

Minutes of May Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 27th May, 2024 at 11.00am

Members Present: Councillor Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Micheál Anglim
Councillor Tony Black
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 Roads Engineer
Mr. Richard Power, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Mr. Michael Begley, Administrative Officer
Ms. Verena McGrath, Assistant Staff Officer
ECRD Directorate
Ms. Marie Cox, A/Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ryan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer
Libraries/Cultural Services/Biodiversity Directorate
Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Ms. Marie McMahon, Museum Curator

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Declan Burgess, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the May meeting. Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Declan Burgess acknowledged the presence of Councillor Michael FitzGerald's family, including his wife Mary, son Michael and siblings Councillor John FitzGerald, Tom, Anne and James, who were all present in the Chamber.

Councillor Declan Burgess expressed his high regard for Councillor Michael FitzGerald's extensive career highlighting his long and distinguished career that began in 1973 when he was just 23 years old. He stated that Councillor Fitzgerald was a champion of local government at a national, regional and local level and showed courage throughout in politics. Councillor Burgess mentioned that they were party colleagues and friends across campaigns and he thanked him for all he has done on behalf of the Municipal District and on a personal level.

Councillor Marie Murphy thanked Councillor FitzGerald for his friendship, guidance and support since she was elected in 2009. She acknowledged his exceptional

dedication over 45 years and extended her best wishes to Councillor FitzGerald, his wife Mary and their family. Councillor John Crosse noted that it was an emotional time stating that local government would never be the same again. He reiterated that Councillor FitzGerald was respected at a local and a national level. He again wished him all the best in his retirement and said that he would be greatly missed and should be awarded the freedom of Tipperary.

Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan also paid tribute to Councillor FitzGerald noting his ability to connect with people from all walks of life. She also noted how everyone spoke so highly of him throughout the country. She expressed her personal admiration for him and how they shared so many memories and commented that his mother would be very proud. She again extended best wishes to Councillor FitzGerald and his family and its next generation going forward. Councillor Micheál Anglim also expressed great respect for Councillor FitzGerald emphasising their friendship despite being opposite sides of politics. He commented on how loved Councillor FitzGerald is in Golden and again conveyed his best wishes to all members of the FitzGerald family for the future.

Councillor Roger Kennedy again paid tribute saying that Councillor FitzGerald deserved a civic reception from Tipperary County Council for his work across the decades and the sacrifice made by the FitzGerald family which was respected and acknowledged. Councillor Máirín McGrath noted that few could match the lifetime of service provided by Councillor FitzGerald and wished him and his family all the best for the future. Councillor Andy Moloney praised Councillor FitzGerald calling him a safe pair of hands and a well-liked representative among his constituents. He also credited Councillor FitzGerald with bringing the Pope to Ireland. He stressed that Councillor FitzGerald should make the most of his retirement and make up for lost time. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) said that she respected his strength of conviction and appreciated his advice and efforts. She reiterated that she wished him well and hoped he enjoyed the next stage of his life. Councillor Tony Black spoke of the trust that people put in Councillor FitzGerald and how his career was a fantastic achievement. He said that even though they were from different political sides, Councillor FitzGerald never shied away from giving support and advice.

Councillor John FitzGerald spoke of the pride the family had for Councillor FitzGerald commenting that this was a perfect ending to a great career. He said that his sincerity as a person may have gotten him in trouble but also made him the person and politician that he was; he was a Councillor's Councillor. He also spoke of how Councillor FitzGerald had encouraged him take up public office in Clonmel.

Director of Services Sharon Kennedy spoke of how today was a momentous day and that it was quite striking the relationship the staff had with Councillor FitzGerald. She acknowledged that the role of the Councillor can be challenging but that he had represented the District in a magnificent manner and that he brought his extensive experience to the role of Cathaoirleach of the Council in

2014, when the Councils merged. She wished him and his family all the best in his retirement.

Councillor Michael FitzGerald spoke of how he felt like Bruce Springsteen on his farewell tour and was blown away with the well wishes and support he received. He spoke briefly on his career in Tipperary County Council and the staff and Elected Members he met during his career. He thanked all those present and wished the very best of luck to the Elected Members present and to his brother Councillor John FitzGerald in the coming Election and for the future.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

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

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District April meeting held on 22nd April, 2024 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan.

Matters arising from the minutes

There was no matter arising from the minutes.

3.1 Economic, Community & Rural Development Directorate Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Marie Cox and Ms. Mary Ryan, Economic, Community & Rural Development Section to the meeting. Both Maria Cox and Mary Ryan extended their well wishes to Councillor FitzGerald and thanked him for his support. Ms Maria Cox stated that the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 has been announced. The women's scheme had 35 applications and results have not been released and will follow in a separate press release. Councillor Ryan Shiner enquired about a timeline and was informed that the applications have been forwarded to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for review. Mary Ryan noted the extension of the ICOB scheme until Wednesday this week, the 29th of May which has a 6% increase in uptake. Additionally, Marie Cox highlighted the Tipperary Age Friendly EXPO on the 20th June at the TUS College Campus in Thurles. The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Maria Cox and Ms. Mary Ryan and the Economic, Community & Rural Development Section.

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 recalled the

support he received, especially during the library's time at Dan Breen House and wished Councillor FitzGerald all the best in his retirement. Mr. Dullaghan also gave an update on biodiversity stating that Tipperary County Council will shortly begin the process of creating the Tipperary Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030. As a crucial step in this process, a Biodiversity Forum will be established to guide and shape the content of the Biodiversity Action Plan. The Forum will consist of Elected Members, along with representatives from Planning, Heritage and various organisations. Mr. Dullaghan emphasized the significance of the biodiversity plan and acknowledged the work that the Biodiversity Officer, Ann Marie Fleming has undertaken. Ms. McMahon, Museum Curator highlighted that the Clonmel Junction Art Festival is set to return in June, featuring an exhibition of photographer John D. Kelly's work at the Tipperary Museum. She welcomed any queries from the Members.

Councillor Burgess requested an update on the My Open Library in Cashel. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) noted that the library was booming and highlighted the activities in the library during the Bealtaine festival. In line with biodiversity week, Ann Marie Fleming, the Biodiversity Officer, met with Members of the Tidy Town Committee in Tipperary town and Members of Knockanrawley to explore implementing a Non Chemical Spray Initiative in Tipperary town. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) wanted to thank Ann Marie Fleming for her involvement and mentioned that Tipperary town and the Knockanrawley garden could act as a pilot for the initiative. She also noted that there was a Motion that dealt with the issue.

Councillor Moloney thanked Damien for his work on the Community, Culture and Library Services Strategic Policy Committee as well as his involvement in getting Cahir Library over the line and for all his work over the past 5 years. Councillor Kennedy acknowledged Roisin O'Grady, the Heritage Officer, for her work towards securing World Heritage status for the Rock of Cashel, and expressed hope for a successful outcome that would be a big boast for Cashel.

Councillor Crosse thanked the outdoor staff and Anselm for addressing his Notice of Motion (Ref. ID 2829) regarding the introduction of a non chemical spray policy. He commented that the message has gotten out and respect has been shown. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) expressed her hope that while this would be looked at from a Council perspective that the District would also work on it in the meantime. Councillor Marie Murphy mentioned the upcoming plenary meeting in July. Councillor Micheál Anglim highlighted the need for thorough exploration, recognizing potential challenges in implementing such a policy. Councillor Moloney a supporter of tidy towns and biodiversity stressed the importance of considering the proposal seriously and seeking guidance from the Environmental Section. Councillor Black agreed on the necessity of in-depth discussions and seeking appropriate guidance moving forward. Councillor Kennedy felt that it would need to go to a Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for further deliberation, drawing parallels with the approach taken in addressing knotweed in the past.

Ms. Sharon Kennedy believed that as this issue had countywide implications, it was necessary to have same forwarded to the relevant SPC for further consideration. She advised Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) to speak to the District Engineer in relation to specific areas. Ms. Kennedy also requested that the wording of the Motion be modified and sent to the SPC for a review of chemical spray usage within the Council. The Members agreed to this modification of the Notice of Motion and it was agreed to have same referred to the relevant SPC for further consideration.

Councillor Burgess questioned whether the Biodiversity Officer's role should be under Climate Action rather than Culture Services / Libraries & Biodiversity. Mr. Dullaghan clarified that there was great synergy and a lot of crossover with the Heritage Officer and that both officers worked in the same building. Regarding Councillor Burgess's enquiry about the status of My Open Library in Cashel, Mr Dullaghan stated that it was operational, the systems were completed, and inductions were commencing. To access My Open Library, users are required to register at the library and participate in an induction. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) thanked Mr. Dullaghan for his contribution.

3.3 Consider the Grant Applications for the Streetscape & Building Façade Enhancement Scheme 2024 for the public realm of Tipperary Town Centre, Cahir Town Centre and Cashel Town Centre.

On the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Andy Moloney, the grant applications for the Streetscape & Building Façade Enhancement Scheme 2024 for the public realm of Tipperary Town Centre, Cahir Town Centre and Cashel Town Centre were agreed as follows:

No.	Name	Address	Town	Grant 2024
1	Michael O Regan	Bank Place	Cashel	€325
2	Patrick Hourigan	43 Main Street	Cashel	€500
3	Biddy Perdue	44 Main Street	Cashel	€500
4	Tom Leamy	45 Main Street	Cashel	€500
5	Mary O Dwyer	Ashmore House	Cashel	€500
6	Sarah Walsh	77 Main Street	Cashel	€390
7	William Colville	3 a Ladyswell Street	Cashel	€350
8	Dolores O' Brien	The Rock	Cashel	€400
9	Adrian O Dwyer	No. 4 Ladyswell	Cashel	€500

10	Adrian O Dwyer	No. 5 Ladyswell	Cashel	€500
11	Adrian O Dwyer	No. 11/12 Bank Place	Cashel	€500
12	Adrian O Dwyer	No. 29 Main Street	Cashel	€500
13	Ian Quinlan,	15 Davis Street	Tipperary	€500
14	Ian Quinlan, Quinlans Bar	16-17 Davis Street	Tipperary	€500
15	Grace Durkan C/o Fitzgerald Opticians	4 Church Street	Tipperary	€500
16	Anne Hadnett	5 Davis Street	Tipperary	€500
17	Elizabeth McLafferty	8 Davis Street	Tipperary	€375
18	William Kinane	29 Main Street	Tipperary	€500
19	Barry Kingston	Kenton House, Barber Shop, Bank Place	Tipperary	€500
20	Barry Kingston	4 Bank Place	Tipperary	€500
21	DNG O' Grady Auctioneers	12 Main Street	Tipperary	€500
22	William Kinane	12 Bank Place	Tipperary	€500
23	Maureen Walsh	2 Main Street	Tipperary	€250
24	Tipperary Windows & Home Improvements	John Street	Tipperary	€500
25	Cahir Tidy Towns	Main Street	Cahir	€175
26	Niall Clarke , Durkan Opticians	The Square	Cahir	€500
27	Cahir Development Association	Market Yard	Cahir	€500
28	William Devereaux	Kickham House , Abbey Street	Cahir	€500
29	Donal T. Ryan Solicitors	Castle Street	Cahir	€500
30	Paraig Muldowney	11 Castle Street	Cahir	€500
31	Paraig Muldowney	4 Castle Street	Cahir	€500
32	John Cummins	Pearse Street	Cahir	€500
		TOTAL		€14,765

Councillor Kennedy praised the scheme and the fact that all 32 applicants were successful in receiving funds. Councillor Burgess thanked all those involved with the administration of the grants.

3.4 District Engineer's Report

The District Engineers report was circulated with the agenda and it was noted by the Members.

Councillor Marie Murphy enquired as to when the tenders for the refurbishment of the bridge in Ballyporeen would be finalised and when works would commence. Councillor Black raised concerns that the junction at Station Road, Garryskillane needed to be examined. Councillor Máirín McGrath asked for an update in relation to the Ardfinnan wall, road resurfacing and the traffic management plan as there didn't seem to be any progress. She stated that this was something that Councillor Micheál Anglim had highlighted and also emphasized the need to cut/maintain the road verges at this junction. Councillor Anglim requested an update on the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS). Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) reiterated the issues on Station Road and suggested the installation of a speed ramp near Scallagheen in Tipperary town. Councillor Murphy asked about the Red Roads scheme. Councillor Kennedy requested that the message go out that hedgerows and trimming of verges can be cut in the interest of road safety despite concerns about nesting. Councillor Declan Burgess addressed the issue of storm drains in Cashel, highlighting issue in residential areas near Deerpark and Dualla Road. Additionally, he requested an update in relation to when the contractor would commence the resurfacing programme for the road from Dundrum House Hotel to the village.

The District Engineer, James Swords responded to Councillor Marie Murphy and stated that tenders are expected to be returned in two and half weeks with works anticipated to commence in July. Regarding Councillor Black's query, the District Engineer said that Station Road would be assessed as part of the safety improvement works. Regarding the discussion on resurfacing, it was mentioned that works are planned for the end of July in Cahir. Additionally, the Ardfinnan wall project has gone to tender, and roadside verges will be cut in July for road safety. The Council will address junctions in June and requested them to be entered as CRMs. In relation to Councillor Anglim's request, the District Engineer stated that the LIS list has been sent to the Department for approval. In relation to Councillor Burgess's concerns about gullies, the District Engineer assured that between surveys, funding will get the gullies cleared. They are awaiting a start date from Roadstone for the road to Dundrum village. Councillor Kennedy noted that there is a need for additional staff due to the addition of numerous projects after the District amalgamation.

3.5 District Administrator's Report

The Cathaoirleach thanked the District Administrator, Mr. Frank Cussen and Ms. Adeline Walsh for their efforts in securing €500,000 for Cashel Park through the

ORIS scheme. He highlighted how this would be a game changer for Cashel. Additionally, he acknowledged their efforts in securing RRDF funding for the Dan Breen House, Youth & Further Education Training Centre. Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan commended the staff for their dedication to the Dan Breen House project, emphasizing the hard work involved. Councillor Kennedy echoed the sentiments expressing the importance of the Courthouse project for MooreHaven. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) also noted the important involvement of the Revitalisation Team and Mr. Michael Begley in bringing these projects to fruition. Councillor Crosse and Councillor Black both noted the great work undertaken by District staff with Councillor Black again noting the contribution of the Revitalisation Team and how significant it was to bring back a building into use.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Andy Moloney (Ref. ID 2814)

That this Council apply to the Department for funding to purchase a link road between Church Street and the Clonmel Road in Cahir in the interest of traffic flow and the long term economic stability of the Cahir Town.

Reply

The 2021 -2027 zoning plan from the Cahir Local Area Plan does not identify any transport reserve in respect to an additional road link between Church Street and the Clonmel Road inside the rail line.

These lands are currently identified as town centre and existing residential in the LAP. As the town centre lands are developed the issue of connectivity between the two roads identified in the NOM, and greater access to the surrounding area and train station, can be addressed as part of the planning process with reference to planning policy.

Increased connectivity around this area would most likely include active travel and pedestrian links. Further out from the town centre the Clonmel Road and Cashel Road are linked via the Rosemount Area allowing traffic to avoid the town centre.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Máirín McGrath.

Councillor Moloney said that Cahir is growing as is the traffic to the town and there will need to be some sort of connectivity between Church Street and Clonmel Road. He said that the Council have suggested a link road at the school Coláiste Dún Iascaigh but this junction is very busy. The District Engineer suggested that future developments may create this link road.

5.2 Councillor Declan Burgess (Ref ID 2816)

Knockavilla traffic calming, and improvement works are needed now more than ever. Can the Municipal District please outline their plans to prioritise work in the village and by the school in Knockavilla.

Reply

Works in Knockavilla are a prime concern for this District. This project was submitted for funding under the Town and Village Renewal Programme in 2023 but the funding application was unsuccessful. The District will continue to submit the project under any appropriate funding sources going forward. Design works are complete so the project is ready to progress to construction if funding is secured.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

Councillor Burgess acknowledged that it was good that they were continuing to advocate for funding. Both Councillor Kennedy and Councillor Burgess highlighted that the footpath is in a bad state and a health and safety issue for children walking to school. They also commented that the foundation of the road was not sufficient for HGVs and needed restoration works.

5.3 Councillor Declan Burgess (Ref ID 2823)

Due to significant safety concerns I am calling on Tipperary County Council to urgently consider traffic calming measures in Clonoulty village.

Reply

A speed survey was carried out in the centre of Clonoulty in 2023 and did not identify a speeding issue. In 2023 an application for funding was submitted to the NTA under the Active Travel Programme to install a footpath to the GAA field but the project was unsuccessful. Any footpath installation would have a traffic calming effect also. The District will continue to submit the project under any appropriate funding sources going forward.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan.

Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan asked if a second survey could be done. It was noted to be a huge area of concern that required significant traffic calming measures. It was also noted that warning signs and markings can not be seen.

5.4 Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) and Councillor Tony Black (Ref ID 2826)

That this District carry out a speed survey on Rosanna Road Tipperary town, paying particular attention to the stretch of road near to Rosanna Close and

Roselawn. Based on the results, that traffic calming/speed ramps be installed to reduce the speed on the road.

Reply

Logged as CRM for survey to be arranged.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Tony Black.

Both Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) and Councillor Black highlighted that this is a straight road close to two housing estates indicating the necessity to tackle the issue of speeding on this road.

5.5 Councillor Roger Kennedy (Ref ID 2827)

That a sign be attached to the fingerpost at Carraig Phadraigh Cashel with indicates "Bishops Walk" saying "Town Centre 3 mins".

Reply

Logged as CRM for survey to be arranged.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess.

Councillor Burgess felt this was a disappointing response as it has been logged several times and needs to progress. He also believed it would greatly enhance visitors' experience of Cashel.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Michael Treacy, Ballybeg, Mitchelstown, Co Cork

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire, Knockavilla on celebrating 50 years.
- St Michaels FC on winning the Munster Junior Cup Final.
- Tipperary for defeating Cork on the 24th of May and becoming Munster U20 Hurling Champions
- To the Comhaltas Branches in the District who took part and were successful at the Tipperary County Fleadh

7.1 Correspondence from Minister Ryan regarding the N24 Waterford to Cahir

Following the response from the office of Minister Ryan regarding the First Citizen Letter to Minister Ryan in relation to the N24 Waterford to Cahir Transportation Scheme, it was agreed that the following resolution should be proposed.

"I call on Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District to write to the Minister for Finance, and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, requesting a reversal of the decision to suspend the N24 from Waterford to Cahir Transportation Scheme, to ensure that Phases 3 and 4 can be brought to a conclusion and that significant public funds invested to date are not wasted"

The resolution was moved by Councillor Burgess and seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy.

8.1 Any other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/  Dated/ 22/07/2024
Cathaoirleach

Signed/  Dated/ 22/07/2024
District Administrator

