling has nowhere to go other than a regional road are they required to have a shared entrance. Mr. Flood referred to Policy 13 relating to a Strategic Regional Road, where the Council will consider an application, if there is an economic need, social need etc. Social need is defined as residing in a rural area, within 5km of the site for longer than 10 years. Councillor Fitzgerald and Councillor Hanna-Hourigan requested clarification regarding medical need which should be in line with national guidance. Ms. Devaney confirmed that medical need is included as per national guidance.

It was agreed to deal with the taking in charge of West Meadows, Boherlahan, Cashel whilst Planning Section staff were present at the meeting.

3.3 Consider Director of Services Report on Proposed Taking in Charge of West Meadows, Boherlahan, Cashel, Co Tipperary.

The taking in charge of West Boherlahan was approved on the proposition of Councillor Declan Burgess seconded by Councillor Andy Moloney.

Mr. Kieran Ladden confirmed that a number of estates have been advertised for taking in charge within the District including, The Woodlands, Barnora, Cahir, The Avenue, Barnora, Cahir and Cluain Arra, Bansha. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) requested an update on An Chuir, Monard, Glen Court, Emly and Dun N'Or, Donaskeigh. Councillor Crosse requested a response from planning staff in relation to a recent change in the Development Plan which would have implications for a development in Donohill. He noted that the density levels have been reduced from 4-5 houses to 2-3 houses and therefore the proposed development would be no longer viable. Mr. Flood agreed to discuss this with Councillor Crosse after the meeting.

Mr. Ladden confirmed that the street lights are functioning in Glen Court and they are liaising with the owners to overcome the outstanding issues. Ryan Hanley have been engaged by Irish Water to find a technical solution to the DPIs in Monard and Donaskeigh. There is no mechanism to take in charge an estate without a Site Resolution Plan. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) asked if the developer is still involved in Donaskeigh and Mr. Ladden confirmed that legally the owner is involved and is responsible for the development until it is taken in charge.

Councillor Fitzgerald referred to Rock Springs in Kilross and the huge support from the Councillors for the developer of this estate. The developer has everything in place and through no fault of his own the estate cannot be taken in charge. Mr. Denis Holland has been in contact with Irish Water who visited the site and while it is progressing it is very slow and the residents will have no street lights for the winter.

Councillor Crosse advised the members that the developer in Donaskeigh has finished, however the landowner is willing to process the matter and he asked if a meeting could be facilitated. Councillor Burgess thanked the Planning Team for the report and asked when work on the LAP for Cashel will commence. He was delighted to see West Meadows taken in charge by the Council and he requested that The Steeples and Deerpark could be progressed. He also referred to Caiseal Na Ri and the area at the entrance to the site which was used as a site office by the developer. This area is no longer secure and is a health and safety issue. He also referred to the top of the site bordering Deerpark where there is mesh on the wall which is very dangerous.

Mr. Ladden confirmed that a CCTV survey was carried out at The Steeples and the Council is in contact with the developer regarding works to be undertaken. Any infrastructural defects will be dealt with as part of a planning application. Mr. Ladden agreed to liaise with the developer in relation to Caiseal Na Ri. Mr. Ladden deferred to Mr Denis Holland, Senior Engineer, Water Services regarding Rock Springs and he outlined the issues to date. He confirmed that this is a national issue and Irish Water together with the Water Unit of the Department are trying to find a solution. Councillor Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Holland.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Planning Section staff.

3.2 Water Services Directorate Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Denis Holland to the meeting. Mr. Holland advised the members that the Boil Water Notice on the Galtee Water Supply was lifted last Friday evening. He confirmed that he would take any questions the Councillors may have.

