

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,
CLONMEL AND Remotely Via Zoom
AT 10.00 AM on Monday 10th October, 2022**

Present

Cllr. R. Kennedy, Cathaoirleach

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Black, T; Bourke, K; Burgess, D; Coonan, N; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Dennehy, N; Dunne, D; English, P; FitzGerald, J; FitzGerald, Ml; FitzGerald Mark; Goldsboro, I; Hannigan, J; Hanna-Hourigan, M; Lee, S; Lowry, Ml; McGrath, M; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morris, S; Murphy, M; O'Meara, K; Ryan, AM; Ryan, S.

Remote

Cllrs: Bonfield, F; Bugler, P; Carroll, J; Hanafin, S; McGrath, H; McGrath, J; Murphy, Ml; O'Meara, Ml; Ryan, J; Ryan, P; Smith, Ml.

Also Present

Mr. J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, Ms. S. Carr, Mr. E. Lonergan, Mr. K. Cashen, Director of Services, Mr. A. Fitzgerald, A/ Director of Services, Mr. L. McCarthy, Head of Finance, Mr. G. Walsh, A/ Director of Services, Meetings Administrator. Mr. D. Holland, Senior Engineer., Mr. J. Cooney, Senior Engineer, Ms M. O'Neill, S.E.O., Mr. S. Grogan, S.E.O.

**Book of
Condolence.**

The Cathaoirleach extended the sympathy of the Council to the families bereaved and injured in the tragedy in Cresslough, Co. Donegal and complimented the response of the emergency services. Members were informed that a Book of Condolence would be opened in each of the Municipal District offices together with an online Book of Condolence which would be forwarded to Donegal County Council.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of those who lost their lives in the tragedy.

**Civic Reception
– Tipperary
Minor Hurling
Team.**

The Cathaoirleach referred to the successful Civic Reception accorded to the Tipperary Minor Hurling Team and thanked those involved in its organisation. He acknowledged the attendance by Deputies M. Browne and M. McGrath at the event.

**Item 1.1
Welcome &
Introduction/
Meetings
Protocol**

The Meetings Administrator then took a roll call and commenced the meeting with the opening prayer.

Item 2.1
Disclosure/or
Conflicts of
Interest

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator

Item 3.1
Minutes of
Council Meeting
held on 11th
July, 2022

The Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting held on 12th September, 2022 remotely via Zoom were proposed by **Cllr. S. Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. P. English** and adopted.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 4.1
Approval to
Attendance

It was proposed by **Cllr. Marie Murphy**, seconded by **Cllr S. Ambrose** and resolved: -

"That pursuant to Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 and having regard to (i) the benefits likely to accrue, (ii) the general interest of this administrative area and of the local community (iii) the estimated cost of the proposed attendance and the provision made for such purposes in the annual budget, Tipperary County Council hereby nominate those listed hereunder to attend the following Conferences/Seminars/Trainings: -

Seminar/Conference/ Similar Event	Dates	Venue	Nominees
National Women's Enterprise Day	13 th October, 2022	Cashel Palace Hotel	Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan Cllr. Peggy Ryan
ICSH Biennial Finance & Development Conference	19 th & 20 th October, 2022	Radisson Blu Hotel. Sligo	Cllr. Andy Moloney Cllr. Niall Dennehy Cllr. Richie Molloy Cllr. John Crosse Cllr. Michael Smith
AILG – Module 5 – Disability & Inclusion	22 nd October, 2022	Brehon Hotel, Killarney	Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. Michael Murphy Cllr. Sean Ryan Cllr. Seamus Morris Cllr. Michael FitzGerald Cllr. Richie Molloy Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan Cllr. John FitzGerald Cllr. Phyll Bugler Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro Cllr. Joe Hannigan Cllr. John Carroll Cllr. Micheal Anglim

