

Minutes of September Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 25th September 2023 at 11am

Members Present: Councillor Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Micheál Anglim
Councillor Tony Black
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. Dave Carroll, A/District Director
Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Mr. Michael Begley, Administrative Officer
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer
Planning Directorate
Ms. Caroline Conway, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Officer
Libraries/Cultural Services/Biodiversity Directorate
Mr. Damien Dullaghan, Senior Librarian

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Declan Burgess, welcomed everyone to the September Municipal District meeting. Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer. He called the roll and confirmed that all members were present.

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 24th July, 2023

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District July meeting held on 24th July, 2023 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan.

Matters arising from the minutes

Councillor Marie Murphy requested an update in relation to her request to extend the Painting Scheme in Clogheen. She also requested an update on Knockaun Bridge, Ballylooby and the playground in Clogheen. Councillor Burgess requested an update on his Notice of Motion in relation to providing water refilling stations and engagement will C&E and environment section. The District Manager, Mr. Dave Carroll advised that they will consider extending the painting scheme in Clogheen and that Brown Brothers have been contracted to do the work in the playground and were expected to be on site in September. He also confirmed that the drawdown date for the grant has been extended therefore there is extra time to complete the work. Mr. James Murray advised that the contractor dealing with Knockaun Bridge is on site and they have received further Department funding to carry out works on 3 similar bridges in the area. Mr. Carroll confirmed that there is no update in relation to water refilling stations.

3.1 Planning Directorate Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Caroline Conway, Senior Executive Planner and Mr. Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning Section, to the meeting. Ms. Conway thanked the Cathaoirleach and referred to the report circulated with the agenda and was available to answer questions.

Councillor Hanna Hourigan requested an update in relation to Glen Court, Emly. She advised that there are 24 vacant houses boarded up and we are in the middle of a housing crisis. She noted that people are delighted that the lights in the estate are on but there has been no other movement. She referred to the taking in charge application that has been lodged since 2010 and there are increasing numbers of homeless families. She stated that pressure has to be put on to purchase these houses. Councillor Crosse wanted to support this call and he acknowledged the great work of the tidy town committee in the area. He referred to the huge opportunity for the housing section to bring these houses into use. Councillor Fitzgerald referred to the valid taking in charge applications submitted for Glen Court and The Steeples, Dualla Road and we're now 8 years on. He appreciated that there are issues but asked why does it take so long. He thanked Kieran Ladden, Eamon Lonergan and Denis Holland for the progress on Rock Springs, Kilross and the negotiations with Irish Water. He referred to a point that he previously made that if the Council does not build houses there won't be demand. He spoke of two vacant houses in Manor Court, Thomastown which were offered to the Council and the owner was told there was no demand. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) also wanted to support Councillor Hanna Hourigan in relation to Glen Court, Emly and asked why are 3 bed houses empty. She understood there is a receiver in place, however it is not a DPI estate because the houses are connected to the mains. Councillor Marie Murphy asked if planning permission is required to erect a memorial plaque on a property. Councillor Moloney again referred to Dun Uisce in Cahir and in particular to a hollow in the road on the way into the estate. He noted that it can't be filled because the estate is not in charge however there is another estate being built beyond it.

Councillor Kennedy referred to Glen Court, Emly and stated that something needs to be done and the Council should explore the option of purchasing these houses. He noted that there are 11 DPIs in this District and following the meeting with Uisce Eireann and referring to the reply received from the Department, Tipperary is way down the list. We stated we need to keep pressure on to leverage funding for DPIs. Councillor Burgess agreed with the members in relation to the DPIs and it is a huge concern and there appears to be no progress. Councillor Hanna Hourigan requested a special meeting with Planning and Housing to discuss Glen Court given that we are in a housing crisis.

In response Mr. Kieran Ladden confirmed that in relation to DPIs there has been a lot of engagement with the Department to resolve over 800 in the country. He advised that there is a programme in place and a working group is completing a new policy document and we are awaiting details of that. The engagement process has yielded some wins including Rock Springs, where a technical solution has been found and it is expected it will be brought to the November meeting following the public consultation process. All DPIs have gone to the Department seeking funding and hopefully the new policy document will give details of the technical steps and funding streams available. In relation to Glen Court he confirmed that Environment have completed a clean-up and the lights are on, however he advised that there is an issue with wayleaves that needs to be resolved. He confirmed that he previously spoke to Housing and agreed that a further meeting is required to discuss the next option. Regarding the Steeples, the Council is liaising with the new owners who are willing to work with the Council and the onus is on the developer to deal with any defects. In the short term he has asked the developer to deal with the lights and paving. He agreed to keep the Councillors up to date. In relation to Dun Uisce it is a similar situation given that the owner is responsible and they are trying to get the development to deal with the issues.

