

In the Chair:	Cllr. M. Fitzgerald
Members Present:	Cllr. D. Dunne, Cllr. K. Bourke (via Zoom), Cllr. M. Brennan
	Cllr. I. Goldsboro
Apologies:	
<u>Attended from</u>	Mr. B. Beck, Director of Services (via Zoom); Ms. M. Cox, Meetings Administrator; Mr. P. Farrell . Executive Engineer;
Carrick on Suir MD	Mr. W. Morgan, A/Staff Officer, S. Holloway, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. H. FitzGerald Clerical Officer.
Housing Directorate	Ms. B. Ryan, Ms. D. Flannery, Mr. S. Lonergan.
Planning & Development/Emergency Service Directorate	Mr. K. Ladden, Mr. S. Grogan, Ms. C. Conway.
Other Attendees	Donal Doyle – Tipp Fm Aileen Haheesy – The Nationalist Newspaper

1.0. Welcome and Introduction

Item 1.1.	The summons was taken as read
Summons and Prayer:	

2.0. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Council

Item 2.1.	
Conflict of Interest Declaration	None to record

3.0. Consideration of Minutes

Item 3.1.	The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 22 nd
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24 October 2024	November, 2024 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. D. Dunne and seconded by Cllr. M. Brennan, and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

4.0. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

Item 4.1.	With Ms. B. Ryan, Ms. D. Flannery and Mr. S. Lonergan in attendance, the following queries from the members were addressed:
Attendance of Housing Directorate and consideration of report	Cllr. D. Dunne: • Thanked the directorate for their comprehensive report.

- Queried the housing applicant figures for Carrick on Suir town contained in the report- the figure was 205 and he questioned if this was an increase or a decrease. Noted that it seems to fluctuate between 190 and 200.
- Asked if there were more applications since the threshold had changed so that more people now qualify.
- Asked if applicants for transfers were included in this figure.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked about the 7 turnkey properties in Drangan, wishing to know the timeframe for delivery of these.
- Noted that the houses in Gort an Oir in Fethard had planning approved according to the report- queried what the next stage is here.
- Asked about the motion which he raised at the October meeting, wanting to know if there had been any update on this. Commented that this derelict site would be perfect for housing.

Responding, Ms. D. Flannery:

- Confirmed that the figures for the housing applicants in Carrick do remain fairly static.
- Stated that the increase in threshold had allowed for more applications.
- Confirmed that transfer applicants are included in this number and stated that she can get exact breakdown of these also.

Responding, Mr. S. Grogan:

- Commented that re the 7 turnkeys in Drangan, the contractor is currently onsite and completion is currently expected circa mid-2026.
- Stated that as regards the houses in Gort an Oir, Housing are not directly involved as it is an AHB project. Commented that there was an error on the report as these houses did not have planning permission approved yet.
- Referring to the derelict site in Faugheen, commented that while he had seen the motion he hadn't yet properly looked at it but intended to do so in early 2025. If Cllr. M. FitzGerald could provide a point of contact that would be appreciated.

Item 4.2. Attendance of Planning & Development Directorate/Emergency Services and consideration of report

With Mr. K. Ladden, Mr. S. Grogan and Ms. C. Conway in attendance, the following queries from the members were addressed:

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Queried about the outstanding housing estates being taken in charge- asked for an update from Uisce Eireann re the infrastructure in these estates.
- Mentioned Greenhill Village in Carrick town is one of these estates- commented that there is a live planning application in this estate and another in progress. Stated that surely it would be easier to proceed with more developments if the taking in charge was finalised.
- Asked if there was an update on derelict houses in the district, stating that we need to push to get these tidied up. Would like more pressure on property owners who refuse to engage with the council.

Responding, Mr. K. Ladden:

- Stated that as regards the outstanding estates, those with an active developer are in a better position.
- Has visited Greenhill Village site & met with developer there. There are structural requirements regarding a foul line which needs to be diverted, this is a work in progress.
- Intends to focus on this issue over the next few months.

Responding, Ms. C. Conway:

- Said that while there is now a procedure in place to address issues during the development phase, some of the issues being encountered are historical ones.

