

**Minutes of October Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District
hosted in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and held
remotely on Monday, 24th October 2022 at 11am**

Members Present: Councillor Micheál Anglim, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Tony Black
Councillor Declan Burgess
Councillor John Crosse
Councillor Michael FitzGerald
Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan
Councillor Roger Kennedy
Councillor Máirín McGrath
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Marie Murphy

Officials Present: Ms Sinead Carr, Director of Services
Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Administrator
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. Paul Farrell, Executive Engineer
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer

Finance Directorate

Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance

Apologies: Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer. He called the roll and confirmed that all the Municipal District members were present at the meeting with the exception of Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) who sent her apologies. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Micheál Anglim, welcomed everyone to the October Municipal District meeting and commenced the meeting.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

2.1 Minutes of September Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on 26th September 2022.

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District September meeting held on 26th September 2022 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Andy Moloney, seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy.

Matters arising from the minutes

Councillor Fitzgerald requested an update in relation Michael Woulfe's recent commitment to arrange a meeting with the residents of Fr Matthew Street, Tipperary Town. He noted that it was important to engage with the residents as early as possible. The District Administrator confirmed that the Roads Capital Team are following up on this, however no date has been set yet.

3.1 Consider the Draft Budgetary Plan 2022

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance, to the meeting.

Mr. McCarthy referred to the District's Draft Budgetary Plan circulated with the agenda and indicated that he would take any questions from the members.

In response, Councillor Moloney raised a query in relation to the Housing Building & Maintenance Budget and why it was significantly less than last year. Mr. McCarthy confirmed that it depends where the voids occur and this is difficult to predict. Councillor Moloney noted that energy costs have increased, however our budget hasn't increased accordingly, therefore we will be at a loss and our towns and villages will feel the impact. Where is the funding shortfall going to come from?

Mr. McCarthy confirmed that the Council is always looking for extra funding from central government, however given that inflation is running at 8% there isn't an infinite amount of money. And every local authority is in the same position. Councillor Moloney also noted that within this District a number of estates have been recently taken in charge and the money isn't in the District to maintain these estates.

On the proposition of Councillor John Crosse, seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, the Allocation for 2022 was noted.

Mr. McCarthy also wanted to highlight the requirement for all Councillors to participate in the Cyber Security Training. Councillor Hanna Hourigan asked why this course was being provided online and why couldn't it be provided with proper training and given an appointed time to attend training. Ms Sinead Carr advised that she completed the training and she found it to be a good course and it made a lot of sense. The Cathaoirleach asked if any of the other members had an issue with the training. Councillor Moloney confirmed that he has completed it. Mr. McCarthy confirmed that he can organise support for anyone who needs it. Councillor Murphy confirmed that she also has completed the course and that there is a requirement for everyone to do it.

3.2 Consider the Chief Executive's Report on the Part 8 Development – Cashel Public Realm

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Jonathan Flood from the Planning Section to the meeting. He thanked everyone for the work on the numerous workshops and public consultations. Councillor Burgess proposed the Part 8 and wanted to thank in particular the consultants who were proactive in nature and very easy to deal with. He noted that upgrading and reimagining the public space will mean a lot of gains for the town. The proposed plans will enhance Cashel's historic centre and promote Cashel as a strong tourist town. He acknowledged the funding from Fáilte Ireland and urged the Council to secure the funding to move the project forward. He also noted that a town park is badly needed in Cashel and would complement the overall vision for Cashel. He thanked Anthony Coleman and the Planning Staff for all their work.

Councillor Fitzgerald wanted to acknowledge the engagement of the people of Cashel and the overall proposal is welcome. He noted that it will be a huge improvement to Cashel and the quicker the work begins the better.

On the proposition of Councillor Declan Burgess, seconded by Councillor Michael Fitzgerald it was resolved:

"That having considered the Chief Executive's Report dated October 2022 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended, for the proposed Part 8 Development of Cashel Public Realm, to include Main Street, Moor Lane, Friar Street, Bank Street, John Street, Lower Gate Square, Commandant PJ Hogan Square, Wesley Square, Agar's Lane, Maher's Lane and Greenhouse, Reference P8/22/05A that Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District decide that the proposed development be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report".

3.3 District Engineer's Report

The District Engineer's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda and Mr. Swords advised the members that the RI and RM works are practically complete, however the recent flooding has impacted on the work programme.