LAMA – Autumn Conference	9 th & 10 th Nov, 2022	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	Cllr. Michael Murphy Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro Cllr. Kevin O’Meara Cllr. Richie Molloy Cllr. Sean Ryan Cllr. Phyll Bugler Cllr. Niall Dennehy Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan Cllr. John FitzGerald Cllr. Michael FitzGerald Cllr. Seamus Morris Cllr. Máirín McGrath Cllr. Joe Hannigan Cllr. John Crosse Cllr. John Carroll Cllr. Declan Burgess Cllr. Mark FitzGerald Cllr. Kieran Bourke Cllr. Andy Moloney Cllr. Noel Coonan Cllr. Michael Smith
Cork City Women’s Caucus - Pathways to Participation	22 nd Nov 2022	City Hall, Cork	Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan Cllr. Phyll Bugler
AILG Module 6 – Data Protection	26 th Nov, 2022	Newgrange Hotel, Navan	Cllr. Michael Murphy Cllr. Hughie McGrath Cllr. Michael Smith Cllr. Phyll Bugler Cllr. Seamus Morris Cllr. Michael FitzGerald Cllr. Shane Lee Cllr. John FitzGerald Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose Cllr. Andy Moloney Cllr. Michael O’Meara Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. John Crosse Cllr. John Carroll Cllr. Declan Burgess Cllr. Micheal Anglim

Proposed by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** seconded by **Cllr. S. Ambrose** and noted.

Item 4 .2
Reports on
Conferences

Item 5.1

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of property at Hughes Lot, Cashel.

It was proposed by **Cllr. D. Burgess**, seconded by **Cllr. K. Bourke** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal by rectification of property circa 0.01564ha, situated at Hughes Lot East, Cashel, Co. Tipperary to JSF Building Contractors Ltd in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on Wednesday 28th September, 2022”.

The small portion of land referred to in the Notice located at Hughes Lot, Cashel was not suitable for development by Tipperary County Council and was surplus to requirements.

Item 5.2

Overdraft Facility

Members were informed that Overdraft sanction in the amount of €10,000,000 (ten million euro) was required to meet the peak demands on cash-flow in 2023 and to avoid excessive interest and surcharges in the event of requiring overdraft facilities and not having adequate facilities in place.

The overdraft would enable funding for day to day operations to be carried out in an efficient manner and would also enable Tipperary County Council to carry expenditure on Capital Projects pending the receipt of grant draw down for year ending 31/12/2023.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Marie Murphy**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Ryan** and resolved: -

“that pursuant to the Local Government Act 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage, this Council authorises the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft from the Council’s Treasurer of a sum not exceeding €10,000,000 (ten million euro) during the year ending 31st December, 2023.”

Item 6.1

Consideration of Management Report

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Management Report as circulated with the Agenda noting that the reports related to the Directorates based in Clonmel and any queries/clarifications would be dealt with by the relevant Director of Services. The meeting was informed that it was proposed to take Item 10.1 Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr T. Black and Cllr D. Dunne with the Water Services Management Report and Items 6.2 Affordable Housing Options and 10.2 Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr S. Morris with the Housing Management Report. This was agreed.

Community/Economic Development & Tourism

Mr. A. Fitzgerald, Acting Director of Services, responded to queries raised:-

Digital Hubs

Thurles – Funding had been received to carry out a feasibility study for a digital hub in Thurles and stakeholders would meet to scope this study.

Clonmel – The demand study for a digital hub in Clonmel had been completed. The matter would be kept under review as it was noted that a

number of private options were planned which could meet the existing demand.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) – Planning Directorate.
In response to an enquiry by Cllr Marie Murphy, members were advised that 3 applications had been submitted under the Fourth Call for Category 1 projects for funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and an announcement on these applications was expected in November.

Munster Vales

It was noted that an application for a Slow Adventure Tourism Project for 2023 under ORIS 2022 Measure 1 on behalf of Munster Vales had been approved. Members were advised that a joint meeting of the Local Development Companies in the four Munster Vale counties was being set up with respect to progress on this project.

Littleton Labyrinth

Cllr S. Ryan welcomed planning approval for the development of the first phase of the Littleton Labyrinth project. Funding for Phase 2 of the project would need to be sourced and the Just Transition Fund was an option to be explored.

Business Loans

Unsecured business loans ranging from €2,000 to €25,000 were available under a partnership between Microfinance Ireland and the Local Enterprise Office. In reply to an enquiry by Cllr Ambrose, members were informed that the application process took between 2/4 months.

Markers on Blueway

Cllr Dunne referred to his previous request for markers to be installed on the Blueway to aid emergency services response if required. He also suggested the purchase of all-terrain vehicles for use by emergency services on the Blueway. It was agreed that these matters would be referred to Clonmel Borough Council, Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District and the Fire Service for further consideration.

IDA Lands

It was noted that arrangements were being finalised with the IDA for a presentation to be made to the members at a plenary meeting of the Council, date to be agreed.

Water Services

As outlined by the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to take Item 10.1 Notice of Motion Ref. 2484 with the Water Services Management Report.

Item 10.1

Notice of Motion **(Ref No: 2484)**

Motion Ref. No. 2484 was proposed by **Cllr D. Dunne**

That Tipperary County Council support a vote of no confidence in Irish Water and write to the relevant Minister calling for the structured winding down of that organisation. We have no confidence in Irish Water to provide a competent and quality water

service to the people of Tipperary and believe the only way to achieve a proper water service is to hand control of water services back to the local authority.

The motion was seconded by **Cllr T. Black**

The reply to the motion was noted as follows: -

“As indicated in the Water Services Management Report presented to the Council at its meeting on 11th July, 2022, a Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services was published on 24th June, 2022 by Deputy Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This publication followed an engagement process facilitated by the Workplace Relations Commission.

Tipperary County Council continues to review the paper and its implications for the local authority. The local authority sector will work to implement Government policy in regard to water, in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, colleagues, unions and Irish Water. As part of the transformation process, the following will transpire in this local authority:

- Legislation is currently being considered by Oireachtas Eireann to enable Irish Water to separate from the Ervia Group. It is envisaged that this separation will become effective on 1st January, 2023 with Irish Water being renamed Uisce Eireann.
- A new Irish Water-Local Authority agreement will replace the existing Service Level Agreement arrangements to ensure that Irish Water has full accountability for the delivery of water services and direct management of water services staff. Preparation of this agreement is ongoing.
- The Co-operation Agreement will be supported by certain Support Service Agreements. These may vary from local authority to local authority.
- It is envisaged that Irish Water will assume the direct management and oversight of all water services staff during the first half of 2023.
- The future stakeholder engagement by Irish Water (Uisce Eireann) with Tipperary County Council will gravitate from the current delivery by the Council of water services as the agent of Irish Water to an engagement which will focus on the function of Uisce Eireann (as the single public utility responsible for water services) in the delivery by the Council of its development management and forward planning functions.
- Minister O’Brien has committed to continue to work with the County and City Management Association to ensure that local authorities are not left with unsupported financial liabilities as a result of the transformation programme.

In particular, engagement is ongoing between Irish Water and Tipperary County Council in relation to the implementation of the Framework as it applies to Tipperary County Council. This engagement will intensify according as the aforementioned Co-Operation Agreement and Support Service agreements are put in place. These agreements will provide for the assumption by Irish Water of the necessary control of water services

operations and staff, and full accountability for same. This assumption is likely to take place during the first half of 2023. At that time, the existing staff in Water Services will have a choice of transferring to become employees of Irish Water or choosing to remain employed by Tipperary County Council but under the direct management and control of Irish Water in the performance in their water services duties. This arrangement will be ongoing for the duration of the transformation programme, which is scheduled to be completed by 31st December, 2026, after which date Tipperary County Council will no longer be involved in the delivery of water services.

During the transition period, those Water Services staff who choose to remain employees of Tipperary County Council will report to Irish Water personnel and will not be under the control of the Chief Executive, as heretofore. The transformation programme will impact on the current management relationship between Irish Water and Tipperary County Council and will result in Irish Water being regarded in the same way as other national utilities providing services in County Tipperary.

It would be more appropriate for the concerns of the elected members to be brought to the direct attention of Irish Water senior management. In that respect it is recommended that, if the elected members consent, the Council can arrange to invite Mr. Niall Gleeson, Chief Executive, Irish Water, to address a future meeting of the Council, whether special or ordinary, to address the concerns of the elected members in relation to the transformation programme.”

Cllr Dunne in speaking to the motion referred to similar motions submitted by him previously which he did not progress in order to give an opportunity for Irish Water to improve their service. In his opinion the service being provided by Irish Water had deteriorated and he felt he was left with no other option but to submit the motion.

Cllr T. Black and Cllr P. English supported the comments of Cllr Dunne.

Cllr Marie Murphy said that while the majority of members were frustrated with the service being provided by Irish Water, Irish Water Workshops were a forum to bring issues directly to Irish Water. In her opinion lack of investment in the water network by successive governments was the primary issue. Cllr Murphy proposed an amendment to the motion as follows: -

“We, the elected member of Tipperary County Council, recognise the challenges presented to Irish Water in providing quality water services (both drinking water and wastewater) to its customers in County Tipperary. In addressing these challenges, we call on Irish Water to accelerate the delivery of capital investment in the county to ensure security of water supply, to safeguard environmental protection and, in light of the recent adoption of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, provide for Development Plan objectives over the next 6 years.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr S. Ambrose.

Members expressed mixed views on the original motion. Reference was made to ongoing issues across the Districts and to communication issues with Irish Water. Members asked that workshops with Irish Water would take place in-person in the Districts.

Mr. E. Lonergan, Director of Services, referred to the previous motion submitted by Cllr Dunne and Cllr Black in October, 2020, following which a commitment had been given to meet with the Chief Executive of Irish Water to raise issues concerning infrastructure in Tipperary. This meeting had taken place where a number of commitments were given and meetings were now held with senior officials in Irish Water every 2 months resulting in a constructive working relationship. A number of schemes were being progressed and more money was being invested in water conservation than ever before.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, acknowledged the frustration of the members which had resulted in this motion being put to the members. The past 6 months had been the most difficult period for both Water Services and Irish Water with Clonmel being the most problematic. Investment was forthcoming and a lot of projects were happening on the ground. He asked members to be mindful that Irish Water would assume direct management of water services from 2023 and to consider what would the members relationship be with Irish Water should they pass a vote of no confidence. He advised caution and for members to think about how Tipperary County Council could continue to make a case for investment in our water infrastructure should the motion be passed.

Cllr Dunne said he had listened intently to the debate and to the advice of the Chief Executive but he wished to proceed with his motion as it was his opinion that Irish Water had to be held accountable.

The Cathaoirleach informed members that he now proposed to ask the Meetings Administrator to take a vote on the amendment.

In reply to an enquiry by Cllr A.M. Ryan, the Chief Executive advised the members that if the amendment was passed, it then became the substantive motion. If the amendment was not passed a vote would be taken on the original motion.

A vote was taken on the following amended motion: -

“We, the elected member of Tipperary County Council, recognise the challenges presented to Irish Water in providing quality water services (both drinking water and wastewater) to its customers in County Tipperary. In addressing these challenges, we call on Irish Water to accelerate the delivery of capital investment in the county to ensure security of water supply, to safeguard environmental protection and, in light of the recent adoption of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, provide for Development Plan objectives over the next 6 years”.

	Comhairleoir	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
1.	Ambrose, Siobhan	√			
2.	Anglim, Micheál	√			
3.	Black, Tony		√		
4.	Bonfield, Fiona	√			
5.	Bourke, Kieran	√			
6.	Burgess, Declan	√			
7.	Bugler, Phyll	√			
8.	Carroll, John		√		
9.	Coonan, Noel J.	√			
10.	Crosse, John	√			
11.	Darcy, Ger	√			
12.	Dennehy, Niall J.			√	
13.	Dunne, David		√		
14.	English, Pat		√		
15.	FitzGerald, J	√			
16.	Mark Fitzgerald	√			
17.	FitzGerald, Michael	√			
18.	Goldsboro, Imelda	√			
19.	Hanafin, Seamus	√			
20.	Hannigan, Joe		√		
21.	Hanna Hourigan, Mary	√			
22.	Lee, Shane	√			
23.	Lowry, Michael	√			
24.	McGrath, Hughie	√			
25.	McGrath, John (Rocky)	√			
26.	McGrath, Máirín		√		
27.	Molloy, Richie		√		
28.	Moloney, Andy	√			
29.	Moran, Eddie	√			
30.	Morris, Seamus		√		
31.	Murphy, Marie	√			
32.	Murphy, Michael	√			
33.	O'Meara, Kevin		√		
34.	O'Meara, Michael		√		
35.	Ryan (Shiner) Annemarie		√		
36.	Ryan, Jim		√		
37.	Ryan, Peggy	√			
38.	Ryan, Sean	√			
39.	Smith, Michael	√			
40.	Kennedy, Roger	√			
	TOTALS	27	12	1	

