

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
Remotely Via Zoom
AT 10.00 AM ON Monday 11th October, 2021**

Present

Cllr. Marie Murphy, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S. Anglim, M; Black, T; Bonfield, F; Bourke K; Bugler, P; Burgess, D; Carroll, J; Coonan, N.J; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Dennehy, N; Dunne, D; English, P; Fitzgerald, J; FitzGerald, M; FitzGerald, MI; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; Hanna-Hourigan, M; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; Lowry, MI; S; McGrath, H; McGrath, M; McGrath (Rocky), J; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morris, S; Murphy, MI; O'Meara, K; O'Meara, MI; Ryan, J; Ryan AM; Ryan, S; Smith; MI.

Also Present

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, S. Carr, C. Curley, P. Slattery, Director of Services, E. Lonergan, B. Beck A/Director of Services, D. Holland, S.E., R. Boland, S.E.E, M. O'Neill, S.E.O., G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

Cllr P. Ryan

**Welcome &
Introduction/Me
etings Protocol**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Marie Murphy referred members to the meetings protocol for virtual meetings circulated with the agenda and asked members to observe the rules contained therein with regard to remote meetings. She called on the Meetings Administrator to take a roll call and commence the meeting with the opening prayer.

**Meeting
Protocol**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Marie Murphy referred members to the meetings protocol circulated with the agenda and asked members to observe the rules contained therein with regard to remote meetings.

**Item No. 2.1
Disclosures/or
Conflicts of
Interest**

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator

**Item 3.1
Minutes of
Council Meeting
held on 13th
September,
2021**

The Minutes of the September Meeting held on 13th September, 2021 remotely via Zoom were proposed by **Cllr J. Carroll**, seconded by **Cllr R. Kennedy** and adopted.

**Item 4.1
Approval to
Attendance**

It was proposed by **Cllr. S. Ryan** seconded by **Cllr. M. Smith** 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, hereby nominate those listed hereunder to attend the following Conferences/Seminars/Trainings: -

Seminar/Conference/ Similar Event	Dates	Venue	Nominees
Celtic Conferences- The Fair Deal Scheme	1 st to 3 rd October, 20 21	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford Co. Louth	Cllr. K. O'Meara Cllr. K. Bourke Cllr. E. Moran Cllr. J. Crosse Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. R. Molloy
AILG – Module 1 Government Decision on Reform on Remuneration Payable to Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development Bill 2021 and other Planning Related Matters.	2 nd October, 2021	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. M. Hanna- Hourigan Cllr. Ml. Murphy Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. M. Murphy Cllr. J. FitzGerald Cllr. M. Fitzgerald
CARO – Economic Opportunities from Climate Action	12 th & 13 th October, 2021	Online	Cllr. J. Carroll
AILG – County Development Plan Policy: Climate Part 2 How to Implement National Renewable Energy Targets in Development Plans	29 th October, 2021	Online	Cllr. J. Carroll
Celtic Conferences – Housing for All	29 th to 31 st October, 2021	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford Co. Louth	Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. M. Smith Cllr. M. O'Meara Cllr. Phyll Bugler Cllr. M. Murphy Cllr. M. Fitzgerald Cllr. J. FitzGerald Cllr. M. Hanna- Hourigan Cllr. J. Hannigan Cllr. K. O'Meara Cllr. M. Anglim

LAMA – Autumn Training Seminar on Planning and Mental Health	3 rd & 4 th November, 2021	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	Cllr. M. Murphy Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. K. O’Meara Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. J. Crosse Cllr. Ml. Murphy Cllr. M. O’Meara Cllr. K. Bourke Cllr. J. FitzGerald Cllr. M. Fitzgerald Cllr. S. Ambrose Cllr. R. Molloy Cllr. P. Bugler Cllr. M. Fitzgerald Cllr. M. Anglim Cllr. J. Hannigan
AILG – Module 2 Elected Members Mental Health & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	6 th November, 2021	Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit Galway	Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. Ml. Murphy Cllr. A. Moloney Cllr. S. Ambrose Cllr. R. Molloy Cllr. M. Anglim Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. M. Murphy Cllr. M. Fitzgerald Cllr. J. FitzGerald Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan Cllr. D. Burgess Cllr. M. O’Meara
AILG – Module 2 Elected Members Mental Health & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	10 th November, 2021	Avalon House Hotel, Kilkenny	Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. E. Moran
Irish Planning Institute – Annual Planning Conference	17 th to 19 th November, 2021	Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford	Cllr. M. Hanna-Hourigan Cllr. S. Morris

Item 4.1
Reports on
Conferences

Proposed by **Cllr. Sean Ryan** and seconded by **Cllr. Michael Smith** and noted.