Ms. Conway confirmed that in relation to Councillor Murphy's query the owner could request a Section 5 exemption and there is a link to the form on the Councils website. Councillor Moloney asked who is responsible if the plaque falls, the Council or the property owner? He was advised the property owner. Councillor Máirín McGrath expressed her disappointment in relation to the reply from Uisce Eireann in relation to the capacity of the treatment plant in Newcastle. She stated that the developer is very active and is maintaining the treatment plant. She also referred to Cnoc Na gCaiseal in Ardfinnan where there are a lot of difficulties. Mr Ladden advised that the Department has given approval in principle and this commitment from the Department is positive.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Planning Section staff.

3.2 Libraries/Culture Services/Biodiversity Directorate

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian to the meeting. Mr. Dullaghan thanked the Cathaoirleach and appreciated the opportunity to attend the meeting. He highlighted the Tipp Studies website which

has a number of digitised photographs, match programmes and he acknowledged the huge amount of donations received. He also advised that MyOpen Library will be open in Cashel next month and the Library will have to close for two days at least to facilitate the work required. Once completed the library will be open from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. 7 days a week.

Councillor Roger Kennedy complimented the library service and the ways they can help the community and reach out to so many people. He noted that it is the sole Council present in Cashel since the town council office closed and he congratulated them on the events held last Friday for Culture night. Councillor Hanna Hourigan wanted to concur with Councillor Kennedy and she confirmed that she was in the Excel, Friday night and there was people of all ages and all nationalities which was brilliant. Councillor Crosse wanted to be associated with the comments and the Cathaoirleach requested that the positive feedback would be brought back to the staff. Mr Dullaghan advised that he always brings back the positive comments and he wanted to thank the members for promoting and attending the events. He advised the members that they are hoping for 400,000 visitors by the end of this year and are aiming to be back to pre covid levels by next year with 500,000 visitors.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Dullaghan and his team.

3.3 To consider Chief Executive's Report for Craft Granary Part 8 Application for change of use to Library purposes.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Caroline Conway, Planning Section to the meeting. Ms. Conway presented the Chief Executive's Report and confirmed that there was 1 submission made during the consultation period from Cahir Development Association and it was in support of the development. She recommended that the Part 8 proposal should proceed as recommended in the Chief Executive Report.

On the proposition of Councillor Andy Moloney, seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy it was resolved:

"That having considered the Chief Executive's Report dated 11TH September 2023 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended, for the proposed Part 8 Development for the change of use of the second floor of the existing Craft Granary building, Church Street, Cahir from office use to library use and associated internal modification works. Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District decide that the proposed development be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report."

3.4 Consider Names for Housing Development at Mountain View Road, Cahir

The District Administrator advised the members that the suggested names had been circulated and he was looking for agreement on a name. Councillor Moloney

stated that the names had no historical relevance to the area and some people were not happy with the name of some new housing estates. Councillor Moloney suggested that this would be listed for a workshop and discussed further. Councillor Fitzgerald understood that previously the tenants who were allocated the houses would agree a name, however Councillor Kennedy advised that a name is now required at an earlier stage in order to apply for service connections.

3.5 District Engineer's Report

James Murray, Senior Engineer, Roads Section advised the Members that most of the work in this year's work programme is completed.

Councillor Burgess asked when will the EV charging points for the newly extended Friar Street Car park be installed. Councillor Crosse wanted to thank the roads team for their work which was all completed on target. Councillor McGrath acknowledged the work and it's great that it is on target, however coming to the end of the year and funding is limited, she asked will there be money available for essential maintenance as we face into the winter.

In response Mr Murray advised the Members that Michael Tierney, Roads Section was working with Easygo on the installation of the EV charging points. Mr. Murray also confirmed that the budgets are always under pressure towards the end of the year and there are always challenges in November and December. He confirmed that they have commenced the budgetary process for next year and there are additional pressures with estates being taking in charge and more social housing however they do not anticipate any reduction in service. The section wants to spend all the money they have and they are now planning for next year. Mr Murray acknowledged and appreciated the comments for the team.

