

Minutes of September Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 23rd September, 2024 at 11.00am

Members Present: Councillor John Crosse, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Micheál Anglim
Councillor Declan Burgess
Councillor Liam Browne
Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan
Councillor Roger Kennedy
Councillor Máirín McGrath
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor John O’Heney
Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

Officials Present: Ms. Sharon Kennedy, District Director
Mr. Anselm McGowan, Administrative Officer
Mr. James Murray, Senior Roads Engineer
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. Richard Power, Executive Engineer
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Mr. Michael Begley, Administrative Officer
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer
LAWPRO
Ms. Ruth Hennessy, Executive Scientific Officer
Ms. Mags Morrissey, Community Water Officer
Environment & Climate Change Directorate
Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer
Mr. Fergal Condon, Administrative Officer

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John Crosse, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the September meeting. Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer.

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 22nd July 2024

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District July meeting held on 22nd July, 2024 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan and seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

3.1 Environment & Climate Action Directorate

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer and Mr. Fergal Condon, Administrative Officer, Environment & Climate Change Section to the meeting. Mr. Holland thanked the Members and was available for questions.

Councillor Burgess requested an update in relation to illegal dumping and the use of covert CCTV cameras given the recent change in legalisation. He asked if Tipperary County Council's code of practice has been completed and has any progress been made on identifying locations. He also asked for an update on securing a site for a cemetery in New Inn and additional ground for the cemetery in Cashel. Councillor McGrath referred to illegal dumping particularly at bring banks and requested more frequent pick-ups because she's frustrated constantly ringing the company. She also requested details in relation to the second tranche of Community Climate Action Funding. Councillor Browne referred to a large number of dogs roaming the streets and can dogs be seized particularly if there is evidence that the dog is a threat. He also asked how many restricted breeds are licenced in the District and can the owners be contacted to advise them of their responsibilities. Councillor Browne also referred to the control of horses and if all horses are microchipped to prevent them wandering. He asked if there is a horse warden in the County or who is the correct person to contact. He also referred to the mattress amnesty and asked if that could be made available full time. Councillor Kennedy requested an update on the progress made in relation to Derelict Sites and asked what grants are available to owners. He also asked for clarification in relation to grants for septic tanks. Councillor O'Heney referred to restricted breeds and noted that another dog warden is required. Councillor Marie Murphy requested an update on the 53, Section 14 directions and 10, Section 14's issued in this District and asked how many mattresses were collected during the amnesty. Councillor Anglim requested an update on the extension to the graveyard in Ardfinnan because it is nearly at capacity. Councillor Crosse also sought an update in relation to Solohead Graveyard.

In response Mr. Holland acknowledged the comments in relation to illegal dumping and that the cessation of dumping is a necessity. In relation to CCTV there are Guidelines in place and the Local Authority is setting up an oversight board and would welcome suggested locations from the Members but advised that they are precluded from using them in private property. He advised that the current New Inn Cemetery is within the curtilage of the church and is almost full. They are currently looking for available land which is suitable and they are having difficulty sourcing a suitable site. In relation to St Cormac's Cemetery he noted that it was extended 10 years ago and was surprised there was a requirement for another extension. Councillor Burgess advised that there were initial discussions with Ruairi Boland and the site next to St Cormac's is not suitable. Mr. Holland confirmed that they are in discussions with Tipperary Co-op in relation

to a suitable site in Solohead and regarding Ardfinnan he confirmed that trial holes will be done in the next few weeks. It was confirmed that there is no date for the second tranche of Climate Action Funding and that the Mattress Amnesty is a National Initiative. Mr. Holland confirmed that the requirement to register your septic tank has been removed and the grant has increased.

Councillor John O’Heney referred to the environmental notices served in relation to Aherlow Heights and asked when the Notice expires will the Council be proceeding with legal action. Mr. Holland confirmed that a Section 14 Notice requires works to be done.

Mr. Condon confirmed that a dog warden is restricted from removing a dog from private property and his powers are listed under the Control of Dogs Act. He confirmed that he doesn’t have a number of licensed restricted breeds in the District, however confirmed that there are 12 licensed XL bullies in Tipperary. He confirmed that there was an announcement of €2 million for all local authorities in relation to dog control, however they have received no other updates.

Councillor Browne referred to the 43 approved Tidy Towns Grants and noted that only 7 applications have been paid to date. Mr. Condon confirmed that since completing the report 60% have been paid. Councillor McGrath referred to a recent workshop with Uisce Eireann and a new priority list and that Newcastle has gone from 8 to 11 which leaves no capacity for the community to develop. Mr. Holland confirmed that Uisce Eireann have regard to Small Town and Village Growth Programme which identified 7 villages and he is not in a position to comment because it is a matter for Uisce Eireann. Councillor Browne was very critical of the workshop with Uisce Eireann because it was 4 hours talking about providing water to Dublin from Parteen. He also asked if there is a horse warden in the County and referred to a serious issue with raw sewage going into the river in Golden. Mr. Holland confirmed that the Council does not have a horse warden and any issues should be referred to the Department of Agriculture. He confirmed that the recent workshop is part of the public representative engagement process. Councillor Burgess advised that Tipperary County Council requested that a meeting would be held at District level, however this was refused. Mr. Holland advised that a meeting was scheduled 3 years ago and the attendance was poor. Councillor Hanna Hourigan expressed frustration because there were no answers from the Uisce Eireann meeting.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Holland and Mr. Condon and their team.

3.2 Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO)

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Ruth Hennessy and Ms. Mags Morrissey, LAWPRO to the meeting. Ms. Hennessy thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Members and made a presentation on the role of LAWPRO and that it is a shared service between Tipperary and Kilkenny County Council. She advised that LAWPROs role is to study the data from testing which is carried out by the EPA, Inland Fisheries, National Parks & Wildlife etc, identify issues and raise

awareness. Ms. Hennessy also advised that LAWPRO had secured €50 million funding from the Department of Agriculture to provide support to farmers to limit the impact agriculture is having on water quality.

Ms. Morrissey presented details of the work being done with communities and there is good engagement with Cahir Tidy Towns. There were numerous events held around Biodiversity Week. She also advised the Members that there are small grants available to fund engagement days up to a maximum of €50,000. She referred in particular to a Communities Caring for Water Conference on the 9th November which will showcase and celebrate work being done. She also outlined details of a Citizens Science Training Course in Callan on the 4th October.

Councillor Burgess requested clarification on who the contact person is for the Community Water Development Fund and he also wanted details on the right body to contact in relation to the condition of the River Ara and raw sewerage being discharged into the river in Golden. He confirmed that he has been campaigning for a treatment plant in Golden and asked if LAWPRO are engaging with Uisce Eireann. He acknowledges Tipperary water quality is not doing well and that farmers are getting hit because of small run offs. He also questioned the double standard of the EPA in terms of river water quality and bottled water quality which is 9mg/litre. Councillor McGrath stated that she previously raised with the Environment Directorate if LAWPRO, Uisce Eireann and Environment could sit down together and referred to Newcastle going down the priority list for the development of a treatment plant. She referred to the award winning Suir Blueway and raw sewage is being pumped into it. She stated that if we stopped pumping raw sewage into the water it would improve the water quality overnight. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) referred to industrial discharges going in to the river in Tipperary Town and Aherlow and they should be held responsible. She also referred to the housing estate in Aherlow, the notice issued and asked when will it be referred to the EPA. Councillor O'Heney referred to Tipperary being the 'Well of Ara' which is located in Glenbane in particular where there is a serious issue with Japanese Knotweed which is preventing the area from being highlighted as a tourist spot. Councillor Kennedy referred to the ASSAP applications being processed with farmers and he also highlighted errors with mapping of the Drish River on the page 12 of the presentation. He referred to the high rainfall in 2023 and to the bog water which was being washed into the rivers and to the significant issue of raw sewage going into the river in Golden which does not seem to be a priority. Councillor Browne called for more joined up thinking and it's very hard to blame the farmers for the problems. He also asked if Inland Fisheries could remove a tree from the river in Golden which was stopping fish going up river to spawn. The Cathaoirleach thanked the LAWPRO team for the report and noted that they are based in Tipperary Town and that he would welcome a review of the local issue with Hogweed.

In response Ms. Hennessy confirmed that the team are based in Heffernan House, Tipperary Town and recently have recently completed a drone survey of the Mulkear Catchment looking at Hogweed and they are putting together a treatment plan which will involve ASSAP advisors working with farmers. She

acknowledges that there are multiple pressures on water quality and that LAWPRO look at the data and target problem areas. In relation to the River Ara she confirmed that they are finalising their report for the EPA. She noted that Newcastle is a high status river with one of the best water qualities in the county and she noted that the River Basic Management Plan does not cover funding to deliver objectives. In relation to drinking water quality she did acknowledge the different standards for river water and noted that the same high nitrate levels do not harm humans but does trigger growth in our rivers. Councillor Murphy referred to Page 6 of the report and noted that the Community Water Officer is on long term leave and asked will she be replaced. Ms Morrissey advised no and she was dealing with any queries.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Hennessy and Ms. Morrissey and the LAWPRO team.

3.3 Consider Draft Chiefs Executive’s Report PT8TT121 Part 8 Development at Walking Path from Solohead GAA Pitch to the N24 at Tipperary Racecourse.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Caroline Conway, Planning Section to the meeting. Ms. Conway presented the Chief Executive’s Report and confirmed that there were 218 submissions made during the consultation period. The Chief Executive’s report contains recommendations with regard to a modification of the route in order to address the concerns raised in those submissions. Ms Conway recommended that the Part 8 proposal should proceed as recommended in the Chief Executive Report.

On the proposition of Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner), seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy it was resolved:

“That having considered the Chief Executive’s Report dated 2nd September 2024 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended, for the proposed Part 8 Development of a walking path from The Soloheadbeg Memorial to Limerick Junction and the N24 at Tipperary Racecourse. Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District decide that the proposed development be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report.”

3.4 Consider the Grant Allocations for 2024 Painting Enhancement Scheme Villages

On the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess, the grant allocations for 2024 Painting Enhancement Scheme Village Scheme 2024 allocations were agreed as follows:

Dundrum Village Streetscape & Building Façade Scheme 2024			
No.	Name	Address	Grant 2024

1	Karol Cunniffe	Green Road Dundrum	€300
2	Vera Heffernan	Main Street Dundrum Shop	€300
3	Vera Heffernan	Main Street Dundrum Barber	€300
4	Peter O'Dwyer	Dundrum Village Dundrum	€300
5	Seamus & Vera O'Dwyer	Main Street Dundrum	€300
			€1,500

3.5 Consider the 2025 – 2027 3 Year Roads Restoration/Improvement Programme

The District Engineer presented the 2025 – 2027 - 3 Year Roads Restoration/Improvement Programme to the Members.

On the proposition of Councillor Declan Burgess, seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy the 2025 – 2027 3 Year Roads Restoration/Improvement Programme was agreed. Councillor Murphy welcomed the Roads Programme and noted that 34 roads will be done in the Cahir Area. Councillor McGrath referred to the tertiary road in Priesttown which she feels should be included in the Roads Programme.

The Cathaoirleach referred to one Member who broke protocol and highlighted that any discussions at a workshop are in confidence. Councillor Burgess stated that it was important to protect the integrity of the workshop and no information should be in the public domain until approved by the Members.

3.6 Nomination to Tipperary Town Revitalisation Social Inclusion Implementation Sub-Group and Tipperary Town Social Inclusion Network

On the proposition of Councillor Declan Burgess, seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) was nominated to the Tipperary Town Revitalisation Social Inclusion Implementation Sub Group and Tipperary Town Social Inclusion Network.

3.7 District Engineer's Report

The District Engineer informed the Members that the roads programme for 2024 is substantially complete and the approval of the 3 year roads programme was the main objective today.

Councillor Kennedy complimented the engineering and outdoor staff for their exemplary work.

3.8 District Administrator's Report

Mr. Anselm McGowan presented a shorter report and was available for questions. Councillor Marie Murphy requested that the report be updated to reflect the additional funding awarded for the Cahir Rural Regeneration project. Councillor Burgess requested that a suitable funding stream be found for the Main Street toilets in Cashel. He also requested an update from the working group in relation to the interpretive centre and he appreciated it can be slow but it was important to be briefed. He also referred to the previous commitment from University of Limerick that the Bolton Library will be returned. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) referred to the funding approved for Market Yard and requested an update in relation to Dan Breen House and the Courthouse. Councillor McGrath also requested an update to relation the Cahir RRDF project.

In response Frank Cussen, Project Engineer confirmed that the detailed design is being finalised for the Market Yard toilets. In relation to Dan Breen House and the Courthouse he confirmed that the Council is waiting on final approval. The detailed design has been completed and it will go to tender with a contractor expected to be on site early next year. Also, with the Library and Car Park in Cahir it will go to tender in the next few weeks with a contractor to be on site in January, 2025.

The District Director advised that in relation to the interpretive centre she will liaise with Brian Beck and Anthony Coleman. The District Administrator agreed with Councillor Burgess that the public toilets in Cashel need to be upgraded and it is hoped that suitable funding will be available. Councillor Hanna Hourigan expressed her concern at the amount of money being spent on the Market Yard toilets. The District Director advised that this is a strategic location and the current facilities need to be upgraded. However, she also noted her concern and that value for money is important. Councillor Hanna Hourigan advised that she has trust in the project team but would like to see the plans.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Roger Kennedy (Ref. ID 2851)

That the Municipal District install a yellow box at the junction on Ladyswell Street and Francis Row in the interest of traffic safety and to facilitate exit from Halla na Feile, Francis Row and the Brothers of Charity at times of heavy traffic on the R693.

Reply

Yellow Boxes are expensive to maintain and should be used only where other solutions will not work. Yellow boxes are not provided at private entrances.

Before a box could be installed a traffic survey on the number of vehicles and turning movements at peak times would need to be assessed to ensure a strong need for this engineered solution on what doesn't seem to be a significant feeder route. The District office will carry out such an assessment. Yellow Box Markings are only provided to aid traffic flow and may be used at junctions and locations where blocking back affecting a cross flow is a significant problem.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess.

5.2 Councillor Roger Kennedy (Ref ID 2852)

That the Municipal District facilitate a plebiscite for the residents of William Street, Cashel to change the name back to its original name Lána Haicéad or Hacketts Lane, Cashel.

Reply

Following the airing of the motion I will if approved by the Members initiate the formal process of public consultation in accordance with Section 192 of the Local Act 2001.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess.

5.3 Councillor John Crosse (Ref ID 2854)

Due to the inappropriate behaviour of a small group near Kickham Plaza, it has been requested that the benches not be reinstalled at the same public location.

Reply

The benches in question were removed without the knowledge or permission of Tipperary County Council. On recovery it was determined that in the interim they had been damaged and are no longer fit for purpose and therefore cannot be used at their original location or anywhere else. The cost of replacement benches is approximately €4,000.

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

5.4 Councillor Liam Browne (Ref ID 2855)

That this Council erect suitable posts to stop vehicles parking on the pathway to St Cormac's Cemetery, from the new development at Bregawn, to outside the gates of the cemetery. Such posts would restrict vehicular parking, but allow full access to pedestrians and disabled transport such as wheelchair access and mobility vehicles.

Reply

Such illegal parking should be brought to the attention of An Garda Siochana. The section referenced is approximately 330m and would require a significant budget to purchase and install the bollards. A budget for such works will be requested under the Safety Improvement Grant.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

5.5 Councillor Liam Browne (Ref ID 2856)

That this Council carry out or instructs the relevant authority to carry out inspection and repair works, to the bridge over the River Suir in the village of Ardmayle.

Also, that this Council carry out, or instructs the relevant authority to carry out painting work on the bridge (black/yellow paint), to make the safety threat on the bridge more visible, and reduce the possibility of traffic collisions/increase traffic safety.

Reply

An engineering survey was carried out at this location in the past number of weeks. We are awaiting the final report. Funding to carry out any actions proposed in the report will be requested under the Bridge Rehabilitation Grant.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

5.6 Councillor Declan Burgess (Ref ID 2866)

That the Municipal District carries out a review of the pedestrian and traffic safety at An Ullord estate in Boherlahan. There is a significant need for the installation of a pedestrian crossing connecting An Ullord estate to St Joseph's Avenue.

Reply

The Municipal District has previously carried out an inspection of the area to examine appropriate traffic control and pedestrian crossing measures. Funding will be sought under the Safety Improvement Grant for improvement works.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

5.7 Councillor Liam Browne (Ref ID 2867)

That this Council provide CCTV monitoring for safety and security at Cashel Playground, Friar Street, Cashel and at the municipal car park on Friar Street, Cashel, adjacent to Roselawn and behind Cashel Library.

Both areas are the site of ongoing and significant criminal and anti social behaviour, which would benefit from continuous CCTV monitoring.

Reply

The issue of CCTV provision has been advocated at a number of locations and has been placed on the agenda for this afternoon's Community Safety Committee meeting as any such projects will be considered following Garda advice.

This motion was seconded by Councillor John O'Heney.

5.8 Councillor Roger Kennedy (Ref ID 2870)

French drains be put at suitable location where the resurfacing was done on the road into Limerick Junction – from the turn off into the junction up as far as the station itself as water is collecting and flowing in driveways.

Reply

Some minor drainage works were done at this location in the past two weeks. There is numerous gullies at intervals along this section. In the normal course of events water will not flow into driveways at this location.

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

5.9 Councillor John O'Heney (Ref ID 2871)

That Tipperary County Council relinquish any interest in purchasing and developing a Roads Depot in Hollyford Village and instead expand and develop the depot that already exists in the area.

Reply

Tipperary County Council can confirm that our Roads section have made a bid on a former Dairygold yard in Hollyford. The intention is to relocate our Roads maintenance crews in the area from the existing depots to this location. The two existing yards and welfare facilities are well below the standard that we aspire to for our staff and this rationalisation and upgrade is part of a wider depot improvement programme across the county which has been ongoing over a number of years. The proposed new depot at Hollyford is required to provide a better and more efficient maintenance and operations service to the area. The proposed depot will be similar to any of our local road's welfare depots.

As part of the purchase of the former Dairygold yard by the Roads section of Tipperary County Council it is proposed to reserve areas, on the boundary of the site, for future potential residential housing in the village. This reservation has the potential for up to 7 residential units.

While the Local Authority would not bid against an approved housing body, there is at this time no other bid on this site. The purchase of the site provides for both the provision of an improved road maintenance and operational service for the

area, approved welfare facility for our staff and makes appropriate and adequate reservation for the future provision of residential housing in the village if and when required.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Liam Browne.

5.10 Councillor John O’Heney (Ref ID 2872)

That Tipperary County Council provides a Letter of Support to The Conference of St Francis, SVDP, Hollyford, to allow them access funding for social housing in Hollyford.

Reply

Tipperary County Council has a good relationship with the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB’s) operating across the county and this will see the AHB sector delivering 40% of new social housing across the county under Housing For All 2022-2026.

There is a clear understanding within the AHB sector that support for social housing delivery is based on a number of factors including housing need at a particular location and this is a consistent approach that has been taken across the county with the support of the AHB sector and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Any funding support from the Department is very much contingent on this clear demonstration of housing need.

In this instance the number of approved applicants is low, however Tipperary County Council is willing to provide a letter of support to the proposed approved housing body for the construction of 7 units, type and size as determined by the approved housing applicants for Hollyford.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Liam Browne.

5.11 Councillor John O’Heney (Ref ID 2873)

That this Council would engage with Iarnród Eireann and the Department of Transport to request for an earlier Train Service from Tipperary Town Station that serves the Clonmel and Waterford regions.

Reply

Subject to the approval of the members I will write to Iarnród Eireann seeking engagement on the matter.

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

5.12 Councillor Marie Murphy & Councillor Micheál Anglim (Ref ID 2877)

That this Council would install ramps or 'speed cushions' on the approach to St. Mary's National School, Clogheen. The speed of traffic passing the school is extremely dangerous as proven by the speed tests done recently and this is despite the speed limit, the 'driver feedback signs', (which were installed about 8 years ago), the painting of the 'shark's teeth outside the school and the traffic calming measures done in the past couple of years.

Reply

Speeding and the enforcement of the speed limits is a matter for An Garda Siochana. Having installed numerous traffic calming measures in line with Tipperary County Council's Traffic Calming Policy speeding remains an issue at this location. Further funding will be explored under the Safety Improvement Grant, Safe Route to Schools and any other appropriate funding streams.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Micheál Anglim.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

There were no votes of sympathy.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- John Quirke, Cahir who was the overall winner of the World Cup Trout Fly Angling Championship held in Lough Mask, Co Mayo and John Purtill, Cahir who was runner up.
- Betty Corbett, St Josephs Avenue, Boherlahan, Cashel on reaching her 100th birthday.
- Sara Ryan, Tipperary Town on winning the U16 National Champion Matchplay Pitch & Putt Title

7.1 Response from Minister Ryan, the Minister of Transport, regarding the request for additional resources for road salting during severe weather events in the Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District.

Noted

8.1 Any other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/ John Hussey Dated/ 23-10-2024
Cathaoirleach

Signed/ Anselm Mc Govern Dated/ 23/10/2024
District Administrator