Item 5.1

It was proposed by **Cllr. Ger Darcy**, seconded by **Cllr. John Carroll** and resolved: -

**Section 183
Notice –
Disposal of land
at Dromineer,
Nenagh**

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal land circa 0.023ha, situated at Dromineer, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary to PJ Slattery and Sally Slattery in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Thursday 30th September, 2021”

The disposal relates to a plot of land agreed for transfer in 1989 and never finalised. The subject lands are not required for Council functions and are deemed surplus to requirements.

Item 5.2

**Section 183
Notice –
Disposal of land
at Church
Street,
Templemore**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Shane Lee**, seconded by **Cllr. Noel Coonan** 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 land circa 0.00145ha, situated at Church Street, Templemore, Co. Tipperary to John Madigan in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on Thursday 30th September, 2021”.

The disposal was required to facilitate the rectification of title.

Item 5.3

**Section 183
Notice –
Disposal of
lands at
Dromineer,
Nenagh**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Ger Darcy**, seconded by **Cllr. Michael O’Meara** 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 land circa 0.451ha, situated at Dromineer, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary to Shannon Sailing Ltd in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on Thursday 30th September, 2021”.

The disposal was required to facilitate the development of amenity facilities for Dromineer and Lough Derg.

Item 5.4

**Draft Protocol
for Special
Lighting and
Flag Raising
Requests**

The Meeting Administrator referred to the draft protocol as circulated to members with the agenda. The protocol had been considered and recommended for adoption by the Corporate Policy Group at their September meeting. The document provided a protocol for dealing with requests for special lighting of Council Buildings and the raising of flags. Applicants would be accepted from an established Civic, National or Charitable organisation and the reason for the application must support core civic, nationally recognised or philanthropic causes and /or have a clear link with Tipperary County Council. Political or religious requests would not be considered or approved.

Mr. G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator, advised members, that each year multiple requests were received for a wide variety of organisations. In response to a query by Cllr Dunne in relation to deferred Notice of Motion Ref: 2217 he had submitted jointly with Cllr Black regarding flying the Palestinian Flag at the Civic Offices. The Meetings Administrator advised

that having regard to the protocol, the flying of the flag would not be deemed appropriate on the basis that such a request would be deemed to be a contentious or politically sensitive. However it was noted that the CPG had suggested that the Council, rather than flying the flag, instead show their solidarity by passing a motion recognising Israel's ongoing occupation and settlement of designated/zoned Palestinian land as defecto annexation, which amounts to an illegality under international law.

It was noted that Thurles Municipal District was not contained in the list of offices that had flagpoles and that arrangements were being made to have a flagpole erected at the offices.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Michael FitzGerald**, seconded by **Cllr. Declan Burgess** and resolved: -

“That the Draft TCC Protocol for Special Lighting and Flag Raising requests V1 be adopted by the Council and implemented with immediate effect for all requests received from requested Charities, Public Sector, Community or Non-Profit making organisations seeking support to raise awareness on issues or support campaigns that represent core civic, nationally recognised or philanthropic causes and/or have a clear link with Tipperary County Council or an association with Tipperary County”.

Item 5.5

Draft Burial Ground Byelaws

The draft Byelaws had been circulated to members. These draft Burial Ground Bye Laws were prepared to regularise and standardise procedures at burial grounds across the county. The draft had been circulated to the Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy committee members prior to their meeting on the 27th September 2021 for consideration. Subject to the approval of the full Council, the draft Burial Ground Bye Laws would be issued for public consultation for a period of two months. The submissions would be reviewed and collated into a report and discussed at an Environment Strategic Policy Committee meeting and subsequently submitted to the full Council for ratification.

Ms. C. Curley, Director of Services, highlighted to the members that an issue had been raised in the media regarding the payment of fees and charges in the Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District and clarified that this was a totally separate matter to the Draft Bye Laws. There was no reference to fees or charges in the draft Bye Laws. It was also noted that existing Bye Laws for Cashel Burial Ground remained in place at this time. In regard to a letter which issued from Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel Municipal District to Undertakers in that District, members were informed that this was sent as a last resort due to the level of outstanding debt and fees not being paid in a timely manner by a minority of undertakers. A meeting with the undertakers would be arranged to discuss this matter.