The Meetings Administrator noted the result of the vote at 27 for, 12 against, with 1 absentee and deemed the amended motion passed.

Water Services

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services and Mr. D Holland, Senior Engineer, responded to queries raised: -

Source Rationalisation Programme

It was noted that Two Mile Borris, Horse and Jockey and Littleton were currently being assessed for connection to the Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Water Supply Issues Carrick-on-Suir

In response to an enquiry by Cllr K. Bourke regarding ongoing water supply issues in the Carrick-on-Suir area, it was noted that a number of improvements were being carried out including the upgrading of the treatment plant at Linguan and watermain rehabilitation works. There had been problems relating to low water pressure over the summer months.

Council Workshops with Irish Water

At the request of members, it was agreed to convey to Irish Water their preference for in-person district workshops. It was noted that remote workshops were taking place in the coming week.

Water Sector Transformation

It was noted that while it was not yet known the complaint reporting structure that would be in place following the taking over by Irish Water of the direct management of water services, the Local Representative Support Desk would remain as the point of contact for members.

Thurles Sewerage Scheme – Drainage Area Plan

Consulting Engineers had been appointed to commence the design phase for construction phase works.

Clonmel Water Supply.

In response to queries raised in relation to ongoing problems in the Clonmel Area, members were informed that a number of schemes were progressing that would help alleviate issues in Clonmel. Planning permission had been granted for a booster station at Coleville Road, Clonmel to serve Mountain Road with works to commence in early 2023. Drilling works at the Monroe Wellfields would commence in the coming months.

It was noted that the boil water notice that had been placed on customers on the Glenary Public Water Supply had been lifted.

Backyard Sewage Services

In response to an enquiry by Cllr D. Dunne, members were informed that the programme for sewer rehabilitation was not as far advanced as watermains rehabilitation due to the focus on water conservation.

Burncourt WSS

Cllr Marie Murphy sought an update on the inclusion of the Ballylooby WSS in the EPA Remedial Action List (RAL). She was informed that, while this was the case as at 31 December 2021, the Ballylooby WSS was removed from the Remedial Action List earlier in 2022.

Environment & Climate Action

Mr. Ger Walsh, A/Director of Services and Ms M.O;Neill, S.E., responded to queries raised: -

Promotional Signs

Seven promotional signs were being erected at scenic locations throughout the County reminding visitors to enjoy the amenities and keep them clean.

Illegal Dumping

Members welcomed recent successful prosecutions for illegal dumping and referred to the need for these types of cases to be highlighted in local media to act as a deterrent.

Dog Pound.

Members were advised that the Dog Pound in South Tipperary was no longer available to the Council and stray dogs were now being placed in the Dog Pound in Nenagh. Efforts were being made to locate a replacement facility in the South of the County.

EV Charging Points

Currently there were 73 EV Charging Points throughout the County. The EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 would give Local Authorities a framework to work from. Demand and electricity capacity in areas would be assessed and the need for the private sector to expand their provision of charging points was also a factor.

Household Waste Inspections

It was confirmed that prosecutions would be taken against non-compliant households if necessary.

Derelict Sites

In response to an enquiry by Cllr A.M. Ryan, it was confirmed that derelict site levies were collected, noting that every effort was made to engage with owners to remediate their properties.

Climate Action Plan

Guidelines had been issued by the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communication in relation to the preparation of Local Authority Climate Action Plans. There would be engagement with communities and public participation forums as part of the process.