Councillor Moloney welcomed the plans for the Cahir Wastewater Treatment Plant by Irish Water. However, he is disappointed that he again had to raise the issue regarding reinstatement works not being carried out on private property and the issue is ongoing with two years. Councillor Hanna Hourigan requested that Colin Cunningham, Irish Water would make himself available to answer questions in the Chamber. She stated that it was appalling the way Councillors are being treated by Irish Water. Councillor Murphy referred to Lois Mhuire, Clogheen and the number of times issues have been reported and the significant amount of money spent to free blocked drains. She confirmed that the residents have sent a petition to Irish Water and the Director of Service. Councillor Anglim also wanted to support Councillor Murphy on this issue. Councillor Crosse wanted to support Councillor Hanna Hourigan and noted that Irish Water's communication with the public is very poor, particularly relating to the recent Boil Water Notice. He also noted that no tankards were provided. Councillor Kennedy stated that older people who don't use social media are particularly vulnerable and they should be contacted directly. Councillor Fitzgerald noted that we are not long after the previous Boil Water Notice was issued, and will this now be the case after every downpour of rain resulting in a Boil Water Notice. It seems to be happening too often. All the members supported Councillor Hanna-Hourigan's call for Colin Cunningham to attend a meeting. It was agreed to deal with Councillor Declan Burgess' Notice of Motion at this stage because it related to the ongoing issues with the Galtee Water Supply.

5.8 Councillor Declan Burgess (Ref ID 2475)

That this Municipal District writes to Irish Water management seeking a detailed report on the ongoing issues of Galtee Water Supply, the report should include a breakdown on the issues detected in the area and to outline any plans of upgrades to the infrastructure.

Reply

Subject to the agreement of Members the Municipal District will write to Irish Water seeking a detailed report on the ongoing issues with Galtee Water Supply, including a breakdown of the issues detected in the area and any plans of upgrades to the infrastructure.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy who noted that Irish Water are disregarding everyone, and he referred to his previous requests for a map showing the different water supplies.

In response Mr. Holland confirmed that work on Cahir Wastewater Treatment Plant should commence Q1 2023. He also acknowledged delays experienced by private householders in having reinstatement works carried out, however he confirmed that Irish Water have now put a Reinstatement Framework in place. In relation to Councillor Hanna Hourigan's request he advised that Irish Water held a workshop in April, however it was poorly attended. He advised the members to invite Irish Water to attend a meeting, however noted that issues with bills could not be discussed in a public forum. In relation to Lois Mhuire, Clogheen, he confirmed that this is a drainage issue and not a problem for Irish Water. Regarding Councillor Crosse's comments about communicating the Boil Water Notices he will pass on the members' concerns to Irish Water. If tankards were to be provided the water would still need to be boiled, however if it was an outage, tankards would be made available. Mr. Holland agreed to put a request to Irish Water for a colour coded map showing the water supply areas. He also confirmed that when a Boil Water Notice is issued the reason is normally given. He advised the members that once the Irish Water Amendment Bill is enacted Irish Water will be known as Uisce Eireann. Councillor Hanna Hourigan requested a special meeting with Irish Water not a District meeting.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Holland and the Water Services Section.

3.4 To agree three (3) priority national roads items for this District, for inclusion on the agenda for annual meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Councillor Anglim requested that Ardfinnan Bridge be placed on the agenda and this was supported by Councillor Murphy. Councillor Moloney recommended that work to Knockagh Roundabout be on the agenda. He noted that the barriers were replaced, however were hit again at the weekend. He stated that the roundabout needs to be realigned and the road surface from the Apple Farm to the roundabout need to be improved. Councillor McGrath requested clarification on who is responsible for hedge cutting. Councillor Fitzgerald wanted the N24 and N74 to also be placed on the agenda.

3.5 District Engineer's Report

James Swords, District Engineer, updated Members on the Roads Programme. He confirmed that the surface dressing is complete. Councillor Burgess thanked the team and asked when the work in Boherlahan is due to be completed. He also requested an update on the Knockavilla Streetscape Design. He asked if there was a programme for cleaning gullies, particularly on Cathal Brugha Street and Friar Street. Councillor Hanna Hourigan thanked the team and noted the great service that the team provide. Councillor Murphy also agreed with Councillor Hanna Hourigan and asked when the safety scheme in Clogheen would be progressed.

