



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 10.00 AM ON 19th JANUARY 2023

Present in chamber	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, Phyll Bugler, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, John "Rocky" McGrath, Michael O' Meara, John Carroll, Séamus Morris and Ger Darcy
Also Present	<p>Mr. Marcus O Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Barry Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. Donal Murphy and Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officers.</p> <p>Environment & Climate Change: Mr. Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Ms. Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer</p> <p>Roads: Mr. Paddy Crowley, A/Senior Engineer; Mr. Kieran Giblin, Executive Engineer.</p>
Item 1. To note any Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest	None
Item 2. To consider and adopt Minutes of December meeting held on 15th December 2022	It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Darcy and resolved that the minutes of the December Meeting held on 15 th December 2022 be adopted.
Item 3. To receive update from Environment & Climate Action	<p>The report on Environment and Climate Action was circulated to members. Mr. M. Moroney informed members that the new Community Climate Action officer started with the organisation in January. There would be a call for proposals in late February/early March.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll asked when would the burial ground policy come back for approval and if the litter fine could be increased from €150 as it is not enough of a deterrent. If someone is prosecuted under the Waste Management Act the fines can be as high as €5000.</p> <p>Cllr. O'Meara informed members that he attended a conference held by the IFA on the Energy Strategy recently. It was attended by over 1,000 farmers. The possibility of providing energy was raised, unfortunately some of the areas that would be suitable for renewable energy are identified as NHA and SACs. Farmers are often seen as villains but they have done a lot of work to help with environmental issues. He also stated that there is an issue with littering especially from promotional material from</p>



	<p>some supermarket chains and asked if it would be possible to find out who the distribution company is for this.</p> <p>Cllr. H. McGrath stated that the grid appears to be at capacity for solar and wind energy, there is no room to sell back the energy generated.</p> <p>Cllr. Morris stated that there are consequences of wind energy – it can lead to flooding, displacement of water on hillsides and the run-off of water downhill. Dumping appears to have got worse over the last number of months. Recently a washing machine was dumped and when the person that left it was contacted they became very abusive. The waste permit is the way to address the issue, people need to be asked how they dispose of their rubbish. It is difficult to ask staff to pick up rubbish as it is unknown what is in it. Most of what is dumped can be disposed of in the Civic Amenity site. It causes problems to land and to animals. He also asked who will be giving updates on the water and waste water schemes and said that the talks between the unions and Uisce Éireann appear to have collapsed.</p> <p>Cllr. Darcy mentioned that farmers have put huge investment into their farms and are frustrated with what is being said on national media. A lot of water that is being used does not have to be treated water, harvesting rainwater could be a way of reducing the demand for water. He mentioned however that it can be difficult and expensive to store. He asked if it would be possible to write to the Department to offer incentives to people to harvest rainwater. He mentioned that more private wells have gone dry in recent times than in the previous twelve years. He also mentioned the amount of money spent on anti-dumping campaigns. He also enquired about the timelines for work on Cloghprior Graveyard.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler raised the issue of the Japanese knotweed in Ballina Riverside Park and Cullenagh Estate, the ash dieback on roadside trees and the possibility of running a campaign to show people how to recycle. She mentioned a report that has been completed by a Professor in Maynooth on methane gas. She also asked for an update on Boher graveyard and if it would be possible for Environment to get the information from Planning on septic tanks rather than the site owners having to register them.</p> <p>Cllr. Hannigan agreed that farmers will embrace change and have potential in relation to energy production. He still has concerns in relation to the control of dogs and restricted breeds, especially after recent events. People need to be educated on these types of dogs. There is also an issue around breeders – where are dogs accommodated and do they have a licence to breed particular types of dogs. He referred to a motion at the meeting of the plenary Council calling for more stringent</p>
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measures. He also asked about how the Council interacts with the RSPCA.

Mr. M. Moroney informed members that the Burial Ground Policy is scheduled to go before the SPC and then the full council in Q1/Q2 of 2023. He does agree that the litter fines could be increased but the Council are proactive in taking actions and do obtain costs. He also agreed that the farming community will play a vital role in renewable energy and climate action. There is a very detailed framework around renewable energy and the impact on areas of conservation. In relation to illegal dumping the costs at the civic amenity sites are minimal and information campaigns will be run throughout the year. Recycling rates are improving but there is still a way to go. He advised that there will be a further roll out of the third bin to areas outside of towns.

Household surveys are ongoing and these will highlight when people don't have arrangements in place for disposal of household refuse. Environment will liaise with Roads and the MD in relation to Japanese knotweed but ash dieback in trees is an issue for the landowner or occupier. There was a very productive debate on dog control at the meeting of the full council on Monday. Awareness campaigns are normally run on an annual basis but after what happened recently these campaigns will be tailored to address these concerns. Dog breeding establishments with more than 6 females breeding are required to register, there are currently 23 registered in the county.

Individuals do have to register their septic tanks; newer tanks are more environmentally friendly and older tanks are eligible to apply for grants. Ms. O. Kelly explained that staff would work with householders after the household survey has taken place to help put a service in place.

Cllr. F. Bonfield referred to a clean up once a year that takes place in Limerick and said she did not know why Tipperary could not do something similar. She also said that there is not only an issue with dumping of household waste, there is also waste being dumped by contractors. She called for a community day for clean-ups. Mr. M. Moroney said they would look into this and referred to the support given for National Spring Clean week. He also said they would write to the Department on any schemes or grants for water harvesting.

Mr. M. O'Connor informed members that Gurteen College holds a very successful conference on various items including solar and wind energy, this is very well attended and he would encourage more people to attend.



<p>Item 4. To consider draft Casual Trading Bye- Laws & agree to put same on public display</p>	<p>Ms. R. Joyce outlined that the workshop on the Casual Trading bye-laws was held in December. The bye-laws relate to goods not services and for trading in a public not private area, if someone wants to trade in a private area this would be a planning matter. A fee of €300 will apply for a licence and once issued the licence will be valid for 1 year. An annual application and fee will be applicable and there is no guarantee that the applicant will be successful in subsequent terms. It is a learning process and it may be necessary to revise the bye-laws. Ice-creams vans will not have to apply for a licence but there is a 20-minute limit on the time they can spend in an area. Some of exemptions are set out under the act and further have been added due to regulations. Agreement is required from the members to put the draft bye-laws on display for one month with a further 2 weeks for submissions. A report will then be prepared on submissions and it is expected this report will be before the members at the April meeting. If any material changes need to be made to the bye-laws as a result of the submissions, draft bye-laws will have to be put on public display again. If the bye-laws are adopted it will be a further month before they are operational. It may be necessary to make changes to the bye-laws as time passes or as situations arise. Ms. R. Joyce thanked the members and staff for their help and support in bringing the bye-laws to this stage and the members thanked Ms. R. Joyce for the work on the bye-laws. Cllr. Bugler raised concern about the photo of the Ballina area that was attached was not correct. It was clarified that this was only an aerial photo but once the bye-laws are on display the correct map will accompany them.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Morris and agreed that the draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws be put on public display.</p>
<p>Items 5. To consider draft amenity area bye-laws & agree to put same on display</p>	<p>Ms. R. Joyce outlined that the amenity area bye-laws were agreed a number of years ago. Since the introduction of the bye-laws there has been a number of issues with vandalism on the public toilets in Ballina. CCTV will be installed to protect the local authority property. The proposed amendment to the bye-laws is in relation to the prohibition of intoxicating substances in part of the Ballina amenity area, this is similar to the bye-laws already in place in public areas in Nenagh.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler welcomed the proposed amendment and expressed her disappointment at the damage that has been caused numerous times in the area.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Bugler and seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed that the draft Amenity Area bye-laws be put on public display.</p>