3.6 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda. Councillor Fitzgerald referred to the present dispute with staff and how it is affecting the members and the public the members represent. Councillor Fitzgerald requested an update and if the action will escalate further. He asked if there is anything else the members could do because the public deserve a better service from their elected representatives. He noted that some staff are in the union and some are not, however he cannot ask because it is not appropriate. Councillor Moloney wanted to thank the staff for their work in relation to being awarded the Green Flag in Cahir Inch field for 2023 and he was very proud to get it. Councillor John Crosse supported Councillor Fitzgerald and noted that all the members were in the same position. He requested a workshop to advise members on the position because he doesn't want to compromise the staff. Councillor Murphy advised that management is meeting with the party whips in the next few days. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) acknowledged the work of the Taskforce and the announcement by Nephin Energy Ltd that their headquarters will be based in the Tipp Engine which will create 70 new jobs and she wanted to thank Michael Begley. Councillor Hanna Hourigan stated that it is

great news for the town. Councillor Kennedy advised that he has been involved with the company for a number of years and this is the culmination of 5 years work and it is a great credit to the people involved. Councillor Kennedy also asked if anything had been put in place to protect the pieces from the 3rd Tipperary Brigade at Sean Treacy Swimming Pool. Councillor Burgess requested that a workshop be held to update the members on the visitors centre for Cashel.

In response Dave Carroll, A/District Director advised that the industrial action was due to escalate last Friday, however it was called off because parties have agreed to enter talks at the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) this morning. He advised that it is a national issue and it won't be resolved in Tipperary. Mr McGowan acknowledged Councillor Moloney's comments in relation to the Green Flag for Cahir and stated that it is a true example of how communities and the County Council can work together. He also advised that he is aware of the issue with display the historic pieces in Sean Treacy Swimming Pool and will revert with an update. He also agreed to revert in relation to the Visitors Centre for Cashel. The Cathaoirleach congratulated Cahir Tidy Towns, Councillor Moloney and the Council on being awarded the Green Flag for Cahir Inch Field.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Michael Fitzgerald (Ref. ID 2660)

That funding be sought to resurface the L4211-2 from the Cross of the Tree to Cooney's, part of this road is classified "Red" and badly needs attention.

Reply

This location will be assessed and considered for inclusion in future road works programmes when funding becomes available.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy

5.2 Councillor Michael Fitzgerald (Ref ID 2661)

That part of the road known as the Fourpenny Road, Golden be included for any extra funding in 2023-24.

Reply

This location will be assessed and considered for inclusion in future road works programmes when funding becomes available.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess.

5.3 Councillor Michael Fitzgerald (Ref ID 2662)

That this Municipal Authority seek an urgent meeting with the T.I.I to discuss the serious amount of accidents on the N24 between Tipperary Town and the county bounds just after Monard. The residents should also be involved in any meeting that is hopefully called.

Reply

Subject to the approval of the Elected Members, the T.I.I will be contacted requesting a meeting.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Tony Black.

5.4 Councillor Declan Burgess & Councillor Andy Moloney (Ref ID 2663)

Can management please update members on the Cahir to Cashel cycleway and outline any progress with this important outdoor recreational project.

Reply

We are working on Phase 0 of the Cahir to Cashel Greenway, the Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) was submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for review and comments have been received. Our consultant Fehily Timoney & Company is currently updating this document to enable us submit the revised SAR and Gate review Statement to conclude Phase 0.

Following approval of Phase 0 we are moving onto the Concept and Feasibility stage. During this phase we will have a public consultation on the Study area for the project. We will meet with the members prior to the public consultation to inform you of the process and present the study area.

Below is a copy of the project phasing steps for a TII funded greenway project, to ensure funding for a project, the deliverables for each phase and gate review statements need to be approved prior to commencing the next phase.



I will be in touch in the coming months regards the Public Consultation for Phase 1.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Andy Moloney.

5.5 Councillor Andy Moloney (Ref ID 2674)

That this council request the Minister for Justice, to give a full report to the members on the changes in the garda policing districts and that the Cahir Station will not be downgraded as a result and will hold its numbers and be considered for extra recruits been located on the busiest crossroads in Munster.

Reply

Subject to approval of Elected Members the Minister for Justice will be contacted asking for a full report.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy.

5.6 Councillor Declan Burgess (Ref ID 2675)

That this Municipal District reviews the Rock of Cashel Car Park design, in order to maximise capacity at this location.

Reply

A review of the design will be actioned in Q1 2024.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

5.7 Councillor Andy Moloney (Ref ID 2676)

That this council seek an allocation from the department for estates taken in charge without any bonds and an increase in town budgets for the maintenance of such towns going forward and a staff allocation pro rata.

Reply

The funding for maintenance of estates taken in charge, and an increase in town budgets are Revenue Budget matters for Tipperary County Council.

Any increase required by the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District should be requested as part of the District's submission to Budget 2024, a process which is currently underway

This motion was seconded by Councillor Micheál Anglim.

5.8 Councillor Tony Black (Ref ID 2685)

That this council will investigate the possibility of traffic calming and speed reduction measures between Limerick Junction and Monard at Ballykisteen. This is a dangerous stretch of road with multiple collisions and fatalities in recent years. This council should explore every possibility available to make this stretch of road safer for road users and for local residents.

Reply

This section of the N24 is a Legacy National Road that is substandard. It has received a multitude of safety interventions over the years not least Monard Traffic Calming Scheme 2015 but also works along the section including speed

limit reviews, minor realignments, sightline improvements, additional signage, resurfacing for skid resistance, new footpaths and improvements to public lighting among others. TCC and TII continue to identify similar interventions and will continue to implement them.

The long term solution is the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Scheme which has been extended to include a bypass of Monard.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

5.9 Councillor Tony Black (Ref ID 2686)

That this council would remove the tree and section of built out footpath outside 38 Pearse Park to allow for extra residential parking spaces. The area is full of cars and there aren't nearly enough parking spaces.

Reply

Logged as CRM for follow up.

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

5.10 Councillor Tony Black (Ref ID 2687)

That this council would explore the possibility of providing traffic calming measures on the stretch of road outside Shronell National School. The speed limit is quite high for a stretch of road outside a school. Traffic calming measures would ensure safer access to the school for students, parents and staff.

Reply

Speeding and the enforcement of the speed limits is a matter for An Garda Síochána. Submissions in relation to speed limits can be made during the next speed limit review.

Adequate school warning signage and marking is provided at the Regional Road location. Provision of on-site parking/drop off facilities beside or behind the school would be the best approach to managing traffic at the location.

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

5.11 Councillor Micheál Anglim (Ref ID 2688)

That this Council to secure without delay the funds to put in place a Bigbelly Waste Bin in the villages of Ardfinnan and Ballyporeen.

Reply

The Environment & Climate Action Section currently has no funding available to purchase/put in place a "Big Belly" Litter Bin in the villages of Ardfinnan and Ballyporeen (or elsewhere in the county for that matter). Previously, once-off grant funding was secured by the Section from the Department for the purchase/provision of such bins in a number of locations across the county, but such grant funding is no longer available from the Department. If, and when, a suitable funding opportunity arises, the Environment & Climate Action Section will pursue same.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- John Kelly, Hillview, Chadville, Cappawhite, Co Tipperary
- Leo Green, Thurlesbeg, Cashel, Co Tipperary
- Tess Ryan (Bob), Bóithrín Bocht, Camas, Cashel, Co Tipperary

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Cashel King Cormac's on winning the U13 Hurling County Final and the Under 19
- Alanna Manton on competing in the Junior Eurovision Eire
- Boherlahan Dualla U14 Camogie team on winning
- Irish Rugby Team on beating the World Champions South Africa and to particular acknowledge John Fogarty, Joe McCarthy, Tadgh Beirne and Alan Quinlan who all have links to Tipperary Cahir Cashel MD.
- Cahir Tidy Towns on winning the Green Flag for a second year.

7.1 Uisce Eireann response to increasing capacity of waste water treatment plants.

Councillor Kennedy stated that the information provided is available on Uisce Eireann's website and it was agreed by the members that the Municipal District write to Mary Hussey, Uisce Eireann's Regional Operations and Maintenance Manager.

7.2 Response from Court Services in relation to District Court sitting in Tipperary Town

Councillor Ryan (Shiner) stated that the reply from the Courts Service was very disappointing and requested that the Municipal District write again because there is no public transport available between Tipperary Town and Nenagh.


7.3 Response in relation to the lack of dunging for Development Provided Water Services Infrastructure in Tipperary

Noted

8.1 Any other Business

Councillor Kennedy referred to the Post Box at Ballydine which was recently removed and he requested that the Municipal District write to An Post to have it restored. Councillor McGrath requested that FOCUS Ireland be invited to the Community Safety Committee Meeting.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/  Dated/ 23/10/2023
Cathaoirleach

Signed/  Dated/ 23/10/2023.
District Administrator