Smart Bins

It was confirmed that there was specific funding provided by the Department for smart bins and an application would be made for Tipperary when funding was next available.

Pre-Halloween Patrols

Cllr Dunne requested that pre-Halloween Patrols would take place particularly in relation to bonfires and fireworks.

Civic Amenity Sites

The large number of customer visits to Civic Amenity Sites outlined in the Management Report was noted.

Plastic Bottle Recycling

Initiatives for Plastic Bottle Recycling was being examined nationally.

Clare Curley, Director of Services

Members congratulated Ms. Clare Curley, Director of Services, on her recent retirement, they wished her health and happiness for the future.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, referred to Ms. Curley's career with South Tipperary County, Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Municipal District and during her career. Ms. Curley had been supportive to her colleagues and would be missed by them. He wished Clare and her daughter every happiness for the future.

Ms Curley thanked the members for their curtesy and support over the years at both Council and District level. She had fond memories of her time in Tipperary Town Council. It had been her privilege to work with the members and realise their vision for Tipperary and by they working together it had been possible to be ambitious and to achieve for Tipperary. She was grateful for the opportunities the Council had afforded her and thanked the Chief Executive and previous County Managers for their guidance and encouragement.

As outlined by the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to take Item 10.3 Notice of Motion Ref. 2486 and Item 6.2 Affordable Housing Options with the Housing Management Report.

Item 10.2

Notice of Motion

(Ref No: 2486)

Cllr Morris requested that the following motion be deferred for 3 months pending the rollout of the National Rent Scheme.

"That Tipperary County Council do not take Carers Allowance and Working Family Support into consideration when calculating rent".

This was agreed.

Item 6.2

Affordable Housing Options

Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services, informed members that Mr. Shane Grogan, A.O. Housing, would make a presentation to the members on the Affordable Housing Options that would be used to facilitate the provision of affordable housing throughout the County utilizing all available policy tools.

Mr. Shane Grogan stated that an affordable house was a home which was targeted at those in the middle ground who did not qualify for social housing supports and who did not independently have the means to secure finance to purchase a new house, or who cannot secure a rental property.

A detailed presentation was made on the following Schemes: -

- Help to Buy Scheme;
 - The Help to Buy (HTB) Scheme helps first-time buyers purchase a newly-built house or apartment. It also applies to once-off self-build homes. It only applies to properties that cost €500,000 or less.
- Affordable Home Loan – LA Home Loan

- The Local Authority Home Loan is a government-backed mortgage for first-time buyers and Fresh Start applicants. Loans are offered at reduced interest rates and can be used to buy new and second-hand properties, or to build a home. Maximum value of property is €250,000.
- Cost Rental Model
 - Provision of affordable, high-quality rental accommodation to low or middle-income earners who are not qualified for social housing. Rent charged only covers the cost of delivering, managing and maintaining the home
- Part V
 - Change to Part V to require developers to set aside up to 20 per cent of new developments of five or more houses for social and/or affordable housing.
- Croi Conaithe Fund (Towns Scheme)
 - A maximum grant of €30,000 would be available for the refurbishment of vacant properties for occupation as a principal private residence, including the conversion of a property which has not been used as a residence heretofore. Applies to empty buildings within the town or village with a population of more than 400 people. It also applies to some smaller villages which are defined as villages by the CSO. An additional €20,000 is available once a qualified Engineer certifies that the building is derelict or dangerous.
- Ready to Build Scheme
 - To make available serviced sites in towns and villages to potential individual buyers to live in as principal private residence.
- Repair and Lease Scheme
 - To bring vacant properties in need of repair, back into use for social housing. The scheme is aimed at owners of vacant properties who cannot afford the repairs needed to bring their property up to the standard required to rent it out.

The actions to be taken subject to access to Affordable Housing Funding were: -

- Priority Scheme template and associated documentation to be approved
- Submit a minimum of 1 site for AHF in 2023
- Ongoing promotion of use of vacant properties with the R&L scheme and Croí Cónaithe initiative as central drivers.
- Actively engaging with developers and the public on the First Homes scheme to encourage uptake.
- Engage with the Department regarding the price cap of €250,000 in Tipperary
- Develop a pilot proposal based on use of sites in rural areas for sale as serviced sites as per the Ready to Build scheme
- Develop summary document for distribution describing affordable options

It was noted that gaining access to the Affordable Housing Fund would be a challenge and increased staffing would be required to meet the anticipated demand.

Members thanked Mr. Grogan for the informative presentation. They welcomed the new initiatives but expressed concerns regarding the take up of the schemes due to income thresholds and savings capacity. Members received the most representation from this middle ground group at whom the scheme was aimed.

Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services noted the members concerns. She said that there had not been affordable housing schemes for a number of years and this package was a starting point that could leverage activity in the private sector. Schemes would be advertised through the media and on the website and an application would be made for funding.

Management Report continued.

Housing

Ms. S Carr, Director of Services and Mr. J. Cooney, Senior Engineer responded to queries raised as follows: -

Homeless

It was agreed to communicate with An Garda Síochána in the five Municipal Districts regarding weekend protocol for homeless presentations following details outlined by Cllr Dunne in relation to a homeless case in his District.

Homeless Prevention

Private HAP Tenants issued with Notice to Quits were urged to contact the Housing Section once the Notice to Quit was issued to allow an opportunity for engagement to take place to find alternative accommodation.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

It was noted that the Tenant Purchase Scheme had been amended to enable pensioners buy their house through the scheme.

Social Housing Income Thresholds

Members expressed their disappointment that the social housing income threshold had not been increased for Tipperary and were advised that the Department had been asked for the criteria used in the revision of income thresholds for social housing to ascertain why Tipperary was not increased.

Local Authority Home Loans

Housing Staff engaged with unsuccessful applicants for Local Authority Home Loans in an effort to resolve issues that may allow them reapply.

Housing Grants

Members were advised that the grant allocation for 2022 had been expended and an additional €400,000 had been received.

Four bed Units

It was noted that 4-bed units were being incorporated into the design for new housing schemes.

Choice Based Letting

Members were advised that of those registered for Choice Based Letting, 66% were active users with 34% registered but not active. Housing Applicants were being encouraged to use the system and any applicant who was experiencing difficulty should liaise with the Housing Section. It was noted that applicants who express an interest in a one bed property could not do so for a two-bed property and this was being examined.

Construction Programme

In response to queries from members Mr. J. Cooney provided updates as follows: -

- 14 units Ballyclerihan – Discussions were being held with the Contractor with expected delivery in 2023.
- 43 units at Mountain Road, Cahir – Part 8 documentation was being prepared. Consultation would take place in advance advising those who wished to make a submission of the process.
- 10 units at Abbey Street, Cahir – The contractor was on site with delivery in Q4 2022.
- 41 units at Prior Park Grove – Turnkey project with delivery in late 2022, early 2023.
- 23 units at Two Mile Borris – Contractor on site with delivery in Q4 2022.

Congratulations

Members congratulated Mr. Jim Dillon, Housing Section, on his forthcoming retirement and thanked him for his assistance on housing matters.

Item 7.1

Budget Process 2023

The following dates were agreed on the proposal of Cllr Marie Murphy, seconded by Cllr S. Ryan.

Budget Workshops

1st November, 2022 at 2 p.m. (in person)

22nd November, 2022 at 2 p.m. (remote)

Annual Budget Meeting.

25th November, 2022 at 10 a.m. Clonmel Civic Offices

Item 8.1

Presentation by Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Barry O’Sullivan, Chairperson, Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce and Mr. Paraic Rattigan, Programme Manager, Mid-West Regional Taskforce to the meeting and who were joining the meeting remotely. Mr. O’Sullivan made a presentation to the members on the current work programme of the Taskforce and the public consultation process it had undertaken.

As part of The Programme for Government, there was a commitment to consider the potential of the Shannon Estuary in terms of regional economic development across transport and logistics, manufacturing, renewable energy and tourism, and to develop a strategy to achieve this potential, with support from the Exchequer.