	<p>Cllr. Bonfield explained that there are similar concerns in relation to the town park in Newport and some of this is in relation to the early closing of schools on a Friday.</p>
Item 6. To receive update on Nenagh Riverwalk	<p>Mr. Paddy Crowley outlined that the urban greenway along the Nenagh River would be surfaced and 4 metres wide. The consultants have been appointed and it is hoped to be in a position to go for planning permission sometime this year. The preliminary designs are nearly complete. The members welcomed the proposal but had concerns over the part of the walk where a crossing has to be made on the main road. They also enquired about the possibility of extending the footpath out to the pitch and putt course and the nursing home.</p> <p>Mr. Crowley and Mr. M. O'Connor outlined that the scheme will facilitate other future linkages, however the area to the pitch and putt and the nursing home is outside the speed limits and it would not be possible to move the speed limits just to avail of funding. It is important to focus on the design of this project and all other issues can be revisited at a later date.</p>
Item 7. To update members on projects & events	<p>The update on projects was circulated to members.</p> <p>Ms R. Joyce informed the members that as Ms. Aine McCarthy has moved to her new position as Towns Regeneration Officer, the new project manager will be Sinéad Conlan and she will be starting in the District on Monday. The Polish Ambassador will be visiting Nenagh on Thursday 2nd February, the schedule is very tight so unfortunately it will not be possible to fit in additional areas. The closing date for the Festivals & Events Grant scheme is on the 31st January and it is very important that applications are in on time as they will not be accepted after the deadline.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll asked for an update on the transport hub and the next stage on the discovery points. Mr. M. O'Connor explained there was no further update on the transport hub but that this is still a priority. Ms. R. Joyce will get an update after the next meeting of the Lough Derg Marketing Group.</p> <p>Cllr. Morris said the All Ireland Pitch and Putt competition is to be held in Nenagh and paid tribute to the Riverdale Pitch & Putt Club. Cllr. Bugler requested an update on the viewing promenade in Ballina and the Lough Derg signage. Ms. R. Joyce informed the members that there is currently engagement with consultants in relation to progressing the viewing promenade and the query on Lough Derg signage will be passed to Sinead Cahalan.</p>
Item 8. To note Engineer's	<p>The Engineer's Checklist was circulated to members.</p> <p>Cllr. Darcy raised the issue of the Feigh bog road in Borrisokane on the Aqlish/Ballingarry side, it is in a very dangerous state. He</p>



Checklist on roads matters

also asked about the possibility of salting the road near Kylebeg school as it had to close for a day or two because of the frost. He requested that contact be made again with TII regarding Carrigahorig. Cllr. O'Meara asked about the possibility of getting routes near schools salted, provision of a wheelchair parking space in Borrisokane, the walkway/mass path around Ardan and the possibility of getting extra funding for roads used as detour routes during flooding at Carrigahorig.

Cllr. Bugler raised the issue of the recent flooding in Ballina and the condition of some of the roads as a result. She has asked Minister O Donovan for assistance and acknowledged the help from Mr. B. Murphy. She also asked about the salting policy and the possibility of helping in estates where elderly people live.

Cllr. Hannigan, Carroll and J. McGrath supported the possibility of salting on school routes. Cllr. Morris asked about signage at Kilruane Cross which has been on the checklist for a long time. He also asked about the sightline at Killaun, Dromineer which appears to have dropped off the list. He also mentioned a group that was set up in 2016 called the Shannon Flood Risk Agency to manage flooding along the Shannon and asked if it would be possible to meet this group. Cllr. Hannigan asked if anything can be done to improve the turn at Tombricane Castle and also referred to the delay in getting streetlights repaired. He mentioned one at Marian Ave., Borrisokane which had been reported in November.

Cllr. Bonfield felt the signage that was put in place during flooding in Birdhill could have been better and referred to signage erected by contractors for works being carried out as part of the Killaloe Crossing. There was a need to discuss with Clare County Council and the contractors. She also said that people need to take responsibility themselves. Complaints were received after an accident in an area about the lack of salting along this road, however this road had been closed due to flooding and the signs had been removed by members of the public.

Mr. B. Murphy acknowledged the poor condition of the Feigh Bog Road. It is currently not on the 3-year programme but will be considered if further funding becomes available. There is a countywide policy on salting. There are 12 routes covering 1200km of road and there are times when different intensity is required. The process has to be completed in 2 hours in very difficult conditions at night time. There is €1m budget for the work and priority is given to the routes with the most traffic. There is no additional capacity with manpower/vehicles or budget.



	<p>The wheelchair parking space in Borrisokane will be in place shortly and he will clarify with active travel about the mass path. The upgrading of the drainage system in Ballina will take years as there is major work required on it.</p> <p>Mr. O'Connor outlined to members that the ESB manage the levels in the Shannon very well. The levels are constantly watched, a minimum level is needed in the river and when there is heavy rainfall it increases the chance of flooding. The new road for the crossing will be at a higher level. There is concern over Ballina, the issues in Clonmel have been sorted and the biggest area of concern now in the county is Ballina.</p>
<p>Item 9 To consider Notices of Motion</p>	<p>Notice of Motion 2540 was proposed by Cllr. O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. Hannigan.</p> <p>Notice of Motion No: 2540 submitted by Cllr. M. O'Meara</p> <p>I am requesting that Nenagh Municipal District draw up a plan for the regeneration of the Main Street Cloughjordan village. The road surface and footpaths in the village need a major upgrade. I am requesting that active travel scheme and any other schemes should be considered</p> <p>Response was given to Cllr. O' Meara as follows:</p> <p><i>In recent years, the Council has carried out a considerable amount of enhancement works in the village of Cloughjordan. In the lead up to the 1916 centenary celebrations, new high-quality block paving footpaths were constructed along the main street and sections of road upgraded. In 2021 and 2022, 800 metres of new and widened footpaths were constructed as part of the Active Travel Scheme.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will spend over €250,000 in Cloughjordan as part of the 2022-2024 Road Works Programme. In 2023, the R491 between GAA Grounds and Junction with the Main Street (R490) will be improved including footpaths, drainage and new road surface. In 2024, the R491 (Shinrone Road) between junction of Main Street and Oxpark will be upgraded.</i></p> <p><i>All planned and completed works have been carried out without a formal Regeneration Plan. It should be noted that the making of a Regeneration Plan is a very onerous task involving considerable time, expense and public consultation. This would take a number of years and there is no clear budget to carry out the works identified in the Plan. The resources involved in drawing up the Plan would be better employed in carrying out further enhancement works in the village.</i></p>



	<p>Cllr. O'Meara welcomed the response and acknowledged the work that has been done to date in Cloughjordan. He did feel that having a regeneration plan would enable the locals to have an input. Cllr. O'Meara also asked that the brick pavements would not be part of any works as they have not worked well to date. Cllrs. Darcy and Morris supported the response but Cllr. Morris asked if traffic calming measures on the Templemore Road would be included in any plans.</p>
Item 10. To note Delegated Employees Orders	Noted.
Item 11. To consider items of correspondence	None
Item 12. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations	<p>Votes of congratulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nenagh CBS, on winning All Ireland u19 Basketball competition.• Shane O Connor & Liam Carey, St Ailbe's Secondary School on winning BT Young Scientist of the Year• Lakeside Hotel on being nominated for Brides & Munster Wedding Magazine Awards• Daryl McCormack on his Rising Star BAFTA nomination <p>Votes of Sympathy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nolan Family on the death of Mrs Theresa Nolan• Margaret McKeogh on the death of her husband, John Joe• Bernie Cummins on the death of her sister, Maggie Carey
Item 13. Any other business.	Cllr. Morris encouraged members to attend a protest march in Limerick on Saturday at 11 o'clock in relation to the conditions in University Hospital Limerick.

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

Signed: 
Cllr. H. McGrath
Cathaoirleach

Date: 16/2/2023

Signed: 
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 16/2/2023