

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN MOYCARKEY-BORRIS COMMUNITY & SPORTS CENTRE, LITTLETON
AT 10.00 AM ON 12th October, 2020**

Present

Cllr. Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; 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; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; Hanna-Hourigan, M; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; Lowry ML; McGrath, M; McGrath (Rocky), J; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morris, S; Murphy, Marie; O'Meara, MI; Ryan (Shiner), A; Ryan, J; Ryan, P; Ryan,

Also Present

Mr. J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, Ms, S. Carr, Mr P. Slattery, Ms C. Curley, Director of Services, Mr. E. Lonergan A/Director of Services, Mr. G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

Cllrs T. Black, Mark Fitzgerald, MI FitzGerald, I. Goldsboro, MI Murphy, K. O'Meara.

**1.1 Covid-19
Public Health
Guidelines
regarding Council
Meetings**

The Cathaoirleach spoke of best practice and in an effort to allow for the effective and efficient management of the meeting, the revised Standard Operating Guidance for Attendance at Council meetings/Other Meetings had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The matter was also considered by the Privilege and Procedure committee and the CPG and both endorsed its implementation at future Council meetings during this pandemic.

Matters would require an amendment to standing orders and the Cathaoirleach proposed to take item No 4.1 on agenda first, subject to the approval of the Council. This was agreed.

He summarised the main key changes as follows:-

- Completion of new Covid-19 Self Declaration form in advance of the meeting;
- Time of the meeting would be limited to a maximum of 1 hour and 55 minutes and the meeting would finish by 11.55am at the latest;
- All attendees were required to wear face coverings entering /exiting and moving within the venue and should only be removed on attendee entering seat;
- There should be no congregation before or after the meeting and all attendees were asked to leave the venue immediately after the meeting;

The Cathaoirleach proposed to allocate a time to each agenda item in order to get through the agenda in the allotted time and in particular he asked members to note the following:-

- Agenda items - unless a member had flagged their concerns to the meetings administrator in advance of the meeting in relation to any of the agenda items and if there were no issues/objections to the matter, he would seek a proposer and seconder for the statutory related matters;
- He proposed to take the Management Report and any presentations at the end of the meeting and would allow priority to those members that had submitted queries in relation to the management report. Only county wide related matters would be considered and all district related matters would be referred to the relevant Municipal District meeting for consideration;
- Notices of Motion re. Tipperary County Council related functions – These would be taken with the Management Report and only the proposer and seconder would be allowed to speak to a Notice of Motion. If the proposer was happy with the reply, matter would be deemed agreed;
- Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations – The list of Votes of Sympathy or Congratulations would be available to view on Decision Time.

Item 4.1

Amendment to Standing Orders of Tipperary County Council

The Meetings Administrator noted that The Standing Orders had been amended to reflect the revised Standard Operating Guidance for Attendance at Council Meetings and Other meetings; The following specific Standing Orders had been amended:

No. 2 - Meetings of the Council

No. 5 Hour of Meeting

No. 13 - Order of Business

No. 85 Presentations and Attendance by Outside Bodies

It was proposed by **Cllr. S. Ambrose** seconded by **Cllr. R. Kennedy** and resolved: -

“That the revised TCC Standing Orders (Version 4) as presented be and are hereby adopted”.

Extension of Chief Executive Tenure

Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1991 provided for Managers (now referred to as Chief Executive) to be appointed on a contract basis for up to 7 years. Chief Executives may extend their period of tenure by a further period of 3 years. The process by which this is done is set out in Section 147 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Local Government (Tenure of Office of Managers) Regulations 2013. The statutory process requires the Chief Executive to give a “prescribed notice” to the Cathaoirleach, who, in turn, is required to inform the Elected Members at a Council Meeting and transmit a copy of the “prescribed notice” to the Minister (for Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and the Chief Executive of the Public Appointments Services. The period within which the “prescribed notice” must be given is set out in

the legislation as the period beginning on the commencement of the seventh year and ending 6 months prior to the end of the seventh year of the tenure period of that manager.

The Cathaoirleach noted that the

- The prescribed notice was given by the Chief Executive to him
- And that he would now forward a copy of the notice to the Minister and the Chief Executive of the Public Appointments Service as requested by the legislation.

Item 1.2
Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator

Item 2.1
Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 13th July, 2020.

Proposed by **Cllr. N. Coonan**, seconded by **Cllr. J. Crosse** and resolved "That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 14th September, 2020, in Moycarkey-Borris Community & Sports Centre, Littleton, as presented be adopted".

Item 3.1
Approval to Attendance at Conferences/Seminars/Training/Further Education

The Draft Training and Development Programme had been circulated to the members which set out the parameters of the type of course/ events/further education programmes that members could partake in and claim expenses from their training allowance. It was noted that provision had been allowed for the purchase of a laptop/printer to facilitate remote/online distance learning courses and the matter had been endorsed by the Privilege and Procedure Committee and the Corporate Policy Group.

Following consideration, it was proposed by **Cllr. S. Hanafin**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Ryan** and agreed to adopt the programme as recommended.

Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, it was noted that no conferences, seminars or training took place since the last meeting of the Council.

Item 3.2
Reports on Conferences

Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, no conferences, seminars or training took place since the last meeting of the Council

Item 4.2
Section 183 Notice – Property within the towns land of Kiltillance, Co. Tipperary

It was proposed by **Cllr. N. Coonan** seconded by **Cllr. S. Hanafin** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approve of the disposal of a disused depot at The Mall, Templemore, Co. Tipperary.

The disposal related to a disused depot that is no longer required by Tipperary County Council.

Item 4.3

Section 183
Notice – Property
in the towns land
of Clashganny
West to
Newcastle GAA
Club, Newcastle,
Clonmel, Co.
Tipperary

It was proposed by **Cllr. M. McGrath** seconded by **Cllr. M. Murphy** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, that pursuant to the powers contained in Section 211 of the Planning and Development 2000 Tipperary County Council hereby approve of the disposal circa 94.656 sq metres within the Towns land of Clashganny West in the Co. Of Tipperary.

The disposal related to the transfer of a section of public green area to enable expansion of community facilities.

Item 4.4

Section 183
Notice – Property
in the towns land
of Clashganny
West to
Newcastle GAA
Club, Newcastle,
Clonmel, Co.
Tipperary

It was proposed by **Cllr. D. Dunne** 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 of a disused depot at Callan Street, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary.

The disposal related to a disused depot at Callan Street, Mullinahone

Item 4.5

Part 8
Bansha West,
Bansha, Co.
Tipperary

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Chief Executive’s Report which had been circulated to the members which indicated that the proposed development consisted of the construction of 14 no. new dwelling houses comprising 4 no. three bedroom, two storey houses, 5 no. two bedroom, two storey house, and 5 no two bedroom single storey houses, roads, footpaths, undergrounds services, drainage systems, attenuation tank, car parking, boundary treatments, landscaping, open spaces and all associated site works at Bansha West, Bansha. The development would also include the connection to the existing access road and services at the adjoining Radharc na hAbhainn estate. In accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, Tipperary County Council made available for public inspection the plans and particulars of the proposed development from 6/8/2020 to 04/9/2020. No submissions were received.

Following consideration, the development of 14 houses at Bansha West, Bansha, Co. Tipperary was proposed by **Cllr R. Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr M. Hanna Hourigan** and agreed to proceed as recommended in the report.

Item 4.6

Part 8
Garryshane
Donohill

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Chief Executive’s Report which had been circulated to the members. The proposed development consists of the construction of 8 no. New dwelling houses on a 27 hectare site at Donohill, Co Tipperary. The site was located within the village of Donohill to the eastern side and consists of an infill development within an existing housing estate – Cúil Gréinne. The development would consist on 1 no. single storey, three bedroom houses and 7 no. two storey, three bedroom houses. The single storey dwelling had been included to specifically

address the special needs of one of the existing families in the estate. In accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, Tipperary County Council made available for public inspection the plans and particulars of the proposed development from 6/8/2020 to 04/9/2020. No submissions were received. Following consideration the development of 8 houses at Donohil, Co. Tipperary, was proposed by **Cllr. J. Crosse**, seconded by **Cllr. M. Hanna Hourigan** and agreed to proceed as recommended in the Chief Executives Report.

Item 4.7

Knockeevan, Ballyclerihan, Co. Tipperary

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Chief Executives Report which had been circulated to the members. The proposal comprised the development of 14 no. social houses on a site sized 0.5 hectares at Ballyclerihan, Co. Tipperary. The development included for 2 no. single storey 2 bedroom houses, 7 no. 2 storey, 2 bedroom houses, 5 no., 2 storey, 3 bedroom houses, an open space areas to serve the development, roads, footpaths, lighting and all necessary water supply and drainage infrastructure. In accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, Tipperary County Council made available for inspection plans and particulars of the proposed development together with the project Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Documents from 6/8/2020 to 4/9/2020. No submissions were received.