The District Engineer advised that a design has to be prepared Knockavilla and it may be Q2, 2023 before any proposed work will commence. Council outdoor

staff are monitoring gullies in their areas especially given the time of year. Councillor Black referred to a previous motion from Councillor Ryan (Shiner) in relation to Aherlow Heights. He advised that residents have raised concerns regarding speeding in the evening time and he has spoken to the Gardai on the issue. The District Engineer confirmed that a speed check was carried out and it didn't raise any concerns. Councillor Moloney wanted clarification on what percentage of non-compliance would be considered a priority. The District Engineer confirmed that we are focusing on areas with V85s significantly higher than the speed limit. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) advised that this area will potentially be used as the detour for the N74 upgrade works, therefore speed cushions should be upgraded. The District Engineer confirmed that a contractor has been appointed to carry out upgrade works, and these are due to start by the middle of October. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) also referred to a previous motion she had in relation to upgrading the toilet in Market Yard. The District Administrator confirmed that an application for funding has been submitted under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

3.6 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda. The District Administrator advised the members that a workshop for owners and leaseholders of vacant properties in Tipperary Town Centre is due to be held on 6th October in the Excel Centre from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. The event will provide information on supports and incentives to bring vacant properties back into use. Councillor Moloney wanted to acknowledge and thank the Municipal District staff including Paul Farrell and Verena McGrath for the work on Inch Field and the application for the Green Flag. To be awarded the Green Flag was a huge achievement and a great collaboration between different business people and community groups and it will bring a lot more people to the Inch Field. Councillor Murphy wanted to thank the District Engineer for the work done on the Black Road car park because this is used by emergency services who need to access the Galtee mountains. Mr. Paul Farrell noted that there is a drainage issue further up the mountain that will need to be addressed to avoid future damage to the road. Councillor Burgess wanted to acknowledge the progress on the Bishop's Walk which is needed to link The Rock to the town centre. Councillor McGrath also wanted to acknowledge the work on the Black Road.

The District Administrator noted that it was great recognition for Cahir's Inch Field to be awarded the first Green Flag in County Tipperary. In relation to the Bishop's Walk the Council is liaising with the Department and the National Monuments Service. Weather permitting it is hoped to be on site before the end of the year. Councillor Crosse requested that the District resurface the road between Donohill and Crossayle because cars are being damaged. The District Engineer confirmed that funding is an issue because the road would need to be reconstructed. Councillor Hanna-Hourigan supported Councillor Crosse and noted that it was a small section of the road.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Marie Murphy (Ref. ID 2458)

That the Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District contact ESB Networks calling for the immediate installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in all the towns and villages of the district. As part of this motion and to ensure that the request to ESB Networks is based on evidence, I would like this district to compile a list of all EV charging points across the district which are available to the public to use.

Reply

ESB Ecars have been contacted in relation to their proposals for rollout of electric vehicle chargers in the Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District and have agreed to send information on where ESB plan to install more EV charge points in the coming years. The locations of these are dependent on the amount of power available in the local ESB network and on projected need for EVCPs in each area.

It is important to note the ESB is not the only provider of EV charge points with companies such as Tesla, Ionity and EasyGo also installing EV charge points for use by the public.

Tipperary County Council is liaising with various companies on their plans to install EV charge points for use by the public in carparks in Tipperary and the Council has also installed Council owned EVCPs in carparks in Clonmel, Thurles and Nenagh. However, the focus for all Local Authorities in Ireland is to target areas where people live in apartment blocks or terraced housing and where they do not have a private parking space adjoining their property to locate a charge points. Companies such as Lidl, Circle K, hotels and shopping centres are also in the process of installing EV charge points on their properties.

