

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District held in the District Chamber, New Street, Carrick on Suir at 14:00 on the 23 March 2023

- In the Chair:** Cllr. D. Dunne.
- Members present:** Cllr. K. Bourke, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. I. Goldsboro, Cllr. K. O'Meara.
- Apologies:** None
- In attendance:**  
**Carrick on Suir MD.** Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services: Ms. Marie O'Gorman, District Administrator: Mr. Denis Power, A/District Engineer: Mr. Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, Road (virtually): Ms. Helen Cahill, Staff Officer: Mr. Paul Farrell, Executive Engineer:
- Housing Directorate:** Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer: Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer: Ms. Deirdre Flannery, Senior Staff Officer:
- ECRD Directorate:** Mr. Shaun Lonergan, Executive Engineer:
- Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services.

*Welcome and Introduction*

- Item 1.0.** The summons was taken as read.  
**Summons and Prayer.**

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

- Item 2.1.**  
**Conflict of Interest Declaration.** None to record

*Consideration of Minutes:*

- Item 3.1.** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 23 February 2023 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. K. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. K. O'Meara, and signed by the Cathaoirleach.  
**Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 23 February 2023.**

*Consideration of Reports and Recommendations*

- Item 4.1.** A report entitled '**Carrick on Suir District – Housing Services – March 2023**' incorporating data from 1 January to 28 February 2023 was circulated and taken as read. With Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer, Ms. Deirdre Flannery, Senior Staff Officer and Mr. Shaun Lonergan, Executive Engineer in attendance, the Councillors extended a welcome to Mr. Lonergan on his recent appointment to Housing. A comprehensive overview of matters relating to rent collection was given by Ms. Deirdre Flannery. The increase in rent arrears was attributed to the recent rent

revision which captured a significant number of households who had not declared income as required and their rent increase was backdated. However, she assured that her team was working with those tenants in managing agreements to address the issue. In the ensuing discussion, the following points were made by the Councillors-

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Absence of information in relation to occupancy of rented dwellings was a direct result of the historic decision to base Revenue Collectors in offices rather than going door to door. It was considered a retrograde step and also a significant factor in the worrying trend of some tenants sub-letting Council-owned housing units; in that context it was essential that the Council would carry out more spot-checks of houses.
- Councillors had no means to communicate with Approved Housing Bodies in relation to tenancies or vacancies, which was considered a drawback.
- The policies and procedures employed by Tipperary County Council were considered fair and reasonable in dealing with rent arrears.
- With applicants on the housing waiting list in Carrick on Suir currently at 169 as compared with 163 one year ago, it was clear that the Council was 'running to stand still' notwithstanding that Hazel Close, Mill Crescent and Baker's lot were commissioned in the interim. This was a huge concern when it was taking 16 weeks to process applications and there were numerous new applications waiting in the wings as a result of the increase in income thresholds for eligibility for social housing. He noted that these matters were the among the items for discussion at an emergency meeting to be held on the 29 March (the following Wednesday)

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Ms. Carmel Hanrahan, Staff Officer in the Carrick on Suir MD was deemed to be a very effective liaison and her huge contribution was acknowledged.
- Expressed concern in relation to the ongoing vacancy at 10 St. Nicholas Park, Carrick on Suir and the 17-month delay in turning it around.

Cllr. K. O'Meara

- Sought update in relation to voids at Kickham Place and Blackthorn Walk, Mullinahone.

Addressing these matters, Ms. D. Flannery acknowledged that much information was lost to the Council with Revenue Collectors changed to office-based operations; however, she stated that Community Liaison Officers were now on the ground and would be stepping up the amount of spot-checks undertaken.

Ms. C. Morrissey indicated that the impact of the increase in income threshold in Tipperary was a 15% rise in the number of applicants for housing support

and she stated that her section was actively moving to streamline the process in-house to address the length of time for approval of applications.

Mr. Shaun Lonergan outlined the background to the delay with the turnaround of 10 St. Nicholas Park which was regrettable and attributed to the need for revised procurement framework. However, he stated that the project would be tendered in the next 2-3 weeks with the framework now in place.

