



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 10.00 AM ON 22nd FEBRUARY 2024

Present in chamber	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, John "Rocky" McGrath, Michael O Meara, Gerard Darcy, John Carroll, Phyll Bugler and Séamus Morris
Also Present	<p>Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services; Mr. Barry Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officer.</p> <p>Economic, Community & Rural Development: Ms. Geraldine Manning, A/Administrative Officer</p> <p>Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity: Ms. Róisín O'Grady, Heritage Officer</p>
Item 1. To note any Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest	None
Item 2. To consider and adopt Minutes of the January Meeting held on 18th January 2024	It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Darcy and resolved that the minutes of the January Meeting held on 18 th January 2024 be adopted.
Item 3. To consider and adopt Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 31st January 2024	It was proposed by Cllr. Darcy, seconded by Cllr. Bonfield and resolved that the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 31 st January 2024 be adopted.
Item 4. To receive an update from Economic, Community & Rural Development	<p>The report on Economic, Community & Rural Development was circulated.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler said the fact that the Community Enhancement Grant cannot be used to cover insurance costs which are quite high for groups is causing them difficulties. She asked about grants under Sports Partnership for clubs looking to buy equipment. She also asked about the replacement for the Tourism Officer and she congratulated Nicola Welford on receiving an award for volunteering at the LAMA awards.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll stressed that it was important to get people that were competent for the funding assessment boards. As the allocation is not as high as previous years it will be important</p>



	<p>that funding is allocated in a strategic manner. He is however concerned with the timeframe for broadband in the Newport area.</p> <p>Cllr. Darcy said he was happy to be at the changing places event and complimented everyone involved in the tourism event in Cashel. He also asked about the replacement tourism officer.</p> <p>Cllr. Hannigan stated that the BCP's are a great addition to communities. He asked if it would be possible to let anyone that signed up to the online voucher system know of any upcoming schemes or courses that may be of help to their businesses.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield also congratulated Nicola Welford and said the Rearcross BCP has not yet been connected but she emailed Simon Howe to follow up.</p> <p>Ms. G. Manning will bring back the queries and comments to the section and did inform members that the interviews for the replacement Tourism Officer had taken place.</p>
<p>Item 5. To receive an update from Cultural Services/ Libraries and Biodiversity</p>	<p>The report on Cultural Services/Libraries and Biodiversity was circulated.</p> <p>Cllr. Hannigan welcomed the new portal for local historical and heritage information to be input by community groups. He asked about the possibility of having notice boards in graveyards to show where people are buried.</p> <p>Cllr. Darcy also welcomed the new portal and requested an update on the work on the building in Ardcroney graveyard, it is in very poor condition and the scaffolding has been in place for a long time. Cllr. Carroll stated that the Built Heritage Scheme can be difficult and asked if it would be possible to have shorter timeframes for these schemes.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield said the new portal for historical and heritage information is a great initiative and asked if information can be added to the new portal by anyone, she is aware of schools that would like to add their roll books. Cllr. O'Meara thanked Ms. R. O'Grady for her visit to the bee bowls in Ballingarry and asked when could the work be done on them. Cllr. J. McGrath thanked the Heritage Section and Environment for the work that was done in Kilnarath Graveyard.</p> <p>Ms. O'Grady said that the possibility of a scheme to provide maps of graveyards could be examined. The assessment work in Ardcroney has been completed and it is on the list for funding from the Historic Monuments Fund but other structures on the list are in worse condition and will be a higher priority. There is however some work planned for this year. There is not enough</p>



	<p>funding for these projects. The new portal will take information from new groups and there will also be an option for information to be entered from one off groups/areas.</p> <p>It is a challenge to get the necessary specialist to work on the bee bowls. All Local Authorities are using the same consultants/specialists. It will be towards the end of the year before an application will be made. The team that worked on Kilnarath graveyard were very good, Mr. R. Boland, SEE, Environment is very proactive in protecting these structures. At the moment funding goes towards the most urgent cases.</p>
<p>Item 6. To note report on Section 38 proposals for Abbey Lane, Nenagh</p>	<p>Mr. M. O'Connor outlined that the proposal is to close Abbey Lane to cars and pedestrianise it. There were 4 submissions received and all were supportive of the proposal. One submission requested the removal of 2 existing bollards. The surface under the archway will be a different colour. The recommendation is to accept the proposal.</p> <p>Cllr. H. McGrath queried if the access to the apartments and businesses will be affected. Cllr. Morris welcomed the proposal and Cllr. Carroll asked about having a raised surface for pedestrians especially with e-scooters and cyclists. Cllr. Hannigan was concerned about the possibility of anti-social behaviour under the archway.</p> <p>Mr. M. O'Connor explained that the proposals were in line with previous schemes undertaken in laneways in Nenagh. Signage will be in place. A raised surface can be considered.</p> <p>Ms. R. Joyce informed members that the report on these proposals was for noting.</p>
<p>Item 7. To consider report on Draft Amenity Area Bye Laws and approve bye laws with or without amendment</p>	<p>The report on the draft Amenity Area Bye Laws was circulated to members.</p> <p>Ms. R. Joyce outlined that this particular amendment was to have jumping off the bridge in Ballina/Killaloe identified as an offence. The draft Bye-Laws were put on public display and no submissions were received.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Bugler and seconded by Cllr. Carroll, that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 199 of the Local Government Act 2001, this Council hereby agrees to adopt the Tipperary County Council Nenagh Municipal District Amenity Area Bye-Laws 2024 without amendment.</p> <p>These bye-laws will come into force on Monday, 1st April, 2024.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler expressed her thanks in getting these bye-laws in place and welcomed the fact that an on the spot fine can now be issued.</p>



<p>Item 8. To note Newport Town Centre First Plan and to agree to put same on public display</p>	<p>Ms. R. Joyce advised that a workshop was held with the consultants, Nic De Jong and since then there has been a lot of work done to get the plan to this stage. It is not a statutory plan and significant progress has been made in the establishment of the town team. The members agreed that the plan be put on public display.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield welcomed the plan and complimented the report.</p>
<p>Item 9. To consider the implementation of a Roundabout Scheme for Nenagh</p>	<p>Ms R. Joyce outlined that a number of towns have roundabout schemes where a business would sponsor a roundabout. In the past the Town Council considered a scheme but decided not to go ahead with one. At the moment the discussion is about getting feedback, is it this something that should go to the town team or is it something that should not be considered. Mr. M. O'Connor stated that this was previously discussed by the Town Council but at the time it was thought that all the businesses would not get a fair chance of sponsorship.</p> <p>Cllr. H. McGrath agreed that the concern of the Town Council members at the time was that bigger companies would be able to take on the scheme and that smaller businesses wouldn't get the opportunity for this type of advertisement. It is important to keep the town centre in the spotlight. Cllr. Morris stated that he would have thought that this type of scheme was to the advantage of bigger companies but his opinion has changed on it. He thinks the additional funding that would be made available would be important. He would be happy to have a discussion on this.</p> <p>At the moment there is no detail on the scheme but if members were happy research could be undertaken and brought back to the members for further discussion. The members agreed to this.</p>
<p>Item 10. To update members on projects & events</p>	<p>The update on projects was circulated to members.</p> <p><u>Newport Town Park:</u> The official opening of the Town Park by the Minister for Housing, Heritage & Local Government took place on 22nd January 2024.</p> <p><u>Newport Town Centre First Plan:</u> A workshop on the draft plan took place on 31st January. Agreement to put the Newport Town Centre First Plan on public display is an agenda item.</p> <p><u>Nenagh Town Team/Town Centre First:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work is progressing on the establishment of the Nenagh Town Team.• When the Nenagh Town Team membership is finalized an information session will be scheduled with the Town Regeneration Officer.



Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub:

- Part 8 planning consent is now in place.
- A funding application to Enterprise Ireland under the Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme is currently being prepared. Closing date is 31st March.
- Applications for Disability Access Certificate and Fire Safety Certificate are being prepared.

Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter

- Part 8 planning consent is now in place.
- An application has been made under the fifth call for Category 1 Application under the RRDF for elements of the project. The application is for an amount of €9.985m. and is in respect of elements relating to Nenagh Castle, the Gatehouse, the Governor's House, Banba Square and the single storey Gaol block.
- Opportunities for additional funding for remaining elements will be followed up where possible.

Nenagh Centre of Excellence:

- Six companies who were brought forward from Phase One of the procurement process will be invited to submit tenders in Q1 2024.
- The Design Brief and Tender Documentation have been finalised and are currently with the procurement co-ordinator for checking prior to publication on e-tenders.
- It is aimed to have a Design Team appointed in Q2 2024.

Nenagh Transport Hub:

Engagement with NTA on the development of a Transport Hub and the proposed relocation of the bus stops to the Railway Station is on-going.

Platforms for Growth- Dromineer:

- Discussions are on-going with Fáilte Ireland on the progression of this project.
- The tender for the appointment of consultants has been uploaded to e-tenders. The deadline for submission of tenders is Friday 15th March.

Stereame Housing Development

- Our solicitors are currently engaging with the legal team for the contractors identified through the procurement process undertaken in order to finalise the legal agreement.
- Arrangements are being made for pre-planning consultation.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022

- Ballina Access Promenade and Viewing Area – the tender documentation has been drafted by consultants. The presence of invasive species has been identified on site during site surveys. Discussions are currently on-going on appropriate treatment. The tender will be advertised on e-



tenders in Q1 2024 with the intention of having a contractor appointed and on site in Q2 2024. The aim is to have works completed by the end of Q3 2024.

- Newport Courthouse and Bridewell Complex – Scroope Design have been appointed to prepare a feasibility study. Discussions have taken place with planning and consultation with stakeholders. The Feasibility Study will be completed in Q1 2024 and work will then commence on procurement of required surveys and progressing the concept through planning.

Casual Trading Bye Laws

- To-date 9 casual trading licence applications for 2024 or part thereof have been received. Of these applications, 5 casual trading licences have issued (i.e. 1 for Dromineer, 1 for Garrykennedy, 1 for Castlelough and 2 for Ballina Riverside Park). The remaining 4 applications have been assessed and we are awaiting the submission of some outstanding documentation in order to progress their applications to licence issuing stage.
- The establishment of a working group to consider opportunities for developing a market in Nenagh Town will be progressed in 2024.

Expressions of Interests for Development Land at Lisbunny

Tipperary County Council advertised for expressions of interest from developers and entrepreneurs interested in acquiring a prime 19.2 acre industrially zoned site at Lisbunny Business Park, Dublin Road, Nenagh for immediate development and job creation. The closing date for expressions of interest was 4.30 pm on Friday 9th June 2023. Applicants who had expressed interest in the development land provided more detailed proposals on request. Submissions are currently being assessed.

One Way System

Advanced works on the Nenagh One Way System are ongoing. Works are currently taking place on Emmet Place, Pearse St. and at Kickham Street. It is intended to have full implementation by the end of Q1 2024.

Designated Bathing Area

Work is being progressed on the preparation of the application for the designation of a bathing area in Dromineer – this is being done through Destination Lough Derg, Environment Section and Nenagh MD.

Ballina CCTV at Toilet Block

The Data Protection Impact Assessment has been completed. The request for quotations for the equipment and installation has been issued. It is aimed to have the contract awarded by early March. Allowing for lead times for equipment, installation and



commissioning it would be hoped that the system would be operational by end of Q2 2024.

CLÁR

Aglis has been successful in receiving €49,950 in funding under Measure 1 of the 2023 CLÁR programme. This funding will be used for Play Equipment upgrade and towards a sensory garden.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023:

Under the Project Development Measures tranche of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023 an amount of €49,500 has been allocated for the Garrykennedy Inner Harbour Upgrade in respect of consultancy services to undertake planning and design works for the upgrading of the inner harbour in Garrykennedy.

St. Patrick's Day, Nenagh

Arrangements are currently underway in relation to activities in Nenagh for St. Patrick's Day. Music festivities, market stalls and children's entertainment will take place on Sunday 17th March at the Courthouse/Banba Square.

The John F. Kennedy High School Shamrock Regiment will visit Nenagh on Wednesday 20th March 2024.

Applications for Grant Funding:

The closing date for applications under the 2024 Festivals & Events Grant Scheme was Wednesday 14th February 2024.

The schemes for Contributions to Clubs & Organisations and the Contributions to Residents' Associations for 2024 was advertised on 7th February 2024. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 15th March 2024. Early submission of applications would be appreciated.

The Tidy Towns and Burial Ground grant applications have been issued by the Environment Section and Nenagh MD have started receiving completed application forms for same.

Ms. R. Joyce explained that due to timing of the closing date and assessment of schemes it was necessary to bring forward 2 grant applications for St. Patrick's Day Parades for approval. The remaining applications will be brought for approval at a later stage.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. McGrath and seconded by Cllr. Bugler, that in accordance with the terms of the Festival & Events Grant Scheme the payment of grants be made to the following:-

Community:



	Name of Festival/Event	Type	Recommendation
	Ballina-Killaloe St. Patrick's Day Parade	Community	€1,000
	Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade	Community	€2,300
	<p>Cllr. Morris asked if it would be possible to get a figure on the expenditure for these projects to show how much money is being spent in the District. He also asked for an update on the Dromineer project and the work on the Machinery Yard.</p> <p>Mr. M. O'Connor said there was some delays on the machinery yard project but that work is now being undertaken with the consultants.</p>		
<p>Item 11. To note Engineer's Checklist on roads matters</p>	<p>The Engineer's Checklist was circulated to members.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy informed members that the budget allocation is expected this week and the Schedule of Municipal District Works will be on the agenda for the next District meeting. The Low Cost Safety Scheme for Cloughjordan and Rathmartin, funding for drainage work at O'Brien's Lane and drainage work on the Birr to Portumna Road have all been approved. The LIS is oversubscribed and applications will be prioritised next week. It is the final year of the RI programme and while funding has increased, construction costs have also increased. Every road will be assessed for the next programme.</p> <p>Cllr. O'Meara thinks it is important that work is started as early as possible in the year, he is concerned that the Nenagh MD seems to be later than other Districts starting. He accepted that there has been a lot of work done on the red roads. He asked about the LCSS for Ballymacegan.</p> <p>Cllr. Darcy welcomed the LCSS for Cloughjordan and Rathmartin but asked that a potential LCSS scheme for Rathnaleen/Meat Factory would be kept in mind. He agreed that it is important to get out to start the work early but it is also important to get the water from the roads and if possible, could the roads be edged. He asked if the area from the monument to Oxpark in Cloughjordan could be added to the Roads Programme as there is a flooding issue there.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll said that the fields cannot take any more water and it is difficult for staff to stay on top of filling the potholes. Cllr. Bonfield said speeding is a real concern, she sees it as an issue every morning as she travels to work. Cllrs Darcy and Hannigan supported the concerns on speed. The R503 should be included in the next road works programme. She has been inundated with calls about the condition of this road but supports the staff on the work they are doing.</p>		



Cllr. Bugler agreed about the number of calls. She said the CRM is overloaded. She asked if overlays can be done when potholes can't be filled in bad weather. She thanked staff for the temporary work that was carried out on the bridge in Ballina. She asked if new signage bigger signage could be placed for the slipway and that the gullies at No.10 Cullina be cleared.

Cllr. H. McGrath said taxi drivers have asked if the road markings to Dromineer could be redone. They are important for night-time driving. Cllr. Hannigan asked that the R493 be included in the next road works programme, if parking spaces could be lined and if wheelchair space and pedestrian crossing could be put in place in Borrisokane. Cllrs Darcy and O'Meara agreed with the possible upgrades in Borrisokane. He also said that it is a pity to see muck on roads that are after being done.

Cllr. O'Meara said farmers would engage professional contractors that would sweep the road after but asked who would be liable if muck on the road caused an accident.

Cllr. Morris asked if it was possible to get a list on the CRMs at the meeting. It may help highlight where people have contacted a number of representatives about the same issue. Ms. R. Joyce said that this would not be possible due to GDPR issues. It may not always be obvious if a CRM is a duplicate.

Mr. B. Murphy said the weather conditions for the last 4 months has been very poor. Potholes are being filled at the expense of an early start. However, the road works programme has started and the Nenagh MD share resources with the Thurles MD. He feels the CRM system is a very good system, there has been approximately 250 cases resolved since January and 300 currently on the books. A meeting takes place with the GSS's every 2 weeks, each GSS has a list of CRMs for their area.

The work at Ballymacegan will begin when there is a break in the weather, the potential drainage work in Cloughjordan will be looked at this year. A red road is a road that has a PSCI rating of 1-4 and roads are surveyed on a continuous basis. The surveys are undertaken by 1 or 2 people that do not work in the District, this is for subjectivity. Patching is ongoing, but it is the worst time of the year for it. The machinery yard is investigating if the issue with the potholes is due to material or workmanship or what other issue could be causing the problems.

He is aware that there is a notice of motion for next month's meeting in relation to signage at the slipway. A new outfall is required at Cullina, Ballina. More funding does need to be allocated to road markings. Firmount and Rathnaleen will be re-submitted for LCSS.



	<p>The pedestrian crossing was originally included in the scheme in Borrisokane but was removed due to concern over loss of carpark spaces. Build outs are put in place so line markings are not required. He will however look at the pedestrian crossing and the wheelchair space.</p> <p>Mr. M. O'Connor explained that the flashing lights for the pedestrian crossing in Borrisokane were seen as a problem in the initial scheme. An approach can be made to TII in relation to a pedestrian crossing but the location will have to be picked carefully. He agreed with Mr. B. Murphy in relation to the need for markings if build outs are in place.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy advised that the GSS's have raised the issue in relation to mud on the roads. Some of these issues are weather related. GSS's do have the authority to stop work.</p> <p>Cllr. O'Meara raised a query in relation to the use of tractors and trailers on road works programme. It would add a lot of unnecessary travel time and expense to a job. Mr. B. Murphy and Mr. M. O'Connor explained to members that an instruction has come from the Department not to use tractors and trailers on roads jobs. These types of jobs are seen as construction jobs and are covered by construction regulations. There is currently no test for these vehicles and if they can't be tested they can't be used.</p>
Item 12. To consider Notices of Motion	None
Item 13. To note Delegated Employees Orders	Noted.
Item 14. To consider items of correspondence	None
Item 15. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations	<p>Votes of Congratulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicola Welford on being nominated Community Volunteer in the LAMA Awards.• Marcus Ryan & Family on the memorial walk on Keeper Hill <p>Votes of Sympathy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Ryan & Family on the death of his mother, Peg, R.I.P.• Cllr. S. Morris & Family on the death of his sister, Patricia, R.I.P.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr. H. McGrath & Family on the death of his sister, Breda, R.I.P.• Úna Ryan on the death of her husband, Sean, R.I.P.
Item 16. Any other business.	<p>Cllr. Hannigan thanked Mr. M. O'Connor for being such a good Director, he was always very logical and great to work for all the area. He handled difficult challenges well. The town of Nenagh and the rest of the District benefitted from his direction. He wished him well on his retirement.</p> <p>Cllr. Morris invited everyone for drinks later that evening to mark the occasion. He stated he enjoyed the Town Council meetings and Marcus was easy to deal with. He educated the members and was a great asset to Nenagh.</p> <p>Cllr. H. McGrath congratulated him on becoming a grandfather and wish him well on his retirement. He advised when he became a member of the town council 20 years ago he had the idea of new roads around the town, he went to Mr. M. O'Connor and was told "No", and it didn't happen. Cllr. H. McGrath learned very early on that his word was his word. He was great for the town and the area and he always enjoyed his company.</p> <p>Cllr. O'Meara wished him well and said he was always good to guide the members and always helpful, and got a huge amount of work done. Cllr. Bugler thanked him for all his work especially in the Ballina area – the Ballina Marina, Shannon Crossing and the R494 upgrade.</p> <p>Cllr. Darcy also congratulated him on becoming a grandfather and thanked him for the work he did in the area especially Congor and Borrisokane. He wished him well in his retirement. Cllr. Bonfield wished him health and happiness in his retirement and said to enjoy his grandchildren. The projects done in the District are a testament to his work.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll said he was leaving a huge legacy with the infrastructure projects, he progressed things for the District. He wished him well and good health. Cllr. J. McGrath stated it was an honour to work with Mr. M. O'Connor and the District was lucky to have someone of his ability.</p> <p>Ms. R. Joyce joined the members in wishing Mr. M. O'Connor well in his retirement. She said it was a privilege to work with him. Before she started in the District he was the Director she knew the least, he has an opinion on everything but they had a very good working relationship. He was a fantastic Director to work with, a motivator of staff and an excellent Engineer. He put people and communities at the centre.</p>



	<p>Mr. R. Dodd extended best wishes on behalf of the local press and wished him well on his retirement.</p> <p>Mr. M. O'Connor appreciated the comments from everyone. He moved to Nenagh in 1984 and would consider himself a Nenagh man but does draw the line at supporting Tipperary. He tried to be fair to the whole county and had his differences with members but agreed on more items than disagreed on. Things are not achieved quickly, the processes do take a lot of time. Latteragh and the new bridge at Ballina are two big projects underway currently for the District. There was always a good team approach with a good vision for the town and District. It is important to keep going to improve the area and to have the support of members for projects.</p> <p>Mr. P. Gleeson on behalf of the media wished Mr. M. O'Connor well and informed members that this was also Mr. R. Dodd's last meeting as he was also retiring. He has been involved in journalism for 50 years and has had a distinguished career, he wished him well on his retirement.</p> <p>Mr. R. Dodd said in had great times in Nenagh and it was a privilege to work with the Town Council and District, the area was always at the heart of the meetings and he tried to reflect that as a reporter.</p>
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This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify:-

Signed: John Rocky McGrath
Cllr. John 'Rocky' McGrath
Cathaoirleach

Date: 21-3-24

Signed: Mary Joyce
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 21/3/24