

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CARRICK ON SUIR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD AT DISTRICT CHAMBER, CARRICK ON SUIR, CO. TIPPERARY AT 2:00PM ON 16 JUNE
2022

In the Chair.	Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald
Members Present.	Cllr. K Bourke, Cllr. D Dunne, Cllr. I Goldsboro, Cllr. K O'Meara.
Apologies:	None
<u>Attendance:</u>	
Carrick on Suir Municipal District.	Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services Ms. Marie O'Gorman, District Administrator Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer Ms. Máiréad Winters, Assistant Staff Officer Ms. Emma Creighton, Assistant Staff Officer
C & ED Directorate.	Ms. Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer
Housing Directorate.	Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer Mr. Daniel Roche, Executive Engineer Ms Louise Ryan, Housing Assessment Officer.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

<u>Item 1.0.</u> Summons and Prayer	The summons was taken as read.
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BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE, STANDING ORDERS OR RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL

<u>Item 1.1.</u> Conflict of Interest Declaration	None to record.
<u>Item 1.2.</u> Minutes of Standing Orders Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2022.	The Minutes of the Standing Orders Committee Meeting held on the 14 June 2022 as circulated, were proposed by Cllr K. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne and agreed.
<u>Item 1.3</u> Amendment to time of June 2022 monthly meeting and Annual Meeting 2022.	In accordance with recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee, it was proposed by Cllr. K. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne and unanimously agreed to hold the June 2022 monthly meeting of the Carrick on Suir Municipal District at 13:00hrs and the Annual Meeting at 14:00hrs respectively on the 16 June 2022 thereby superseding the resolution taken at its May 2022 monthly meeting held on the 26 May 2022.
<u>Item 1.4.</u> Cathaoirleach's Reception for Marist Catholic High School	In accordance with recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee, it was further proposed by Cllr. K. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne and unanimously agreed to accord a civic honour by means of Cathaoirleach's Reception to the Marist Catholic High

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Soccer Team from Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. School Soccer Team and entourage visiting from Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A on Tuesday 21 June 2022 at 11:30am at the District Office, Carrick on Suir.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Item 2.0

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Carrick on Suir Municipal District held on the 26 May 2022

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 26 May 2022 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. D. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. I. Goldsboro and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 3.0

Update by Community & Economic Development Directorate.

The Community and Economic Development Report as circulated was considered by the Members and discussed in the context of schemes rolled out in the Carrick on Suir MD. Ms Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer in attendance, reported on the successful Africa Day recently held at Carrick on Suir, the implementation of Streetscape Enhancement Scheme, participation by young person in Comhairle na nÓg, updated on Town and Village Renewal Schemes incorporating Building acquisition measures, Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme, Community Activities Fund, Displaced Persons information and migrant supports currently in place. She also reported in relation to the JPC's efforts to have Community CCTV authorised for Fethard and the rollout of broadband by NBI. The accreditation of the River Suir Blueway was a welcome boost to tourism in the area

Ms. Hayes clarified issues raised by the Members in relation to the Painting and Enhancement Scheme (which differed to the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme operated by the DRCD) and the provision of hot-desking hubs within villages.

Item 3.1.

Update by Housing Directorate.

The Housing Directorate report circulated with the agenda was taken as read and considered by the Members with Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer and Ms. Louise Ryan, Housing Assessment Officer in attendance and Mr. Daniel Roche, Executive Engineer attending remotely.

Ms. Louise Ryan gave a presentation to the Members in relation to the Assessment of Applications and Allocations, following the Council's adoption of the Allocation Scheme last year.

The following issues were raised by the Members.

Item 3.1. cont'd/
Update by Housing
Directorate

Cllr. D. Dunne-

- Requested information in relation to the timeframe for housing applications' validation, assessment, and approval respectively.
- Sought leniency on the part of the Planning authority in context of homelessness crisis, where applicants sought to retain mobile homes and/or log cabins on their parents' property having previously occupied private rented accommodation. He considered this approach compatible with the national policy of providing modular homes to accommodate persons displaced by war and suggested that the matter required further discussion and consideration by the housing authority.

Cllr. K. Bourke -

- Stated that the Choice Based Letting system currently running one no. 1-bed vacant property in the whole of County Tipperary represented a farcical situation.
- Referring to the section of housing report pertaining to Coolnamuck lands purchased decades ago, stated that he did not accept that the lands could not be developed in the absence of a decision in relation to a proposed bridge crossing. He suggested that there was no impediment to developing at least 50% of the site.
- Referred to several senior citizens awaiting a decision from the Department permitting them to purchase their rented dwellings, and their concerns at escalating costs. Requested that the SEO would again write to the Department on this matter.
- Requested that information be provided in relation to the number, location and category of vacant houses within the Municipal District. He indicated that applicants were already aware of every vacancy and the Members were entitled to be advised.
- Suggested that the income thresholds for eligibility for housing had not changed in 10 years and indicated that he would raise this issue with the housing SPC.