Mr. Paul Farrell, Executive Engineer noted that the voids which were the responsibility of the Municipal District were delayed owing to a staffing issue but were now receiving attention and priority.

This was noted.

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A 42-page report of programmes and activities undertaken by the ECRD Directorate was circulated and taken as read.

**Item 4.2.**  
**Economic,**  
**Community**  
**and Rural**  
**Development**  
**Directorate**  
**[ECRD]**

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director updated the members on the series of workshops due to commence in the coming week as the first stage of community consultation for the Local Development Strategy [LDS] in accordance with guidelines published in February. It was noted that the deadline for completion of LDS was 14 July 2023.

He noted that the LCDC in partnership with South Tipperary Development Company and North Tipperary Development Company had qualified under the Expression of Interest [EOI] for the delivery of the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme.

This was noted and welcomed by the Members.

**Item 4.3.**  
**District**  
**Engineer's**  
**Report/ Draft**  
**Schedule of**  
**Municipal**  
**District Works**  
**2023:**

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*Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023*

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The Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023 was circulated by Mr. Denis Power A/District Engineer, seeking approval for a programme containing projects with an overall cost of €28.146 million. The members extended a welcome to Mr. Power in his new role and to his colleague, Mr. Paul Farrell, Executive Engineer, recently assigned to Carrick on Suir MD. Mr. Liam Brett, Senior Engineer Roads, joined the meeting on 'Zoom'.

The first sub-heading related to housing maintenance, void repairs and planned maintenance with a total budget of €732,738. *A schedule of vacant houses was annexed including 2 properties requiring major refurbishment, 11 dwellings awaiting minor repairs and 4 units available for letting.*

The second subheading related to the Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan and included a budget of €17,994,000, the majority of which derived from a grant of €14.9million from the Department of Rural & Community Development announced last November and the balance from Tipperary County Council.

4.3. cont'd/

Capital projects with budgets totalling €2.25million, funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland [TII] included,

- €900,000 for the N76 Pavement Improvement at Grangemockler scheduled to complete in Q.2 of 2023.
- €1.2million for the ongoing N24 Carrick on Suir Pavement Improvement Scheme continuing in to 2024.
- €150,000 for feasibility study currently underway with Consultants engaged in project to connect the Suir Blueway at Carrick on Suir with the Waterford Greenway at Kilmeaden.

Ordinary maintenance for National Primary (N24) and National Secondary (N76) routes included sums of €18,168 and €13,710 respectively, and Discretionary Maintenance Grants for regional roads amounted to €586,739. A budget of €344,778 was allocated from 'Own Funds' towards maintenance of regional and local roads within the district.

Restoration Maintenance was allocated a sum of €627,806 to carry out surface dressing to 15 no. roads totalling 19.6km. 14 roads were identified under the Restoration Improvement programme with a budget of €2,560,688 taking in a total of 18,176km.

'Red Roads' identified at Dinguib Killenaule and at Rocks Road, Ballylanigan, Mullinahone were allocated €103,574 and €100,000 respectively under 'Own Resources' allocation, the former supplemented with a sum of €50,872 from the 'Towns Allocation' of €254,361. The balance of same allocated €203,489 to cover road improvements, footpath improvements tree maintenance, public lighting and urban road maintenance within Carrick on Suir town.

A sum of €130,000 was provided for bridge repairs at Ballylanigan, Mullinahone and Gortnaglogh, Ballingarry (a further funding application submitted for Gullet Bridge, Ballingarry was pending). Tertiary Road Maintenance provision amounted to €90,421 in addition to sums provided for

- Community Involvement Scheme (5 applications on hands) - €111,067
- Local Improvement Scheme - €145,537
- New public lighting - €7,500 earmarked for Killenaule Cemetery.
- Drainage Grant Works - €164,544
- Climate Change Adaptation Grants - €205,207
- National Transport Authority [NTA] Active Travel projects at Carrickbeg, Cláirín Footbridge, Railway to Carrick on Suir Town Centre and Design associated with Killenaule School - allocated €690,000
- Additional Road Allocation (Rates Vacancies) assigned to the elected members to allocate - €7,310
- 2022 Development levies assigned to village enhancements at Ballingarry, Ballynonty and The Commons - €138,568
- Signage cleansing - €11,960
- CLÁR traffic calming and lighting at Drangan School - €30,000

4.3. cont'd/

- o Town and Village Renewal – Design & construction at Bogfield, Carrick on Suir - €100,000
- o IPB footpaths - €147,537
- o Street cleaning at Carrick on Suir – 223,193
- o Maintenance of St. Mary’s Burial Ground, Carrick on Suir - €42,000
- o Maintenance of Carrick on Suir Marina - €47,091
- o Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces - €159,465
- o Elimination of Japanese Knotweed on Council lands - €8,282

With the programme considered by the members at an earlier virtual workshop, the 8% increase in the annual roads programme allocation was broadly welcomed by the members, along with the unprecedented allocation under the RRD Fund. A number of issues were raised and addressed as follows;

**Cllr. M. Fitzgerald:**

- Sought update in relation to appointment of contractor for works at Drangan Playground
- Queried whether the budget for CLÁR project incorporated footpath as far as O’Halloran’s shop at Drangan
- Reported damaged at either side of road traveling from Cloneen to Fethard from agricultural machinery on left-hand-side after bridge.

The District Engineer stated that he would check the position and revert in relation to the above matters.

**Cllr. I. Goldsboro:**

- Sought update in relation to traffic calming at Killenaule, noting that money was previously allocated to St. Mary’s N.S. She noted that a survey was carried out with Gardaí involved; referring to recent public meeting with local people engaged, there was a request for traffic platforms to be installed at Crosscannon on the R691 where there were significant speeds recorded and at River Street in the vicinity of a busy doctor’s surgery.

The District Engineer undertook to discuss the matter with his engineering colleagues to see if a suitable solution could be found.

- Sought update on the status of the Enhancement Plans for 3 villages – Ballingarry, Killenaule and Mullinahone.

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director responded that tenders were currently being sought for consultants with a deadline of the following week to respond. He would keep the members updated in relation to this matter.

- Queried whether there was budgetary provision to carry out small jobs in estates – referencing previous discussion in relation to parking provision at Orchard Crescent, Carrick on Suir.
- Stated that there was a similar situation prevailing at Cláirín Close, Carrick on Suir with nowhere for homeowners to park.
- Noted that works were due to be completed at Castle Heights, Carrick on Suir.

In response, the District Engineer stated that there was no bond in place to fund works at Castle Heights and he would examine possible funding under IPB funds or under 'Town Works' budget. He cautioned that he was prohibited from reducing public open space below a certain threshold and any such requests would be considered in that context.

**Cllr. K. O'Meara:**

- Queried whether there was a list in place of works to be carried out under IPB funding, and whether such list could be shared.
- Referring to drainage projects proposed, he requested that priority be given to areas where houses were recently flooded.
- Welcomed the provision for 'Red Roads' and requested whether application could be made to the department for additional funding in view of Carrick on Suir Municipal District having a greater need than most districts.
- Queried whether there was any possibility of the Council providing additional funding to Community Involvement Scheme thereby reducing the financial burden on participants.
- Queried whether the previous District Engineer had passed a list of 'open tickets'/outstanding representations for his attention.
- Sought update in relation to traffic survey to be carried out at Mullinahone arising from his notice to motion and queried whether the data was published in relation to such surveys.
- Requested that a patching unit be commissioned for Slieveardagh estate in Grangemockler on health and safety grounds
- Requested repair of indentations in the road at Mullinahone Community Centre
- Sought signage at school car park/Mullinahone G.A.A. Centre provided under Development Levies/Capital Contributions Scheme
- Reported difficulty at junction of N76 at Grangemockler with road leading to GAA grounds and suggested that taking a piece off the corners would help.

Responding to above, Mr. Power stated that IPB funding was generally steered towards remediation of areas as and when claims arose and in other instances to carry out preventative works to avoid such claims arising.

While agreeing that priority needed to be given to areas where houses were flooded, he cautioned that there was a certain balance necessary to ensure that

conditions were satisfactory (dry enough) in order to ensure the success of the engineering solution and value for money.

He confirmed that the terms of the Community Involvement Scheme precluded the Council from contributing further funds and assured that he had undertaken a tour with Mr. Corby prior to his retirement, of the sites which were the subject of members' representations.

