



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER AND via ZOOM AT 10.30 AM ON 19th FEBRUARY 2026

Present in chamber	Cllr's Fiona Bonfield, John Carroll, Joe Hannigan, J.P. O'Meara, Pamela Quirke O'Meara, Michael O Meara and Louise Morgan Walsh
Present via Zoom	Cllr. Séamus Morris
Apologies	Cllr. Phyll Bugler
Also Present	<p>Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Liam Brett, Director of Services; Mr. Kieran Malone, Senior Engineer; Mr. Barry Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. Sinead Moriarty, Staff Officer</p> <p>Economic, Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development: Mr. Eoin Kaar, Healthy County Co-Ordinator</p> <p>Library Services, Culture and Biodiversity: Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer and Ms. Ann Marie Fleming, Biodiversity Officer</p>
Item 1. To note any Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest	None
Item 2. To consider and adopt Minutes of the January Meeting held on 15th January 2026	<p>It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Bonfield and resolved that the minutes of the January Meeting held on 15th January be adopted.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield asked if contact had been made with the Department inviting them to look at the condition of the R503 at Ballymackeogh. She previously had a notice of motion on this road, and two cars went in over the verge at Christmas. If you are close to the yellow line, the tyre can slip over the edge very easily. She acknowledges that safety concerns on these bog roads is a national issue. Another barrier is starting to fail, and it is only a matter of time before a bus goes in over the edge.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll supported this request and stated that similar roads in Offaly have been rectified. Cllr. M. O'Meara also supported this request; there are similar roads in his area and the same road in Offaly has been improved under Just Transition. He thinks that these roads would qualify under climate action funding. He would like the Department to look at the Birr to Portumna road.</p> <p>Cllr. Hannigan agreed that these roads are a challenge and it would be worthwhile for the Department to see these roads. It may be useful to have an estimated cost for this work. Cllr. Quirke O'Meara supported the need to improve these roads and asked if</p>



	<p>we can do any preliminary work and would the possibility of getting money be improved if a plan/design work was completed.</p> <p>Mr. K. Malone stated that this issue has been raised with the Department and it can be raised again. There would be a large cost associated with putting barriers in place. At the moment the focus is on keeping the surface as good as possible. This issue is not isolated to Tipperary, but it is anywhere there are bog roads and very few of these have a suitable area for barriers. What needs to be done has been outlined but there is no easy solution.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy explained that condition surveys relate to the surface and not the alignment which is the issue with these roads. There is not a funding opportunity for this work, previously climate change funding was applied for but the application was not successful.</p> <p>Mr. L. Brett confirmed that the executive is conscious of the issues raised. The allocation for roads is the second largest across the country from the Department and if more funding was available more projects could be done. The projects at Latteragh and the new crossing at Ballina are two major projects in the District.</p>
<p>Item 3. To receive update from Economic, Social Inclusion, Community and Rural Development</p>	<p>A presentation was given by Mr. Eoin Kaar, Healthy Ireland County Co-Ordinator.</p> <p>The members welcomed the presentation.</p> <p>Cllr. Quirke O'Meara asked if Healthy Ireland were linking in with groups and organisations that already had a relationship with these target groups. Cllr. M. O'Meara said it is a challenge to engage with isolated people in rural areas. People now go for a coffee in the new interpretive centre in Lorrha rather than going to the pub. It would be important to engage with the people using this facility as a social outlet.</p> <p>Cllr. Morgan Walsh enquired about the possibility of engaging with care homes. Cllr. Hannigan stated that his local GAA club is doing a lot of work with older people. There would be an interest in the community leadership training offered by Healthy Ireland.</p> <p>Mr. E. Kaar thanked the members for the support and explained that they do rely on and work with partners already working with communities, especially NTDC, Silver Arch and the Local Authority Integration team, but there is a lot more work that can be done. The previous framework was developed 4 years ago and with an up-to-date framework, new areas to target will be identified. A lot of work has been done with day care centres. Indoor and outdoor exercise equipment has been provided and training given to the staff to deliver exercise programs. Through NTDC, Healthy Ireland connects with men's sheds group and find it works better if the</p>



	<p>engagement happens at the shed. Members are welcome to put any interested groups in touch with the section.</p>
<p>Item 4. To receive update Library Services, Culture and Biodiversity</p>	<p>The report on Library Services, Culture and Biodiversity was circulated to members.</p> <p>Ms. M. Scott explained that at the moment the focus is on grant funding applications. To date the response has been very positive. Ms. A.M. Fleming informed members that the draft Biodiversity Plan will be going to public consultation in April, and a hedgerow survey is currently being undertaken. A workshop will be held in March on invasive species, in April on Building for Biodiversity and Artificial Light and Biodiversity. These are being held in conjunction with other local authorities.</p> <p>Cllr. Carroll welcomed the "Coming of Spring" festival recently held in Nenagh, he also welcomes the workshops, but he expressed concerns about different government departments requirements in relation to hedgerows.</p> <p>Cllr. M. O'Meara stated that farmers are very adaptable with what is required for hedgerows and asked about the status of the problem with Japanese knotweed and if there was anything that could be done by the local authority to promote measures in buildings for swifts and barn owls.</p> <p>Cllr. Quirke O'Meara enquired if people could make submissions to the pilot project in Kildare on pesticides. Cllr. J.P. O'Meara welcomed biodiversity initiatives in the town, especially in St Paul's Playground and would welcome biodiversity measures in the extension to the town park.</p> <p>Cllr. Bonfield welcomed the supports offered to artists and stated that even though these supports would not be of a high value they can lead to other opportunities for artists. She enquired if there would be funding available once the Biodiversity plan has been approved. Cllr. Hannigan would welcome a workshop for tidy towns groups in relation to biodiversity as it is a big part of the application.</p> <p>Ms. A.M. Fleming explained that Japanese knotweed is still an issue but training and an increase in awareness will help to deal with it. The research on pesticides will continue until the end of the year and once the report is finalised the public will be able to make a submission on it. The use of roundup must be stopped but it is very difficult to find something that is as effective. Planning conditions is something that the local authority can do to encourage use of buildings for biodiversity. She informed members that a workshop was held in TUS last year for tidy towns groups and only 12 of the 95 groups in the county were represented which was very disappointing. The possibility of</p>



	having the opportunity to attend these workshops by Zoom or as part of a webinar in future can be examined.
Item 6. To update members on projects & events	<p><u>Newport Town Team/Newport Town Centre First Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newport Town Centre First Plan was agreed at the May meeting of Nenagh MD.• Action Plan being drafted to progress implementation based on priorities and resources.• Meeting of Newport Town Team to be arranged in Q1 2026. <p><u>Nenagh Town Team/Town Centre First/THRIVE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Plan being drafted to progress implementation of Town Centre First Plan based on priorities and resources.• Meeting of Nenagh Town Team to be arranged in Q1 2026.• Logo for Nenagh.ie in course of finalisation• Work progressing in Q1 2026 on website. <p><u>Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub:</u></p> <p>Work is progressing on exploring the potential funding sources based on proposed use of the Rialto.</p> <p><u>Nenagh Town Park Extension:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following a tender process Lead Engineer, Ecologist and Landscaper have been appointed to prepare a concept design for the extension of Nenagh Town Park with a view to progressing to planning stage.• Design is ongoing – ecologist reports/screening and civil/structural drawings completed.• Submission of options from landscaper is awaited.• Aim is to submit for Planning (Part 8) Q1 2026. <p><u>Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works have been completed on the conservation works to the windows of the Governor’s House funded under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the GMA. The additional three windows that have been restored have been painted and re-installed.• The 3-storey Gaol Block has been approved for funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Grant is for €500,000. With matched funding this will allow an investment of €555,555 in this historic heritage building with a view to bringing it back into public use. Awaiting formal notification of approval following which we will go to tender. Part 8 planning is already in place.• We will continue to strive to source funding for the various proposals in relation to the Historic & Cultural Quarter as funding calls open up. <p><u>Nenagh Centre of Excellence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work is progressing on initial design and the red-line boundary for the development has been agreed with the design team and the property owners.



- Agreement has been reached with the property owners and is now with the respective solicitors for the drawing up of contracts.
- It is aimed to submit planning through Part 8 process in Q4 2026.

RRDF Call 4 – Category 2:

An allocation of €1 million has been awarded under RRDF Call 4 – Category 2 for a Town Centre Regeneration Project in Killaloe-Ballina. The lead authority for this is Clare County Council. The funding is for design and planning with a view to submitting a future application under Category 1 for funding to deliver the project. Meetings have taken place with Clare with a view to progressing this project.

