



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 11.00 AM ON 21st NOVEMBER 2024

Present in chamber	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, Michael O Meara, John Carroll, Louise Morgan Walsh, Pamela Quirke O'Meara
Present via Zoom	Cllr. Phyll Bugler
Apologies	Cllrs. Joe Hannigan, Seamus Morris & Ryan O'Meara
Also Present	<p>Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services; Mr. Kieran Malone, Senior Engineer; Mr. Barry Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officer.</p> <p>Roads: Paddy Crowley, Senior Engineer and Shane Egan, Executive Engineer</p> <p>Planning (via Zoom) Jonathan Flood, A/Senior Executive Planner</p> <p>Cultural/Libraries: Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian</p> <p>Economic, Community & Rural Development: Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer; Carmel Ormond, Lough Derg Tourism Officer; Marie Maher, A/Assistant Staff Officer</p> <p>TUSLA: Jeannette Seymour, Regional Co-Ordinator and Shirley Brosnan, Team Leader</p>
Item 1. To note any Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest	None
Item 2. To consider and adopt Minutes of the October Meeting held on 17th October 2024	It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Quirke O'Meara and resolved that the minutes of the October Meeting held on 17 th October 2024 be adopted.
Item 3. To consider Chief Executives Report on Part VIII Birdhill Active Travel Scheme	<p>It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Bonfield that the Members of Nenagh Municipal District decide to proceed with the development for the Birdhill Active Travel Scheme as outlined in Chief Executive's Report.</p> <p>Mr. P. Crowley thanked the members for their support and stated that this will be a transformative scheme. There were 2 workshops held on this a scheme and a lot of engagement with the community.</p>



	<p>Cllrs. Carroll and Bonfield welcomed the scheme and the engagement that took place with the local community and acknowledged the connection this will bring to the new Shannon Crossing.</p>
<p>Item 4. To receive update from Economic, Community & Rural Development</p>	<p>The report on Economic, Community and Rural Development was circulated to members.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll welcomed the report and stated that there is €7m allocated to the LEADER programme. This programme has a huge remit. He acknowledged the significant work the section do under a number of headings. The LCDC also has a large number of teams/sub-teams with a number of schemes available.</p> <p>Cllr. O'Meara asked about making an application for LEADER funding under the current programme and said it is difficult to keep up with all the schemes available.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield requested an update on the Tipperary Gift Card and asked if it would be possible to have a further publicity campaign on it.</p> <p>Ms. M. Ryan informed members that NTDC are receiving expressions of interest at the moment. The first step for groups is to make contact with NTDC and they will advise on the suitable programme. Projects are approved on a month by month basis. She will follow up on a further publicity campaign for the gift card.</p>
<p>Items 5. To receive update from Cultural Services/ Libraries and Biodiversity</p>	<p>The report on Cultural Services/Libraries and Biodiversity was circulated to members.</p> <p>Mr. D. Dullaghan highlighted the increase in footfall in the libraries in Nenagh, Cloughjordan and Borrisokane. Visitor numbers are back to pre-Covid levels.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield complimented the sensory pod in the Nenagh library and asked about funding to provide similar units in community facilities.</p> <p>Cllr. M. O'Meara asked about the work for the outside of Borrisokane Library, he thought it was to be done this year. He acknowledged the work of the Biodiversity officer in relation to the project for the conservation of the barn owl. The barn owl is an endangered species but the numbers have increased in Tipperary due to this initiative.</p> <p>Cllr. Morgan Walsh enquired about additional space for students to study in the library. It is very useful for people that may not have space at home and cannot afford afterschool study.</p> <p>Cllr. Quirke O'Meara stated that the library service has moved forward with the times and asked about previous discussions regarding the provision of outdoors library spaces. This would free</p>



	<p>up some internal space but would also provide holistic benefits to outdoor learning.</p> <p>Mr. D. Dullaghan explained that there was no funding available to for the work in Borrisokane due to the increase in energy costs across the county. At the moment it is not on the agenda but it was painted and a new carpet put in place. He accepted the point in relation to the space for students. The building in Nenagh is 5000 ft² but there is a limit on study space. If additional space is provided for this there will be a knock-on effect to other services like the digital hub or gallery for which space is already limited. The library was designed in the 80's which had very different requirements to now. The sensory pod is very well used and he will let members know if funding for similar projects for communities become available.</p>
<p>Item 6. To receive presentation on Fostering from Tusla</p>	<p>TUSLA gave a presentation to members on fostering.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll thanks TUSLA for the presentation and asked what the increase in children in foster care is locally and nationally.</p> <p>Cllr. M. O'Meara acknowledged the passion they show for their jobs. They deal with very vulnerable children in very complex situations. Foster carers are unsung heroes and it is a vocation but they do not have any pension entitlements at the end of the service. The work cannot be measured. He enquired which Department TUSLA are under.</p> <p>Cllr. Quirke O'Meara stated there is phenomenal work by the foster carers and TUSLA. It is a full family commitment and people can be concerned about how it will affect their lives. The changes to who can foster is very welcome. From her job in family learning sometimes it can be a small thing that can push a family over the edge. The support services after 5 o'clock are not there or are overburdened; more staff is required.</p> <p>Cllr. Morgan Walsh would welcome an information session in the hospital. She asked about how the respite system works.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield thanked TUSLA and stated that the national picture has changed in relation to society and financial concerns. She asked what the main challenges facing TUSLA are.</p> <p>Ms. S. Brosnan explained that the figures for the children in foster care are constantly changing. There are many reasons for a child to be in care. There are however more children in foster care now and this is a knock-on effect of Covid. Covid had an effect on substance abuse and the effects on children are now being seen. Addiction is a problem across all society. Financial burdens due to the cost of living has also affected families, it can lead to frustrations in the home. Children in care were of a particular socio-economic background but that is no longer the case. Families 10 years ago would not have been on the radar.</p>



	<p>Everything is tried to ensure the child stays in their own community. There has been a decrease in foster carers; there are more people retiring than being approved. The issue in relation to pensions is being looked at. One person would have had to be at home so foster carers may have to reduce hours which would have an effect on their pension and this should be acknowledged. It is important to keep communities informed of the fostering service and they would be happy to come to any event.</p> <p>In an ideal world a social worker would be available for out of hours services. There is difficulty in recruiting social workers but there is a full team for North Tipperary at the moment. One of the biggest challenges for the fostering system is recruitment of foster carers, people don't realise they can do it. Supports are also a challenge, they should feel valued and respected. The County Council is holding a Civic Reception for foster carers and it is really appreciated.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield suggested that the members would draft a motion for the full Council in relation to the issues of pensions for the carers.</p>												
<p>Item 7. To approve allocation of funding</p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. Quirke O'Meara and resolved that in accordance with the terms of the Contribution to Clubs & Organisations Grant Scheme the payment of grants be made to the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="531 1151 1453 1272"> <thead> <tr> <th>Club/Organisation</th> <th>Recommendation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kilcommon Community Council</td> <td>€500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friends of St. Conlons Nursing Home</td> <td>€350.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Ms. R. Joyce explained that the money approved for Kilcommon will be used to replace heating oil that was taken from the tank at the hall and a fundraising event had to be cancelled as a result.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. M. O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. Quirke O'Meara and resolved that in accordance with the terms of the Tidy Towns Grant Scheme the payment of grants be made to the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="531 1608 1453 1783"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tidy Towns Group</th> <th>Recommendation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Toor Tidy Village</td> <td>€800.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kilbarron Development Association</td> <td>€800.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Club/Organisation	Recommendation	Kilcommon Community Council	€500.00	Friends of St. Conlons Nursing Home	€350.00	Tidy Towns Group	Recommendation	Toor Tidy Village	€800.00	Kilbarron Development Association	€800.00
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<p>Item 8. To update members on projects & events</p>	<p>Newport Town Park: An agreement is in place in relation to the maintenance of the park with the contractor. Damaged signs are in the process of being replaced and additional signage has been ordered in relation to opening hours, prohibition of dogs with exception of assistance dogs, Zip line and Tube Slide restrictions.</p>												



Newport Town Team/Newport Town Centre First Plan:

The submissions on the Newport Town Centre First Plan were referred to the consultant for review. A meeting with the Consultant took place in early November to review these submissions. A meeting with the Newport Town Team will take place in advance of bringing the Town Centre First Plan back to the District members.

Nenagh Town Team/Town Centre First/THRIVE:

- An application for THRIVE Strand 1 funding in the amount of €200,000 for the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan has been approved. This will cover consultancy costs to work with the Town Team on the creation of an integrated urban strategy (TCF Plan), project identification and bringing a project to 'shovel ready' stage including design, surveys, assessments, financial planning, investigation works etc. A tender is currently being drafted for the appointment of consultants for this purpose.



