



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 10.00 AM ON 16th JANUARY 2025

Present in chamber	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, Michael O Meara, John Carroll, Phyll Bugler and Joe Hannigan
Present via Zoom	Cllr's Louise Morgan Walsh, J.P. O'Meara
Apologies	Cllrs. Séamus Morris, Pamela Quirke O'Meara and Liam Brett, Director of Services
Also Present	<p>Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Kieran Malone, Senior Engineer; Mr. Barry Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer, and Ms. Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officer.</p> <p>Environment & Climate Action: Mr. Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Mr. Rúairí Boland, Senior Executive Engineer</p> <p>LAWPRO: Mr. Fran Igoe, Regional Co-Ordinator</p>
Item 1. To note any Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest	None
Item 2. To consider and adopt Minutes of the December Meeting held on 19th December 2024	It was proposed by Cllr. M. O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. P. Bugler and resolved that the minutes of the December Meeting held on 19 th December 2024 be adopted.
Item 3. To receive update from Environment and Climate Action	<p>The update from Environment and Climate Action was circulated to members.</p> <p>Cllr. Bugler requested an update on Boher Burial Ground and asked if a second round of applications under the Community Climate Action Fund will become available. Cllr. M. O'Meara asked if there were any figures available on the bottle/can return scheme and if this scheme has had any effect on illegal dumping. Cllr. Carroll stated that the capacity in a number of graveyards is very limited and it will be an issue going forward. He asked about the resources for graveyard committees and the possibility of further funding becoming available for them.</p> <p>Mr. R. Boland responded that it is expected that Boher Burial Ground will be completed in Q2, drainage works are proceeding and construction is going to plan.</p> <p>Mr. M. Moroney stated that it is hoped that the Community Climate Action Fund will again be available but details will depend</p>



	<p>on the new government and it may be Q3 before it is available. The deposit return scheme has been very successful, he doesn't have the exact figures on the returns but there is definitely less of that type of material being dumped.</p> <p>Ms. R Joyce advised that there was a budget provided to the Districts from the overall Environment budget. The allocation per Burial Ground Committee is calculated based on the number of applications received. An increase in the overall budget would be required in order to increase the allocations to committees.</p> <p>Ms. R. Joyce informed members that there was very positive results in the recent IBAL survey. Nenagh was joint 7th from 40 areas surveyed and was "Cleaner than European Norms". There was a lot of positive comments especially in relation to the Castle Field and Garden and outdoor dining area. There were some blackspots which can be improved upon. It is not surveyed annually but it was the only Tipperary location surveyed this time. She complimented the work of the Town Foreman, Seamus O'Brien and his staff.</p>
<p>Item 4. To receive update from LAWPRO</p>	<p>The update from LAWPRO was circulated to members. Mr. F. Igoe gave a presentation on the schemes and projects undertaken by LAWPRO.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield acknowledged the fact that Climate Action and Sustainable Development will be a new subject in the Leaving Cert and asked if it was possible to measure the effect of a linear rain garden. Cllr. Bugler asked if there was any particular factor affecting the water quality in Lough Derg. She said trees can uproot footpaths and can obscure views so it can be very difficult to get the message across about the benefit of some nature based solutions.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll mentioned that the key fact is that water quality has dipped. Everyone has a role but the focus should not be on certain individuals or industries. There are opportunities with nature based solutions but he would like to see the EPA have a stronger remit in relation to waste water schemes.</p> <p>Cllr. M. O'Meara stated that the presentation was a very sobering read. The fact that water quality has dis-improved shows that there is still a body of work to be done on this. Farmers were previously encouraged to take out ditches, a lot of these farmers were young at the time but now they are putting back in the ditches, farmers are very adaptable. The amount of fertilizer used by farmers has also reduced. A scheme to test land would be very useful.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Hannigan enquired if it is compulsory to use nature based solutions in the construction of local authority projects. There was great work done on the Ballyfinboy. For it to be a success</p>



	<p>everyone has to buy into it. It would be great to have a meeting of those involved to show what can be done. He is concerned with the fact that the Community Water Development Fund is closed for 2025.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy explained that nature based solutions are used on local authority projects. NBS pre-works will be taking place on the Carrigahorig scheme. These solutions or a combination of solutions to include NBS will have to be part of every planning application. Historically there was combined drainage schemes where surface water and foul water were in the one system.</p> <p>Mr. F. Igoe informed members that there is a number of different agencies that monitor the water for different reasons in Lough Derg. There is normally a 3 year cycle for this monitoring and another one will be due on Lough Derg next year. While nature based solutions in Nenagh would not affect the Shannon it will have an effect on the Nenagh River. It is important to build a climate message as part of projects, if things are explained to people there is more of a buy in from them. The funding schemes cannot go towards soil testing.</p> <p>The community water development fund is closed for 2025 as the applications were submitted in 2024 for projects to be completed in 2025. It is done this way to ensure groups have sufficient time to complete any work. The scheme will be open again during 2025 for projects in 2026.</p>
<p>Item 5. To appoint member to the board of Nenagh Arts Centre</p>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Bonfield that Cllr. J.P. O'Meara would be appointed to the board of Nenagh Arts Centre.</p>
<p>Item 5. To update members on projects & events</p>	<p><u>Newport Town Park:</u> Awaiting submission of Final Account and completion of snag list.</p> <p><u>Newport Town Team/Newport Town Centre First Plan:</u> 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.</p> <p><u>Nenagh Town Team/Town Centre First/THRIVE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicholas de Jong Associates have been appointed as consultants to work with the Town Team on the creation of the Integrated Urban Strategy (Town Centre First Plan).



- Consultation process will be undertaken in conjunction with the Town Team.



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- Image ICT Solutions Ltd., T/A Storm Web Development have been appointed to update the Nenagh.ie website for Nenagh Town. A meeting is being arranged to kickstart the process. A number of representatives from the Town Team have indicated their availability for consultation on the design and content.

Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub:

Work is progressing on exploring the potential funding sources based on proposed use of the Rialto.

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 January.
- Because of the severe weather conditions and the impact on sub-contractors inputting into the tenders of principal contractors the closing date for receipt of tenders has been extended by one week to 21st 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 in respect of 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 being finalised and will be advertised in Q1 2025. Surveys and site investigations have been completed.

Casual Trading Bye-Laws

- Tipperary County Council (NMD) invited applications for casual trading licences for 2025 or part thereof.
- A total of 13 casual trading licence applications has been received for 2025 or part thereof. All applications have been assessed and letters have issued to all applicants offering months, days and times of trading. Upon receipt of the appropriate licence fee and any outstanding requirements, the casual trading licences will then issue.

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. These disposals are now being progressed by the Central Property Unit. 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 in 2024. This is being revisited in 2025. The provision of facilities for lifeguards is currently being progressed.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

- Measure One 2023 – Castlough 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. Surveys being



undertaken. Consultation with local stakeholders in advance of the planning application has commenced.

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 application was submitted by the closing date (15th January 2025).

Preliminary on-line meeting has taken place with the Department, mentors assigned to assist with the application, representatives of the Terryglass Improvement Association and staff of Tipperary County Council. A meeting on site is planned for next week. A working group has been put in place to progress preparations for the adjudication which will take place in June/July.

Applications for Grant Funding:

The closing date for applications under the Festivals & Events Grant Scheme is 6th February 2025. It is important that all groups interested in securing funding under this scheme submit their completed applications by the closing date with all the relevant information so that they can be considered when funding is being allocated.

Arrangements are being made to advertise the schemes for Contributions to Clubs & Organisations and the Contributions to Residents' Associations for 2025. Early submission of applications would be very much appreciated.

The Tidy Towns and Burial Ground applications are issued by Environment Section.



Ringbuoy Replacement Programme:

A ringbuoy replacement programme on Lough Derg is ongoing.

Active Travel:

The following are details of the 2025 Allocations under the Active Travel Investment Grants Scheme:

TCC/22/0008	R445 Lisbunny – Nenagh Active Travel Scheme	€10,000
TCC/22/0022	Birdhill Active Travel Scheme	€400,000
TCC/23/0008	Nenagh Urban Greenway (previously TCC/21/0006)	€20,000
TCC/23/0010	Quarry Lane – Cullenagh (R494) Active Travel Scheme, Ballina (Previously TCC/21/0014)	€15,000
TCC/23/0011	Newtown – Active Travel Connectivity Scheme	€250,000

Cllr. Bugler enquired about the timelines for the Centre of Excellence and if it will involve technology transfer or energy transfer only. The project in Ballina is progressing well but she did enquire about the €15,000 that was allocated for work at Quarry Lane.

Cllr. Carroll stated that there is real potential in the Centre of Excellence project. He welcomed the allocation of funding under the active travel and asked was there enough staff to progress these projects. Cllr. Bonfield requested an update on the Clare Glens and if further funding will be required for the Birdhill Active travel scheme.

Cllr. M. O'Meara asked if any applications for funding can be made under the Just Transition Fund, he feels the Lorrha/Rathcabbin area should be entitled to funding from this scheme. Previously houses were retrofitted under the scheme in Rathcabbin.

Cllr. Hannigan said it is important to look at the threats to businesses in the town centres, especially in relation to family businesses where the next generation will not be taking over the business. He also welcomed the work to be done in Dromineer.

Mr. B. Murphy explained that there is new structures being put in place for active travel, active travel will be important going forward but will be outside the remit of the District.

Ms. R. Joyce explained that a number of the projects are moving ahead and a lot will be happening in Q1. The judging for the Entente Florale will be held in June or July. A lot of the long term projects will be slow. Negotiations are ongoing for the site for the Centre of Excellence but the design team is on board and meetings are taking place with the stakeholders. The design cannot be finalised until it is known what land is being acquired. It is a unique project and will have to be done right. Technologies



	<p>are changing all the time so the project is reliant on external expertise to ensure the project is future proofed and is an exemplar building as a centre for research and development. There will be a system used to gather data during all of the process but the project is not just about the building it will also be about the public realm.</p> <p>It is expected that the Ballina Access Promenade Scheme will be completed at the end of Q1/start of Q2. The funding already approved for the Clare Glens is for project development to planning stage. Further funding will be required for delivery of the project. The Limerick and Tipperary sides are very different. There is a deadline for completion of the design stage this year and hopefully the scheme can be completed if funding is secured under the next ORIS.</p> <p>Thurles and Carrick on Suir are the only two areas in Tipperary that are eligible for funding under Just Transition at the moment. The eligible areas may have previously been different.</p> <p>The focus of the town team for the 1st six months of the year will be the completion of the integrated urban strategy. A lot of that will relate to physical structures and vacant/derelict buildings, including vacancy over buildings. Tipperary County Council give a number of supports to businesses, a presentation was given to the Chamber before Christmas on these. Nenagh MD works hand in hand with businesses and Nenagh had the lowest commercial vacancy rate in the county last year. The town team will be looking at various locations in town to see where the footfall can be increased. The "Love Tipperary" voucher was also very well supported. Many things can impact where a business will set up but Nenagh is seen as a very attractive location. There is also an onus on businesses to ensure their staff are well trained and friendly and work with other businesses.</p> <p>Temporary facilities were provided in Dromineer for the Christmas activities. The new project will have to meet the Failte Ireland standards and ensure that the area is accessible including footpaths and businesses and meetings are taking place in relation to this. The deadline for the receipt of tenders was extended by a week due to the snow, however realistically the new facility will not be open by the summer but should be open by the end of the year.</p>
<p>Item 7 To note Engineer's Checklist on roads matters</p>	<p>The Engineer's checklist was circulated to members.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll has concerns over the work under his tertiary road allocation, the work was started in September and is not complete yet, the work that was started has started to fragment. The accommodation road for the work at Scragg Bridge needs to be patched, people are getting very frustrated. He was also concerned about the communication with the public during the snow.</p>



	<p>Cllr. M. O'Meara acknowledged the work at Ballymacegan but stated that there has been more accidents at Walshpark Cross, it is a dangerous junction and solutions are required.</p> <p>Cllr. Hannigan asked if there was any way that the allocations for tertiary funding could be increased and about the status of the CIS/LIS, has the criteria changed and are budgets available, would there be a chance of getting the waiting list cleared before the scheme is opened again.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield enquired if a submission will be made to the Department for extra funding due to the storm.</p> <p>Mr. K. Malone informed members that contact was made with the Department last week to confirm that TCC will be looking for extra funding due to the weather. The LIS/CIS will be advertised again in 2026.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy explained that during the bad weather daily meetings took place and communications were updated on the website daily. Staff also had ongoing communications with Councillors. Gritting took place 3 times a day but some of the roads in higher areas are more difficult to clear. A review will take place to see how things would be dealt with if another weather event took place. The scale of this event was massive. Great credit is due to the local communities and farmers, without their help the local authorities would not be able to deal with all the roads.</p> <p>It will take a long time to clear all existing applications on CIS with the current level of funding. Clarification was requested on the criteria and rule changes.</p>
Item 8. To consider Notices of Motion	None
Item 9. To note Delegated Employees Orders	Noted.
Item 10. To consider items of correspondence	A thank you email was received from Siobhán, George and Jennfier O'Leary regarding a letter of congratulations received from Nenagh MD.
Item 11. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations	Votes of Sympathy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Tierney, Nenagh on the death of his wife, Noreen, R.I.P.• Martin McKeogh, Newport, on the death of his mother, Sadie, R.I.P.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Padraig Dooley, Carrick, Roscrea on the death of his mother, Nora, R.I.P. <p>Votes of Congratulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dylan Slevin on competing in the World Darts Competition• Carolyn Bracken on her IFTA nomination.
Item 12. Any other business.	

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

Signed: Fiona Bonfield
Cathaoirleach
Cllr. F. Bonfield

Date: 20/2/2025

Signed: Rosemary Joyce
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 20/2/2025