A number of queries were raised by members in relation to Burial Grounds which were responded to as follows: -

Purchase of Plots – In order for the local authority to project capacity in a cemetery and plan for future expansions or new burial grounds, the advance purchase of plots could not be facilitated.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Anti Social Behaviour within the confines of a graveyard was a matter for the Gardai who would have regard to the Byelaws.

Grave spaces in Plot – It was noted that the number of grave spaces in plots varied per graveyard. This was due to a number of factors including the nature of the sub soil in the particular cemetery, the layout of the graveyard and the method of excavation that could be used.

Cremation Urns – Cremation urns could be buried in a graveyard plot in compliance with the Byelaws.

Health & Safety – The methods used in the carrying out of interments were currently being examined to ensure compliance with all relevant Safety, Health and Welfare Regulations.

St. Michaels Cemetery, Tipperary – it was noted that this cemetery had been omitted from the list of cemeteries in Appendix 1 and this would be rectified.

In relation to the issue of the payment of fees by undertakers, it was agreed that consideration would be given to the inclusion of members from the Cahir/Cashel/Tipperary Municipal District in the meeting being arranged with undertakers and a breakdown of outstanding fees per Municipal District would be circulated

In response to an enquiry regarding the contract for Funeral Director Service to the Coroner Mr. G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator clarified that a panel of Undertakers for each of the five (5) Municipal Districts i.e. Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel, Nenagh and Thurles had been in place for the County of Tipperary over the past number of years and this contract was recently advertised on e-Tenders. The service related to the removal of a body from the scene of death to a Mortuary for post-mortem examination. It was important to note that in such cases the family was not obliged to use the services of the Coroner's funeral director for the funeral arrangements and could choose an alternative Funeral Director to make the funeral arrangements. The Council intended to form an open panel of Funeral Directors / Undertakers across the five (5) Municipal Districts to provide the required services. A Funeral Director or Undertaker could choose to provide the service in one or more than one of the five (5) Municipal Districts subject to compliance with the service requirements.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Declan Burgess**, seconded by **Cllr. John Carroll** and resolved: -

“The Draft Burial Ground Bye-Laws of Tipperary County Council should be issued for public consultation for a period of two months. The submissions received will be collated into a report for review by the Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee and subsequently presented to the full members of the council for ratification.”

Item 6.1

Consideration of Management Report

Community/Economic Development & Tourism

Mr. Pat Slattery, Director of Services, responded to queries raised.

Jigsaw Tipperary County Council

A progress report in relation to the establishment of the Jigsaw Tipperary Service would be circulated to members. Members were advised that the current Jigsaw team comprised seven people, four with Clinical backgrounds in psychology, occupational therapy, social work and psychiatric nursing. Others on the Team had backgrounds in Family Support, Social Care and Community Development. It was anticipated that the handover of the building in Thurles would take place in October and after a brief period to transition it would be fully open for call ins and face to face sessions, shortly thereafter. To date 89 referrals had been received, 60% of which were from parents, 24% self-referrals and 9% from GP's. The Jigsaw Tipperary Service would be launched officially in January 2022.

In response to a request by Cllr P. English it was agreed to remind Jigsaw of their commitment and write to the Minister regarding previous commitments given to open hubs in both Nenagh and Clonmel.

Members welcomed the introduction of this essential service for the youth of Tipperary.

CCTV

In response to queries raised on CCTV, it was confirmed that all new scheme would be required to comply with the newly devised Joint Controller protocol from An Garda Síochána

- Borrisokane - The requirement for planning permission for the installation of CCTV was being investigated.
- Carrick-on-Suir - An estimate had been received for the replacement of existing CCTV in Carrick-on-Suir but it was not currently possible to progress this matter further due to budget constraints.
- Littleton - The Council were in the process of completing a Joint Data Controller Document with the Garda Síochána which would then form part of an application for Garda Commissioner Authorisation.
- Roscrea - The requirement for planning permission for the installation of CCTV was being investigated.
- Thurles Town - The Municipal District was examining the replacement of the existing CCTV in Thurles Town

Clár Funding Scheme

At the request of Cllr Ambrose, it was agreed to discuss with the Department the designation of Killaloe in the Clonmel Area

Scheme of Capital Grants

It was noted that there were significant demands from Playgrounds for funding and it was proposed to keep some development levies for playground capital maintenance. This proposal would be brought to the SPC for consideration.

Insurance Outdoor Activities

At the request of Cllr. Morris it was agreed to contact the Chief Executive of IAAT regarding the challenges being experienced by providers of outdoor activities in obtaining insurance.

Water Services

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.1, Notice of Motion Ref 2264 as part of the Management Report on Water Services.

Item 9.1

Notice of Motion

Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Project

The Cathaoirleach advised members that a decision had been made by the CPG that this motion should be considered by the Plenary Council as all engagement between Irish Water and this Council had been with the full Council.

Motion Ref No. 2264 in the name of **Cllr. Seamus Morris: -**

“That this Municipal District supports a call for an independent review of the need for the Eastern and Midlands water supply project and also for the Government to include the project in its overview of strategic risk assessments in the Draft National Risk Assessment.

I am looking for support for this in the Municipal District which will be most affected by this needless waste of up to 2 billion euros of taxpayers’ money in a time of prudent national budgeting and I cannot overestimate the damage it will do to our economy if it is allowed to go ahead so if I sound like a broken record then tough but I’m doing this for our future generations which will suffer greatly by decisions we make now. I am calling for an independent review of Irish Waters over-reliance on this needless project while they have ample existing resources locally (they lose 300 million of treated water a day into the ground in Dublin alone) they have 697.5 ML/d capacity as it is with overestimated projections up to 2044 were overestimated at 699 ML/d and that was before Covid changed the whole game with up to 30% of people now working from home now and into the future so there is need for a new independent review of the scheme before any more money is needlessly wasted on this. The fact that Irish Water sees this project as the only game in town means that they have quite recklessly decided to REDUCE their mains replacement to just 0.3% from the 1.2% which is the basic requirement to get on top of our antiquated mains system. They also only propose to spend 40 million a year in replacing water pipes which is hugely unambitious when they are spending 234 million euros over the next four years on surveys on a pipeline project which will ultimately be scrapped. I am also calling for support for my call for this project to be included in the Draft National Risk Assessment as the NRA provides an opportunity to identify and discuss significant risks that may arise for Ireland over the short, medium and long term.

This motion was seconded by **Cllr. P English.**

The reply to the motion was noted as follows: -

This Notice of Motion refers to the Irish Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP EMR).

This Project was currently being reviewed by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU).

The Water Services Act 2013 required the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in conjunction with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, to provide consent for all commitments for capital expenditure above a certain threshold. Given the scale and importance of the WSP EMR and recognising the CRU's statutory role as independent economic regulator of Irish Water, including its role of reviewing Irish Water's capital investment plans, then Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government (the then Deputy Eoghan Murphy), on 18 October 2018, requested the CRU to undertake the review to support the Minister's Decision in relation to the capital consent that would be required in the event that planning approval was obtained for the project. The request to the CRU was consistent with the CRU's role pursuant to Section 40 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 to advise the Minister on the development and delivery of water services. This review was ongoing.

However, it was important to note that Tipperary County Council would be a statutory consultee as part of the planning approval process. The WSP EMR would require planning consent from An Bord Pleanála and the view of the Council must be sought by An Bord Pleanála during the statutory planning application process. The elected members would be advised accordingly at the appropriate time. For this reason, any matters relating to this proposed development were a matter for the full Council.

The second half of the Notice of Motion requests the Government to include the WSP EMR in its overview of strategic risk assessments in the Draft National Risk Assessment (NRA).

A draft list of risks was published in July 2021 for public consultation and this consultation process ran from 23 July 2021 to 08 September 2021. Stakeholders and members of the public were invited to provide views on the draft list of risks.

The NRA process has a particular focus on strategic or structural risks. The categories of risks are based on the approach used by the World Economic Forum in its 'Global Risks Report', these are Geopolitical, Economic, Social, Environmental and Technological. The consultation process focussed on the draft list of strategic risks rather than on specific projects.

Cllr Morris in speaking on his motion sought the members support to the motion. He said that the future of the Mid-West was at stake and urged that an independent review as outlined in the motion would be carried out.

Members spoke in support of the motion and complimented Cllr Morris on submitting the motion and on keeping the members informed on the effects the Eastern and Midlands Water Supply project would have on the Mid-West Area. It was noted that the motion had received the unanimous support of the Nenagh Municipal District Members.

Member's made reference to the huge leakage issue in Dublin which was not being addressed and the lack of merit in the proposed project which would cost billions of euro.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, acknowledged Cllr Morris's concerns and his consistency in raising these concerns and the concerns of the people he represented. There was frustration among members in relation to a number of water and wastewater projects throughout the County and the lack of investment in projects in their respective areas. Clonmel had recently experienced a boiled water notice and other boiled water notices had been issued in locations including Ardfinnan, Borriskane and other locations.

The Chief Executive clarified the role of Tipperary County Council in relation to the proposed project which was that of a statutory consultee in the process. If the project was to be delivered Irish Water would have to gain the consent of An Bord Pleanála. This was a significant process which would include obtaining the members views by making a formal submission on the project. He also referred to his consistent expressions of caution that no views would be expressed by the Council Body in relation to the planning aspects of the project until the full detail was released and the planning process commenced.

In relation to the request contained in the motion for an independent review the members were informed that an independent assessment had been requested by Government and the Minister has requested the Commission for Regulation and Utilities (CRU) to carry out an independent review. Mr. MacGrath referred to the Terms of Reference issued in 2018 and highlighted the following extract as in his opinion the fundamental question was why this project was chosen relative to other options: -

The review would examine Irish Waters approach to arriving at its proposed Water supply project and the analysis undertaken by Irish Water to arrive at its preferred approach and this would include a review of Irish Waters approach in developing the project. To examine if Irish Water has appropriately examined all relevant options.

Mr. MacGrath stressed that not only was the CRU tasked with looking at the merits of the project, they were also asked to look at the rationale to the selection of this particular option. A risk assessment would also be required in relation to the project.

In relation to the future of Water Services, the National Development Plan recently launched. committed a sum of €6bn in water and wastewater projects and €230m to rural water projects up to 2025 and the Council would be seeking a share of that allocation for Tipperary.

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, A/Director of Services, Water Services, informed members that meetings were held every 2 months with Irish Water Senior Officials to discuss strategic issues across the County and in particular capital projects and these meetings had proven to be productive and a good collaborative working relationship had developed. The frustration of the Councillors in relation to the Eastern and Midlands Scheme had been expressed to Irish Water and it was hoped that members would have an opportunity to raise their concerns at the forthcoming workshop on the Regional Water Resource Plan and receive up to date information on the project.

**Consideration of
Management
Report –
continued.**

Water Services.

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, A/Director of Services and Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer, responded to queries raised as follows: -

Backyard Services

Reference was made to the confirmation by Irish Water at the recent Municipal District Workshops that they would not take responsibility for backyard services/common drains and Members referred to the hardship this policy was causing to home owners. It was noted that in certain situations Irish Water may examine problematic services on a case by case basis and authorise an intervention, on grounds of hardship, but generally Irish Water would not take responsibility for those drains.

Rationalisation of Water Schemes Thurles Area

It was noted that the rationalisation of water schemes in the proximity of Thurles was a key aim of Irish Water as part of the Regional Water Supply Scheme. This was Irish Waters policy in relation to locations throughout the county where a large number of small water schemes could be amalgamated into a larger scheme.

Irish Water Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.

Members welcomed the inclusion of 7 settlements in the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme. This programme had been introduced in 2020 to improve the wastewater treatment capacity in small villages and to provide for growth therein.

Two villages had received funding, Kilsheelan and Lisvernane and the Council would continue to seek funding for the remaining five schemes.

In response to an enquiry by Cllr Ambrose regarding the village of Killusty not being included in the programme it was clarified that the purpose of the programme was to address deficiencies in existing small towns and villages which had treatment plants/primary treatment. However, Killusty had no treatment facility. The Council would continue to engage with Irish Water in relation to all villages in the County to ensure that they had a programme addressing such places.

Group Water Schemes

Cllr J. Hannigan referred to two Group Water Schemes in his area that required funding for works to be carried out. Members were informed that there was a Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme and the current 3-year programme was coming to a conclusion in 2021. This programme provided funding for capital projects on group schemes, however if there were individual cases during the life of the programme where capital intervention was required for quality purposes, source protection purposes or other reasons, the Council would make a case to the Department for additional funding. The Council was currently engaging with the Department in the preparation of the next three-year programme and would take on board requirements in the locations referred to by Cllr Hannigan.

Irish Water Workshops – Municipal Districts

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services, thanked members for their participation in the District level workshops. He advised members that Mr.

Colin Cunningham, Irish Water, had been assigned as the dedicated lead for the county and this was a positive development.

Clonmel Town and Rural Water Supply Scheme

It was noted that interim solutions to improve the water supply for Clonmel were for the upgrading and expansion of the existing Monroe Wellfields. Irish Water had committed funding and surveys and investigations were being carried out.

A Boiled Water Notice had been issued in areas of Clonmel and had been lifted within a few days.

Item No. 10.1

Crisis of our ambulance service

The Cathaoirleach agreed to take motion Ref. 2267 in the name of Cllr J. Ryan as Cllr Ryan had to leave the meeting to attend an appointment.