Councillor Burgess advised that a number of Ukrainian refugees are now residing in Dundrum House Hotel and they are walking into Dundrum village in the dark. He requested that Active Travel Section would engage with stakeholders, property owners and business people to work on a design for a footpath. There is an increasing need for this in terms of road safety and could signs be erected in the interim. Councillor Crosse commended the work of the District Roads Team, however raised concerns in relation to road safety at Shronnell National School. He thanked Tim Kilmartin for his recent visit to the school and noted that a speed survey had been completed. Councillor Crosse read a letter to the members from the Parents' Association regarding their concerns. He noted that there weren't enough parking spaces and some people were double parking and obstructing access to private residences of adjoining property owners. Councillor Moloney again raised concern in relation to Knockagh Roundabout and noted that

there was another accident this morning. He accepts that the N24 is the responsibility of the TII and it will be raised at the upcoming meeting with the TII. He advised that an anti-skid surface and increasing signage will not solve the issue because there seems to be a problem with the camber of the road. He noted that it would be interesting to find out through an FOI request how much money has been spent to date replacing the barriers. He asked when the patching work will be completed given that we are coming into a busy winter period. He recommended that a big BMS sign to put near the roundabout to advise motorists to slow down. Councillor McGrath supported Councillor Moloney and referred to drainage water coming off the motorway. She referred in particular to the recent adverse weather and a number of the drains near the motorway are not being maintained. It was noted that improved communication with the TII is required and an allocated budget to deal with this issue. She advised the members that one house was flooded as a result of blocked drains. She wanted to thank the staff for their work in the past week and particularly Paul Farrell and Walter Doheny for their work on the Goatenbridge Road and the ORIS works on the green in Ardfinnan. Councillor Black also called for a footpath in Dundrum and noted that Deputy Martin Browne's office had received a number of calls looking for a solution. He referred to a similar problem in Knockavilla and also Galbally Road where the marked crossing has been worn leaving no indication of a crossing. He also referred to Davitt Street particularly the junction with Lacey Villas and Redmond Square where prior to the upgrade works there was a yellow box. Without a yellow box, residents in these areas are finding it difficult to get out in heavy traffic. Councillor Hanna Hourigan supported Councillor Black's calls for road markings at Davitt Street and Galbally Road. Councillor Burgess noted that outside Kilnamanagh Manor, Dundrum it is a particularly dark spot and appreciated that there is probably no active travel money available until next year. However, it may be more of a lighting issue, but notes that the trees are protected. Councillor Black requested that the large tree in John O'Leary Place could be pruned because its blocking the street lighting. Councillor Anglim also referred to the trees on the New Line, Ardfinnan and requested that they be pruned to allow better sightlines.

In response the District Engineer advised that Active Travel wouldn't be in a position to provide a footpath outside the speed limit of any town/village. In relation to the traffic safety issues and speeding in Shronnell, this is a matter for An Garda Síochána, however we could look at signage and road markings. TII have been advised of the members concerns regarding Knockagh Roundabout and the patching work is due to commence next Friday. Regarding the drainage problems off the motorway the District Engineer has been in contact with the Roads Section to arrange a meeting. The District Engineer also confirmed that the design has been completed for upgrade works in Knockavilla which will address the issues raised. He also advised that a lining crew will be in the area in the coming weeks and the pedestrian crossing on the Galbally Road will be upgraded, however providing a yellow box on the N24 is matter for the TII. The District Engineer advised the members that over 100 trees were pruned across the District last week and it is intended that a similar number will be completed

next year. Councillor Fitzgerald referred to the matter raised about providing a footpath in Dundrum and that this has been receiving a lot of attention on social media over the weekend. He asked if the matter could be resolved by providing the Ukrainians with hi viz vests. Councillor Fitzgerald advised that he would prefer to see any money spent on traffic calming at schools like Shronell and also highlighted a similar issue at Ayle School.

Councillor Black wished to clarify that Deputy Martin Browne's office had received a number of representations on the footpath in Dundrum prior to this Ukrainians moving in. Councillor Burgess also confirmed that he too had previously received requests from residents in Dundrum. He noted that Dundrum House Hotel is a busy location and there should be an exception made to provide public lighting and a footpath. The District Engineer clarified that the Council cannot provide school car parking and they would look at putting up signage in Dundrum. Councillor Kennedy advised that hi viz would be distributed to the residents in Dundrum House Hotel and he referred to a hardcore path to up the rectory that is over grown and should be cleared back.

3.4 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda and he was open to questions. Councillor McGrath requested an update in relation to the RRDF for Cahir Town. Councillor Burgess noted that the announcement in relation to the provision of fast EV charging points was good news and he requested an update in relation to the Bishops Walk Enhancement Works. He also requested an update in relation to the visitors centre which is really important for the town of Cashel and he appreciated that some things are commercially sensitive. This District Administrator confirmed that they are expecting a decision from the Department in relation to Cahir next month. Regarding the EV points, the Council has signed a contract with EasyGo to provide EV chargers subject to the necessary connections with the ESB being in place to ensure the correct voltage. This company will provide the infrastructure with no cost to the Council. In relation to Bishop's Walk Project he confirmed that the consultants are working on the detailed design and depending on the weather hope to be on site in the New Year. The amendments to the existing licence have been granted by the Department. Regarding the visitors' centre a new working group has been established which will be chaired by the County Council. The report on site selection process has been finalised and when a site has been chosen the members will be update.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Tony Black (Ref. ID 2494)

That this council place "No Speeding" and "Children at Play" signs at the entrances to John O'Leary Place, Tipperary Town (particularly the entrances at Kiely's Bakery and O'Connell Road alleyway). Since the Davitt Street roadworks people have become accustomed to using the estate as a short cut and recently there have been several close calls involving motorists speeding and pedestrians. This area is a popular shortcut for O'Connell Road residents accessing the town centre and is also a noted play area for children from the West End. An increase in speeding has been noted by residents and I would urge that these signs be erected in the interest of safety.

Reply

Speeding and the enforcement of the speed limits is a matter for An Garda Síochána. A speed survey will be carried out at this location.

The erection of 'Slow Zone' signage will be considered at John O'Leary Place also.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

5.2 Councillor Tony Black (Ref. ID 2495)

That this council would erect place name signs for O'Connell Road in Tipperary Town. Residents have noticed that the place name signs have disappeared from the walls. It would be fantastic if they could be replaced with new signs.

Reply

The District is currently looking at street name signage replacement but particularly within the town centre. Priority will be given to the busier areas first before moving towards the edges of town.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy. Councillor Kennedy noted that L signs at roadway were put up across the county in 2016-2018, however they were never put up in the Cashel area. He asked if it is possible that they are in a shed and he previously raised this with Marcus O'Connor.

5.3 Councillor Tony Black (Ref. ID 2496)

That this council would clean the shores on Lower Dillon Street, Tipperary Town. These shores are blocked with weeds, grass, etc. and this is causing rainwater to build up and overflow.

Reply

The area in question is noted and has been highlighted to maintenance staff for follow up.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

5.4 Councillor Andy Moloney (Ref. ID 2497)

This council needs to sit down with Coillte and discuss the issues of flash flooding and how we can sort the deluge hitting the lowlands too quickly.

Reply

A meeting will be arranged with Coillte to discuss this issue once more detail on the particular areas of concern is compiled.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Micheál Anglim.

5.5 Councillor Máirín McGrath (Ref. ID 2498)

That this Council would write to the Department of Transport to seek emergency funding for drainage works and the repair of our road network in response to severe flooding and unprecedented levels of rainfall in the Cahir LEA.

Reply

Subject to the approval of Elected Members, Council staff will write to the Department of Transport seeking additional funding to address areas impacted by recent flooding.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Fitzgerald. He asked if the upcoming meeting with the Minister could be used to raise the problems the District is having trying to resolve issues caused by failings of Coillte or the TII. Councillor McGrath added that if a letter was prepared before the meeting it could be handed to the Minister by the Chair of the County Council.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended on the death of the following:

- Michael Heffernan, Coolacussane Cross, Dundrum, Co. Tipperary
- Tommy Moloney, Old Road, Cashel, Co. Tipperary

6.2 Votes of Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Sergeant Liam Corcoran who retired from An Garda Síochána in Cashel
- Abbey Noonan, Ballydrehid, Cahir who was the only Tipperary player on the Irish Banshees team that won the AFL European Final in Zagreb earlier this month. They beat GB Swans in the final and went unbeaten through the championship.

- Clonoulty Rossmore Vintage who raised €15,000 for South Tipperary Hospice from their recent Vintage Rally in Clonoulty
- Cashel Ladies Soccer Team who beat Newport FC in the recent Tipperary Development League final
- Tipperary Revitalisation Heritage Group in collaboration with the Museum of Childhood Ireland on winning the County Award for Heritage Week 2023
- Tony and Maeve Lowry, Main Street, Tipperary Town on their recent retirement.

6.3 Get Well Wishes

Best wishes and a speedy recovery were extended to our colleague Walter Doheny, he is in our prayers and it is hoped to see him back to work soon.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/ Michael Angham Dated/ 28-11-22
Cathaoirleach

Signed/ Anthony Cole Dated/ 28.11.22
District Administrator