Mr. Power stated that speed surveys were indeed carried out at Mullinahone but technical issues encountered with the equipment meant that they had to be repeated. He stated that this would be done in the coming fortnight.

Referring to the prevailing situation at Slieveardagh estate, he explained that he was precluded from sending in a patching unit where an estate was not taken in charge, as he became legally responsible on the one hand and effectively hampered the ongoing DPI resolution process on the other. He undertook to discuss further with Kieran Ladden SEE, Planning. He also stated that he would examine the indentation in the road at Mullinahone and examine whether flexi bollards would be appropriate at that location

**Cllr. D. Dunne:**

- Conveyed his thanks to Stephen G. Ryan, Executive Engineer, Roads Capital, involved with the N24 Carrick on Suir Pavement Improvement Scheme, for the assistance provided to the organisers of the Carrick on Suir St. Patrick's Day Parade co-ordinating its route in a manner to coincide with GLAS Engineering's traffic management plan. He commended GLAS Engineering Ltd. as exceptional contractors and complimented the Garda Síochána for their assistance in the matter.
- Supported Councillor O'Meara in relation to his concerns for persons affected by recent flooding events and the need for remediation works for homes to be prioritised.
- Expressed concerns that the future additional maintenance associated with the flower beds constructed at Grangemockler and Carrick on Suir would require additional budgetary provision.
- Requested that a speed survey be carried out on the road connecting Faugheen with Lisadobber.
- Requested that anti-dog fouling messaging be applied to footpaths and walkways – He was aware of messaging being sprayed in appropriate locations and considered it an effective tool in the campaign.
- Supported the Killenaule community's request for traffic calming and suggested that raised tables in conjunction with pedestrian crossings may provide a solution.
- Reiterated the request for parking provision at Orchard Crescent and completion of works at Castle Heights.

The District Engineer informed that additional funding was sought to maintain new flowerbeds at Grangemockler and Carrick on Suir and confirmed that he

would follow that up. He also noted that an application to the OPW is pending Tipperary County Council in relation to flood alleviation measures at Grangemockler and other locations. He confirmed that he would add request for Faugheen-to-Lisadobber speed survey to his current list. He stated that he was aware that Environment Section had the stencils in stock for spray signage described. He concluded by committing to examining the feasibility of combined raised table/pedestrian crossing for Killenaule locations.

**Cllr. M. Fitzgerald:**

- Queried whether there would be any opportunity for the public to participate in the upcoming review of speed limits. He was particularly interested in the Killenaule to Fethard road.
- Supported his colleagues' contention that flood alleviation works should be prioritised in areas where homes were affected.

Mr. Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, thanked the members for their consideration of the draft programme and extended a welcome to Messrs. Power and Farrell, assuring them of his support in their respective roles.

Responding to Cllr. Fitzgerald's query, he stated that the review process had not yet commenced. The anticipated reviewed guidelines had not yet issued from the Department to underpin the process. As it was a time-consuming procedure, it was considered prudent to await those guidelines rather than potentially doubling up the workload. However, he confirmed that the lengthy process did indeed involve a public consultation element and would commence in due course.

Mr. Brian Beck stated that the aggregate investment within the town of Carrick on Suir in the region of €30-€40million was unprecedented. With the N24 works completed over the coming months, he also noted that Irish Water (Uisce Eireann) had come on board to use the opportunity presented by the RRDF regeneration plan to upgrade storm and foul sewers. He referred to recent acquisition of the Goldcrop site as an enormous opportunity, with a masterplan to be drawn up as part of the Town Centre First process.

Councillor K. Bourke added that a new Gaelscoil was also on the cards and he welcomed the engagement from Irish Water as an opportunity to address capacity issue associated with combined sewers network placing pressure on the treatment plant. He also commended GLAS Engineering currently working on the N24 contract.

**Having considered the draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023, it was proposed by Cllr. K. O'Meara, seconded by Cllr. K. Bourke and unanimously agreed to adopt the Schedule as circulated.**



**Administrator's Report**

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that the statutory public consultation had commenced with the publication of notices in The Nationalist issue dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.

She further noted that the file was available for inspection at the District Office, Carrick on Suir and at Civic Offices, Clonmel and Nenagh respectively for a 4-week period ending on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Submissions or observations could be made online at [www.tipperarycoco.ie](http://www.tipperarycoco.ie) or in writing up to close of business [16.:30] on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April** and addressed to Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services, Environment and Climate Action Services, Civic Offices, Emmet Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary and clearly marked '**Part 8 in respect of construction of a Lawn Cemetery and associated works at Fethard, Co. Tipperary**'

Subsequently the matter would come before the members for consideration and decision with circulation of the Chief Executive's report in due course pursuant to requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This was noted.

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*CCTV SURVEY – CARRICK ON SUIR REGENERATION PLAN*

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A public notice to be distributed to business and householders was distributed to the Councillors and noted, relating to a CCTV survey of foul and storm drains to be carried out within the town of Carrick on Suir for a 5-week period commencing 27 March 2023. Its purpose was to determine in advance of the RRDF works whether Uisce Éireann required to upgrade those utilities. Where such upgrades were required, these would be incorporated into the design by the Council's consultant with associated costs defrayed by Uisce Éireann. Disruption would be minimised in areas of most traffic by carrying out night works and sequenced as follows; WEEK 1- North Quay, Greystone St., Sean Kelly Square; WEEK 2 – Strand Lane and western end of Main Street: WEEK 3 – Chapel Street, eastern end of Main Street and Bridge Street: WEEK 4- Castle Street, Castle Lane, Callanan's Lane: WEEK 5- Strand Walk.

In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the circular would be published on the Council's website and on the Carrick on Suir MD social media platforms.

**4.5. General Municipal Allocation**

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*Festival & Events 2023*

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A report and recommendation compiled by the Meetings Administrator was circulated relating to the outcome of the application process associated with the 2023 Festivals and Events Scheme. Having considered same and the recommendation that the budget agreed at the February 2023 monthly meeting for Festivals and Events be increased by €800 with a corresponding reduction in the amount allocated to Community Grants,

It was proposed by Cllr. K. O'Meara, seconded by Cllr. M. Fitzgerald and unanimously agreed **to adopt a revised budget of €14,300 for Festivals and Events and €49,200 for Community Grants for 2023.**

It was further proposed by Cllr. K. O'Meara, seconded by Cllr. M. Fitzgerald and RESOLVED

*In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, and being of the opinion that it is desirable to so do to promote the interests of the local community, and having regard to the recommendation from the District Administrator, that Festival & Events Grants totalling €14,300 be and are hereby approved for payment in respect of the following recipients-*

Ballynonty Community Festival	€1,500	Kickham Country Weekend	€2,500
Brewery Lane Writer's Weekend	€700	The Pits Songs	€800
Ballylynch Coming Together Group	€800	Clancy Brothers Music & Arts Festival	€2,500
Fethard & Killusty Fancy Dress Parade	€1,500	1848 Sliabhnamban Monster Meeting 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	€1,500
Fethard Festival	€2,500	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€14,300</b>

**Item 3.6.**  
**Assistance of Bodies under Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001.**

The Meetings Administrator indicated that there were no items for consideration under this heading.

***Chief Executive's/Delegated Officers' Orders***

**Item 5.1.**

The Meetings Administrator indicated that there were no items for consideration under this heading.

***Correspondence***

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District held in the District Chamber, New Street, Carrick on Suir at 14:00 on the 23 March 2023

**Item 6.1.**

The Meetings Administrator indicated that there were no items for consideration under this heading.

*Notices of Motion*

**Item 7.1.**

The Meetings Administrator indicated that there were no items for consideration under this heading.

*Any Other Business*

**Item 8.1.**

**Set date for Safety and Security Meeting:**

The Meetings Administrator referred to email correspondence received from Superintendent Kieran Ruane with suggested dates for Safety and Security Meeting. It was decided that the meeting would be held on the 27 April at 12:00, in advance of the April monthly meeting.

The Cathaoirleach also extended his congratulations to Superintendent William Leahy and wished him well in his retirement.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

[15:03]



District Administrator



Cathaoirleach

<Date>