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.

Nenagh Roundabout Scheme 2026 -2031

- Four tenders were received under the Nenagh Roundabout Scheme 2026 -2031 advertised in January 2026.
- These tenders have been assessed, and we are now in the process of notifying tenderers of the outcome of the competition.

Platforms for Growth- Dromineer:

- Work is progressing on site with substantial progress made in recent weeks on walls, roof and floor.
- Tenders have been awarded in relation to signage and access system.
- Fortnightly meetings are being held on site with consultants and contractors.

Casual Trading Bye-Laws:

- A total of 24 Casual Trading applications were received for 2026 covering Dromineer, Ballina, Garrykennedy, Castlough, The Lookout, Clare Glens and Newport.
- Applicants have been notified of the decisions on their applications.
- 8 Casual Traders have been offered permits to trade at 7 locations (10 pitches) located in Ballina, Castlough, Clare Glens, Dromineer, Garrykennedy, Newport and The Lookout.

Expressions of Interest for Development Land at Lisbunny:

The disposals to Banaghan & Co (Stationery) Ltd and Apex Aviation approved by members at the October 2024 plenary meeting are being progressed by the Central Property Unit. When the proceeds from the sales have been received it is the Council's intention to upgrade the roadway within this development.



Lands at Stereame:

Discussions are ongoing in conjunction with Housing Section on options to progress the provision of private housing in Stereame.

Designated Bathing Area:

Location for lifeguard hut in Dromineer has been selected and it has been clarified that planning permission will not be required for same. HR Section are currently progressing the recruitment of lifeguards.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

Clare Glens Project Development Measure – A planning application has been submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála. Four submissions were received following the public consultation period and we have now submitted our observations on these submissions to An Coimisiún Pleanála. Further information has been requested – to be submitted by March 2026. This project is now complete as the planning application has been submitted and we await the outcome of same. Should planning approval be received, funding will be sought for the work involved.

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 from 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.
- A Section 50 application has been approved by OPW to put bridge over the river.
- Planning was lodged to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 30th of October 2025. Four submissions were received by the closing date and TCC has submitted our observations on same.
- The case is due to be decided by the end of April 2026.

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. Works commenced in early November on this project. The planting associated with the biodiversity measures has been completed. The surface of the basketball court has also been completed and the basketball hoop has been installed and is receiving a high level of usage. The remaining item (white lining) will be concluded in the coming weeks.



Grant Schemes:

- 32 applications have been received in respect of Nenagh MD under the 2026 Festivals & Events Grant Scheme.
- An assessment panel has been put in place and will be meeting on 25th February to consider applications.
- It is hoped to bring recommendations back to the March meeting of Nenagh MD.
- Closing date for applications under the Tidy Towns and the Burial Ground Grant Schemes is 13th March. Applications are currently being received, and we would encourage submission as early as possible so that funding allocations can be considered.

Permits for use of Jetty in Ballina:

One application has been issued for use of the floating jetty in Ballina in 2025/26.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:

In 2025 €500,000 was allocated to Tipperary County Council under the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme. Details of locations in the Nenagh MD were previously advised to members. Works on the bus stops is being progressed.

Nenagh Parking Arrangements:

- The draft Bye-Laws and Nenagh Maps for the harmonisation of pay parking across the county were on public display in Nenagh MD up to 13th February 2026. Submissions on same can be made up to 4.30 p.m. on Friday 27th February 2026.
- Following requests from the Chamber of Commerce and the Nenagh Town Team signage has been erected in Nenagh to show the locations of car parks.

Shane MacGowan Trail:

- Nationwide visited the area earlier this month to film in relation to the Shane MacGowan Trail. It is understood that the programme will be broadcast on 18th March.
- Provision of guided coach tours of the Trail is currently being discussed.
- A group of 40 from the Basque region of Spain will be visiting the area from 18th March in connection with Rugby and as part of a fund-raiser for Parkinsons. Their itinerary will include participating in a coach tour of the Trail.

Cllr. Morris expressed his frustration at the way funding for large capital projects is allocated, the length of time it takes, and the money which is spent on projects before anything can or will be constructed. He requested contact be made with the Department requesting a review of this system. He is also disappointed with the condition of the building on Pearse St that has the image of Shane MacGowan on the window. He mentioned the 40 visitors



	<p>that are coming to Nenagh Ormond Rugby Club from the Basque region and the possibility of twinning Nenagh and this area.</p> <p>Cllr. Quirke O'Meara requested support for the fundraising for Parkinsons that is associated with the trip of the rugby team from the Basque region. Cllr. Morgan Walsh said applications are open for the St Patrick's Day parade, that St Mary's Primary school band have reformed and will be taking part in the parade. The closing date for applications is the 22nd of February 2026. She also mentioned the half marathon that was taking place on Sunday with over 1,000 participants. Cllr. Hannigan asked about the provision of campervan parking.</p> <p>Ms. R. Joyce explained the property on Pearse St with the image of Shane MacGowan is private property and that vacant or derelict properties in the town are being reviewed in conjunction with the Town Regeneration Officer. She understood Cllr. Morris's frustration on the funding model for capital projects but €12.7m has been secured for the Centre of Excellence project and discussions are ongoing with the landowner. Design cannot be progressed until the outline of the site is agreed. The application for Enterprise Ireland funding for the Rialto is currently being prepared. She believes it would not be the best move to question the Department on their funding model now, especially when an application for funding could be submitted for the Historical and Cultural Quarter.</p> <p>A feasibility study is currently being undertaken to look at campervan accommodation sites in the District. Several potential sites have been identified. She informed members that Waterways Ireland and Failte Ireland will be able to attend the March meeting. It was agreed with members that a workshop will be held on the speed limit review before the April meeting at 9.00a.m. and a workshop on the GMA and the schedule of municipal district works will be held on Friday 13th of March at 10.00am.</p>
<p>Item 7. To note Engineer's Checklist on roads matters</p>	<p>The Engineers Checklist was circulated to members.</p> <p>The checklist will no longer be a separate item on the agenda. Members will get details of any of their open CRMs before the meeting. These can then be discussed with relevant staff members. Any items that are still open on the checklist will be added to CRM system.</p> <p>Cllr. Morgan Walsh asked about the possibility of getting the potholes at Modern Tyres filled, these were caused by flooding as the gullies weren't cleared and about the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at Centra. Cllr. M. O'Meara enquired if the outdoor workers staffing levels are what they should be. Cllr. Bonfield asked if there was any permanent solution for potholes that keep developing at the same area and if there will there be a public consultation on the review of speed limits.</p>



	<p>Cllr. Carroll requested clarification on the budget allocations this year and how they compare to last year. The bad weather the last 5 months has caused several issues. He is concerned that he hasn't seen a crew in some areas over the last few weeks, four culverts on the road to Garrykennedy are blocked. He would be disappointed in the increase in allocations by the government to active travel schemes when rural areas are not getting extra funding. Cllr. Hannigan stated that the benefit of opening inlets in the last few weeks can be seen.</p> <p>Cllr. J. P. O'Meara enquired about the possibility of additional signage directing HGVs away from Sarsfield St towards Ashe Road. There is also a need for a pedestrian crossing along Sarsfield St due to the increase in volume of traffic and the number of elderly residents on the street. The introduction of the crossing on Kenyon St shows that it does help to slow down traffic.</p> <p>Several members expressed their disappointment with the recent budget process but did acknowledge the main issue is with the funding allocated by central government.</p> <p>Mr. B. Murphy explained that it would be very unusual to go onto a private lane to repair potholes, but he will look at it. Temporary contracts for GOs have been rolled over and staffing levels are where they should be. The hotbox is a good method of filling potholes, but it is very expensive.</p> <p>Mr. K. Malone said the concerns around funding for roads was raised at the plenary meeting and the overall funding allocated is down slightly on the previous year. The introduction of the second phase of the speed limit review has been started and the workshop in April will be relevant to this. Areas will be examined on a case-by-case basis, there will not be blanket changes like the change from 80kph to 60kph. After the workshop with members there will be workshops with the public.</p>
<p>Item 8. To consider Notices of Motion</p>	<p>Notice of Motion No: 3104 submitted by Cllr. F. Bonfield I call on Tipperary County Council to give an update to members on what is the current status of the proposed Upperchurch Windfarm Project that has delayed investment on the R503 Road from Kilcommon to Newport over the last few years, and if they will carry out an assessment of this road immediately.</p> <p>Notice of motion 3104 was proposed by Cllr. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.</p> <p>Response was given to Cllr. Bonfield as follows:</p>



An update on the status of the Upperchurch Windfarm will be provided to the elected members on 19 February 2026, following the conclusion of the February Municipal District Meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 3105 submitted by Cllr. P. Quirke O'Meara

That Tipperary County Council undertake a review of speed limits within its jurisdiction and specifically extend the designated urban speed limit zone on the Newport-Thurles Road to include the area beyond the Newport GAA facility in Newport, Co. Tipperary. This extension is necessary to improve road safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists in a growing residential and recreational area. Newport GAA attracts significant traffic and footfall, and aligning the speed limit with urban standards will reduce risk and support compliance with national guidelines for safer roads.

Notice of motion 3105 was proposed by Cllr. Quirke O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. Bonfield

Response was given to Cllr. Quirke O'Meara as follows:

The Council has started the process of Phase 2 of the Speed Limit Review (all urban areas in the County).

The amendment proposed in this Notice of Motion will be considered as part of this review, and workshops with Elected Members will occur in Q2 2026.

Notice of Motion No: 3106 submitted by Cllr. M. O'Meara

That Tipperary County Council carries out immediate restoration of the L1079-0 Lisagadda Road, Lorrha. This road has been destroyed since the floods on the N65 Ballyquirke Carrigahorig. I am requesting that this Council seek climate change funding or equivalent to carry out this work.

Notice of motion 3106 was proposed by Cllr. M. O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Response was given to Cllr. M. O'Meara as follows:

The road is not included in the current 2025-2027 Road Works Programme. It will be considered for inclusion and prioritised in the subsequent programme, subject to funding and to the approval by the elected members. In the meantime, necessary maintenance works will continue to be carried out as required.

Ms. R. Joyce explained that she had spoken to Cllr. Bugler about the notice of motions she submitted, Cllr. Bugler's preference was for the Notices of Motion to go ahead and that Cllr. Carroll had agreed to proposed them on her behalf.



Notice of Motion No: 3107 submitted by Cllr. P. Bugler

I hereby request Tipperary County Council to contact Waterways Ireland with a view to taking over Ballina Quay. Many boats park for months/ years at Ballina Quay and hence prevent any other Cruisers from parking. This is causing major problems from an economic/ tourism point of view.

Notice of motion 3107 was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. J.P. O'Meara.

Response was given as follows:

As previously discussed, Waterways Ireland have indicated their availability to attend the March meeting of Nenagh MD. We will raise this matter with them in advance of the meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 3108 submitted by Cllr. P. Bugler

I hereby request Tipperary County Council to remove barrier opposite Molly's Bar and Restaurant. Ballina - Boher tidy towns want to clean up this area. This area is a focal point for tourism in our area - especially as it is adjacent to the pedestrianised bridge.

Notice of motion 3108 was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. J.P. O'Meara.

Response was given as follows:

The Council are in favour of removing the barrier opposite Molly's Bar and Restaurant.

The barriers will be removed in advance of St. Patricks Day 2026.

Notice of Motion No: 3109 submitted by Cllr. P. Bugler

I hereby request Tipperary County Council to install 2 outfalls near Property V94V2PX at Ryninch/ Portroe Rd to prevent flooding at this property. This item has been on the check list for a long time and needs to be actioned as a matter of urgency to prevent further flooding at this property.

Notice of motion 3109 was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. J.P. O'Meara.

Response was given as follows:

The Council has investigated the flooding issue at Ryninch on the R494 Ballina to Newport regional road.

The Council will install additional drainage outfalls along the R494 upgradient of the house impacted by the uncontrolled flow of water along the road. The required measures will be put in place in March 2026.



Item 9. To note Delegated Employees Orders	None
Item 10. To consider items of correspondence	None
Item 11. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations	Votes of Sympathy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donal Murphy, Nenagh Municipal District on the death of, his father, Donal, R.I.P.• Barry Murphy, Nenagh Municipal District on the death of his sister-in-law, Gaye, R.I.P.• Michele Maher, Roads Section on the death of her father, Michael, R.I.P. Votes of Congratulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• McLoughlin Family on their retirement
Item 12. Any other business.	None

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

Signed: Phyll Bugler
Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Phyll Bugler

Date: 19/3/2026

Signed: Rosemary Joyce
Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: 19/3/2026