

Minutes of February Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 26th February 2024 at 11am

Members Present: Councillor Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Micheál Anglim
Councillor John Crosse
Councillor Michael FitzGerald
Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan
Councillor Roger Kennedy
Councillor Máirín McGrath
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

Officials Present: Ms. Sharon Kennedy, District Director
Mr. Anselm McGowan, Administrative Officer
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer, Roads
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer
Mr. Richard Power, Executive Engineer
Mr. Pat O'Neill, Assistant Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Mr. Michael Begley, Administrative Officer
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer
ECRD Directorate
Ms. Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ryan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer
Libraries/Cultural Services/Biodiversity Directorate
Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Ms. Marie McMahon, Museum Curator

Apologies Councillor Tony Black

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Declan Burgess, welcomed everyone to the February Municipal District meeting. Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

2.1 Minutes of January Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on 22nd January, 2024

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District January meeting held on 22nd January, 2024 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy.

Matters arising from the minutes

There was no matter arising from the minutes.

3.2 Economic, Community & Rural Development Directorate Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Margo Hayes and Ms. Mary Ryan, Economic, Community & Rural Development Section to the meeting. Ms. Hayes thanked the Cathaoirleach and advised that ECRD represents many sections including Community, Sports Partnership, Tourism, Economic and LEO and she highlighted the following projects:

- The new Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2024 to 2028 commenced in January with €867,090 for South Tipperary Development Company and an additional €128,194 for New Arrivals in 2024.
- The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 closed on the 22nd February and 250 applications were received. There is €178,045.98 available in funding with a further €35,609.20 specifically for Women's Groups.
- Healthy Tipperary in partnership with Connecting for Life, Mental Health Ireland, Tipperary GAA and Tipperary County Council have purchased 75 boards for each of the County's GAA Clubs to highlight services available and create suicide and mental health awareness. Tipperary County Council has also partnered with "Finding Charlie's Voice" to produce information boards for children and young adult with speech and language communication needs in Ireland and these will be displayed in playgrounds.
- Tipperary Age Friendly will host the annual EXPO in the TUS College Campus on the 20th June.

Ms. Mary Ryan highlighted the following projects:

- The Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference was held in Cashel Palace Hotel on the 21st February. It was well attended with representatives from Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and Tipperary Food Producers.
- Tipperary ranked 7 out of 31 Local Enterprise Offices with 96 job created for 2023. A total of €939,11 was paid out in grants.
- 2,200 students participated in the LEO Tipperary Student Enterprise Programme which is 27 out of 29 secondary school across the County.
- Enterprise Week 2024 will run from 4th-8th March with 17 events across the County.
- The Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme – 13 of 22 grants in 2023 were paid in this District. Other business incentives include the Painting and Enhancement Scheme and the Shop Local Campaign.
- Nephin Energy announced the opening of its operational headquarters in the Engine, Tipperary Technology Park in Tipperary Town with 11 staff and plans to expand its workforce.
- Wifi4EU has 51 free public access points in the County with 14 in Tipperary town.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated the team and Caroline Rice on the Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference which was a day full of ambition for Tipperary. Councillor McGrath requested a timeline on the Local Enhancement Grants and Ms. Hayes confirmed that it is due to go to the LCDC for decision in March and the Department want to make the announcement. Councillor McGrath also requested details on the website grant and the Energy Efficiency Grant. Councillor Hanna Hourigan commended the team on the Tourism Conference. Councillor Murphy asked when will the boards be in place and further details on the RTE Tracks and Trails programme. She also advised people to check there Eircode online to pre-order broadband through one of the broadband providers. Councillor Crosse referred to the number of businesses which have closed in Tipperary Town in recent months and asked if there are supports for smaller businesses.

In response it was confirmed that the boards will be ready soon and the Tracks and Trails programme will air in the Spring. Ms. Ryan agreed to seek clarification on this and revert to the members. She also confirmed that the website grant is a Trading Online Grant up to €2,500 to enhance an existing or create a new website. Ms. Ryan also advised the members of the Green for Business Grant available of €5,000 towards implementing energy efficiencies. Ms. Hayes wanted to acknowledge the 3 nominees at the LAMAs awards, Fethard Town Park, Best Community Health Project, Nicola Welford for Community Volunteer of the Year and Millennium Family Resource Centre for Best CRS Project in the Community.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Hayes, Ms. Ryan and all the ECRD Team.

3.2 Culture Services / Libraries & Biodiversity Directorate

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian and Ms. Marie McMahon, Museum Curator to the meeting. Mr. Dullaghan thanked the Members for the opportunity to attend the meeting. Mr. Dullaghan referred to his report which was circulated and confirmed that in October the Department announced a grant scheme for the purchase of IT equipment for Public Library's and Tipperary County Council received 100% funding to replace 79 internet PCs across all 12 branches. Ms. McMahon also highlighted the following events at the museum:-

- the Paddy Cashin Photographic exhibition which has contributed to 6,000 visitors which is the first increase in numbers since COVID.
- the museum is continuing to hold Saturday workshops
- The 11th Annual Lecture series continues and Joseph Doyle providing a lecture in January entitled Clonmel District Model School 1849-1877.
- The Rachel Blackmore Material and that the museum was invited to present on the Today Show which aired to 25,000 people.
- Thoroughbred Country Horse: Horse Experience is a collaboration between Fáilte Ireland, Coolmore Stud and Kildare National Stud where a farrier is invited to provide a demonstration.

- The museum also received funding for "Late Night at the Museum" where the museum provided 4 sold out nights with local bands.
- Leisa Gray, Youthwork Ireland Tipperary has received funding and is working with the boys in Coláiste Shliabh Na mBan (formerly Ferryhouse) in collaboration with Kerry ETB who are the only training centre who provided a masonry course in Ireland.

Councillor McGrath thanked Mr. Dullaghan for his report and asked if the library had developed a programme for Seachtain na Gaeilge because it is important to support and develop the language. Councillor Murphy acknowledged the great news regarding the new PCs within the library services and commended them on the Paddy Cashin exhibition. Councillor Kennedy also acknowledged the funding for new PCs and asked if they would be willing to work with community groups who would welcome the older PCs. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) congratulated the team on the Horse Experience and asked for an update in relation to My Open Library in Tipperary. Councillor Burgess also requested an update in relation to My Open Library in Cashel and acknowledged the importance of investing in ICT.

In response Mr. Dullaghan thanked the Members and confirmed that they are currently working on a programme for Seachtain na Gaeilge and would absolutely be looking for community groups to donate the PCs. He confirmed that the My Open Library is a great facility within a community and they will continue to publicise it. They are open Monday to Sunday – 8.00 am to 10.00 p.m. They will now push it more on social media because they didn't want to overload the system at the start. In Cashel they are at the final sign off stage and noted that it was a complex site because it is over two floors. He confirmed that everyone is required to complete an induction. He also advised the Members that the library service offers a remote printing service which is working very well in Cashel.

Ms. McMahon advised that the Paddy Cashin Exhibition is continually being updated and they had a huge amount of material donated. They currently have 1979 to 1982 available and by the end of March hope to have 1982 to 1992 available. She confirmed that they have recreated the bathroom he used to develop his film within the museum. Councillor Ryan (Shiner) suggested that My Open Library might be beneficial to leaving cert students and Mr. Dullaghan confirmed that you have to be a member for 3 months, however it would work as a long term project.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Dullaghan, Ms. McMahon and their teams.

3.3 Consider Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works

James Swords, Senior Engineer presented the road programme for 2024. On the proposition of Councillor John Crosse, seconded by Councillor Andy Moloney, it was resolved,

"That in accordance with section 103 of the Local Government Act 2007, as amended by section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014,

- a. *the Draft schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) for the financial year ending 31st December 2024 as presented, be and is hereby adopted, and*
- b. *where relevant, that any subsequent changes of the schedule necessitated by either an inability to proceed with certain works or by emergency repairs elsewhere may be implemented subject to notification to the members as soon as may be and that the works so deferred may be considered for inclusion in the Schedule for the next financial year*

The Members expressed their disappointment regarding the budgets. It was proposed by Councillor Anglim that the District would write to IPB regarding the budget and this was seconded by Councillor McGrath. It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach and agreed by the Members to hear the following Notice of Motion.

5.2 Councillor Andy Moloney (Ref ID 2764)

That this Municipal District would request a detailed report on the progress on the Cahir to Cashel Greenway.

Reply

The public consultation for Phase 1 – Concept and Feasibility, of the project concluded on the 19th January 2024.

We received over 65 submissions during the consultation period. Our Consultant Fehily Timoney & Company, is reviewing the submissions and working on the Feasibility Report we intend to have the report submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland by the end of March 2024.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess.

3.4 Consider Draft 2024 General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

At this point in the meeting it was proposed by the Cathaoirleach and agreed by the Members to go into committee to have a brief discussion in relation to the General Municipal Allocation. After 10 minutes the Cathaoirleach returned to the February Municipal District meeting.

On the proposition of Councillor John Crosse, seconded by Councillor Micheál Anglim, the 2024 General Municipal Allocations were agreed as follows:

TIPPERARY-CAHIR-CASHEL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT G.M.A. 2024

Type of Grant	Breakdown
FESTIVAL & EVENTS GRANT SCHEME – MUNICIPAL	30,000
FESTIVAL & EVENTS GRANT SCHEME - COMMUNITY	30,000

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TIPPERARY TOWN	1,150
CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CAHIR TOWN	5,000
PAINTING ENHANCEMENT SCHEME CASHEL TOWN	2,000
PAINTING ENHANCEMENT SCHEME TIPPERARY TOWN	2,000
PAINTING ENHANCEMENT SCHEME CAHIR TOWN	2,000
PAINTING ENHANCEMENT SCHEME VILLAGES	6,000
ECONOMIC SUPPORTS & INITIATIVES (Town Vouchers)	10,000
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT TIDY TOWNS GRANTS	
CASHEL TIDY TOWNS - Special Project	4,000
TIPPERARY TIDY TOWNS - Special Project	4,000
CAHIR TIDY TOWNS - Special Project	4,000
ST. PATRICK'S BRASS BAND, CASHEL CONTRIBUTION	300
CASHEL PIPE BAND CONTRIBUTION	300
CONTRIBUTION TO RAPID TIPPERARY TOWN	1,500
CONTRIBUTION TO TIPPERARY TOWN REVITALISATION TASK FORCE	30,000
DISTRICT TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL PROJECTS & SCHEMES	86,317
DISTRICT PLAYGROUNDS & AMENITY AREAS	34,384
TOTAL:	252,951

3.5 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda.

Councillor Ryan (Shiner) requested an update on the walkway from Tipperary Town to Limerick Junction. Councillor Moloney requested an update on the new car park development in Cahir. Councillor Roger Kennedy referred to the National LA Regeneration Scheme and if he could make representations for specific improvement works. The Cathaoirleach requested a workshop to update the Members on the visitor/interpretive centre since it has been a long time since any update was provided.

In response the District Director confirmed that the Regeneration Scheme is at an early stage and what options are available are currently with the Department. However, she did note that it is on a need basis. Councillor Kennedy advised that this is an ongoing scheme and housing have advised that there is no funding available. The Administrator confirmed that no clarification can be provided in

relation to the interpretive centre at present because the negotiations are commercially sensitive and he has not received confirmation on whether a workshop can go ahead.

3.6 Vacant Houses Report February, 2024

Mr. James Swords, District Engineer provided the Vacant Houses Report with the agenda and was available for questions, Councillor Murphy referred to the 19 vacant houses categorised as Other – (derelict houses for sale, demountable) and asked why there has been a significant increase. The District Engineer confirmed that the District is only responsible for minor repairs which represents 1% of the housing stock in the District and he agreed to seek clarification from the housing section.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Roger Kennedy (Ref. ID 2761)

That this Municipal District applies for funding from the International Integration Protection Fund 2024 to install a proper footpath from Dundrum House Hotel to join the existing path to Dundrum Village before a fatality occurs.

Reply

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs were contacted by phone and confirmed that the proposed works are not included in the parameters of the scheme as outlined.

No compatible schemes are envisaged at this date.

Councillor Kennedy noted the response, however confirmed that residents are walking through grass, muck, in an area which is wooden and overgrown and he asked the executive to find the funds required.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan

5.3 Councillor Andy Moloney (Ref ID 2765)

That this Municipal District would provide an update on the number of house calls in this District made under the Household Waste survey in an effort to reduce illegal dumping.

Reply

Household waste includes waste collected directly from households in the residual, recycling and organic bins and waste brought by householders to waste collection centres such as bring banks, civic amenity sites and other authorised facilities. Tipperary County Council has a role in ensuring that households in County Tipperary dispose of their household waste in a legally-compliant manner whether via an authorised waste collector (i.e. a waste collector who possesses a valid waste collection permit) or via one of the aforementioned waste collection facilities. In conjunction with that enforcement role, household surveys are undertaken to ascertain how individual households are disposing of their household waste and evidence is sought to substantiate such disposal.

The following parameters govern the nature and extent of these household surveys:

- Surveys are conducted primarily in locations where it has come to the attention of the local authority that household waste is not being disposed of in an authorised manner. Such attention may be occasioned by complaints, representations from public representatives, observations by staff members, incidents of illegal dumping, or by other means.
- Surveys are conducted principally in large urban areas but are not confined to same.
- The compliance rate is generally quite high and informs the enforcement function in relation to future activities in this regard.
- Details of the location of household surveys are not publicised in advance for reasons of operational sensitivity.
- For similar reasons, it is not the practice of Tipperary County Council to give details, retrospectively, of the nature and extent of household surveys conducted in a particular geographical location (other than providing in the report accompanying the Environment & Climate Action Section's periodic attendance at MD meetings, a figure for the total number of inspections carried out in the respective MD).

This motion was seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess.

5.4 Councillor AnneMarie Ryan (Shiner) (Ref ID 2767)

That the Municipal District install new bollards to prevent vehicles from driving across the grass from the N74 towards Pearse Park. Some of the bollards are broken/missing and certain vehicles are using the opportunity to cut through the green area to access Pearse Park/Knockanrawley.

Reply

It is likely this practice is only carried out by a small number of individuals. The erection of bollards over such a long section would be a costly solution at this point. The issue has been logged as a CRM for follow up by the appropriate section.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

5.5 Cllr. John Crosse (Ref. ID 2768)

That this Municipal District put safety measures in place at the bend at Rahyvira as there are regular accidents at this location.

Reply

This location will be assessed and considered for inclusion in future Safety Improvement applications.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- James (Jamsie) Quinn, Shronell
- Rachel Keating, 8 Rockwood, Old Road, Cashel

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Ameer-Leigh Murphy Crowe for competing on the Irish Sevens team at the HSBC SVNS Series in Vancouver
- Cathal Minogue for hosting his new show "Saturday Breakfast with Cathal Minogue" on Red FM
- Oliver Browne a 9 year old author for writing and publishing his own book "A Cat and Eight Kittens".
- Marguerite Keating for organised the "Cashel Dementia Memory Café" at Cashel Library in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland.
- Cashel Fire Station on opening their new state of the art fire station at Wallors Lot Cashel in January and to thank them for their continued service to Cashel.
- Fr Mathew Players – New Inn who successfully performed "The Playboy of the Western World" in 5 sold out shows

7.1 Any other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/ 
Cathaoirleach

Dated/ 25th of March 2024

Signed/ 
District Administrator

Dated/ 25th of March 2024