Motion Ref. 2267 was proposed by **Cllr J. Ryan.**

“I am calling on Tipperary County Council as a matter of urgency to invite in officials from the HSE to a meeting of this Council to discuss and address the crisis that is in our ambulance service”.

The motion was seconded by **Cllr M. McGrath.**

Cllr Ryan in speaking to the motion, criticised the central dispatch system currently in place which diverted ambulances from other parts of the country, this had resulted in pressure on the service and long response times.

A number of members spoke in support of the motion.

It was agreed to forward the motion to the Chief Ambulance Officer of the National Ambulance Service for consideration and response.

Consideration of Management Report – continued.

Environment & Climate Action

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.3 Notice of Motion Ref: 2263 as part of the Management Report on Environment & Climate Action.

Item 9.3

Biodiversity Officer for the County of Tipperary

Motion No. 2263 was proposed by P. English.

“That Tipperary County Council look at providing a dedicated biodiversity Officer for the County of Tipperary to implement the National Biodiversity Action Plan in the County”.

The motion was seconded by **Cllr D. Dunne.**

The response to the motion was as follows: -

Tipperary County Council’s Workforce Plan does not contain a dedicated Biodiversity Officer post; however, the Heritage Officer for Tipperary County Council is also the designated Biodiversity Officer, an approach that is similar to many other Local Authorities. This model continues to work well for Tipperary, because of the natural linkages between Biodiversity and

Heritage. In implementing the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 for this county, the Biodiversity Officer has the full support of staff in the Environment and Climate Action Directorate. Furthermore, the Biodiversity Officer and Environment & CA staff have strong engagement with communities, which is crucial to the delivery of biodiversity projects.

The Biodiversity Officer also works closely with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan Officer on various initiatives throughout they year, the latest being an instructional video on timed insect counts that feeds into the national Citizen Science programme. She also provides signage and guidance documents to any groups in the county that are working to promote pollinators. As a group, the Heritage Officer Network does promotional work in this area, including the publication of the 'Gardening for Biodiversity' book and colouring book. Work is ongoing with Birdwatch Ireland and other NGOs, groups such as the Cabra Wetlands and Schohaboy Bog Conservation Group.

TCC supported events for National Biodiversity Week and incorporated Biodiversity events during Heritage Week. A Biodiversity grant was received to deal with invasive species, barn owls, wetlands and awareness raising.

This Council is satisfied that the implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan can be carried out from within existing resources, under the direction of the Council's Heritage Officer and working in partnership with communities throughout the county. Notwithstanding same, the situation will continue to be reviewed having regard to changing circumstances.

CLlr English noted the reply and requested that the establishment of biodiversity trails in the County would be considered.

Consideration of Management Report – continued.

Environment & Climate Action

Ms. Clare Curley, Director of Services and Ms. Marion O'Neill, S.E.O., responded to queries raised as follows: -

Japanese Knotweed

In response to concerns raised by Cllr D. Dunne in relation to the cutting of Japanese Knotweed, it was agreed to liaise with Carrick-on-Suir M.D. regarding warning signs for areas containing Japanese Knotweed.

Mattress Amnesty

Members referred to the success of the recent Mattress Recycling Event in Civic Amenity Sites across the County and requested that funding for this mattress amnesty would be sought for 2022.

Native Woodland Scheme

Members were informed that suitable areas had been identified and consultation with foresters would be required to progress this.

Housing

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.2 Notice of Motion Ref: 2262 as part of the Management Report on Housing.

Item 9.2

Availability of affordable housing stock

Motion No. 2262 was proposed by **Cllr D. Burgess**.

“There is an obvious issue in the availability of affordable housing stock, for both private ownership or long-term rental, for permanent residents. I request that Tipperary County Council would undertake, as a matter of urgency, the relevant research to provide empirical evidence as to what the current demand here in Tipperary is for affordable housing for residents who do not qualify for social housing assistance. I would suggest an expression of interest process with the public would be carried out to assess the viability of such a scheme in Tipperary”.

The motion was seconded by **Cllr D Dunne**.

A number of members spoke in support of the motion.

The reply to the motion was noted as follows: -

Tipperary County Council, as part of the review of the County Development Plan, are also preparing a Housing Strategy document to align with the same period. This will also involve appropriate research into the demand for affordable housing for residents (in addition to the demand for social and private housing). The Council’s next step in the process will depend on the outcome of this report. The Planning Section will advise members accordingly once this report is complete.

Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services, confirmed that substantial work was carried out by the Planning Section and was almost complete having regard to the Housing Needs Development Assessment and the County Development Plan. Regulations needed to be completed to activate elements of the Affordable Housing Bill, in particular the priority scheme for Affordable Housing. An inhouse team were ready to progress the scheme once the Regulations were received.

Presentation by Youth Work Ireland – Refugee Resettlement Programme

The Cathaoirleach advised members that the CPG had agreed to accept a presentation by Youth Work Ireland Tipperary as part of the Management Report on Housing.

Ms. S. Carr introduced Ms. Stephanie O’Callaghan who made a presentation to the members on the refugee resettlement programme in Tipperary.

A total number of 44 families had been resettled across the County. Details regarding education, training and employment courses were outlined. Youth programmes and out of school activities were provided with English language programmes taking place over the summer months. Children and Youths were supported in joining local clubs for sporting and social activities. All individuals had been allocated G.P.’s. Youth Work Ireland worked closely with the County Council in relation to housing issues and linked with the Community Liaison Team in each town to host workshops on tenancy. Integration support was provided by Befrienders in each town and this was extremely important for families.

Members thanked Ms. O'Callaghan for her informative presentation and thanked Youth Work Ireland Tipperary for their work in the resettlement of refugees into our towns and communities.

Ms. S. Carr thanked Ms. O' Callaghan and her colleagues for their work with the refugees. A working group had been set up to examine the mainstreaming of services to those who needed them to ensure continuity of service once Youth Work Ireland completed their role in the programme.

Suspension of Standing Orders

In accordance with Section 5 of Standing Orders it was proposed by Cllr. Pat English, seconded by Cllr S. Hanafin to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

Consideration of Management Report – continued.

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

Housing for All

Members of the Housing SPC would be briefed on the broad content of the Housing for All document and any Councillor who wished further details could contact the Housing Section. A number of housing options in the document were already being delivered and the document also contained new additions.

RAS/HAP Properties

Members had expressed concerns about the number of RAS/HAP properties where landlords were terminating their contracts with the local authority in order to sell their properties. It was noted that the current market was favorable to landlords selling their properties and this would present a challenge for the local authority. It had been highlighted to the Department and the situation would be monitored. Reference was made to the increased building programme of local authority schemes which would assist in addressing some of the need being created.

Rent Cap Social Housing Income

A submission had been made to the Department on the issue which identified difficulties that needed to be addressed. It was also one of the actions in the Government's Housing for All policy.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Members highlighted issues that had arisen for applicants for the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme where their employers availed of the Wage Subsidy Scheme and it was agreed to write to the Department regarding this.

Homeless Services Nenagh and Clonmel Offices

It was noted that staff members were reallocated as required in both headquarters to ensure a continuity of service for homeless persons.

Housing Grants

Members were informed that 757 housing grant applications had been dealt with to date in 2021 on which €5.4m had been expended. It was anticipated that applications would open in 2022 and P1, P2 and P3 applications would be accepted. It was highlighted that sufficient funds would be required both from the Department and matching funds from the Council to deal with

applications and unless the budget allowed a backlog would form again which would result in application categories having to be prioritised similar to the policy previously adopted by the members.

Occupational Therapists.

It was clarified that Occupations Therapists engaged by the Council had resumed house visits while taking the necessary Covid precautions.

Appointment of New Tenants.

In response to a request by Cllr Kennedy consideration would be given to the issue of monthly reports to members.

Housing Demand

It was outlined that the private sector was key issue in the county in relation to housing demand. No private sector housing being delivered in the county and this was core to the housing needs of the County being addressed. All current demand was mainly dependent on the Social Housing Sector.

In relation to housing delivery, the Council had been given a target of 857 units to deliver over the next five years under Housing for All and the Council was confident that this target would be met and could be exceeded if funding was available. There was an extensive capital programme in design and currently there was approximately 600 units on site or in the design process. Members were made aware that there was a 25% refusal rate on housing allocations.

Traveller Accommodation Programme

There was an active traveller programme in the County and a quarterly update would be circulated to members

Corporate Services

Ms. C. Curley, Director of Services and Mr. G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator, responded to queries raised as follows:-

Presentation by HSE South

At the request of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed that a further letter would issue to HSE South inviting them to brief members on relevant HSE service matters.

Item 7.1 **Budget Process** **2022**

The Cathaoirleach advised members that the Budget Process had been considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held on Friday 10th October and it was agreed to recommend Friday 26th November, 2021 as the date of the Annual Budget Meeting. It was also suggested that a workshop on Budget 2022 would be held remotely via zoom on Tuesday 23rd November at 2.30pm to facilitate queries/clarifications on the Budget report, a copy of which would be circulated to the members by 18th November. Depending on restrictions in place at the time it was hoped that the Budget meeting on the 26th November would be held in person.

Members agreed to the following: -

- Annual Budget Meeting – Friday 26th November, 2021 – 10 a.m.
- Budget Workshop – Tuesday 23rd November, 2021
- Draft Budget 2021 to issue to members by 18th November, 2021.

Item 7.2
Conferral of
Civic Reception
- Sam Bennett

Members were advised that following a recommendation from the Privilege and Procedure Committee, it was agreed by the CPG to recommend to the members that the conferral of a Civic Reception to Sam Bennett would be held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 7.30pm, in recognition of his achievements during the Tour de France 2020 and the winning of the Green Jersey. It was also recommended that the conferral would be virtual. The venue would be the Council Chamber, Clonmel and pre-recordings would be arranged with relevant party whips or nominated members in advance. The Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive would be in attendance in the Chamber together with Paul Collins who would MC the event and special Guest Sam Bennett and family members. The event would be streamed live via Facebook on the night and would also be available afterwards on the Council's website and social media channels.

Cllr K. Bourke expressed his disappointment that the event would not be held in the Municipal District Office in Carrick-on-Suir but it was noted that this was due to capacity and technical reasons.

It was proposed by **Cllr K. Bourke**, seconded by **Cllr S. Ambrose** and resolved: -

“That a Virtual Civic Reception be accorded to Sam Bennett on Tuesday 2nd November, 2021 in recognition of his outstanding achievements during the 2020 Tour de France winning 2 stages and the overall Green Jersey as the most consistent highest finisher, sealing victory in the Final stage down the Champs Élysées on the 20th September 2020 and becoming only the fifth ever cyclist to win the final stage of the Tour de France and the second Irish cyclist to win the Green Jersey”.

Item 7.3
Councillor
Workshops

The following workshop dates were agreed: -

NBI - Monday 1st November, 2021, 10 a.m.

HSE Mid-West – Wednesday 1st December, 2 p.m.

Dignity at Work – Dates to be agreed with service provider and workshops may be held at District Level.

Item 8.1
Consideration of
Orders for the
period to the
31st August,
2021

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 31st August, 2021 were noted.

Item 11.1- 11.2
Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted as follows: -

- Reply dated 14th September, 2021 from Office of Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Notice of Motion Ref. No. 2186) re. Duffy Cahill Report.

- Reply dated 21st September, 2021 from Office of the Minister for Health re. Replacement GP, Templemore

Item 12.1 – Resolutions from other Local Authorities

The following resolutions from other Local Authorities were noted by the members: -

Sligo County Council

“That SCC write to the Minister for Health and the Taoiseach requesting that without delay the work of Frontline workers be remunerated.”

Meath County Council

“That Meath County Council calls on the Department of Agriculture to put in place a policy to control Japanese Knot Weed on agricultural land and private property and to take responsibility for the eradication of this invasive species. Local Authorities across the country have already invested heavily to eradicate this weed from the sides of the roads”.

Item 13.1

Votes of Sympathy

Members passed a Vote of Sympathy to the following: -

- Ita Horan, Local Enterprise Office on the death of her father Thomas (Tommy) Horan
- Anthony Graham, Civil Defence Nenagh on the death of his father Paddy Graham.

Votes of Congratulations

Members passed a Vote of Congratulations to the following: -

- Moycarkey-Borris Under 16A Camogie Team on winning both the Camogie & Ladies Football Under 16A titles
- Martin & Catherine Campion and all the staff at Campion Pumps in Gortnahoe on capturing the Distributor of the Year Award at the Pump Industry Awards 2020/2021
- Liam O’Donnchu, Ballymoreen, Littleton on his new book entitled Semple Stadium Field of Legends.
- Boherlahan Dualla U14 Camogie Team on winning the All Ireland Community Games.
- Killavilla United AFC U15 on winning the All Ireland Community Games.
- Arts Officer on the Live Performance held in Damer House, Roscrea under the Local Live Programming Scheme.
- Ben Healy and Diarmuid Barron on the success of the Munster Rugby Team in the United Rugby Championship clash against Scarlets in Wales.
- Clonmel’s win in Community Games, 3 golds, 2 silvers.

Item 14.1

Any Other Business

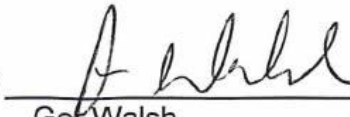
Decision Time

Members were advised that a two-factor authentication had been introduced by Decision Time as an extra layer of security for meeting management.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: