

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF TIPPERARY COUNTY
COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, NENAGH
AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM
AT 10.00 AM
ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2026**

Present

Cllr. John Carroll, Cathaoirleach

In Person

Cllr. Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Brennan Ml.; Bugler, P; Fitzgerald, M;
Hannigan, J; Hourigan, M.H.; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; McGrath M; Morris, S;
Murphy, M; O'Meara, J.P.; O'Meara, Ml; Quirke O'Meara, P; Ryan (Shiner)
A.M.; Smith, Ml.

Remote

Cllrs: Acheson, T; Bourke, K; Browne, L; Burgess, D; Cahill-Skehan, K;
Crosse, J; Dunne, D; FitzGerald, J; Goldsboro, A; Kennedy, Wm; Lowry,
Ml; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morgan Walsh, L; O'Heney, J; Ryan, J; Ryan,
P; Ryan, S;

Apologies

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Dennehy, N; English, P; Molloy,

Also Present

Ms. Sinead Carr, Chief Executive

Mr. Liam Brett, Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Mr. Brian Beck, Mr. Damien Ginty,
Mr. Anthony Coleman Directors of Services

Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance

Mr. John Nolan, Mr. James Murray, Mr. Robert Johnston, Ms. Ann Marie
Devaney, Mr. Jonathon Flood, Mr. Ger Lynch, Mr. Shane Grogan

Mr. Ger Walsh Meetings Administrator

Item 1.1

Welcome & Introduction/ Meetings Protocol

The Cathaoirleach opened the March Meeting by welcoming all present.

Remote attendees were asked to confirm that audio and video were functioning correctly and were reminded of meeting protocols, including muting microphones when not speaking, raising a hand to contribute, using headsets for clear audio, and turning on cameras when addressing the meeting.

The Meetings Administrator conducted a roll call noting that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced with the opening prayer.

Sympathies were extended on behalf of the Council to the family of the late Vera Hewitt. Vera served the people of Clonmel with distinction as a Councillor from 1985 to 2004, first on Clonmel Corporation and later on Clonmel Borough Council following its establishment in 2002. She was elected Mayor of Clonmel twice, in 1991 and again in 1998, earning widespread respect for her leadership and dedication to the community. During her term as Mayor in 1992, Vera had the honour of welcoming President Mary Robinson to Clonmel marking the first occasion in which a female Mayor welcomed a female President to the town. She later extended the same warm civic welcome to President Mary McAleese in May 1999.

Vera was a passionate advocate for international links and cultural exchange and played an active role on the Town Twinning Committee and was a strong promoter of Clonmel's twinning partnerships. She travelled to Peoria and Costa Masnaga on several occasions as part of her commitment to fostering these valued connections.

The Cathaoirleach, **Cllr. John Carroll** proposed a five-minute adjournment of the meeting as a mark of respect. This was seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and agreed.

On resumption of the meeting it was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, as agreed at the CPG meeting on Friday, that approval be sought to take Item 8.1 – Presentation from the AILG – at the beginning of the meeting. This was seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, and with the Council's agreement, this item was taken.

The Cathaoirleach then welcomed Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan, President of the AILG, Ms. Elaine Lynch Head of Operations & Member Services AILG and Tommy Moylan Executive Director of the AILG to deliver the presentation to the members.

Item No. 8.1

A.I.L.G.

The Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) delivered a presentation outlining its national representative role on behalf of over 950 councillors across all 31 local authorities, with a focus on advocacy, policy influence, professional development and strengthening local democracy. The presentation highlighted key achievements including significant improvements in councillor pay and conditions, maternity and paternity leave provisions, enhanced welfare supports, the introduction of a security allowance and the 365Assist service, the Women's Regional

Caucus Network, cross-border collaboration with NILGA, and major commissioned research with Maynooth University.

AILG also outlined its policy impact at national and EU level, including active participation in the Council of Europe monitoring process, the Seanad Consultation Committee, and its central role in the Government's Local Democracy Taskforce, now in the final drafting phase of its report.

AILG outlined its extensive training and professional development offering, including specialised in-person and online training, QQI-accredited courses, micro-credentials, policy briefings and ongoing member support on role clarity, protocol and pay.

The Association then presented its strategic priorities for 2025-2029, which include delivering a Strategic Training Plan informed by member feedback, implementing a new Corporate Plan focused on sustainability and innovation, expanding staff resources to strengthen policy development and member services, enhancing supports such as research and library functions and an online training academy, and deepening national influence through evidence-based policy, research and collaborative partnerships.

Members were encouraged to actively engage with AILG through training events, plenary delegates, consultations, networking opportunities and direct communication, with the Association emphasising that meaningful member engagement is central to shaping future advocacy, services and organisational priorities.

The speakers acknowledged the members' comments regarding social media challenges, the increasing demands placed on elected members, and the points raised in relation to further training and development. They also noted the issues around the availability of suitable presenters.

Timing of AILG Conferences, impact on Cllrs working full time, Independent legal advice for Cllrs, keeping Cllrs informed of new legislation.

The Social Media results highlighted the shared responsibility regarding respect for one another and how we speak to each other.

A dedicated Research and Policy Officer is already in place, and the need for a Training and Development Officer was recognised.

Observations concerning the concept of full-time councillors were noted and will form part of an ongoing national discussion.

It was agreed to circulate a copy of the AILG submission to the local Democracy Taskforce for their information.

Item 2.1
Disclosure/or
Conflicts of
Interest

No disclosures or conflicts of interest were notified to the Meetings Administrator in advance of the meeting.

Item No. 3.1
Minutes of
Council
Meeting held
on the 9th
February
2026

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 9th February 2026 were proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield** and approved.

Matters
Arising

There were no matters arising

Item 4.1
Approval to
Attendance

It was proposed by **Cllr. Michael Smith**, seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and resolved: -

"That pursuant to Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 and having regard to (i) the benefits likely to accrue, (ii) the general interest of this administrative area and of the local community (iii) the estimated cost of the proposed attendance and the provision made for such purposes in the annual budget, hereby nominate those listed hereunder to attend the following Conferences/Seminars/Trainings: -

Seminars/ Conferences/ Similar Events	Dates	Venue	Nominees
AILG Module 2 Overview of New Housing for All Action Plan and Tenancy Rights"	19 th Feb	Radisson Blu, Limerick	Michael Brennan AnneMarie Ryan Shiner
AILG Module 2 Overview of New Housing for All Action Plan and Tenancy Rights"	21 st Mar ch	Radisson Blu, Sligo	John Fitzgerald Micheal Anglim Sean Ryan John Carroll Andy Moloney Liam Browne Tom Acheson Mairin McGrath Mary Hanna Hourigan John O Heney

Celtic Conferences "The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations"	6 th - 8 th March	Four Seasons, Carlingford	Mark Fitzgerald Kieran Bourke Michael Brennan John Crosse Joe Hannigan
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Item 4.2

Reports on Conferences attended were noted.

Reports on Conferences

Item 5.1

It was proposed by **Cllr. Mairin McGrath**, seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and resolved: -

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of circa 0.0621ha of land at Lisvernanne, Aherlow, Co. Tipperary to Aherlow Community Creche, Lullabies & Laughter Childcare Company by Limited Guarantee

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.0621ha of land at Lisvernanne, Aherlow, Co. Tipperary to Aherlow Community Creche, Lullabies & Laughter Childcare Company by Limited Guarantee in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 25th February 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the provision of additional car parking spaces at Aherlow Community Creche

Item 5.2

It was proposed by **Cllr. Séan Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield** and resolved: -

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of circa 0.052ha of land at Cummernore, Kilcommon, Co. Tipperary to Patrick O'Brien (deceased) via a Deed of Rectification

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.052ha of land at Cummernore, Kilcommon, Co. Tipperary to Patrick O'Brien in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 25th February 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping error.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Séan Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. Kay Cahill Skehan** and resolved: -

Item 5.3

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of the property known as Mary Willies Pub,

Section 183
Notice -
Disposal of
the property
known as
Mary Willies
Pub, Littleton,
Co. Tipperary
to Evelyn
Dunne via a
deed of
Rectification

Littleton, Co. Tipperary to Evelyn Dunne via a deed of Rectification in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 25th February 2026.

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping error.

Item 5.4
Section 183
Notice -
Disposal of
circa 0.204ha
of land at
Rathanny,
Tipperary, Co.
Tipperary to
Raymond
Merrigan

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.204ha of land at Rathanny, Tipperary, Co. Tipperary to Raymond Merrigan in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 25th February 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping error.

Item 5.5
Section 183 -
Notice -
Disposal of
circa
0.0897ha of
land at
Mullinooly,
Mullinahone,
Co. Tipperary
to Alan
O'Grady

It was proposed by **Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald**, seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.0897ha of land at Mullinooly, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary to Alan O'Grady in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 25th February 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of a mapping error.

Item No. 5.6
Section 183 -
Disposal of
circa 0.043ha
at Green
Street,
Fethard, Co.
Tipperary to
Martin Healy

It was proposed by **Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald**, seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of a land at Green Street, Fethard to Martin Healy for a consideration of €100 and the Council's legal fees in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 25th February 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the regularisation of title to land

Item No. 5.7

Section 183

Notice -

**Disposal of
circa 1.1ha of
land at
Knockeevan,
Ballyclerihan,
Clonmel to JSF
Construction
Ltd**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Marie Murphy**, seconded by **Cllr. Michéal Anglim** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 1.1ha of land at Knockeevan, Ballyclerihan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary to JSF Construction Ltd. In accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section, as circulated on Wednesday 25th February 2026."

The disposal of the property was required to facilitate the provision of land zoned new residential for the development of social, affordable and private housing.

Item No. 5.8

**Strategic
Infrastructure
Development
Application
(SID's)**

To note Chief Executives Report and seek the views of the Elected Members on Tipperary County Councils submission on the proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Application by Uisce Éireann for the Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region (ref PA92.323980) in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Senior Executive Planner, Mr. Jonathan Flood, presented an overview of the SID's process, prepared in response to the proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application submitted by Uisce Éireann to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) for the Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Project.

The development proposes to abstract water from Lough Derg and the Parteen Basin to supply Dublin and parts of the Midlands.

Mr. Flood outlined the statutory framework governing the application, explaining that as a Strategic Infrastructure Development under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the proposal requires the Chief Executive (CE) to prepare a detailed report on its environmental impacts and implications for sustainable development. This report must be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála by 30 March 2026 and must include the views and recommendations of elected members. He confirmed that the CE Report had been circulated, reflecting a coordinated internal review involving the Planning Section, Nenagh Municipal District, Roads, Environment, Building Control, the Biodiversity Officer, LAWPRO, and an external expert review by CAAS Ltd. He also noted that members had attended a workshop on 24 February and received a technical briefing from Uisce Éireann on 27 January, and he invited them to contribute their views to be included in the final submission.

Director of Services, Mr. Brian Beck then confirmed that a draft resolution had been circulated to members and that all views expressed at the meeting, together with any supporting documents identified by individual councillors, would be appended to the CE Report. He clarified that the wording previously circulated on concerns about the completeness of

Uisce Éireann's application had already been incorporated. Councillors proceeded to make extensive contributions, with the dominant themes being: -

- Environmental protection
- Hydrological feasibility
- Local water-service deficiencies
- Legal and regulatory concerns, project cost
- Community impact

Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler opened the discussion by expressing deep concern at the potential ecological harm the proposal could cause to the sensitive Lough Derg environment. She reiterated the technical and scientific complexity of the project and requested that a strong statement of concern be included with the CE Report. She later elaborated on risks to water flows at Killaloe Bridge, particularly in summer months, and stated that the proposed extraction of 3.8- 4.2m³/s could not be guaranteed at any time of year, given climate-change-induced droughts, recent hosepipe bans, and evidence of shifting jet-stream behaviour.

She also highlighted invasive species, including zebra and quagga mussels, as serious risks to both the lake environment and the proposed infrastructure, noting that zebra mussels can increase nitrate levels and algae blooms, and that their larvae could enter the abstraction point and clog the system, significantly increasing treatment costs. She stated that Uisce Éireann have based their proposal on Lake Erie, one of the North American Great Lakes, noting that authorities there spend approximately €200 million annually to address zebra mussel larvae entering the water-abstraction intake.

She stated that the energy demand associated with desalination could be met by the Poolbeg facility, which has an existing output of 500 MW and is in the process of further increasing its renewable energy generation.