Responding, Mr. K. Ladden:

- Said that as regards dereliction, there is a team now in situ with an Executive Technician taking up the role in mid-January 2025.
- Commented that this new team should be well equipped to drive this programme, and will take the derelict site register from the Environment.
- Stated that while the teams previous focus was Croí Conaithe, from January 2025 the new team will allow them to have an increased focus on dereliction.
- Commented that there is now a technical and admin team in situ to put derelict properties on the register, then apply the levy and ultimately CPO if necessary.

- Said that property owners need to be made aware of the various funding streams available to them to do up properties.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Welcomed this team as good news, commending their carrot and stick approach.
- Stated that while he doesn't want to see anyone being at the loss of their property, feels that we should be enforcing CPOs if the property owners refuse to engage with the council.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Queried if there is a timeframe wherein the derelict site will be accelerated to CPO status- stating that the timeline is identifying the site, engaging with the property owner and then CPO if necessary.

Responding, S. Grogan:

- Stated that each individual case is unique which makes it hard to put a timeframe on it.
- Said that many property owners will engage with the various streams, but if they don't engage with the council in good faith the process will be accelerated.
- This makes it very hard to put a concrete timeframe on it but the council would always encourage property owners to engage.

Item 4.3. District Engineer's Report

The Schedule of Municipal District works for December 2024 was circulated, and considered by the members, with Mr. P. Farrell, Executive Engineer, outlining progress to date under various headings. The following matters arose:

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Thanked Mr. P. Farrell for a comprehensive report.
- Regarding Local Authority houses maintenance, questioned if we would still be funding a replacement boiler if a boiler needs to be replaced; or would we commence a full energy upgrade on a house if a boiler needed replacing, i.e. install a heat pump?
- Following on from this, asked if there would be more funding available from the department if these fossil fuel burners are to be removed.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Asked for an update on the Feasibility study on the Greenway project from Kilmeaden.
- Thanked the council staff for their work during the year.

- Noted that a €50k footpath budget had been used during the year- asked if there are many more footpaths to be done?
- Stated that the 10k tree maintenance budget had also been put to good use, complimenting the work done on trees at the library.
- Stated that great work had been done with windows and doors, saying that it was a miracle akin to the loaves and the fishes.
- Queried if it would be cheaper to do the windows and doors on an estate by estate basis, or should the district be doing "red" houses first, i.e. priority based, noting that most of the void are brought up to spec.
- Said that it was proposed to write to the Minister looking for more budget, and this was approved at the SPC meeting.
- Commented that we could reduce carbon footprint of homes with better more efficient boilers.
- Noted that heat pumps are not as efficient in older houses and that many older people still like to have the option of the stove.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Commended the trojan work of the roads staff during the year.
- Stated that as we are in the midst of government formation talks, hopefully this will lead to more money for county councils.
- Asked for an update on the drainage issue at the Asses Turn in Mullinahone, stating that not only was the drainage issue affecting a property, the road also seemed to be subsiding as a result.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Raised the issue of public lighting waiting repairs, noting it to be an issue in Ballingarry & Killenaule.
- Stated that at the pub near Laffansbridge the publican was worried about dark evenings near Christmas and potential falls.
- Asked if there is anything more to be done about the lights as the lack of progress is disappointing.

Responding, Mr. P. Farrell:

- Said that as regards the oil and gas burners, these are being replaced by the district if broken.
- Said that there is no money in our codes to upgrade homes for heat pumps.
- Stated that the same goes for the voids, boilers are being replaced.

- Housing Capital in Clonmel do have some budget and are rolling out upgrade works with some houses being done every year.
- Confirmed that a footpath survey had been done in Carrick on Suir towns & villages.
- Said that the IPB footpath money was now gone, but that we would have some money from development levies to spend on footpaths next year.
- Said that there was still a lot of work to be done dependent on funding and that there was a slight chance of more IPB funding for 2025.
- Stated that as regards windows and doors to do these estate by estate would be a money issue and would lead to perhaps only one and a half estates being done per year.
- Confirmed that the current process is that the request comes in by CRM, a survey is then done and the windows & doors in house are ranked by condition.
- Commented that in relation to the drainage issue at the Asses' Turn this will be done as part of the Scheme of works in 2025- this will involve drainage works and maybe even raising the road.
- Said that re the public lighting, the issues need to be still logged, noting that the change in contractors caused a delay.
- Noted that there is a major public lighting upgrade coming in 2025, involving a switch to LEDs which will take care of a lot of these issues.

Responding, Mr. B. Beck:

- Said that as regards the Greenway Feasibility Study, comments from TII were received at end of October 2024. These were each responded to which will hopefully lead to a sign off on this feasibility study.
- The next stage will be the Consultation Stage in 2025- This will involve meeting with landowners.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Asked if Mr. B. Beck thinks the Greenway is viable and capable of being achieved by 2026/2027.

Responding, Mr. B. Beck:

- Stated that 6 routes have been identified to be considered, with some being offshoots of the same route and merge in places.
- Noted that the process was slow as TII were adopting a comprehensive approach to deal with issues before it reached the Planning stage.
- Said that he believed this would lead to a robust proposal for Planning, hence why TII were acting with

caution, stating that he himself felt it was the right approach.

- Said that as this was the first link between a Blueway and a greenway in Ireland, he felt that it was a high priority for TII and would require large public investment.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Thanked Mr. B. Beck for his response, stating that he felt it was better to do the procedure correctly.
- Raised the issue of the N24 in Carrick- noting that as Glas were pulling out and there are still some snags outstanding like the roundabout in O Mahony Avenue, asked if these would be remedied.
- Asked about the leak on the N24 at Pill Road- this was meant to be reinstated kerb to kerb which still hadn't been done.

Responding, Mr. P. Farrell:

- Confirmed that the defect liability period for the N24 works extended to the summer of 2025.
- Noted that the tarmac on O Mahony Avenue had been set for forensic testing the results of which are still pending.
- Said that as regards the leak on Pill Road, this was an Uisce Eireann issue and a meeting was held with Shareridge who planned reinstatement for after Christmas- said that they will be working on reinstatements around the district for the next few months.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Suggested that no more road opening licences be done for Uisce Eireann until reinstatement is completed, stating that Uisce Eireann had effectively ripped up brand new road and that other contractors had been much tidier with their works.
- Asked if Uisce Eireann need road opening licences and if this is an issue we can raise higher up the chain.

Responding, Mr. P. Farrell:

- State that this has been raised higher up the chain.
- Uisce Eireann will come into the road opening licence system shortly which will make it more manageable.

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Agreed with Cllr. D. Dunne re the N24 snags.
- Asked that prior to the finalisation of the snag list if Mr. P. Farrell could liaise with Cllrs. D Dunne and K. Bourke as they are familiar with all the issues.

- Mentioned the outstanding issue of double yellow lines on the diversion route in Mill Street which need to be burned off, stating that he has requested 3 times that Glas burn these off.
- Queried the various private contractors working on behalf of utility companies in Carrick on Suir over the last few months- wanted to know if there is any procedure for checking their method statements as they appear to be closing footpaths ad hoc, often forcing pedestrians onto footpaths.
- Asked if there is anyone enforcing this checking method to ensure these works are done in a safe manner.

Responding, Mr. P. Farrell:

- Stated that the N24 snag list is already in place, requesting all councillors to pass on all snags to Mr. P. Farrell or Mr. B. O' Keeffe- there will be a consultation before all snags are finalised.
- Commented that as part of the road opening licence process, method statements were provided.
- Stated that TLI had many road opening licences in 2024 to finish off broadband network but that he believes the network is now in place and there should be less excavations next year.
- Encouraged all councillors to contact COSMD engineers if they see any unsafe practices being used by any utility contractors.

Item 4.4 District Administrator's Report

The Meetings Administrator circulated her report incorporating an update in relation to Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan for Phases 1, 2 and 3. She also reported on available grants such as Sports Ireland Funding, the Community Recognition Fund, Community Monuments Fund, Festival and Events Grant scheme 2025 and Historic Structures Grant. She presented a highlight of the Tractors & Tudors Festival report, incorporating a video of the event.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Thanked all the staff and various groups who were involved in the Tractors & Tudors event.
- Noted that people turned up in vast numbers, saying that the support of the public at such events is vital.
- Gave tribute to the businesses as they had been inconvenienced and yet there were very few complaints received.

- Stated that it was fantastic to see the new Ormond Castle Park open, as well as Ormond Castle open during winter for the first time in memory.
- Said that the concert in the Great Hall was amazing.
- Said the whole event was topped off with the tractors, their 11th year running, noting that Carrick was the first to have a Christmas tractor event and everyone else followed.
- Wished to appeal to the public for feedback on the event and encouraged volunteers to come forward for next year, even if they can only offer 1- 2 hours.
- Stated that plenty of stewards would be needed going forward as approx. 10k people came to Carrick for the event.
- Complimented the hard work put in only a month ahead of the event which came off so well and put a smile on his face.
- Said that the town and the castle looked amazing in the video clip.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Echoed Cllr. D. Dunne's sentiments, stating it was an honour to be the Cathaoirleach, with the perk of the role being attending openings and events and this particular event was a privilege to be a part of.
- Commented that it was an amazing day from start to finish, with the sculptor P. Quinn having many helpers from start to finish just like Santa, and he was more than happy to speak with everyone.
- Said that the concert in the Great Hall was an unforgettable experience, complimenting the recitations and amazing performers, mentioning Black Tom in particular.
- Stated that he really enjoyed helping out, finding the kids' tractor run great fun.
- Said the event was very well marshalled & well run.
- Noted that while the main tractor run didn't all fit on Kickham Street, it was nice to see the gathering there.
- Said that after the launch of the Quest map it was lovely to be able to meet and greet people
- Commended COSMD for all the work, noting such an amazing day required phenomenal work in the background.
- Said that it was lovely to see people from Drangan, Mullinahone and Fethard in town for the day and hoped it would be even bigger and better next year.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Thanked everyone for all their hard work, noting that while he only arrived Saturday evening due to prior obligations, he found it very enjoyable.

- Stated that as Carrick on Suir is the largest town in the district it was lovely to see such a successful event.

Mr. B. Beck:

- Echoed the councillors in expressing their thanks for all the work of the staff behind the scenes.
- Also commended the work of the elected members.
- Thanked the OPW for their efforts in supporting Ormond Castle to be a success and increase visitor numbers.
- Thanked Explore Carrick-on-Suir, saying that they are great people with the purpose of promoting Carrick on Suir businesses, noting the importance of working together and being open to collaboration.
- Thanked the media for promoting the event so well.
- Stated that the pride and enjoyment of the public in the town of Carrick on Suir was visible in the video clip, saying that he is proud of what Carrick-on-Suir stands for and holding firm in his belief that Carrick can be the best town in Tipperary.
- Commended the Christmas tractor run organisers as being very gracious in their co-operation.
- Said that this event would not be the one and only but that further events will be delivered.
- Noted that it was not about any 1 organisation, a team effort had delivered this event and this is what Carrick is all about.

Item 4.5
General Municipal
Allocation

None

Item 4.6
Assistance of bodies under
Section 66 of local
Government Act, 2001

None

5.0. Chief Executive's / Delegated Employee's Orders

Item 5.1.
D.E. Order No. 40175

DEO 40771_Acceptance of tender of Marlhill Construction for Phase 3 Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan.

6.0. Correspondence

Item 6.1. None

7.0. Notices of Motion

Item 7.1. None

8.0. Any Other Business

Item 8.1
Any other business
arising with the
permission of the
Cathaoirleach

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Commented that the January meeting would be on 23rd January at 2pm with a Standing Orders meeting held beforehand.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Asked if the Standing Orders meeting would be held via Zoom.

Ms. M. Cox:

- Stated that the entire meeting could be held both in person and via Zoom would follow up with Cllr M Brennan.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Took the opportunity to wish Cllr. M. Brennan happy birthday.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Repeated the birthday wishes and wished all a happy Christmas.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Wished to extend his condolences to the Lee family in Littleton who lost their lives in a tragic accident.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Thanked all staff and elected members and media for their co-operation during 2024, stating that it was a busy year with local and general elections.

- Wished a happy Christmas to all, and a happy & healthy 2025.

This concluded the business of the meeting (15.07pm)


District Administrator.


Cathaoirleach.

23rd January, 2025