The terms of Reference for the Taskforce were to: -

- Assess the strategic strengths and comparative advantages of the Shannon Estuary from an investment and enterprise development perspective, in a national and international context;
- Scope potential areas of opportunity for the Shannon Estuary and specify policy and investment requirements to exploit those areas of potential;
- Assess the current connectivity of the region and make recommendations as to how this could be enhanced;
- Specify the actions required from national and local government, as well as from other stakeholders, to exploit those areas of potential; and
- Produce a Report and associated Action Plan with specific steps in areas of potential.

In this regard the stakeholder engagement process had commenced with public consultation and two calls had been advertised in local press and social media in March and July, 2022 with 42 submissions received. Key Sectoral Stakeholders and Experts had been invited to present to the Taskforce core, and Subgroups. The taskforce also engaged with Public Representatives including the Tánaiste, Ministers, Oireachtas members, MEPs and County Councils.

Members thanked Mr. O’Sullivan for his presentation. They were conscious of the importance of the Shannon Estuary to Tipperary and the potential economic opportunities for the area. They expressed the need for investment in road and rail infrastructure from the Shannon Foynes Port as these transport links were essential in the development of the Shannon Estuary. Members welcomed plans for the development of both offshore and onshore renewable energy.

In response, Mr. O’Sullivan advised that a road project had been approved connecting the Port of Foynes to the National Road Network and an expression of interest tender for the regeneration of the Limerick to Foynes line had been advertised.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, thanked Mr. O’Sullivan and Mr. Rhattigan for their attendance. It was important for the members to hear details of the remit and work of the taskforce. Tipperary County Council would continue to support the work of the taskforce and he looked forward to reading the Report.

Item 9.1
Consideration of Orders for the period to the 30th September, 2022

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 30th September, 2022 were noted.

Item 11.1
Notice of Motion Ref. 2483

Motion Ref. No. 2483 was proposed by **Cllr Marie Murphy** in the absence of **Cllr D Burgess**

“That Tipperary County Council writes to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon

Harris, TD, to support the inclusion of all full-time participants of Apprenticeship Programmes in all Student Card Schemes.”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr T. Black**

It was agreed to forward the motion to Mr. Simon Harris, T.D. Minister for Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for consideration.

Item 12.1

Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted as follows: -

- Letter dated 7th September, 2022 from Private Secretary to Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Item 13.1

Motions from other Councils.

The following Resolutions were noted: -

Mayo County Council

“Calling on the Minister for Housing to update the criteria for the first-time buyer’s derelict property grant Croí Cónaithe, to enable derelict properties in rural areas to be eligible to avail of the scheme to help address the critically low supply of houses across the country. Currently, only homes available in towns and villages are eligible for the scheme”.

Sligo County Council

“That Sligo County Council carry out a county wide audit of the availability of disabled parking places. This to include all urban areas and tourist amenities”.

Limerick City & County Council

“That, due to the ongoing war in Ukraine and the global grain shortage, that the Minister for Agriculture should, as a matter of urgency, establish an Expert National Review Group on Horticulture to include the main stakeholders and to report back in six months. The purpose of the Group would be to review all food industries under the headings: Food Security; Import Substitution; Employment Opportunities. Areas to include – Protected Crops, Fruit Production – Top Fruits (apples), Soft Fruits and the Seed Potato Sector. This Motion to be circulated to all local authorities.”

Longford County Council

“That following the publication of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations in which Longford was left out, that Longford County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O’Brien to move Longford from Band 3 into Band 2 to raise the basic income threshold from €25,000 to €30,000.

Item 13.1

Expressions of votes of sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy to the following: -

- The family of PJ Cullinan, Newcastle, Former Water Caretaker
- The family of Liam White, Cappawhite, Former Executive Technician in Housing, Clonmel
- Annette Hickey, Human Resources on the death of her father John Walsh
- Declan Burgess on the death of his aunt Kate Gadd
- Michael and John FitzGerald on the death of their aunt Nora Molumby

Best Wishes

Members passed a vote of Best Wishes to Ms. Alice Tobin, Clonmel Civic Offices on her recent retirement.


Item 14.1

Any Other Business

The meeting then concluded.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: