

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 2.30 PM ON 19th DECEMBER 2024

Present in chamber	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, Michael O Meara, John Carroll, Louise Morgan Walsh, Pamela Quirke O'Meara, Phyll Bugler, Joe Hannigan and J.P. O'Meara			
Apologies	Cllrs. Séamus Morris			
Also Present	Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services; Mr. Kieran Malone, Senior Engineer; Mr. Barry Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer, Noel Ryan, Technician and Ms. Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officer.			
* 187	Planning: Anne Marie Devaney, Senior Planner; Jonathan Flood, A/Senior Executive Planner			
	Housing: Eoin Delaney, Executive Engineer and Breda Ryan, A/Administrative Officer (via Zoom) and Deirdre Flannery, A/Administrative Officer (via Zoom)			
	Cllr. Bonfield welcomed Cllr. J.P. O'Meara to the Nenagh MD and looked forward to working with him. All members wished to be associated with this.			
Item 1.	None			
To note any	* 1			
Disclosures/				
Conflicts of	* *			
Interest	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *			
Item 2.	It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. M. O'Meara			
To consider and	and resolved that the minutes of the November Meeting held on			
adopt Minutes	21st November 2024 be adopted.			
	21 November 2024 be adopted.			
of the	A w			
November	2			
Meeting held on				
21 st November	x s			
2024				
Item 3.	The update from Planning was circulated to members.			
To receive				
update from	Cllr. Bugler requested an update on the taking in charge of Ballina			
Planning	Quay. Cllr. M. O'Meara requested an update on the residential			
	zoned land tax and about the source of funding for the provision			
	of the extension to the Nenagh WWTP.			
	Cllr. Carroll stated that there was extensive discussions between the members and the executive on the Nenagh Local Area Plan but these discussions do not seem to have been interpreted in the intended way. There should be a different forum on this in the new year. Forward planning for smaller villages is also required			
	The cluster developments have not happened in this District and more engagement is required on it.			

Cllr. Hannigan enquired about the timeline for the provision of the extension to the WWTP in Nenagh and when building of houses will be able to move forward as a result. He asked where there is capacity in an area if extra land can be zoned to take advantage of this to make up for the shortfall in other areas. There is potential for 40 houses in Ballycommon and it would be important to get a meeting with Uisce Éireann to address the issue, the developer is willing to do whatever is necessary to progress this.

Mr. J. Flood informed members that the taking in charge of Ballina Quay has been advertised and submissions can be made until the 24th January. Millersbrook has been taken in charge and the lights in Townsfield have been taken in charge, funding is available for the remaining services to be taken in charge in Townsfield but the WWTP has to be upgraded first.

Ms. A.M. Devaney explained that the Residential Zoned Tax was introduced a number of years ago and the maps are reviewed annually. Landowners can make submissions, if the land meets certain criteria it can be re-zoned. Exemptions can be put in place more specifically for agricultural land. A circular was received yesterday but the guidelines are yet to be looked at in detail. Her understanding is that certain documentation needs to be in place and the landowner has to contact Planning and then Revenue. Currently survey work for the draft maps is being undertaken but to date only one re-zoning request has been received.

In relation to the higher capacity of WWTPs in one area over another, it is under the remit of the County Council to carry out a variation to the County Development Plan but there has to be balance between areas. There are population targets and parameters, the Council has no control over these but can decide on how the targets are distributed, land then has to be zoned accordingly. If the proposal is to increase the zoned land in one area it has to be decreased in another area. The application for planning for the Nenagh WWTP is due for decision on the 14th February and it will increase the capacity from a population of 12,000 to 22,000, which is a significant upgrade.

She didn't disagree with the comments regarding smaller developments however there are limitations around the County Development Plan that are outside the control of the local authority. It will be a matter for Uisce Éireann to outline how the upgrade works in the Nenagh scheme will be funded but it has been published on the Department of Public Expenditure 2025 Strategic Investment Plan. Tipperary County Council did feed into the priorities for the Uisce Éireann Strategic Investment Plan, Cloughjordan is on it. The developers in Ballycommon have to engage with Uisce Éireann.

Item 4. To receive update from Housing

The update from Housing was circulated to members.

Cllr. Bugler requested an update on a vacant house in Templederry, it appears to be vacant for a long time and what actions are taken if there is anti-social behaviour in a local authority house. Cllr. Bonfield asked if there will be any changes to the Part VIII process for social housing. Cllr. Morgan Walsh stated that there is a lot of frustration with people waiting on 1 and 2 bed properties and asked when would the list of people who are getting the houses in Springfort Meadows be available to the Councillors.

Cllr. M. O'Meara asked about the status of the scheme in Rathcabbin. He commended the work that has been done on voids in the last 2 years but asked about the staff employed on housing. It would be great if plumbers and electricians could be employed by the county council. Cllr. Carroll raised the issue of a car on cement blocks outside new houses which is unsightly on the approach to a village. He also asked what role do Housing have if there is continuous anti-social behaviour. Cllr. Quirke O'Meara complimented the work that was being done by Housing and the information that has been communicated to her when required.

Cllr. Hannigan requested an update on Puckane and acknowledged the turnaround time on voids. He does think that people do not know about the different schemes available to them and these should be publishised more, recently he gave information to a person that was trying to get on the housing list and this information gave them another option regarding housing.

Ms. B. Ryan explained that there are tenant liaison officers in Housing and an Anti-Social behaviour strategy in place. Housing will work with tenants initially but if this does not work it may lead to a tenancy warning. In relation to the car, Housing will work with Environment but she will get the details of this particular issue after the meeting.

Mr. E. Delaney stated that the exemption on Part VIII for social housing will finish at the end of the year and it will then be back to the normal Part VIII process. House types in a new scheme are based on the needs of the area and if necessary 2 bed properties will form part of schemes. The Rathcabbin scheme is currently at design stage and should be at Planning within a few months. The scheme in Puckane has gone back to the Department for approval as Uisce Éireann requested a larger upgrade to the waste water scheme.

Mr. N. Ryan explained that there was an issue regarding access to the vacant house in Templederry and sometimes these types of issues can cause delays in getting work started. Mr. B. Murphy informed members that there are currently 10 voids and 30 have been completed in 2024.

Ms. D. Flannery stated that while a house may appear vacant there could be a number of issues that would stop work starting on the house, it is important to work with the tenants and their families to regularise the situation. The houses in Springfort Meadows will be on CBL until the middle of January and the applicants will be assessed after that time.

Mr. L. Brett explained that some of the void work is done by county council staff and some by contractors. The workforce plan will be undertaken in the next few months but there is a need for both direct labour and contractors.

Item 5. To approve allocation of funding

It was proposed by Cllr. Quirke O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. Morgan Walsh and resolved that in accordance with the terms of the Contribution to Clubs & Organisations Grant Scheme the payment of grants be made to the following:

Club/Organisation	Recommendation	
Choose Respect	€500.00	
Newport Youth Choir	€200.00	

Item 6. To update members on projects & events

Newport Town Park:

- Meeting took place on 5th December with the consultants and contractors with a view to closing out on this project.
- Site meeting took place thereafter between the consultants and the contractors and the snagging schedule was reviewed.
- Landscaping and plant replacement requirements were identified.
- Consultant to liaise with landscaper and confirm timescales for replacements required.
- Final accounts to be submitted.

Newport Town Team/Newport Town Centre First Plan:

The submissions on the Newport Town Centre First Plan were referred to the consultant for review. A meeting with the Consultant took place in early November to review these submissions. A meeting with the Newport Town Team will take place in advance of bringing the Town Centre First Plan back to the District members.

Nenagh Town Team/Town Centre First/THRIVE:

- Tender documentation has been prepared for the appointment of consultant from a framework to work with the Town Team on the creation of the Integrated Urban Strategy (Town Centre First Plan).
- Tender is expected to be submitted by 6th January 2025.
- Consultation process will be undertaken in conjunction with the Town Team.