The locations of the public use EVCPs are available on google maps and on the following links

<https://esb.ie/what-we-do/ecars>

www.easygo.ie

<https://ionity.eu/network/network-status>

<https://www.tesla.com/findus/list/superchargers/Ireland>

This motion was seconded by Councillor Andy Moloney. He noted the big tourist numbers coming to Cahir and Cashel and recommended that the district be proactive not reactive. He advised that he had been contacted by the tourism company who organise motorcycle tours and when planning tours they have to consider the price of hotels and if charging points are available. The District Administrator advised that they are a number of private operators and the road section are looking at potential locations.

5.2 Councillor Declan Burgess (Ref ID 2459)

That this MD installs a water tap at the upper part of Cormac's Cemetery in Cashel. This would greatly benefit older citizens while visiting and maintaining loved one's graves.

Reply

We understand there is already a water connection installed at the entrance to Cormac's Cemetery and to extend this connection from the entrance to the upper part of the cemetery would give rise to considerable cost and disruption. Response from Environment and Climate Action Section.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Fitzgerald.

5.3 Councillor Michael Fitzgerald (Ref ID 2466)

That this Council give an update on any developments to provide a burial ground in the Monard/Solohead area as this has been an ongoing issue for many years.

Reply

Site suitability assessments were previously carried out on various sites in Solohead and Monard, but all sites were deemed unsuitable for the function of a graveyard. However, the Environment & Climate Action Section, in conjunction with local Burial Ground Committee are currently exploring alternative sites.

Councillor Fitzgerald spoke to Ruairi Boland and he noted that people have a right to be buried in their own place. This motion was seconded by Councillor Hanna Hourigan.

5.4 Councillor Michael Fitzgerald (Ref ID 2467)

That this Municipal District look at the possibility of providing a walkway/cycleway from the monument at Ballyhurst to St Michael's Cemetery. This could easily be achieved now with the roadway realignment works which are currently taking place and there is ample space to provide a 5km loop.

Reply

The provision of a walkway/cycleway from the monument at Ballyhurst to St Michaels Cemetery along the N74 is unlikely to be approved nor funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for safety and cost reasons primarily. A scheme of this nature would essentially be running along the N74 national road where the speed limit is 80km/h and the provision of this infrastructure would require significant land and property acquisition to get the required safe set back from the road. There are some major constraints on the N74 between the Ballyhurst

monument and Saint Michael's Cemetery in any case which would make such a project unfeasible. A scheme of this nature does not come under the remit of the NTA as it is outside the urban 50km/h zone. Please note that footpaths will be provided in conjunction with the N74 Fr Matthew Street Improvement Scheme including a footpath between St Michael's Cemetery and the east end of the scheme on the Cashel approach.

Councillor Fitzgerald expressed his disappointment with the reply and suggested that the Road Section explore the possibility and highlighted that the walkway at the entrance to Cashel which has become a great asset. Councillor Kennedy advised that the walkway in Cashel was developed over a number of years. This motion was seconded by Councillor Annmarie Ryan (Shiner).

5.5 Councillor Annmarie Ryan (Shiner) (Ref ID 2468)

That this District widen the footpath that runs by An Duiche, Scallagheen, to allow for people to pass without stepping onto the road. This is a very popular walking route within the town with significant footfall. Also, to explore whether provision for a cycle lane could be included in the works.

Reply

The location is noted and an application for funding will be considered by the District at the next round of Active Travel applications.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan.

5.6 Councillor Annmarie Ryan (Shiner) (Ref ID 2469)

That this District collaborate with relevant stakeholders to enhance and maintain the condition of both the actual river and the embankments between Tipperary Co-op and the new River Ara Walkway.

Reply

The Municipal District have been liaising with staff of Inland Fisheries and Local Authority Waters Programme and Tipperary Tidy Towns in relation to the River Ara Walkway and is willing to collaborate with other stakeholders that want to take an active role in maintaining and enhancing the River Ara and the new walkway.

The District Administrator advised that the River Ara Walkway when complete will be an education and social amenity, however the day after the river bank was cleaned rubbish was dumped into the river which is very disappointing.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan.

5.7 Councillor Annmarie Ryan (Shiner) (Ref ID 2470)

That this District prioritise and deliver enhanced safety measures from Longford Bridge to the N24/N74 junction (Tipperary Town) for the benefit and safety of residents, pedestrians & cyclists.

Reply

The District has approached both the TII and the NTA for funding to carry out a design at this location. We are awaiting a response from both parties. This motion was seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

5.9 Councillor Tony Black (Ref ID 2476)

That this council will investigate the condition of the footpath in front of 5 and 6 Miners' Houses, Knockanrawley, Clonmel Road, Tipperary Town. The footpath is in a very poor condition and is in need of replacement.

Reply

This section of footpath will be assessed and considered for inclusion in future footpath replacement works.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner).

5.10 Cllr. Tony Black (Ref. ID 2477)

That this council will investigate the stretch of Galbally Road, Tipperary Town between Ballynilard E34Y102 and the turn for Scallagheen. There is a significant speeding issue along this stretch. I would ask that this council look to install a speed limit signs and signs notifying motorists of enclosed entrances. This is a built up area on the edge of Tipperary Town and residents are taking their lives into their own hands merely driving out their front gates. There is no speed limit sign from the turn to Mount Bruis at Ballynilard and the 50km sign at the turn for Scallagheen.

Reply

Speeding and the enforcement of the speed limits is a matter for An Garda Siochana. A speed survey will be carried out at this location. The survey will be analysed, and a design completed in line with the Council's Traffic Calming Policy if speeding is identified.

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

5.11 Cllr. Tony Black (Ref. ID 2478)

That this council would investigate the footpaths at Arravale Terrace and Gordon Villas, Tipperary Town. They are in a serious state of disrepair and residents have been waiting many years for improved footpaths.

Reply

The condition of the footpaths will be assessed and considered when planning footpath repair locations for the town.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Annmarie Ryan (Shiner).

5.12 Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald (Ref. ID 2485)

That this council assist St. John's Graveyard Committee in Tipperary Town to improve the footpaths in the ground. This has become a health and safety issue

Reply

St. John's Old Famine Burial Ground, Tipperary Town, is not within the ownership of Tipperary County Council.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended on the death of the following:

- Liam White, Glassdrum, Cappawhite, Co Tipperary
- PJ Cullinan, Clashganny, Newcastle, Co Tipperary
- Donnchadh Ó Cinnéide, Grangemore, Cashel, Co Tipperary
- Kate Gadd, aunt of Councillor Declan Burgess.
- Davy Heelan, 10 Station Road, Dundrum.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Boherlahan Dualla Camogie team on winning the U14 All Ireland Community Games for the 2nd year in a row.
- King Charles III to sympathise on the passing of his mother Queen Elizabeth II and to congratulate him on his ascension to the throne.
- Solohead GAA on becoming West Junior B hurling champions on Saturday September 10th. Defeating Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams by 2-25 to 3-10 in Cappawhite.
- Lattin Cullen GAA on winning the West Junior A Hurling Championship on Sunday 11th September in Golden against Galtee Rovers.

7.1 Correspondence in relation to the Vote of Sympathy on the passing of Barry O'Carroll

Noted

7.2 Correspondence received from Minister of State, Sean Fleming from the Department of Finance regarding the insurance costs incurred by Community Groups for organising and hosting events and festivals

Noted

7.3 Correspondence received from Anthony Moroney, General Manager, Local Link Tipperary

Noted

8.1 Any other Business

The District Administrator advised Members that a workshop would be held on the 6th October in relation to the Part 8 for Cashel Public Realm.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/ Michael Anglin M. Dated/ 24-10-22.
Cathaoirleach

Signed/ Anthony O'Leary Dated/ 24.10.22
District Administrator