Item 3.1. cont'd/
Update by Housing
Directorate

- Similarly, the €30,000 grant limit for construction of bedroom/bathroom was totally inadequate and particularly where some €1,500-€2,000 was required to engage bonded architect. Compared with the cost of 'voids' turnaround, where complete renovation works were coming in around €100,000, he suggested that it was imperative to refer to the Department on this matter in order to remove such obstacles.

Cllr. K. O'Meara -

- Sought the sharing of information in relation to vacant houses.
- Referred to the challenges faced by approved housing adaptation grantees in completing works within a 6-month time frame; suggested that 9-12 months was more realistic and appropriate in the current climate.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro -

- Queried whether unsuccessful applicants bidding under Choice Based Letting were automatically informed of their unsuccessful bid.
- Indicated that in view of short life of quotations from contactors and costs escalating in inflationary market, the available grants were no longer adequate and that limits needed to be revised.
- Noting that only single-glazed window replacements were eligible for grant assistance, and that many double-glazed windows were substandard by present-day standards, she queried if it were intended to change that rule.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald -

- Sought breakdown and location of vacant houses within the District.
- Queried whether there was scope to fast-track mutual transfers rather than applicants having to submit fresh housing applications and sought information on how such transfers were facilitated.

In response, Ms. Cora Morrissey indicated that the refinement of the regulations pertaining to tenant purchase scheme by the Department was currently awaited.

Item 3.1. cont'd/
Update by Housing
Directorate

Mr. Shane Grogan stated that the CBL system did not send out alerts, noting that vacancies were posted every Tuesday. Given that they were constantly refining the system, he undertook to engage with software provider to see if a means could be found to incorporate a notification to all applicants/bidders, both successful and unsuccessful. He further noted that since its introduction, some 36 properties were advertised of which all were allocated, with no refusals of offers of tenancies, which he considered to be a measure of its success.

Mr. Grogan updated the Members on progress to date in dealing with backlog of housing grant applications on hand. He stated that significant progress was achieved in dealing with local authority tenant grant works with extra funding received over the past 2 years implementing a budget increase from the region of €400,000-€500,000 to €1.5million currently, and 80 additional projects funded.

He further stated that he had recently contacted the Department in relation to the need for revisions to income thresholds for housing applicants; he understood that legislative changes required were expected by the end of 2022 or the start of 2023.

Referring to the imminent roll-out of a shared equity scheme associated with affordable housing shortly to be introduced by the Department, Mr. Grogan noted that the 'First Homes' government initiative relating to purchase of private dwellings did not involve the local authority. He undertook to furnish further information on these matters once to hand.

Ms. Louise Ryan confirmed that the timeframe for validation of housing applications had improved recently and its turnover was now down to a matter of days. She accepted that there was a considerable backlog historically but she was satisfied that great progress was achieved of late in addressing same.

The issue of homelessness and 'couch-surfing' was of enormous concern and she noted that the 'own-front-door-model' was in place to alleviate matters with a unit identified in Carrick on Suir coming on-stream shortly at Kickham Street new-build scheme; she noted that the Council would provide 1125 units over the next 5 years. Ms. Ryan also undertook to examine whether there was scope to fast-track the process associated with mutual transfers; however, she informed that the housing authority in examining

such applications needed to update its records and be satisfied that the proposed transfers met the households' current and future housing needs.

Responding to queries in relation to modular housing, Ms. Morrissey noted that a Housing SPC meeting was scheduled for the 29 June and the matter could be further considered in that forum.

Concluding the presentation, Mr. Roche noted that replacement of single glazed units was not normally considered for grant assistance and required further consideration.

Item 3.2.

Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 - Taking-in-Charge – footpath and road adjacent to Fethard Town Park Development.

TAKING IN CHARGE – FOOTPATH & ROAD ADJACENT TO FETHARD TOWN PARK.

A report compiled by the Roads Directorate was circulated and considered by the Members outlining the statutory public consultation process associated with the proposed declaration of 2 no. roads to be public roads at Fethard Town Park which closed on the 17 May 2022.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads, Act, 1993. It was proposed by Cllr. I. Goldsboro, seconded by Councillor K. O'Meara, and RESOLVED

That pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, this Municipal District hereby agrees to declare the roads serving the area on the below schedule to be public roads, as per the map which was on public display during the prescribed period and as outlined in the Director of Services Report to the Members dated 2 June 2022.

SCHEDULE		
Location of Road	Length of Road to be taken in charge	Terminal Point of Road
Fethard Town Park, footpath joining the L.2150-1 and L.2310-0	203 metres	From its junction with the L-23145-1
L-23145-0	215.5 metres	From its junction with the L-23145-0

Item 3.3.

District Engineer's
Report.

SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS – June 2022

The District Engineer's report was circulated and considered by the Members.

Mr. W. Corby, District Engineer indicated that Roads Capital and TII were currently assessing tenders and the appointment of contractors for the N76 Grangemockler Scheme and the N24 Pavement Strengthening scheme were imminent.

He further noted that a feasibility study was underway in partnership with Waterford County Council for the provision of connection between the River Suir Blueway and the Waterford Greenway.

Patching on regional and local roads were ongoing and the surface dressing programme would commence in July. The restoration/improvement programme was substantially completed with contractor(s) appointed at The Valley and at Rocklow Road in Fethard.

Item 3.4:

District Administrator's
Report;
Commencement of Part
8 Planning Process-
Littleton Labyrinth.

LITTLETON LABRINTH

The District Administrator informed the meeting of the commencement of the Part 8 Planning process associated with the Littleton Labyrinth with the publication of statutory notices on www.tipperarycoco.ie and in the print media with effect from Wednesday 15th June 2022 and displayed at Civic Offices, Nenagh and Clonmel and Municipal District Offices, Thurles until the 15th July 2022 during normal office hours.

The proposed development involved the construction of a 3-metre wide shared walking and cycling route along the disused rail track on Bórd na Móna lands, spanning 7.8km in total and traversing 6 townlands – Lurgoe, Derrickknew, Killeens, Ballybeg, Lanepark and Derryvella.

Written submissions or observations clearly marked "*Part 8 in respect of proposed Shared Cycle and Walking Track, Littleton*" were to be lodged no later than 4:30pm on Friday 29 July 2022. Similarly, online submissions could be made using the link on the Council's website with the same deadline applying.

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Concluding her report, she noted that the Chief Executive's report would be brought before the Plenary Council in due course for the Members' consideration and resolution.

Item 3.5
General Municipal
Allocation.

COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME 2022

The District Administrator circulated a report concerning the finalisation of 3 additional Community Grant applications and recommended the payment of grants totalling €2,000.

Following consideration of same, it was proposed by Councillor I. Goldsboro, seconded by Council AND RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, and being of the opinion that it is desirable to so do to promote the interests of the local community, and having regard to the recommendation of the District Administrator, that grants be awarded to the community groups set out in the following schedule

SCHEDULE	
COMMUNITY GROUP	AMOUNT OF GRANT
<i>Cois na hAbhainn, Mullinahone</i>	€500
<i>Moyglass Sports and Leisure Centre Ltd</i>	€1,000
<i>Fr. Tirry Park, Fethard</i>	€500

Item 3.7
Assistance of Bodies
under Section 66 of the
Local Government Act,
2001

The District Administrator indicated that there was no item for consideration under this heading

CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DELEGATED OFFICERS' ORDERS

Item 4.1

Delegated Officer's Order 30120 dated 31 May 2022 relating to the issue of Licence under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 to NBI Infrastructure DAC for the erection of 43 no. timber poles and cables for provision of broadband infrastructure was duly noted.

Item 4.2.

Delegated Officer's Order 30121 dated 31 May 2022 relating to the issue of Licence under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 to NBI Infrastructure DAC for the erection of 22 no. timber poles and cables for provision of broadband infrastructure was duly noted.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Item 5.0

The District Administrator indicated that there was no item for consideration under this heading.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Item 6.0.

The District Administrator indicated that there was no item for consideration under this heading.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Item 7.0.

Vote of sympathy to the Drohan Family on the death of former Town Councillor, Jim Drohan.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. K. Bourke proposed a vote of sympathy to the family and loved ones, bereaved by the death of former Councillor and Chairman of Carrick on Suir Town Council, Jim Drohan, on the previous evening, the 15 June 2022. He spoke of Jim's long association with public service through the Labour Party, following in the footsteps of his father, Davy Drohan who served before him. He recalled that Jim's late sister, Clare, was a staff member of Tipperary S.R. County Council. Councillor Bourke suggested that it would be fitting for the Cathaoirleach to call a special meeting of present and past Councillors for the purposes of conveying a vote of sympathy to the Drohan family.


Cllr. D. Dunne, in seconding the motion, stated that he would be honoured to convene a special meeting for that purpose.

The motion was unanimously agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

[14:21]

Signed 
District Administrator.

Signed 
Cathaoirleach.

28 July 2022