 A briefing was provided on 13th December to Nenagh & District Chamber of Commerce by members of staff of Nenagh MD in relation to various schemes and initiatives relevant to businesses in Nenagh.

Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub:

- Work is progressing on exploring the potential funding sources based on proposed use of the Rialto.
- Detailed design as funded under the RRDF Cat 2 allocation is now complete.

Nenagh Town Park Extension

 Tender documents and Brief for the extension of the Town Park into the lands across the river at Riverston are currently under review.

Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter

- An application for conservation works to the windows of the Governor's House has been prepared for consideration by Tipperary County Council for submission under the next funding call under the Historic Structures Fund.
- We will continue to strive to source funding for the various proposals in relation to the Historic & Cultural Quarter.

Nenagh Centre of Excellence:

- Phase 2 Stakeholder Engagement is now ongoing. This includes discussions with relevant staff within Tipperary County Council.
- Site layout and configuration is under consideration.

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:

- Progress meetings are taking place on an ongoing basis with Fáilte Ireland who are funding the project and with the consultants Ailtirí Architects.
- It is intended to advertise the Part VIII for the Changing Places facility in early January.
- The tender package for the appointment of a contractor is now live on e-tenders with a deadline of the 14th January 2025. It is anticipated that the contractor will be appointed in February 2025.
- An assessment of the accessibility to and from the new facility is being undertaken. Separate funding is being applied for these measures.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022

- Ballina Access Promenade and Viewing Area Contractor: Nevilles Civils Works. The programme is still on course for completion Q1 2025.
- Newport Courthouse and Bridewell Complex Consultants: Integrated Design Team led by Robin Lee Architects. The design for Part VIII is ongoing. Preliminary designs have been drafted. Surveys and site investigations have been completed.

Casual Trading Bye-Laws

- In 2024 a total of 10 casual trading licences and 1 event licence have been issued.
- The closing date for receipt of completed applications for casual trading licences 2025, or part thereof was the 1st November 2024. Applications were invited for the designated areas of Dromineer, Clare Glens, Garrykennedy, Castlelough, Ballina Riverside Park, Newport and The Lookout. The number of applications received for 2025 is 13 and the assessment and processing of these will progress over the coming weeks.

Expressions of Interests for Development Land at Lisbunny
The disposal of 9.86 acres with the further purchase option on an
additional 4.60 acres to Apex Aviation was approved by members
at the October plenary meeting. The further disposal of 3.86 acres
to Banaghan & Co (Stationary) Ltd was also agreed at the October
meeting. It is the Council's intention to upgrade the roadway
within this development.

Designated Bathing Area

The application has been submitted to the EPA for the designation of the bathing area in Dromineer. Interviews for lifeguards were held but unfortunately there wasn't sufficient numbers to provide a lifeguard service this year. This will be revisited in 2025.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

- Measure One 2023 Castlelough Amenity Area Improvement Works. Contractor appointed for installation of BBQ areas.
 Works due to be completed Q1 2025.
- Measure One 2023 Upper Lough Derg Tranquility Area (Mota & Skehanagh). Construction works to commence January 2025.
- Project Development Measures 2022 Garrykennedy Inner Harbour. Integrated Design Team led by DRA Consulting appointed. Ecologist appointed for completion of Ecological Impact Assessment. Consultant also appointed for completion of Archaeological Impact Assessment.

Measure 3 of the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024
An amount of €45,000 has been allocated under Measure 3 of the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024. This is for Project

Development Measure Funding for Newport. The project will examine the development of a connection of the historic Ball Alley site with the town centre and ancillary public realm and amenity works through the provision of a footbridge. Project elements include the engagement of a multidisciplinary team to complete detailed design, planning, professional fees and a topographical survey. This will be progressed in Q1 2025.

Participation Nation Outdoor Fund

Funding has been secured under the Participation Nation Outdoor Fund in conjunction with Sports Partnership for the installation of 3x3 Basketball Court and biodiversity measures at St. Paul's Playground, Nenagh. This is one of three projects funded in Tipperary under this programme. Tender processes will be undertaken in Q1 2025 and works progressed thereafter.

Entente Florale Competition 2025

The Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of Rural and Community Development has nominated Terryglass Improvement Association to represent Ireland in the Village Category (population under 5,000) of the Entente Florale Competition 2025.

The Entente Florale Competition began in 1975 with two participating countries – France and Great Britain. Over the years the competition grew in popularity and attracted other members. Ireland joined in 1981 when the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition was still under the auspices of Bord Fáilte. The present membership is six countries - Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Ireland.

While there are similarities with the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition, there are a few differences. The emphasis is on the partnership between the local authority and the local community working together to achieve goals and objectives. An Entente Florale Committee will be established consisting of the local authority working together with the Improvement Association. The Department will provide 2 experienced mentors to assist with the preparation for the Entente Florale adjudication.

The results of the adjudication will be announced at a prize giving ceremony in September 2025 in Slovenia (final date and location to be confirmed).

Update on Grants & Contributions 2024:

- Payments have been made to the 68 Burial Ground applicants
- Payments have been made to 41 of the 46 Residents Associations with the remainder having not submitted the additional documentation requested. Grants will not be carried forward at year end if not claimed.
- Payment has been made to 86 of the 90 applications received under the Contributions to Clubs & Organisations. There are two applications to go before the December MD meeting.

- Provisional approval has been granted to 31 Tidy Towns groups,
 29 of which have been paid, 1 is due for payment in the upcoming payrun. We are awaiting submission of further documentation from one applicant.
- Grant offers were made to 21 Festivals & Events applications. 13 are currently paid to date and 6 are due for payment in this week's payrun. One event was cancelled and we are awaiting submission of further documentation from one applicant.

Painting & Enhancement Scheme:

- The closing date for receipt of applications was Friday 23rd August 2024.
- Maximum funding is 50% up to a maximum of €500.00.
- Application forms were sent to interested parties. 23 applications were submitted. 19 were paid, along with 2 payments due to be paid in the upcoming payrun. One applicant was unable to have the works completed before the year end and one applicant did not submit the further documentation requested.

Ringbuoy Replacement Programme:

A ringbuoy replacement programme on Lough Derg is ongoing.

Nenagh Municipal Awards Evening:

- The annual Nenagh Municipal Awards Evening was held on 21st November 2024 and a large crowd was in attendance in the Civic Offices for same.
- Awards were presented in a number of categories including Burial Ground Committees, Best Presented Estates, Cultural Achievements, Significant Contribution to the Community, Sporting Achievements, Heritage Award and Tidy Towns.
- This was a celebration of the work of volunteers in our community – both individuals and groups.
- Members of the Town Teams from Newport and Nenagh attended to show their support.

Christmas Events in Nenagh facilitated/supported by Nenagh MD:

- The Christmas Lights were turned on in Nenagh on Sunday 1st
 December by Leas Chathaoirleach Cllr. Séamus Morris. An
 afternoon of live entertainment was also provided and the
 event was very well attended. The lighting of the Tree of
 Remembrance at the Courthouse also took place.
- Christmas at the Castle took place this year on Friday 13th, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of December. It included a 'Santa Visit' where children were greeted on the ground floor by Mrs. Claus and then proceeded to meet Santa and his helpful elf on the first floor of the Castle. Children also met other characters such as Frosty the Snowman, Woody and Donald Duck. Santa also visited children with Enable Ireland on the previous Thursday evening. A special sensory visit was facilitated on Friday 13th and this included groups from the A-Team and from St. Cronan's as well as individual slots for those

with special needs. The week-end event also included a Christmas Market with 30 stalls covering a wide range of local crafts and produce, food vendors and a display of wood-turning. Live musical entertainment was provided and the Odhrán Pastoral Choir performed in the marquee on Sunday in addition to the other entertainers. A spectacular lighting display with accompanying music was another very popular feature with Nenagh Castle, the trees in the Castle Field and the Castle Garden adorned with a festive display of lights which was also projected onto the two adjacent Churches. The event was co-ordinated by Spain AV/Nenagh Live in conjunction with Nenagh Tourist Office. Large numbers attended over the weekend and there were a lot of very happy children.

• The annual Nenagh Christmas Tractors took place on Saturday the 14th December. A large crowd was in attendance.

Ms. R. Joyce highlighted Terryglass receiving the nomination to represent Ireland at the Entente Florale Competition in 2025. They were nominated by the Tidy Towns unit of the Department of Rural and Community Development as a result of their performance in the Tidy Towns competition over the last number of years. A committee will be set up in the new year to prepare for the competition. She also mentioned the festivities in Nenagh for Christmas that have been very successful.

Cllr. Hannigan complimented Terryglass and said it was a testament to the work that has been done in the area. He also complimented the Christmas events. Nenagh is a vibrant town with a good shopping experience and the traders in town have to be commended. The members supported this. Cllr. Quirke O'Meara stated that a lot of rural areas also had Christmas events and Cllr. Morgan Walsh thanked the Lions Club for the contribution for presents for patients at the hospital.

Item 7. To update members on the Work Programme

The Works Programme was circulated to members.

Mr. B. Murphy stated that it will be the new year before the bridge at Scragg will be open. Major work has been completed in Ballina in the last few weeks and a difficult job has been completed in Terryglass. There will now be a change in emphasis over the next 2 months, the patcher will be carrying out maintenance and inlets will be opened. Poles are also being put in place for the new speed limits.

Cllr. Carroll said a section of the road that was used to accommodate the closure at Scragg needs to be patched. The top of the road has to be done, if it is not it would be a 3km round trip for some people. This should be given priority. A tertiary road at Curraghtemple was done 3 months ago and it is already starting to deteriorate, which is unacceptable. Enforcement and education is important to address speeding, it is not always young people but it will be the same people that will slow down for the new speed limits. Gardaí have to take ownership, people won't change

unless it hits their pocket or the car is taken. There should be no tolerance.

Cllr. Bugler has sent in a number of emails in relation to 2 potholes on the bridge in Ballina, they need to be fixed before Christmas. A sign is required for Curraghviller and the Millennium Cross. The gullies have to be reopened especially at Ballina Quay. She also asked if there is an issue with lights are details to be emailed in or put on CRM and if pedestrian crossings are to be raised going forward.

Cllr. Hannigan commended the work of the engineers and outdoor staff. Inroads are being made with the work and the work is of good quality. He asked could signposting, bus stops for the local link and the LCSS at Firmount be looked at in 2025.

Cllr. Quirke O'Meara requested an update on the design for the work at Kilcommon Cross and the work at Grace's Cross to Monaquil Hill, the road here has deteriorated a lot. There are also 2 lights out in Kilcommon. She also enquired about the possibility of raised platforms, especially in Templederry and Silvermines Villages. The platform at Lisbonney is very effective.

Cllr. Morgan Walsh previously reported the lights out at the pedestrian crossing on the Borrisokane Road and asked about the unofficial Bus Éireann stop along that road, it does appear on the timetable but there is no bus stop for it.

Cllr. M. O'Meara stated that there are lights out in Riverstown for a while and the repairs are slow to be done. He thought raised platforms were going to be a design going forward and he has concerns about greenways. He doesn't think people are using them after a lot of money being spent on their provision.

Cllr. Bonfield complimented the work done throughout the year but stated that it is important to keep the water off the R503. She believes that signage will not be enough to slow down traffic but will wait until the guidance document on speed limits is issued but did enquire if the local authority is tied to this guidance.

Mr. B. Murphy explained that more potholes were repaired and filled this year than any other year. Short-term repairs can be carried out on the bridge in Ballina but weather can be a challenge. Emphasis will be on routine drainage and a lot of time will be spent clearing gullies. Extra resources were put into resolving the problems in Cullenagh. A drawing of the scheme in Kilcommon has been completed, consultation will take place with residents, it will not be a straightforward scheme and will impact the main property owner but the scheme should be able to proceed. Short term repairs can be carried out at Grace's Cross but it will be next year before the LCSS could be approved. The contractor for the repair work of the lights at the pedestrian crossing withdrew at the last minute but another contractor is

being sourced. He is not aware of the unofficial bus stop on the Borrisokane Road. Not all pedestrian crossings need to be raised but the guidance document will determine this. It is expected that in the first 2 or 3 months of 2025 the broad approach will be 50kph to 30kph and 80kph to 60kph on local roads. There will be very few roads that will not be impacted by these changes. Engineering solutions are the least effective for speeding and raised platforms taken in isolation can be dangerous. There will be no discretion from the guidance document.

Mr. K. Malone outlined that there is a backlog in fixing lights due to the need to appoint a new contractor during the year. Meetings will be taking place on a monthly basis to address this backlog and additional resources will be put in place by the contractor. Any faults are to be reported through the CRM system. Mr. P. Crowley is aware of the unofficial bus stop on the Borrisokane Road.

Mr. L. Brett acknowledged the comments in relation to the work completed and the positive commentary in relation to the one way system. A large volume of work has been completed in Ballina and next big scheme in Latteragh has gone out to tender.

Item 8 To note Engineer's Checklist on roads matters

The Engineer's checklist was circulated to members.

Item 9. To consider Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No: 2918 submitted by Cllr. F. Bonfield That Tipperary County Council put in place a pedestrian crossing in the village of Rearcross to ensure the safety of pedestrians accessing the local school, soccer pitch playing facility, church,

Notice of motion 2918 was proposed by Cllr. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Response was given to Cllr. Bonfield as follows:

Rearcross Village is located on the regional road the R503 - 153 and is within an existing 50 KPH speed limit. An assessment will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of TII Design manual "the Treatment of Transition Zones to Towns and Villages on National Roads - Section 7 Choosing the most appropriate form of Pedestrian Crossing"

This process will involve a speed and traffic survey, pedestrian count, review of existing desire lines and other design considerations.

Subject to successful completion of the above and an appropriate final design being possible, an appropriate funding mechanism will need to be identified.

shop and community hall.

	Cllr. Bonfield welcomed the response and asked that it would be kept on the agenda, there is a lot of elderly people in the village and crossing a regional road can be difficult.
Item 10. To note Delegated Employees Orders	Noted.
Item 11. To consider items of correspondence	None
Item 12. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations	Votes of Sympathy: • Kelly Family, Portroe on the death of Tom, R.I.P. • Bridget Sullivan, Rathcabbin on the death of Sean, R.I.P. Votes of Congratulations – None
Item 15. Any other business.	Cllr. Hannigan raised the issue of the toilet block in Dromineer. He understands the difficulties with the project and enquired about the timeline for the provision of the new facility. He is aware that the toilets were normally closed from October to March but there is an event on Christmas Day and it would be great if something could be done to provide toilet facilities.
	Mr. L. Brett explained that the project is still on track to be delivered, the tender is due back the middle of January and there will then be follow on contact with Fáilte Ireland. There is a very tight timeframe before Christmas but this can be discussed further after the meeting. Ms. R. Joyce explained that the power has been decommissioned to the existing toilet block but that portaloos can be provided from St. Patrick's Day onwards.
	Cllr. Bugler raised the issue of boats sinking off Ballina Quay. Ms. R. Joyce stated that this was inspected. Contact has been made with the possible owner and further follow up is required.

This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify:-

Signed:	Fiona	Bonfre	ld

Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Bonfield

Signed:

Ms. Rosemary Joyce District Administrator Date: 16/1/25

Date: 16/1/25