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- A meeting of the Town Team took place on 30th October. William Talbot of Nenagh & District Chamber of Commerce gave an outline of the new Tipperary Gift Card which is a prepaid Mastercard that enables customers to spend their card balance across multiple stores in Tipperary. An outline was also given on the preparation of the Integrated Urban Strategy and there was considerable discussion on consultation and communication regarding same.

Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub:

- Work is progressing on exploring the potential funding sources based on proposed use of the Rialto.
- Detailed design as funded under the RRDF Cat 2 allocation is now complete.

Nenagh Town Park Extension

- Tender documents and Brief for the extension of the Town Park into the lands across the river at Riverston are currently under review.

Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter

- Grant funding was secured under the Historic Structures Fund to enable conservation works to be carried out in relation to the roof of the Governor's House. Frank Murray & Sons Construction were appointed to undertake the works. Works are now complete.
- Application for further works in relation to the windows has been drafted for the next funding call under this fund.
- We will continue to strive to source funding for the various proposals in relation to the Historic & Cultural Quarter.



Nenagh Centre of Excellence:

- Work on the strategy is ongoing. Stakeholder Engagement Phase 1 is now complete and the Integrated Design Team are due to present the findings to Tipperary County Council at the next Project meeting.
- Phase 2 Stakeholder Engagement is due to commence in the coming week.

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:

- Ailtirí Architects were appointed as consultants to prepare the tender documentation for the demolition of the existing Toilet Block and the construction of the new Facilities Centre for Watersports Activities in Dromineer.
- Demolition of the existing Toilet Block is programmed to commence the 1st week of December 2024.
- Progress meetings are taking place on an ongoing basis with Fáilte Ireland who are funding the project.
- Part VIII planning documentation for the inclusion of the Changing Places standard facility as part of the overall development in Dromineer is currently being compiled.
- The Tender package for the appointment of a contractor for the construction of the new facility is currently under review by Tipperary County Council prior to advertising on E-tenders which is scheduled for week ending Friday the 22th November.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022

- Ballina Access Promenade and Viewing Area – Nevilles Civils Works have been appointed as the contractor to undertake the works to the promenade. Works are progressing. The programme is still on course for completion by the end of January 2025.
- Newport Courthouse and Bridewell Complex – The Integrated Design Team has been appointed and the pre-commencement meeting has taken place. Part VIII is due to be submitted early February 2025. Work has now commenced on procurement of required surveys and progressing the concept through to planning stage.

Casual Trading Bye-Laws

- In 2024 a total of 10 casual trading licences and 1 event licence have been issued.
- The closing date for receipt of completed applications for casual trading licences 2025, or part thereof was the 1st November 2024. Applications were invited for the designated areas of Dromineer, Clare Glens, Garrykennedy, Castlelough, Ballina Riverside Park, Newport and The Lookout. The number of



applications received for 2025 is 13 and the assessment and processing of these will progress over the coming weeks.

Expressions of Interests for Development Land at Lisbunny

The disposal of 9.86 acres with the further purchase option on an additional 4.60 acres to Apex Aviation was approved by members at the October plenary meeting. The further disposal of 3.86 acres to Banaghan & Co (Stationary) Ltd was also agreed at the October meeting. It is the Council's intention to upgrade the roadway within this development.

Designated Bathing Area

The application has been submitted to the EPA for the designation of the bathing area in Dromineer. Interviews for lifeguards were held but unfortunately there wasn't sufficient numbers to provide a lifeguard service this year. This will be revisited in 2025.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

Under Measure One 2023 €30,000 has been allocated in respect of Castlough Amenity Area Improvement Works. Also, under Measure One 2023 €30,000 has been allocated in respect of enhancement works to Upper Lough Derg Tranquility Area (Mota and Skehanagh). The type of works involved include provision of BBQ areas, bicycle stands and bicycle repair station, disability friendly seating and benches, information and interpretation boards. Contractor has been appointed for the installation of the BBQ areas. Works are due to be completed by end Quarter 1 2025.

Meanwhile work is progressing in relation to surveys etc. in respect of the Clare Glens which was allocated funding under the Project Development Measures 2022.

Garrykennedy Inner Harbour – This was awarded €49,500 under the Project Development Measures to procure consultancy services to undertake planning and design works for the upgrading of the inner harbour in Garrykennedy. The Integrated Design Team have now been appointed. The Design Team will bring the upgrade of the Inner Harbour through planning and on to detailed design. Stakeholder Engagement is ongoing as is the procurement for carrying out of Surveys and Site Investigations.

Measure 3 of the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024

An amount of €45,000 has been allocated under Measure 3 of the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024. This is for Project Development Measure Funding for Newport. The project will examine the development of a connection of the historic Ball Alley site with the town centre and ancillary public realm and amenity works through the provision of a footbridge. Project elements include the engagement of a multidisciplinary team to complete



detailed design, planning, professional fees and a topographical survey.

Participation Nation Outdoor Fund

Funding has been secured under the Participation Nation Outdoor Fund in conjunction with Sports Partnership for the installation of 3x3 Basketball Court and biodiversity measures at St. Paul's Playground, Nenagh.

Update on Grants & Contributions 2024:

- Payments have been made to the 68 Burial Ground applicants
- Payments have been made to 40 of the 46 Residents Associations with the remainder awaiting submission of information from applicants. There is one due for payment in the next pay run.
- Payment has been made to 83 of the 90 applications received under the Contributions to Clubs & Organisations. There are two applications to go before the November MD meeting.
- Provisional approval has been granted to 29 Tidy Towns groups, 20 of which have been paid. We are awaiting submission of reports & receipts so that the remaining payments can be made. There are an additional two applications to be before the November MD meeting.
- Grant offers were made to 21 Festivals & Events applications. 11 are currently paid to date. One event was cancelled and we are awaiting submission of reports and receipts so that payment can be made to the remainder.

Painting & Enhancement Scheme:

- The closing date for receipt of applications was Friday 23rd August 2024.
- Maximum funding is 50% up to a maximum of €500.00.
- Application forms were sent to interested parties. 23 have currently been submitted and 21 have been provisionally approved. One application is pending submission of documentation.

Ringbuoy Replacement Programme:

A ringbuoy replacement programme on Lough Derg is ongoing.

Nenagh Tourist Office:

Christmas at the Castle will take place this year on Friday 13th, Saturday the 14th and Sunday the 15th of December. This will include a 'Santa Visit' (Mr. & Mrs. Claus) on each of the days with a Sensory Friendly Santa visit on the Friday. In addition to the Santa Visit there will be Christmas Markets, Light Display, Music and Entertainment on the Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for the Santa event will be available for sale in person in the Tourist Office on Saturday the 30th November at 12 noon – tickets €15 each, card payment only.



Upcoming Events Nenagh:

- Turning on of the Christmas Lights – Sunday 1st December, music on Pearse St. from 1.00 p.m. approx., live entertainment from 3.00 p.m., turning on of lights 5.30 p.m. approx.
- Lighting of Tree of Remembrance at the Courthouse - Sunday 1st December 6.15 p.m.
- Ormond Octaves annual Christmas concert at St Mary's of the Rosary on Friday 6th December
- Christmas at the Castle – 13th to 15th December (see above for details)
- Nenagh Christmas tree festival at St Mary's Church of Ireland Nenagh from the 11th to the 15th of December
- Nenagh Christmas Tractors – Saturday the 14th December at 6.00 p.m.

Nenagh Leisure Centre:

Nenagh Leisure Centre has been awarded the Outstanding standard in the National Quality Standard Awards this year. Congratulations to Lorenzo Chambo and all his team.

Tidy Towns Competition 2024:

- 26 Towns & Villages in the Nenagh Municipal District entered the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition for 2024.
- All achieved an increase in marks from the previous years ranging from +6 to +21.
- Terryglass were County winners for North Tipperary and achieved 376 marks (silver medal), Birdhill were highly commended and achieved 372 marks (bronze medal), Silvermines were commended and achieved 371 marks (bronze medal). Nenagh received 362 marks (bronze medal – retained since 2015). Rathcabbin were awarded an Endeavour Award.

Cllr. M. O'Meara complimented the work that is being done and wanted in particular to congratulate the Rathcabbin Tidy Towns group. He acknowledged the investment from the County Council in the village in recent years. He requested an update on the Rialto and what applications will be made under RRDF or when would the applications for Cat 1 funding be open again. He believed that the previous application was very hard done by in the last allocation and would still like something to be done with the premises. The narrative has definitely changed on hot desks since Covid and the ship has sailed on this option. A wider conversation is required on the possible use of the building, he felt there should be further consultation with for the members, public and the Chamber. Cllr. O'Meara thinks the Rialto is a building that could be re-purposed quicker than the gaol block. It could provide a good public space for the wider community that could facilitate an exhibition space or community space that would be more socially inclusive than business.



Cllr. Bonfield asked about the work at the Clare Glens, some work has been done on the Limerick side. Cllr. Morgan Walsh congratulated all the Tidy Towns groups and their commitment, she asked for an update on the Rialto, the extension to the town park in Nenagh and the toilets in Dromineer.

Cllr. Quirke O'Meara acknowledged the great work on the projects but wanted to raise the issue of a pitch for Nenagh Celtic. She explained that the club was in existence since 1981 and have been fighting to get a permanent space. They have 180 members and are a very inclusive, proactive club but grounds are an issue. They are currently dispersed over a number of facilities and have tried to get land a number of times but things have fallen through for different reasons. They are in a unique position in that they have money in the bank and she asked if the county council would have any suitable land. Cllr. O'Meara supported this request, said the county council has a certain landbank and proposed that the club meet with council officials.

Ms. R. Joyce explained that the Rialto did get Cat 2 funding for planning and design. At the moment there is no call for Cat 1 applications and it is unknown when this will open. The Cat 2 call is currently open but this relates to planning and design only. There are 2 projects suitable for Cat 1 funding – Rialto and Historical and Cultural Quarter. Recently a cap was put on the amount of funding that could be applied for under Cat 1. The possibility of Enterprise Ireland funding was also explored for the Rialto but this is a new source of funding and there are some concerns over the model. All opportunities are being assessed at the moment. The housing development part of the Rialto is progressing. Hot desks were not part of the planning process but the provision of an enterprise space was. Ms R. Joyce confirmed that she is very conscious of everything the members are saying in relation to the Rialto and the local authority does not want to miss funding opportunities either. Both the Rialto and Historical & Cultural Quarter got Cat 2 funding but while they were unsuccessful for Cat 1 in the last round it was suggested that consideration should be given to re-submitting the application. These projects have to compete with other projects within the county and if approved at county level have to compete with other projects around the country. The earliest a funding scheme opportunity will be available will be in January and this will be under THRIVE. Only 1 application can be put forward from Tipperary and the Rialto is the only building that could apply in Nenagh as it is accessible, vacant and in local authority ownership. Thurles and Clonmel will also be eligible to put forward a project.

The area engineer and project manager are assessing what is appropriate for the Clare Glens. The Limerick and Tipperary sides are very different sites. A site meeting has been arranged and funding has been approved for site development measures. Some



	<p>elements of the work will be signage and safety work while retaining the natural beauty of the place. It will possibly require an An Bord Pleanála application.</p> <p>In relation to the extension to the town park in Nenagh, long-term the costs associated with an additional bridge would be very substantial. At the moment a new entrance without crossing the river is being considered along with a walking loop, planting, biodiversity and sensory area. Discussions are taking place with the Biodiversity Officer in relation to planting for climate action. The project manager is looking at the requirements around planning.</p> <p>She confirmed that the County Council is aware that Nenagh Celtic require a space and acknowledge the importance of the Club and the outlet provided by it. There is a willingness to meet with the club. The issue with the Dromineer toilet block is an issue in all similar facilities, when the new facility is provided measures will be in place that should address these concerns. The new facility will be open all year round.</p> <p>Mr. L. Brett explained there is a huge amount of discussions going on in the background in relation to all these projects. Funding opportunities keep changing and the conditions of the schemes also keep changing but the local authority is happy to engage with all necessary parties.</p>
<p>Item 9. To update members on the Work Programme</p>	<p>The Work Programme was circulated to members.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy outlined that the programme was more or less complete. There was a lot of support from the members for the programme and it was great to see that this is reflected in the increase in the roads on the programme. The biggest project in the area is the Shannon Crossing. Mr. P. Keane explained that the civil works are substantially completed and he acknowledged that the project would not have been possible without the involvement of the residents.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler expressed her thanks to everyone involved in bringing the Shannon Crossing to this stage. She asked if there will there be a pedestrian crossing before Willow Cliff. She also asked about cutting back of trees in a number of areas in Ballina.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll asked about the provision of a footpath and a survey on Beech trees in Roulagh. If there is a storm these trees could cause a danger.</p> <p>Mr. P. Keane said he was aware of the trees mentioned and they were inspected in the last number of years but another survey can take place. Mr. B. Murphy explained that trees are the responsibility of the landowner, they must ensure trees are in good condition.</p>



**Item 10.
To note
Engineer's
Checklist on
roads matters**

The Engineer's checklist was circulated to members.

Cllr. Morgan Walsh had received an email from the Chamber of Commerce stating that they have concerns with the proposed closure of Abbey Lane to cars. They believe this is a useful route around town between the carparks and it could become an area for anti-social behaviour. She asked about the pedestrian crossing on the Borrisokane Road, it appears that the box is still live and the person involved in the incident is very distressed over this. The lights across from the hospital are not working.

Cllr. M. O'Meara raised the issue of safety at Walshpark Cross, there has been a number of crashes. It is a very busy road and the house opposite the cross will not let the children play in the front garden as a number of vehicles have ended up in the garden. The entrance piers have been hit a number of times in the last few months. He explained that there is a similar junction on the Offaly side that is fully lit and it would be great if something similar could be done at this junction. He also asked about the possibility of something being done to address the speeding at Ballygraique especially since the policy on raised platforms has been agreed.

Cllr. Carroll stated that there is a number of skid marks on the grass verge along the N52, many older people will no longer walk the route without additional safety barriers being put in place. The lights are a great addition but cars travel so fast along the route safety is a concern for users. He asked if there would be any reason why the surface has failed on roads that were completed as part of the road works programme in the last number of years. He welcomed the improvement work at Rathmartin/Tyone but he has lost confidence in the checklist.

Cllr. Quirke O'Meara has submitted CRMs in relation to Grace's Cross and the L2123. This road needs resurfacing and is scheduled for 2026 but she asked if it would be possible to do the resurfacing earlier when the work at the junction is being done.

Cllr. Bonfield enquired about the possibility of a bus shelter in Portroe and asked how the checklist has gone to 4 pages this month – could some of these items be moved to the CRM system.

Mr. B. Murphy explained that a public consultation for the Section 38 for Abbey Lane was undertaken. The existing arrangement is not satisfactory and there is a safety issue there with poor sightlines. The work will begin in March/April. A scheme for Walshpark is being drawn up at the moment. The issue regarding speeding in Ballygraique will be looked at in the context of the national speed limit review that will be undertaken next year. There is no guidance available on this yet but the likelihood is that this area will go to 30kmph. There are 3 aspects to speeding –



	<p>education – people have to change how they drive, enforcement/control – Gardaí are responsible for this area and lastly in limited circumstances, engineering controls, which are the least effective. It would be important not to do anything that would contradict the speed limit review.</p> <p>The box on the Borrisokane Road has been powered down and the reason for the incident has been identified. Repairs will be carried out in the next few weeks. The LCSS at Grace's Cross has been submitted as the number 1 priority for Department approval. Contact has already been made with the landowner and the hope is that funding will become available for this scheme in 2025. Generally there is a reluctance to change the work programme but if sufficient progress is made any changes will come back to the members for approval.</p> <p>It is unclear why some roads fail so soon after work has been done but all underlining issues in an area are examined when doing a job. There are 2 major roads programmes – Roads Improvement and Roads Maintenance. Roads maintenance would be done every 6/7 years on roads that are in good enough condition but this work would take place to stop the condition of the road deteriorating.</p> <p>The checklist has expanded recently but there has been more correspondence than normal due to 2 elections in the same year. Some items take longer to deal with and as many items as possible have been dealt with and closed. If a item is closed with commitment it would mean that the item does need to be addressed but there is currently no funding available to do this work. If funding becomes available this section on the checklist is examined and it is a very useful process for climate action or drainage projects. While the checklist is useful it doesn't mean it can't be improved. The CRM system gives a unique identifier number and offers more structure as the volume increases, approximately 1,800 cases on CRM have been resolved to date in 2024.</p> <p>Mr. P. Keane explained that Active Travel are currently reviewing the options for a bus shelter in Portroe. Mr. L. Brett stated that the use of different materials has been looked at over the last number of years, a very detailed decision matrix is used when deciding what to use.</p>
<p>Item 11. To consider Notices of Motion</p>	<p>Notice of Motion No: 2898 submitted by Cllr. F. Bonfield That Tipperary County Council enter negotiations with the adjoining landowner at Birdhill Graveyard with a view to seeing if some additional land could be secured to extend the burial graveyard here.</p>



Notice of motion 2898 was proposed by Cllr. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Response was given to Cllr. Bonfield as follows:

As Councillor Bonfield is aware, burial grounds are an important feature of the historic landscape in Ireland and frequently provide clues to understanding our past. They also are of social and cultural value and can be an oasis for a rich variety of plants and birds.

Local communities are very involved in the care of their parish burial grounds, whether through routine maintenance, active use, or the keeping alive of tradition or memory. Keeping the burial ground in good condition is important to local people as it reflects pride in their parish and is an acknowledgement of the contribution our ancestors made to the development of each parish.

The powers and duties of local authorities in relation to burial grounds are derived, in the first instance, from the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878 (Part III), as amended by the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1948 and by the Local Government Act 1994.

Tipperary County Council as local authority is responsible for the management of a large number of burial grounds (approximately 240) in County Tipperary, the majority of which are historic. It is also responsible for the provision of new burial grounds, whether on new sites or as extensions to existing facilities. However, other entities, such as various religious organisations and communities, and local community-based groups, have also performed this role in recent decades, particularly in the northern part of the county. Furthermore, certain parish priests have developed, or extended, parish graveyards over many decades at various locations throughout the county.

Since 1940, the County Councils in Co. Tipperary have provided 43 burial grounds in the county, either as standalone facilities or as extensions to existing burial grounds. This figure does not include those burial grounds provided, and, in some cases, extended, by the 7 no. urban authorities which were in place in the county prior to the reform of local government on 01 June 2014 which saw the establishment of Tipperary County Council as the single local authority in the county. Birdhill and Newport (Rockvale) Burial Grounds are included in this figure of 43.

In recent years, copious representations have been made by various entities, such as community-led groups and burial ground maintenance committees, to Environment and Climate Action, which Section retains responsibility for burial grounds, to consider the provision of a new burial ground in a designated area, or to consider the extension of an existing facility in that area (in some cases, the extension may relate to an existing (Roman Catholic)



parish graveyard). In every case, the compelling motive is that the existing burial ground has reached capacity. Such representations have also been made by public representatives, both local and national, and the subject matter of this Notice of Motion is a reflection of these representations.

In relation to the provision of a new or extended burial ground, the following factors are at play and must be taken cognisance of:

- (i) **Cost:** there is no state funding available to the local authority for the provision, management or maintenance of burial grounds, so the entire cost of same falls on the local authority and the income generated from the sale of interment plots/gravespaces and the issue of memorial permits does not meet the repayments on capital and maintenance costs;
- (ii) **Development Costs:** Development costs associated with the provision of a burial ground are also high as there are many upfront costs such as boundary wall construction, the development of footpaths, internal roadways, carparking, the construction of headstone/memorial foundations and landscaping with the result that the payback for investment can take a prolonged period of time to recoup or in some cases may never be recouped;
- (iii) **Land:** the provision of available and suitable land, at reasonable cost, is, in many cases, a major constraint; however, Environment and Climate Action is aware of the availability of land at Birdhill to facilitate the provision of an extension, which has been referred to by Councillor Bonfield in the Notice of Motion and which extension, as she will know, can only be provided to the rear of the site;
- (iv) **Site Investigations:** current environmental standards require hydro-geological risk assessments to be carried out on potential sites in order to assess their suitability from the perspective of environmental and groundwater protection; these assessments can also involve a geophysical survey in the interest of the preservation of archaeological heritage;
- (v) **Long-term Maintenance Costs:** these are also significant; and
- (vi) **Planning:** the local authority must conduct a planning consent procedure, known as Part 8 (as it relates to Part 8 of the Planning and Development) Regulations 2001), which involves public consultation, referral to statutory agencies and, ultimately, adoption by the elected



members of the Borough/Municipal District where the proposed development is located.

These costs must feed into the Council's Three-Year Capital Programme, which is refined each year in the light of experience and emerging priorities.

Taking cognisance of the above and of the increasing demand from communities throughout the county, and as represented by the elected members, a Burial Ground Capital Development Programme Fund (for the Provision of Burial Grounds) was prepared by Environment and Climate Action and presented to a meeting of the Council's Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Environment and Climate Action, which took place on 07 June 2023.

The salient feature of this policy, insofar as it relates to the subject matter of the Notice of Motion, is as follows:

Where an existing burial ground in a parish has reached capacity, the quantum of the remaining capacity in the other burial ground(s) in the parish must be examined. If it is considered that such remaining capacity is likely to satisfy the needs of the entire parish for the foreseeable future, the priority of the Council would turn to those parishes where all the burial ground capacity (whether in a local authority burial ground, a parish graveyard or community-provided cemetery) has been exhausted and where a compelling need has been established to provide a new facility de novo or, indeed, an extension to an existing facility.

However, where community or parish representatives make a request to extend an existing burial ground facility or to develop a replacement burial ground in a specific area of the parish. the community or parish representatives must demonstrate to the Environment and Climate Section of Tipperary County Council that a suitable site has been identified and agreement in principle secured with the landowner to dispose of the lands, at reasonable cost, for this purpose. Tipperary County Council will carry certain assessments and provide the necessary supports to the community where the site is deemed suitable. A prior grant of permission will be required from Tipperary County Council, as planning authority, in the normal way. Financial assistance will be provided by Environment and Climate Action where required.

While this policy was endorsed by the SPC at its aforementioned meeting, experience in the intervening period has dictated that a review of same is warranted. The contents of the subject Notice of Motion are reflected in that experience and will be taken cognisance of in that review.



This review is required due to the increasing number of locations throughout the county where burial grounds have reached capacity and where representations are being made that the Council should intervene to satisfy the needs of the community. The future financial implications for the Council must also be considered. Councillor Bonfield will acknowledge that Birdhill, while included in this cohort of burial grounds, is not unique.

Environment and Climate Action hopes that the above response will present Councillor Bonfield with a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding the provision by the Council of new or extended burial grounds and staff from Environment and Climate Action are available to discuss same with her should she wish. Environment and Climate Action is also aware that a Burial Ground Maintenance Committee is in situ for Birdhill Burial Ground and members of that Committee are welcome to discuss the future burial needs at Birdhill with staff from Environment and Climate Action. Councillor Bonfield can arrange such a discussion at an early date if she wishes.

Cllr. Bonfield will send the response to the community that approached her in relation to this.

Notice of Motion No: 2899 submitted by Cllr. M. O'Meara

That Tipperary County Council install upgrade lighting system in Riverstown village as per overall design under the regeneration work of the village.

Notice of motion 2899 was proposed by Cllr. O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. Quirke O'Meara.

Response was given to Cllr. O'Meara as follows:

There are two locations which require new lighting at Riverstown. The first location is from Riverstown to the Killeen Active Travel shared pathway. The Council will erect 6 lights along this section in December 2024.

The second location extends south from Riverstown along the N52 National Road. The estimated cost for the scheme is over €40,000. This scheme will need approval and funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The Council will apply for the required funding from TII.

Cllr. O'Meara stated that a regeneration scheme was done in Riverstown and some of the existing lights are not working. This project is not complete until all the lights are in place. Mr. B. Murphy said the lights not working will be checked but funding will have to be applied for, for the other area.



	<p>Notice of Motion No: 2906 submitted by Cllr. Bonfield That Tipperary County Council reinstate the marking at the uncontrolled crossing pedestrian crossing at the Square crossing in Newport</p> <p>Notice of motion 2906 was proposed by Cllr. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.</p> <p>Response was given to Cllr. Bonfield as follows</p> <p><i>The existing road markings for the courtesy (uncontrolled) pedestrian crossing at the Square Newport has been inspected. Currently there is no requirement to replace or refresh this lines. Notwithstanding that we will continue to keep under review and should the need arise in 2025 these works can be undertaken when the weather and road temperatures allow.</i></p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield welcomed the response.</p>
<p>Item 12. To note Delegated Employees Orders</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Item 13. To consider items of correspondence</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Item 14. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations</p>	<p>Votes of Sympathy – None</p> <p>Votes of Congratulations – None</p>
<p>Item 15. Any other business.</p>	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll indicated that he was concerned in relation to a deficiency in the numbers of outdoor staff and he highlighted this in the context of the upcoming budgetary process. It was noted that the maintenance budget had been static for some time.</p>

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

Signed: Fiona Bonfield
Cathaoirleach
Cllr. F. Bonfield

Date: 19/12/2024

Signed: Ms. Rosemary Joyce
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 19/12/2024