Following consideration the development of 14 houses at Ballyclerihan was proposed by **Cllr. S. Ambrose** and seconded by **Cllr. J. Crosse** and agreed to proceed as recommended in the Chief Executives Report.

Item 5.1 – Ratification of member to Local Community & Development Committee (LCDC)

It was proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Hanafin** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 49A (1), Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Article 4 (1) of the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014, and statutory instruments No. 314 of 2014 the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128e) (amendment) (No. 1) regulations 2014 and that:

The following name be ratified as a member (Public) of the Tipperary Local Community & Development Committee (TLCDC)”.

- **Colin Cummins (Tipperary ETB)**

It was noted that Colm Commins had been nominated to replace Ms. Bernadette Cullen who had resigned from her position.

Item 5.2 – Ratification of member to represent Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District on Corporate

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

“That the Cathaoirleach of Carrick on Suir be and is hereby ratified nominee to represent Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District on the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) owing to the fact that no chair of existing SPC’s are from the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District.

**Policy Group
(CPG)**

Cllr. Kevin O'Meara as Cathaoirleach would represent Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District for the duration of his term up to May/June, 2021

Item 7.1

**Agree Meeting
Date for Annual
Budget Meeting**

It was agreed that the Budget Meeting would be held on Friday 27th November, 2020 in Moycarkey-Borris Community & Sports Centre, Littleton and Monday 30th November, 2020 was provisionally earmarked as a second date in the event that the business of the meeting isn't concluded on the 27th owing to the Covid-19 time restrictions.

The Chief Executive Mr. Joe MaGrath informed members that both he and the Head of Finance would be available to discuss any items in relation to the Budget in advance of the Budget Meeting.

Item 7.2

**Bloody Sunday
Commemoration
Event**

Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator, referred to the invitation extended to members at the September Meeting to submit suggestions to mark the centenary of Bloody Sunday with an appropriate event. This matter was further considered by the Corporate Policy Group at a meeting held on the 9th October, 2020 and it was suggested that a Special Meeting would be held on the 20th November, 2020, in a venue to be decided to mark the centenary and members of the families involved would be invited to attend. It was noted that the holding of the meeting and the number of invitees would be dependant on the Covid-19 restrictions in place at that time.

Members agreed that a Special Meeting would be an appropriate event to mark the centenary.

Item 11.1,

11.2, 11.3

Correspondence

- Email from Rural Water unit, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government dated 21st September, 2020
- Reply to Notice of Motion Ref. 1916 from Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection dated September, 2020
- Reply to Notice of Motion Ref. 1902 from Heritage Services, Office of Public Works dated 30th September, 2020

Correspondence as circulated was noted.

Item 12.1

**Resolutions from
other Local
Authorities**

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

Kerry County Council

That this Council calls on the Minister for Defence and the Government to award the medals which were recommended to those Irish Peacekeepers who participated in the Battle of Jadotville in 1961. To give due recognition and award the MMG to former Commandant Pat Quinlan of Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry. The inactivity around this issue is a stain on the reputation of the Nation.

Kildare County Council

That the members of Kildare County Council supports the request from Féileacháin to waive the fees for family grave plots where a baby will be buried and that we write to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to request that; all local authorities waive the fees for family grave plots where a baby will be buried, that the Department should instruct all local authorities to waive the fees for planning permission for headstones where a baby will be buried and that a Children's Funeral Fund be established in Ireland.

That Kildare County Council requests that the Minister undertakes the following: That the stillbirth register and stillbirth certification be removed and be replaced with a birth certificate and death certificate for babies who are stillborn, so that babies who are stillborn can be registered on the birth and death register and can receive the same state records of their existence as everyone else. Parents whose babies who are currently listed on the stillbirth register should be given the opportunity to have their babies placed on the birth and death register and to receive a birth and death certificate for their babies.

Meath County Council

That Meath County Council engages with Facebook about the proliferation of bogus waste collectors advertising on the platform, with a view to ensuring that such advertisements must in future contain a permit number, be reportable by members of the public and should be removed by Facebook where illegal services are being offered. The Council commends on-going efforts by legitimate waste collectors and members of the public to address this issue and will continue to support and complement these efforts, where possible. Further, given the nationwide impact of this issue, that Meath County Council shares this campaign with all other local authorities, as appropriate.

That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to conclude the baseline review of local authority funding models and act on its recommendation and include the findings as part of his Department's submission to the 2021 Budget discussions soon to commence.

That Meath County Councillors call on the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to immediately fund the LPT Equalisation Fund from the Central Exchequer and leave the 20% that is currently withheld from Local Authorities in the areas where LPT is generated.

Sligo County Council

For Sligo County Council to write to the relevant Ministers to address the issue of extending the timescale and conditions of employment of Tús and CE participants on various employment schemes. These participants are greatly contributing to their local communities and helping out in so many ways, and are also benefiting socially from these schemes. However, after a certain period of time they must leave the scheme and cannot avail of it again until another period of time has passed. This is unsatisfactory for many participants and also for the sponsor groups in the committees where they work.

Louth County Council

At the September meeting of Louth County Council, it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach should write to the Minister to request that central government funding be made available to local authorities to make up financial shortfalls caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Galway City Council

That this Council calls on Debenhams to grant their former Debenhams employees an additional two weeks redundancy payment, in addition to the statutory two weeks payment, in recognition of the years of loyal service they have given to the company.

Item 13.1

Votes of Sympathy

Pat Bracken, Library Services on the death of his father in law Eddie Cooke

Mary B. Reddan, Motor Tax Office, Nenagh on the death of her husband Liam Reddan

Paula O'Dwyer, Environment & Climate Action Section, Nenagh on the death of her father in law TJ (Gussie) O'Dwyer.

Alice Roche Holmes, Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District on the death of her mother Alice Roche

David Doran (former Councillor) on the death of his mother Mary Family of Olive Collins, wife of former Clonmel Borough Engineer Denis Collins.

Votes of Congratulations

Gortnahoe/Glengoole GAA Club on winning the County Tipperary Intermediate Hurling Final

Consideration of Management Report

Community & Economic Development & Tourism Report

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.2 Notice of Motion Ref: 1958 as part of the Management Report on Community/Economic Development & Tourism.

Item 9.2

Motion 9.2 (Ref. 1958) was proposed by Cllr. Andy Moloney

Notice of Motion "Destination/activity officers in the Fáilte Ireland Offices in Tipperary"

"That Tipperary Tourism and Fáilte Ireland sit down together and appoint destination/activity officers in the Fáilte Ireland offices in Tipperary that will sell various packages to Irish Tourists on a pilot scheme for 2021. This will need to be put in place immediately as we will depend on home market tourism next year".

The motion was seconded by Cllr. M. McGrath

The reply to the Motion was noted as follows: -

It was very important that the Fáilte Ireland Tourist Office in Cahir was open for visitors and appropriately staffed during the season from mid March to end of October, this provided visitors with an orientation point in the heart of the town and cross sells all the experiences available in the county helping to keep visitors in county Tipperary for longer thus supporting and bolstering the local tourism economy. This year had been extremely challenging for the tourism industry and these challenges will continue through the shoulder months into 2021 and beyond. In response

to the current crises in the industry Tipperary Tourism had established a Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce in partnership with Fáilte Ireland whose role it was to agree actions with and between the stakeholders, identify and capitalise on opportunities as they arose over the next 12-18 months and to align destination marketing efforts with national brands and Discover Ireland Marketing Campaign. This new stakeholder group was led by Tipperary Tourism in co-operation with Fáilte Ireland and supported by Tipperary County Council. Stakeholders from across the industry and across the county were represented, working together to specifically address issues arising from Covid-19.

The process of selling packages directly to visitors was complex with financial, legal and insurance implications, for this reason Tipperary Tourism and Fáilte Ireland do not directly sell packages to visitors. Instead both organisations focus on supporting the industry through the promotion of industry led packages and activities. Tourism marketing had evolved rapidly over the last five years moving almost entirely to digital platforms. Since the Covid 19 pandemic the reliance on influencer marketing to reach tourism target markets had increased significantly. The support the industry required was in getting the message about their product to the target market and influencing that market to choose Tipperary and to choose their particular product. The added value offered by Tipperary Tourism was the cross selling of tourism providers with each other across the county inspiring visitors to stay longer. Digital marketing coupled with effective PR raises awareness of the destination and influences target markets to choose Tipperary. Since July Tipperary Tourism had leveraged €411,000 worth of PR coverage in national and local press and radio, this coupled with effective digital marketing attracted over 115,000 unique visitors to www.tipperary.com (where countywide packages and activities are profiled) since July and saw an increase in engagement across Tipperary Tourism's social media accounts of 30%. Tipperary Tourism social media accounts have an industry engagement three times higher than the industry standard due to the professionalism and dedication of the tourism staff in effectively managing these accounts.

Seeking a booking fee from tourism providers in the current climate was not recommended, the industry was in crises and cash flow was critical to these businesses. Tipperary Tourism had already agreed that its membership scheme fees would reduce to a nominal charge of €1 for 2021 in solidarity with the industry. Fáilte Ireland have taken the same approach with their accommodation registration fees, keeping them at a nominal €1 charge for 2021.

The suggestion of a pilot scheme to share resources to promote tourism packages and activities in the county was welcome and noted for discussion with Fáilte Ireland and we would investigate innovative ways that this can be achieved in partnership to support the Cahir Tourist Office and the promotion of Tipperary in the domestic market in 2021.

Cllr Moloney acknowledged the comprehensive reply he received to the motion. He encouraged the utilisation of Tourist Offices and urged engagement between Tourist Guides and local clubs/groups to develop the home tourism market.

Community/Economic Development & Tourism – related matters

Mr P. Slattery, Director of Services, responded to queries on the Community/Economic Development & Tourism Section of the Management Report.

CCTV

- CCTV Littleton –Members were informed that issues associated with the location of the hardware for the CCTV system for Littleton were being resolved and it was anticipated that the matter would be concluded in the coming weeks.
- CCTV Borrisokane – This system was community operated and supported by the Garda Siochana.
- Muintir na Tire – It was agreed to explore the involvement of Muintir na Tire in the roll out of CCTV Schemes.

Water Services

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.1 Notice of Motion Ref: 1953 as part of the Management Report on Water Services.

Item 9.1

Notice of Motion **Windup of Irish** **Water**

Motion 10.1 (1953) was proposed by **Cllr D. Dunne**

“That this Council call on the government to start the orderly windup of Irish water and for water services to be brought back under the remit of the County Councils”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr S. Morris**.

In speaking on the motion Cllr Dunne expressed his dissatisfaction with the service being provided by Irish Water and his belief that they were not providing Value for Money. Following a recent workshop with Irish Water he was concerned about their protocol for dealing with repairs to the water infrastructure.

Cllr Morris speaking in support of the motion referred also to Irish Water not providing Value for Money. He referred in particular to the spend on the River Shannon to Dublin pipeline and his opposition to this project.

Cllr A. Ryan spoke in support of the motion.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, urged the members to consider the full implications of the motion. He referred to a meeting that was scheduled to take place with Irish Water to seek critical investment in a number of schemes in Tipperary with particular reference to the Clonmel Rural Water Supply Scheme and the Galtee Water Supply Scheme. The passing of the motion before the members would force the Chief Executive to cancel this meeting having regard to the content of the motion. Mr. MacGrath understood the frustrations of the members and undertook to convey this to Irish Water.

Following consideration of the motion and the comments of the Chief Executive, Cllr R. Kennedy proposed that the Council would seek an increase in capital investment in water infrastructure for the County in Water. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Marie Murphy.

Members supported the need for further investment in the water infrastructure in the County.

Following consideration of the matter, Cllr Dunne agreed to defer his motion to allow the Chief Executive the opportunity to meet with Irish Water and he would await the outcome of that meeting.

Environment & Climate Action.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.3 Notice of Motion Ref: 1961 as part of the Management Report on Environment & Climate Action.

Item 9.3

Notice of Motion

Bottle/Clothes Banks

Motion 9.3 (Ref. 1961) was proposed by **Cllr. S. Ambrose**

“Due to the high frequency of overflowing bottle/clothes banks in our villages and towns I am asking that Tipperary County Council erects signage at all local authority bottle/clothes banks displaying the contact number of the recycling company. This signage should also ask members of the people not to leave bottles and clothes at these banks if they are full. This signage would enable members of the public to ring the recycling company when they see that these banks are full.”

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

The reply to the Motion was noted as follows: -

When the bring banks are full, the public should contact the Environment & Climate Action’s Section dedicated tel. no. 1800 202627 which was printed on a sign at the site. As an additional measure, signage would be placed on each of the bring bank receptacles with the Tipperary Co Co. dedicated telephone number on it in the coming weeks.

The clothes bank receptacles include the contact details of the service provider for a member of the public to notify them when the bank is full. There was also signage alerting the public not to leave bags at the site.

The response time for the emptying of bring banks was 48 hours and for the clothes banks was 24 hours. There were 103 bring banks and 77 clothes banks installed across the county at present.

Also, there were a number of authorised and unauthorised clothes banks and these were currently being regularised. A factsheet with the relevant contact points would be circulated to all elected members.

Environment and Climate Action related matters

Ms C. Curley, Director of Services, responded to queries on the Environment and Climate Action Section in the Management Report.

IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) Survey

Cllr A. Ryan expressed disappointment at the ranking of Tipperary Town in the recent IBAL survey, particularly as the same blackspots were highlighted as in the previous years survey. In response Ms. Curley shared the disappointment in the ranking given to Tipperary and the Environment Section would continue to work with the Tidy Towns Committee and community in Tipperary, particularly in relation to the blackspots identified in the report

Civic Amenity Sites – At the request of Cllr M. McGrath it was agreed to consider further promotion of Civic Amenity Sites.

Air Monitoring Pollution Report – In response to a query by Cllr J. Ryan, it was noted that the results of the Air Monitoring Pollution Survey carried out in Thurles would be available in January, 2021

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Scheme (DWWTS) At the request of Cllr S. Ryan, it was agreed to write to the Department to request a review of the scheme due to the limited circumstances of qualification for this grant.

Housing

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.4 Notice of Motion Ref: 1962 as part of the Management Report on Housing.

Motion 12.3 (Ref. 1962) was proposed by **Cllr. P. English**

Item 9.4

Notice of Motion

Sale of public lands in the ownership of Tipperary County Council

“That Tipperary County Council place a moratorium on the sale of the public lands in the ownership of Tipperary County Council while the housing crisis remains”.

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. R. Molloy**

The reply to the motion was noted as follows:

Property was of strategic importance to the Council as it contributed to the Council’s core service objectives of Housing provision, planning and development, environmental and sanitary services functions, fire and emergency services, community development, leisure and economic functions, tourism, heritage, culture and community development, urban renewal and transport.

In order to deliver effectively in these areas, the Council must have control of a multi-faceted portfolio of property, to enable the Council to be responsive and pro-active in delivering a varied economic, social and environmental service. It was therefore important that there was a strategic approach taken to property management. The acquisition, control and disposal of property was centrally managed as an integral part of our ability to perform our statutory functions, including making property available to assist and support county-wide enterprise and community development.

Tipperary County Council currently does not have any residential zoned land for sale. Any lands that are being sold are subject to section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, which stipulates that disposal of land is a reserved function of Council. Therefore, all land disposals are brought before Council for consideration and approval. The placing of a moratorium was not relevant or appropriate in this instance as Section 183 already provided a legal provision that proposals for the disposal of land belonging to a local authority must be notified to the elected members in the first instance and the relevant procedures must then be followed. The members may decide by resolution that the disposal shall not be carried out or that it may be carried out according to specific terms.

Cllr English noted the content of the reply and the legal provision that any proposals for the disposal of property in the ownership of the council was brought before the elected members for consideration.

Housing related matters

Ms S. Carr, Director of Services, responded to queries on the Housing Section in the Management Report.

Review of Housing Allocation Procedures

In response to queries raised regarding the number of refusals of local authority dwellings, it was confirmed that the operation of a Choice Based Letting Scheme was being considered by the SPC.

4/5 Bed Social Housing Dwellings

It was acknowledged that 1, 4 & 5 Bed dwellings were in limited supply and this was being examined and was being taken into account at the design stage of new developments.

Housing Adaptation Grants

In response to issues raised by Cllr R. Molloy in relation to difficulties being encountered by applicants for Housing Adaptation Grants, it was agreed to examine the criteria for these grants in relation to the payment of property tax by the applicant.

Corporate Services.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.5 Notice of Motion Ref: 1925 as part of the Management Report on Corporate Services

Item 9.5

Notice of Motion

Amalgamation of Tipperary North and South Coronial Districts

Motion 12.4 (Ref. 1925) was proposed by **Cllr. M. McGrath**

“That this Council would write to the Department of Justice to formally object to the proposal to amalgamate the Tipperary North and South Coronial Districts after the retirement of Mr. Paul Morris, South Tipp Coroner in June 2021 due to the importance of the role and the geographical nature of County Tipperary”.

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. R. Molloy**

The reply to the motion was noted as follows:

Coroners were independent public officials whose function was to investigate sudden and unexplained deaths. The Department of Justice and Equality legislates for and determines policy for the Coroner Service in Ireland. The principal legislation was the Coroners Act 1962. The Coroners Bill 2007 provided that funding and general oversight and accountability at national level should also rest with the Department of Justice and Equality.

As at 2019, there was a network of 38 coroners operating in 39 coroner districts (2014: 41 coroners in 45 districts) with effectively two full time coroners (Dublin and Cork City). The remaining coroners were employed in a 'part-time' capacity as they continue to work in their professional medical and law practices. As coroners, they were available and on call every day of the year on a 24-hour basis. Currently, the coroners' network is 55% doctors and 45% solicitors and over 80% are male with less than 20% female. In Tipperary, there were currently 2 coroners, one based in the South and the other based in the North of the County.

Local authorities fund the operation of the Coroner Service in their district and were responsible for the appointment of coroners on the recommendation of the Public Appointment Commission. Local Authorities do not receive any specific central funding for the financing of this service. The Coroner Service was only a small percentage of the overall budget that local authorities manage.

Restructuring of the Coroner Districts

The recommendation that the number of coroners should be reduced over time, evolving to a regional structure with one or more coroners in each region, was implemented under the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) act 2011 (Part 9). If a vacancy arises in a coronial district and that district is within the area of a local authority in which there is more than one coroner district, the Minister for Justice and Equality may, following consultation with the local authority concerned, direct that a coroner holding office in respect of a neighbouring coronial district within the local authority area, shall also hold office as coroner in respect of the vacated coronial district.

In 2019, the South Tipperary Coroner was due to retire in accordance with the provision of the Coroner's Act 1962 however the Coroners (Amendment) Act 2019 was passed at the time, which provided for the retirement age of the Coroner to be increased from 70 to 72. This Council availed of the new provision in the Act and engaged with the Department and obtained Ministerial consent to the extension of the existing South Tipperary Coroner's contract up to 24th June 2021 having regard to his long experience and expertise, noting both Coroner's consent to the proposed arrangements.

It was also agreed by the Minister, that from 25th June, 2021, the two coronial districts of Tipperary would be amalgamated, by way of Section 7 of the Coroners Acts 1962-2019 and the North Tipperary Coroner would assume the role of Coroner for the amalgamated districts of County

Tipperary and also be responsible for the appointment of a Deputy Coroner for the amalgamated districts.

Review of the Coroner Service

A review of the Coroner Service was conducted by a working group appointed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in 1998. The group reported in 2000 and the report stated that the weakness in the current system was that there are no overarching agency providing oversight and governance to the Coroner Service together with any consistency of service provision throughout local authorities. The current system was outdated and needs reform. The seemingly high number of coroners in the country dates back to a time of poor communications and transport, rather than to any analysis of service needs requirement in each district.

The report issued 110 recommendations and those relevant to local authorities included that:

The number of coroners should be reduced over time, evolving to a regional structure with one or more coroners in each region
A new post of coroner's officer should be introduced at regional level to act as a general support to both coroners and relatives
A new statutory agency should be established to reflect the core concept of service to both coroners and the public and its central role in shaping the future of the new service
Funding relating to the administration of the coroner service should be moved into the control of the proposed new central coroner agency

A review of the Coroners Bill was currently underway with a view to progressing these necessary reforms. The Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, which commenced on 21st August, 2020 also provided for the assignment and appointment of temporary coroners in certain exceptional circumstances and for the authorisation of deputy coroners to act concurrently with coroners in certain exceptional circumstances having regard to the risk to human life and public health posed by the spread of the disease known as Covid-19.

Cllr M. McGrath and Cllr R. Molloy expressed their disappointment that the decision had been made to amalgamate the Coroners Service in Tipperary. They referred to the sensitive nature of the work and the need for this to be done in a timely fashion. They asked that their sentiments would be conveyed to the Minister and this was agreed.

Item 10.1

Notice of Motion

X8 Services in Tipperary

Motion 10.1 (Ref. 1954) was proposed by **Cllr A. Moloney**

"That this Council write to the Minister to retain X8 services in Tipperary and the only public form of transport in Cahir that connects us to 4 cities daily".

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

Cllr Burgess stated that the link was vital especially for students residing in the Cashel area.

Cllr Morris supported the motion, the need for the retention of this service and referred to the Limerick to Dublin line serving the Nenagh area.

It was agreed to forward the motion to the Minister for Transport for consideration and response.

Item 10.2

Notice of Motion **SIPTU and the** **"Big Star** **Campaign"**

Motion 10.2 (Ref 1963) was proposed by **Cllr. P. English**

"That Tipperary County Council support SIPTU and the "Big Star Campaign" which requests adequate investment in the Early Years services to make it affordable, assessable and high quality with professional pay for childcare workers and further calls on the government to fully support the campaign".

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

It was agreed to forward the motion to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for consideration and response noting that a radical change was required as to how childcare would be funded in the future.

Tipperary **Transforming** **Draft Tourist** **Product** **Development** **Plan 2020-2030**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Marie Phelan, Tourist Development Officer, Community & Economic Development, Mr. Alan Hill, Alan Hill Tourism Development Ltd and John Ruddle, John Ruddle, Consulting and invited them to make a presentation to the members on the Draft Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030 which had been circulated to the members.

The plan built on work completed to date following the establishment of Tipperary Tourism CLG in 2015 and the adoption and delivery of the Tipperary Strategic Tourism Marketing Experience and Destination Development Plan 2016 – 2021. Some very successful tourism products had been developed to date including Suir Blueway Tipperary, Lough Derg Blueway and various projects around the lake and Tipperary Museum of Hidden History. The new plan would provide direction in Council decision making for the development of tourism products over the next ten years, focusing on growing visitor numbers and revenue and extending dwell time and overnights across the county and attracting significant investment into the county. Extensive consultation had taken place with over 400 individuals including focus groups, one to one consultations and a successful online survey. Consultation had taken place with key stakeholders including Fáilte Ireland, Irelands Ancient East and Irelands Hidden Heartlands Teams as well as other state agencies and government departments internal and external to the county.

The plan is formed around 3 themes, which help to cast light upon innovative sustainable visitor experiences that are inspired by County Tipperary's past and physical and cultural highlights and are designed for comment on future generations.

Heritage – A richness of built heritage and culture

Landscape – A wonder of mountains, hills and landscapes

Water – Lough Derg and the River Suir, The Waterscape, surrounding hinterland, towns and villages.

Tourism product themes and concepts that would make up the next generation of tourism offerings in Tipperary were outlined under the categories of Hero Projects, Creating Clusters and Enhancement Projects. The primary targets of the plan was to increase the people employed in the county tourism economy by 50%, to increase the overnighting visitors into the County by 100%, to grow international visitors to Tipperary by 75% and to invest in tourism and related offerings within the county.

10 heading Actions were highlighted namely: -

1. Tipperary- National leader in Responsible Tourism
2. Cashel – Destination Town & Ireland Heritage Capital
3. Lough Derg – An international lake destination
4. Tipperary – Excellence in Recreational Development
5. Tipperary Equine Experiences
6. Tipperary’s World Class Community, Culture & Heritage Clusters
7. Reimagining Town Centres & Destination Towns
8. Tipperary – Leader in Immersive Family Fun Tourism
9. Alignment – Orchestrating Partnerships
10. Facilitating Delivery of the Plan

The aim is to move the County up the national league table of tourism performing counties by 2030. This plan is only the start of a significant journey for the people of Tipperary.

Members welcomed the plan. The need for annual targets to be set was mentioned. Suggestions were put forward regarding projects in various areas.

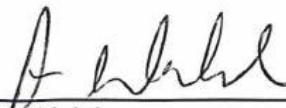
- Thurles - Consideration of tourism potential of Thurles as birthplace of GAA.
- Development and promotion of Cabra Wetlands
- Clonmel/Carrick-on-Suir The tourism potential of the industrial history of the towpath on the Blueway to be considered.
- Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel
- Tipperary Bushcraft Survival and Activity Park – linkage with walking groups in the area to be formed.
- Mitchelstown Caves – it was noted that these caves were located in County Tipperary and consideration to be given to its inclusion in the Plan.
- Liam Lynch Memorial Walk – the development of a walk linking Houlihan’s cottage to Liam Lynch Monument.
- Mid and North Tipperary
- Promotion of Beara/Breffney Way development.

Members were thanked for their contributions.

There being no further business, the meeting then concluded at 12 noon in accordance with the Standard Operating Guidance (SOG No. 6) re. attendance at Council Meetings.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: