



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 10.00 AM ON 19th OCTOBER 2023

Present in chamber	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, John Carroll, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, John "Rocky" McGrath, Phyll Bugler, Michael O Meara and Gerard Darcy
Also Present	<p>Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services; Mr. Barry Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officer.</p> <p>Finance: Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance and Ms. Sarah O'Callaghan, Financial Management Accountant.</p> <p>Community & Economic Development: Ms Margo Hayes, Administrative Office</p>
Apologies	Cllr. Séamus Morris
	At the outset of the meeting the members expressed their good wishes to Cllr. Morris and wished him a speedy recovery.
Item 1. To note any Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest	None
Item 2. To consider and adopt Minutes of September Meeting held on 21st September 2023	It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. O'Meara and resolved that the minutes of the September Meeting held on 21 st September 2023 be adopted.
Item 3. To consider and adopt Nenagh MD Draft Budgetary Plan for 2024	<p>The budgetary plan was circulated to members.</p> <p>Mr. M. Connolly outlined that the report is an overview on the GMA allocation which has increased for 2024 due to the agreement of members to increase the LPT. The allocation of GMA is based on population from the 2022 Census and has increased for the Nenagh MD to €232,202. The figures for the Directorates are indicative for 2024 and the current level of expenditure is expected to be maintained in 2024.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler stated that the figure for flood relief was too low at €90,000 and that she will not be able to vote for a budget if someone isn't made available to sweep the leaves off the paths in Ballina. Inflation is at 6%/7% and costs are only going to go</p>



up. She asked for an update on the interim solution for the flooding in Ballina.

Cllr. Carroll asked that something would be done to help burial ground committees to encourage them to keep up the maintenance work. He would be willing to pass the Draft Budgetary Plan but wanted the issues raised by members brought back to the main budget process.

Cllr. O'Meara welcomed the increase in GMA but was concerned that the Directorate budgets did not consider the effect of inflation and he would have difficulty approving it. There was a lot of good work done on voids to date this year but the fact that there is no further funding available needs to be examined. He acknowledged that the Director of Housing is in contact with the Department to source additional funding. Roads funding is also a concern. He does respect the position that these are preliminary figures but funding is an issue with all local authorities. Cllr. O'Meara proposed refusing to adopt the draft budgetary plan.

Cllr. Hannigan expressed disappointment at the funding for voids and the fact it will be 2024 before budgets are available again for voids. If the budget was not adequate for 2023 he questioned how it would be adequate for 2024. More money should be available from central government. It is difficult for the members to adopt a budget that they are not happy with. If additional funding is not available it may be necessary to make choices on what areas money is spent.

Cllr. J. McGrath agreed that additional support should be given to burial ground committees and made available for voids. Staff shortages create difficulty getting jobs done. Cllr. H. McGrath had a difficulty approving the draft budgetary plan especially when it is unknown what funding will be available for next year. Cllr. Bonfield expressed concern about taking funding from one area to fund another area but would be willing the second the draft plan if Cllr. Carroll was happy to propose it.

Cllr. Darcy stated that the reality of inflation makes the budget process very difficult. While he would like additional funding for burial grounds and flood relief he acknowledged that the options are to increase the LPT or to increase rates and he does not want to go back to businesses on either. If the increase in funding doesn't come from local sources it has to come from central government. He requested clarification on what would happen if the draft budgetary plan wasn't passed.

Mr. M. Connolly acknowledged that inflation is a challenge with no easy solution. It is important to maintain the spending but it will be very difficult to increase spending by 6%/7% in line with inflation. He will continue to push with the Department for



	<p>additional funding and work with the Director of Housing in relation to voids. Budgets are about making choices, spending on one area and not another and if income is not increased expenditure will have to be decreased. All the items raised at this meeting will be brought back to the main budget process. He was not surprised about any of the concerns raised by members. The spending in relation to flood relief is from the capital budget and the figures presented refer to the revenue budget.</p> <p>Mr. M. O'Connor explained that the draft budgetary plan is really in relation to the GMA only. The issue with flooding in Ballina is not in relation to keeping footpaths clear of leaves but is in relation to capacity of the system. Tipperary County Council are working with the OPW for a proper flood relief system. There are a number of proposed interim measures that will help but not solve the problem. Several million will be required for the main scheme. The €90,000 for flood relief on the draft budgetary plan is for the drainage committees only. Mr. M. O'Connor acknowledged the work that was done on voids and the fact that the rate of inflation will cause difficulties with the overall budget. Decisions on the budgets for the Directorate will not be taken at the District meeting under this item but all these issues will have to be discussed during the main budget process.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy explained that some work will be undertaken in Ballina in the next few months. Extra gullies will be placed in Ballina Quay and, subject to environmental approval, the Council will upgrade the existing drainage network in the vicinity of Ballina Marina. The area around Borumna will be part of the main scheme.</p> <p>Ms. R. Joyce suggested that this item would be adjourned and continue with the remainder of the meeting. Clarification would be required on the legislation on adopting the draft plan with or without amendment.</p> <p>It was agreed to adjourn this item and on resumption it was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Bonfield and resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 58(e)(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the Draft Budgetary Plan prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act as considered by the members be and is hereby adopted without amendment.</p> <p>Cllr. O'Meara wanted it noted that while he supported the GMA he has concerns over the other parts of the budget.</p>
Item 4. To note review of draft Tipperary LECP	<p>The draft Tipperary LECP was circulated to members.</p> <p>Ms. Margo Hayes outlined that the Local Economic and Community Plan has to be presented at the Districts and the</p>



	<p>SPC. This plan is a 6-year strategy and will cover the period 2024 to 2029. It will be important when groups are applying for funding that they can align their project to the goals and actions in the LECP.</p> <p>Cllr. G. Darcy welcomed the plan but had concerns about the ability to get CLÁR funding for some projects, especially where the facility is in a non-CLÁR area but serves a lot of CLÁR areas. Cllr. Hannigan asked about LEADER funding and an information booklet on sources of funding.</p> <p>Ms. M. Hayes explained that to maximise the potential for projects if a project can apply under a national scheme instead of LEADER that will be done where possible.</p> <p>The draft Tipperary LECP was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Darcy.</p>
Item 5. To agree date for Community Safety Meeting	It was agreed to hold the Community Safety meeting on the 15 th November at 9.00 a.m.
Item 6. To agree date for the Nenagh MD Awards	It was agreed to hold the Nenagh MD Awards evening on Monday 20 th November at 6.30 p.m.
Item 7. To update members on projects & events	<p><u>Newport Town Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awaiting response from Minister for Housing, Heritage & Local Government re invitation to perform the Official Opening of this facility. <p><u>Newport Enhancement Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrangements are being made to finalise the draft plan.• We will then progress the establishment of the Town Team. <p><u>Banba Historic & Cultural Quarter:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrangements for the submission of the Part 8 for the Historic & Cultural Quarter and the Rialto are currently being finalised.• Both projects, which received Category 2 funding under RRDF for planning and design, will be merged to form one project for the purpose of submission of a funding application for the next Category 1 RRDF funding call which is anticipated to open in November 2023. <p><u>Nenagh Centre of Excellence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings are on-going with relevant parties (consultants, TEA, Steering Group, etc.) to finalise the Design Brief.• Six companies who were brought forward from Phase One of the procurement process will be invited to submit tenders in Q4 2023.• It is aimed to have a Design Team identified by end of 2023.



Nenagh Transport Hub:

- Engagement with NTA on the development of a Transport Hub and the proposed relocation of the bus stops to the Railway Station is on-going.

Platforms for Growth- Dromineer:

- Work is progressing on the preparation of tender documents for appointment of consultants for the detailed design, procurement of contractors and overseeing the demolition of the existing toilet block and the construction of a Facilities Centre for Water Sports Activity with a view to going to tender in Q4 2023.

Stereame Housing Development

- Discussions with developer in relation to Housing Development at Stereame are nearing conclusion and legal teams from both sides are currently working on finalizing agreement.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022

- Ballina Access Promenade and Viewing Area – Jennings O’ Donovan, Consulting Engineers have commenced work on preparation of tender documentation for the work.
- Newport Courthouse and Bridewell Complex – Scroope Design have been appointed to prepare a feasibility study. Engagement and consultation process have commenced.

Painting & Enhancement Scheme 2023:

- Twelve applications have currently been received to date under this scheme – four grants have been processed for payment; seven applications received provisional approval, one of which was cancelled and the other six are awaiting completion of works/return of documentation; two applications were refused due to non-compliance with the conditions of the scheme.

Casual Trading Bye Laws:

- Tipperary County Council (NMD) are currently inviting applications for casual trading licences 2024. Licences have to be reapplied for on an annual basis. Licences can be applied for in respect of designated areas in the following locations: Dromineer, Clare Glens, Garrykennedy, Castlelough, Ballina Riverside Park, Newport and the Lookout. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 4.30 p.m. on 01/11/2023.
- To-date in 2023 a total of 6 licences have issued i.e. 2 for the Ballina Riverside Park, 1 for Dromineer, 2 for Garrykennedy and 1 for Castlelough.
- Contact was made with a number of parties in relation to the establishment of a working group to consider opportunities for



developing a market in Nenagh. This will be further progressed in the near future.

Expressions of Interests for Development Land at Lisbunny

Tipperary County Council advertised for expressions of interest from developers and entrepreneurs interested in acquiring a prime 19.2 acre industrially zoned site at Lisbunny Business Park, Dublin Road, Nenagh for immediate development and job creation. The closing date for expressions of interest was 4.30 pm on Friday 9th June 2023. Applicants who had expressed interest in the development land have been asked to provide more detailed proposals.

Arrabawn Roundabout at Kenyon Street

Works on the construction of a new roundabout at the end of Kenyon Street are nearing completion. Road markings took place this week. The contractor is finalising minor snag items to the traffic island and will continue with works within the Arrabawn site. Martyrs Road is now opened to through traffic.

One Way System

Detailed design on the Nenagh One Way System is currently being finalised. Advance works will take place in November with full implementation likely in Q1 2024.

Update from Nenagh Tourist Office & Visitor Centre

- Nenagh Tourist Office achieved "Highly Commended" accolade in the Travel2Ireland Awards for the best Local Tourist Office in Ireland, finishing behind Dungarvan and fending off competition from Dingle, Killarney and Dublin.
- "A Celebration of Nenagh" was held in Nenagh Tourist Office on Tuesday 10th October. This was a "Nenagh 800" event held in conjunction with Nenagh MD. On the night an overview was given of a number of positive developments in Nenagh Town in recent times, followed by entertainment and the presentation of Nenagh 800 medals to 14 worthy recipients

Tidy Towns

2023 was another very successful year for the Tidy Towns Committees across Nenagh Municipal District. In total 26 towns, villages or communities in the Nenagh Municipal District entered the competition this year and the results were truly outstanding.

All centres showed an increase in the marks awarded with Ballinahinch, Ballinderry and Rathcabbin showing a whopping additional 19 marks each this year. Nenagh Town, Ballina-Boher and Riverstown-Killeen received an additional 17 marks and no centre received less than an increase of 7 marks. The three top achievers this year were Terryglass (first in North Tipperary and



	<p>silver medal), Birdhill (highly commended and bronze medal) and Silvermines (commended and bronze medal). Nenagh Town retained its bronze medal – first awarded in 2015.</p> <p><u>Designated Bathing Area</u> A public consultation process will be undertaken in the near future in relation to having Dromineer approved as a Designated Bathing Area. Proposals are currently being prepared by Destination Lough Derg Tourism Officer, Environment Section and Nenagh MD.</p> <p>All the members congratulated the Tidy Towns groups on their results. Cllr. Darcy welcomed the proposal for Dromineer to become a designated bathing area and enquired about the possibility of extending it to other areas. Cllr. Bugler asked for updates on the viewing promenade in Ballina, CCTV in Ballina, toilet block not being opened, signage for the bye-laws and Quarry Lane.</p> <p>Cllrs. Hannigan and Carroll requested a meeting with Waterways Ireland. Cllr. Carroll felt this would be important as there is a lot of activity on the waterways. Cllr. Hannigan expressed concerns over the 5-day rule for the “parking” of boats and said that it was important that submissions are made for the Waterways Ireland public consultation that is underway. Cllrs. Bugler and Carroll stated that the issues they want discussed with Waterways Ireland can be submitted.</p> <p>Ms. R. Joyce explained that Dromineer was selected as a starting place for the designated bathing area as it would have the most footfall. If this is successful a review of other bathing areas can be undertaken. Consultants are currently working on the tender documents for the Ballina Viewing Promenade, the Data Protection Impact Assessment is under review by J&N Consultants. The Bye-Laws for the jumping off the bridge have only being put on public display recently and provision of the signage for prohibition on alcohol will be followed up.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy explained that the design for the active travel scheme for Quarry Lane is under review by the NTA. The issue with the toilet block in Ballina is in relation to capacity at the WWTP.</p>
<p>Item 8. To update members on Works Programme</p>	<p>The update on the Works Programme was circulated to members.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy informed members that the Work Programme was near completion with a number of other schemes finishing up over the next few weeks. While there was a delay with the work on the Templeberry Bridge this is now due to be opened on the 17th November. The interim work to address the flooding in</p>



	<p>Ballina will begin in two weeks' time. Five additional gullies will be added at Ballina Quay with the work at Derg Marina to begin after that. It is more difficult to address the issue at Boruma.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler asked if the possibility of contacting landowners where the leaves were falling from the trees on their property and blocking gullies to ask them about putting a net to catch the falling leaves could be examined.</p> <p>Mr. M. O'Connor did not accept that the leaves were causing the flooding in Ballina. The gullies could be cleared a number of times a day but the issue in Ballina is in relation to capacity.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll welcomed the work that was done to address the flooding at Tyone and on the Templeberry Bridge. Cllr. Darcy asked if some remedial work could be done at Ballinamurra between the areas that were completed on the Roads Works Programme. He said something needs to be done on the N65 at Milford. There is a bad bump near Carrigahorig and it causes difficulties for milk lorries travelling towards Nenagh. He suggested that the area to Knocknacree Woods would be a good project under active travel and it would allow people to walk from Cloughjordan.</p> <p>Cllr. Hannigan said that, as Uisce Éireann are now replacing the watermain in Puckane, the road will need to be put on the road works programme and asked if another disabled parking bay could be provided in Borrisokane.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy agreed that the Ballinamurra area will be examined. An inspector from the TII looked at the area of Milford with him and a list is being compiled on it. The area to Knocknacree Woods would not be suitable for an active travel scheme but it may suit ORIS, however land will need to be purchased for it and it could be an expensive project.</p>
<p>Item 9. To note Engineer's Checklist on roads matters</p>	<p>The Engineer's Checklist was circulated to members.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler requested that something would be done regarding the major drop on the R503 Millbrae to Annaholty, the problem of ash die back in Ballina Riverside Park, the trees at the Park also needs to be pruned back as they are blocking the lights and the lines in Cnoc Cluain, Cnoc Ard and Palm Grove could be redone.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll asked could something be done with the overhanging hedges at Gortmore. Cllr. Darcy said signage is needed for the bad bends on the Old Birr Road near Cloughjordan.</p> <p>Cllr. O'Meara requested that the junction at Lockeen Church would be examined, better road markings are required there,</p>



	<p>drivers travel fast in the area and this causes a lot of issues. Cllr. H. McGrath asked if something could be done at the burial ground at the end of Kenyon St. Funeral hearses have difficulty getting access through the gate since the new roundabout was put in place.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy will look at the signage for the bad bends on the Old Birr Road and letters are being issued to landowners in relation to hedge cutting. The R503 is a difficult area as it is not possible to put in barriers, additional signage and road markings may be required. Ash Die back is the responsibility of the landowners and a list of the areas being affected is currently being compiled. A LCSS may address the issue at Lockeen Church.</p>
<p>Item 10. To consider Notices of Motion</p>	<p>Notice of Motion 2695 was proposed by Cllr. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.</p> <p>Notice of Motion No: 2695 submitted by Cllr. F. Bonfield That Tipperary County Council arrange and carry out both drainage and maintenance work on the Cully Road in Newport. Residents up here have been in contact and there is a serious flooding occurrence in the area.</p> <p>Response was given to Cllr. Bonfield as follows: <i>The Area Engineer will investigate the flooding issue at Cully Road with a view to carrying out works as part of the 2024 Municipal Schedule of Works Programme.</i></p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield was happy with the response given.</p> <p>Notice of Motion 2696 was proposed by Cllr. Bugler and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.</p> <p>Notice of Motion No: 2696 submitted by Cllr. P. Bugler I hereby request Tipperary County Council to re paint all road markings in Ballina especially at Ballina NS, opposite Wooden Spoon Restaurant, Main St., Ballina from Portroe Rd to Roulagh Junction, entrance to Bridge/ opposite Boruma night club, lakeside drive etc. All road markings in Ballina are badly faded and need to be renewed in the interest of road safety.</p> <p>Response was given to Cllr. Bugler as follows: <i>The Area Engineer has carried out an inspection and considers that the current road markings are in an acceptable condition. All road marking in Ballina have been renewed in the past four year in accordance with the maintenance schedule. The section of road markings at the Grange Road require some improvement. However, given the upcoming Active Travel project in this area, it is prudent to wait for the scheme to be completed. It should be noted that all housing estate and local road entrances onto the R494 from Roolagh Junction towards Cullenagh were upgraded in</i></p>



the last 2 years. The road marking conditions will be kept under review by the Area Engineer.

Cllr. Bugler disagreed with the response given. She said the area needs to be driven to see where the markings are faded.

Notice of Motion 2706 was proposed by Cllr. Bugler and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Notice of Motion No: 2706 submitted by Cllr. P. Bugler

I hereby request Tipperary County Council to issue report by Byrne Looby Consultants regarding the flooding problems in Ballina and the solutions to the flooding issues. I also request Tipperary County Council to issue report on the interim solutions to the flooding in Ballina.

Response was given to Cllr. Bugler as follows:

Byrne Looby Consultants are in the process of producing a report regarding the flooding problems and solutions for Ballina, Co Tipperary. The report should be available in early 2024. As an interim measure, the Council intend to deal with two areas in Ballina which are liable to flooding during extreme rainfall events.

Subject to environmental approval, the Council will upgrade the existing drainage network in the vicinity of Ballina Marina in late 2023. The design is currently being finalised following a detailed survey of existing services in the area.

The Council intend to improve the collection of surface water at the entrance to Ballina Quay with the intention of reducing or eliminating storm water flowing under the archway into the estate. This scheme involves installing nine additional road gullies, four within the estate and a further five uphill of the entrance to the estate. The contractor has been appointed and work is expected to commence in late October 2023.

Cllr. Bugler was disappointed that it will take a year to get a report and would like the Consultants to know this. It is a very serious issue.

Notice of Motion 2706 was proposed by Cllr. Bugler and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Notice of Motion No: 2707 submitted by Cllr. P. Bugler

I hereby request Tipperary County Council to improve the Yield Right of Way Signage at Darcy's Bridge and Dunally line Bridge on R496 in the interest of road safety (2 accidents at Darcy's Bridge in last few weeks). I also request Tipperary County Council to improve signage at Dunally line junction/R445/ R496. This junction has high traffic movements due to closure of R494 and is dangerous and requires more signage to alert motorists/ cyclists/ pedestrians.



	<p>Response was given to Cllr. Bugler as follows: <i>The existing signage on the R496 is in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual. However, there has been an increase in traffic as the route is now on the official diversion route following the closure of the R494. The Council will ask the contractor on the Killaloe Bridge scheme to erect additional signage at Darcy's bridge.</i></p> <p>Cllr. Bugler welcomed the response but asked could the other bridge at the Dunally Line junction also be looked at.</p>
Item 11. To note Delegated Employees Orders	Noted.
Item 12. To consider items of correspondence	None
Item 13. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations	<p>Votes of Congratulations - None</p> <p>Votes of Sympathy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pat Seymour, on the death of his wife, Ann, R.I.P.• Collins Family, on the death of their mother, Kathleen, R.I.P.• Sheila Gleeson, on the death of her husband, Pat, R.I.P.• Margaret McLoughlin, on the death of her partner, Joe Hackett. R.I.P. <p>Cllr. H. McGrath paid tribute to Mr. Joe Hackett. He stated he was a singer of international standard and was a great character. All the members wished to be associated with the tribute.</p>
Item 14. Any other business.	Cllr. O'Meara informed members that a committee has been formed for the Military Barracks and that a lot of work has taken place. He extended an invitation to members and the executive to get involved.

This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify:-

Signed: John Rocky McGrath Date: 16/11/2023
Cllr. John 'Rocky' McGrath
Cathaoirleach

Signed: Mary Joyce Date: 16/11/2023
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