During prolonged dry-weather conditions, such as those experienced in August 2025, water within the proposed pipeline could remain stagnant for 17 days or more. Extended residence time significantly increases the risk of trihalomethane (THM) formation, as disinfectant by-products accumulate the longer chlorinated water remains in the system.

Cllr. Dr. Bugler further warned that blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) in Lough Derg would require additional chlorine treatment to ensure safety, which in turn would elevate THM levels even further. This creates potential public-health concerns for consumers in Dublin, where the water would ultimately be delivered.

Cllr. Dr. Bugler expressed concerns with respect to the Community Gain element of the development

Many councillors echoed these environmental concerns.

Cllr. Pamela Quirke O'Meara argued that the proposal posed a substantial legal and ecological risk, stating that it might conflict with multiple EU Directives and would involve a 50-metre-wide construction corridor that could damage habitats, farmland, and vulnerable species such as the breeding curlew. She also questioned the fairness of imposing major

environmental burdens on rural communities while Dublin continues to lose 38% of its treated water through leakage. Several councillors shared this view, emphasising that Dublin has a water management problem rather than a water resource problem.

Cllr. Seamus Morris underscored this point, citing Dublin's extensive leakage, and the availability of storage capacity at Poulaphouca, which he argued had not been fully utilised. He noted that Poulaphouca has a storage capacity of approximately 200 billion litres and generates only 0.2% of the total national electricity supply.

The leakage rate in Dublin is approximately 3.5 m³/s, while Uisce Éireann proposes to abstract 3.8 m³/s from Lough Derg. This means that the volume of water being abstracted for the Greater Dublin Area is effectively equivalent to the volume currently being lost through leakage from the ageing Victorian pipe network. In practical terms, all treated water pumped to the Greater Dublin Area would be lost before it ever reaches consumers. He said that it is therefore common sense to first repair and modernise the existing water infrastructure in Dublin, which would significantly reduce or eliminate the need for the proposed new abstraction pipeline.

He noted fines imposed on Uisce Éireann by the CRU for failing to meet leakage targets and fines on the State by the European Court of Justice for water-quality failures. He expressed concern that the proposal would create a water shortage in the Mid-West and argued that it was not Tipperary's role to compensate for Dublin's infrastructure deficiencies. He also referenced the Council's Development Contribution Scheme, and particularly the levy on abstraction of water, which Uisce Éireann were ignoring. He felt that there was no community gain from the project.

He stated that the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Ballina does not have tertiary treatment, resulting in nitrates and phosphates entering Lough Derg. These nutrients contribute to algal blooms and the proliferation of cyanobacteria, despite the plant having been recently upgraded.

Numerous councillors raised concerns about ongoing water-service problems within Tipperary itself.

Cllr. Michael O'Meara described the Lower Ormond area as experiencing "third-world" water quality, with frequent boil-water notices and no commitments from Uisce Éireann to address these issues. He rejected the idea of supplying water from Lough Derg to Dublin when local communities remain underserved.

Cllr. J.P. O'Meara echoed this, questioning how such a major project could proceed while 1,200 households in Rathcabbin were under boil-water notice during the recent Uisce Éireann briefing.

Several councillors described persistent issues in Cloughjordan, Ballycommon, Gortnahoe, Ballysloe, and other areas, expressing frustration at the lack of progress or investment in local infrastructure. Many felt it was unacceptable that the pipeline would bypass affected communities without offering them any connection or benefit.

Concerns were also raised about wastewater infrastructure.

Cllr. Joe Hannigan highlighted the issue of sludge from existing extraction plants and questioned why the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) made no specific reference to sludge management for the proposed scheme. He also noted that LAWPRO had reported a 10% deterioration in water quality in the Lough Derg catchment, and he expressed worry that Uisce Éireann's lack of investment in wastewater systems might be limiting population growth in the region.

Several councillors criticised the projected cost of the project, which has risen far beyond initial estimates referenced during the meeting. They questioned whether this represented a prudent use of public resources when substantial improvements to existing leakage and treatment infrastructure remain unfunded. Many also objected to the lack of meaningful community gain, noting that the Community Gain Fund ends once construction is complete. Some said that any community benefit should apply on a county-wide basis, given the scale of the potential impact on Tipperary.

A number of councillors reflected broader regional concerns, noting that Tipperary, Clare, and Limerick local authorities appear aligned in their reservations about the proposal. Some argued that the project undermines regional-development objectives in the National Planning Framework and risks deepening the imbalance between urban and rural areas.

Across the chamber, confidence in Uisce Éireann's capacity to deliver and manage the project was low. Many members (Cllrs. A.M. Ryan, M. McGrath, D. Dunne, J. Ryan, J. O'Heney, M. Fitzgerald, Ml., Brennan) voiced dissatisfaction with its performance in addressing local outages and leaks, saying their experience to date does not inspire trust.

Cllr. Fiona Bonfield stated that the executive's report was comprehensive and effectively addressed the concerns raised by members.

Cllr. R. Kennedy stated that, based on planning principles alone, the proposal would not secure permission if assessed by Tipperary County Council, given the environmental risks and unanswered questions.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Carroll described the proposal as "environmental vandalism" and warned that man-made drains in the area would intensify negative impacts.

Director of Services Mr. Brian Beck closed by confirming that councillor submissions, both spoken and written, would accompany the CE Report and final resolution to An Coimisiún Pleanála, along with documentation from expert and community groups identified by members.

The referenced submissions were noted as follows: -

- River Shannon Protection Alliance
- Dr. Will O'Connor, Environmentalist
- Ms. Sabrina Joyce Kemper, Planning & Environmental Consultant

- Forúm Coimisiún – Review of the Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Project
- Cllr. Seamus Morris
- Cllr. Louise Morgan Walsh
- Cllr. Fiona Bonfield
- Mr. Alan Kelly, T.D.
- Cllr. Pamela Quirke O'Meara
- Mr. Mattie McGrath, T.D.
- Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler
-

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Chief Executive, clarified that Community Gain and the Development Contribution Scheme are separate matters and do not influence decisions by An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and are only considered by ACP if planning permission is ultimately granted.

The prevailing sentiment of the meeting was one of strong shared concern, with most councillors expressing deep reservations or outright opposition to the proposed project.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler**, seconded by **Cllr. Seamus Morris**, and agreed that: -

Resolution by the Elected Members of Tipperary County Council under Section 37E – Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

On the Eastern & Midlands Water Supply Project – Proposed Abstraction from Lough Derg / Parteen Basin to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP-323980-25)

"That Tipperary County Council Elected Members, having considered the Chief Executive's Report under Section 37E, resolves as follows:

1. Reservations on the Proposed Development

Tipperary County Council Elected Members formally express serious reservations to the planning application for the Eastern & Midlands Water Supply Project, including the proposed abstraction from Lough Derg / Parteen Basin.

The Elected Members have grave concerns regarding the completeness of the application submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála. This Report requests that An Coimisiún Pleanála must be satisfied, in arriving at its decision, that Uisce Éireann have provided substantive evidence based data which clearly demonstrates that the proposed development complies with all legislative requirements and that the proposed development will not have a detrimental impact on this sensitive ecological water body, or the people and communities that live within its catchment.

2. Reasons for these Reservation

a) Environmental and Ecological Impacts

The proposed abstraction point lies within the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC), threatening critical habitats and

protected species including salmon, trout, pollan, and endangered waterbird species.

The project fails to adequately safeguard against long term environmental degradation, and proposed mitigation measures are insufficient, unproven, and non binding.

b) Climate and Hydrological Risk

Climate change analysis by the ICARUS Institute (Maynooth University) indicates the Mid West could experience drought events every two years, lasting approx. 17 days per year.

During dry periods, only 6 m³/s naturally flows through Parteen Basin; the applicant proposes to abstract 3.8 m³/s, amounting to 63% abstraction, not 2% as claimed.

This would leave just 2.2 m³/s for the Lower Shannon, with devastating consequences for fish life, water quality, algal blooms, biodiversity, and downstream communities.

c) Tourism and Economic Impacts

Tourism around Lough Derg, including Ballina, Killaloe, Dromineer, and Terryglass are central to the economic wellbeing of the region. Reduced water levels, increased algal blooms, reduced oxygenation and diminished water quality would negatively affect angling, boating, swimming, and overall tourism across the Lough Derg communities.

d) Lack of a Drought Management Plan

At the public information event in Killaloe (12 February 2026), Uisce Éireann were unable to confirm whether abstraction would cease during drought conditions. No credible or enforceable drought management strategy has been provided.

e) Construction Impacts

The five year construction phase would result in substantial disruption, including heavy traffic, noise, dust, vibration, and extensive land take at the treatment plant site.

f) Availability of More Appropriate Alternatives

Poulaphouca Reservoir holds 19 billion litres and produces only 0.2% of electricity—its use as a supply source is not being maximised.

Kildare aquifers, located only 30 km from Dublin (as opposed to 172 km from Lough Derg), contain sufficient capacity to meet Dublin's needs.

Addressing 38% leakage rates and widespread lead service pipes must precede any major new infrastructure.

Recent large scale pipe failures highlight the risks associated with long distance, high pressure transfer systems.

3. Attachment to the Chief Executive's Report

In accordance with Section 37E (6), the Council directs that this Resolution be appended to the Chief Executive's Report for submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

4. Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

The Chief Executive is instructed to forward:

- this Resolution,*
- the Members' Record from the Meetings Administrator, and*
- all supporting documentation*

within the statutory timeframe

Item No. 5.9
Consideration of Audit Committee Reports in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001

It was proposed by **Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald**, seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 9 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, Tipperary County Council adopt the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2026".

The following documents were also provided to the members and noted.

- Audit Committee Report to Council for 2025
- Audit Committee Report on Audited AFS 2024
- Audit Committee Self-Assessment for 2025

Item No. 6.1
Ratification of Members to Strategic Policy Committee (SP

It was proposed by **Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan** and seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and resolved: -

"That Ms. Myriam Madigan (Suircan Environmental Group) be and are hereby appointed as the environmental representative to the Housing SPC".

Item No. 7.1
Consideration of the Management Report

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Management Report as circulated with the agenda noting that the reports related to the Directorates based in Nenagh and any queries/clarifications would be dealt with by the relevant Director of Services

- Roads, Transportation, Health and Safety
- Planning and Development (including Town Centre First and Just Transition)
- Emergency Services & Emergency Planning
- Library, Cultural Services & Biodiversity.
- Finance & Information Technology

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Item 11.1 (NOM Ref. No. 3114) was taken as part of the Roads, Transportation, H&S Report Report.

Item No. 11.1

The Motion Reference 3114 was proposed by **Cllr. Mairín McGrath**.

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. Anne Marie Ryan**.

"That this Council writes to the Minister for Transport and to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) seeking a simplified process for the delivery of Greenway and Blueway projects, with a view to granting Local Authorities greater autonomy at all planning and design stages, using the example of the Cahir to Cashel Greenway."

The executive response was noted as follows: -

Since 2021, TII act as the central Approving Authority for national and regional greenways in Ireland on behalf of the Department of Transport. TII approve project funding, set design standards and oversee development through Local Authorities to support greenway infrastructure.

For national and regional greenways in County Tipperary, TII are the Approving Authority and Tipperary Co Co are the Sponsoring Agency.

The current process for the delivery of greenway projects that are funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland are set out in the following TII's publications and must be followed:

- Project Management Guidelines' (PMG) (TII Ref PE-PMG-02041).
- Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects' (TII Ref PE-PMG-02047) – supporting details for the PMG.
- Project Appraisal Guidelines (PAG) – sets out methods for assessing/appraising projects such as Multi-Criteria Analysis, Cost Benefit Analysis etc;

As Approving Authority, TII require that the Sponsoring Agency, TCC compile the necessary evidence to demonstrate the specific application of the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG) to the Project and provide assurance to TII at the end of each Phase that these PMG have been fully applied.

The Project Management Guidelines (PMG) set out the evolution and progression of a greenway project into an eight-phase process (Phase 0 to Phase 7). Each Phase has required processes, principal deliverables, TII approval points, Approving Authority Approval Gates and Gate Reviews. Approving Authority Approval Gates are designed to ensure that a project has met specific project requirements prior to being allowed to proceed to the next significant milestone. These are go/no go Hold Points on the Project that may result in the cancellation of a project etc. Requirements for approval include a level of certainty achieved in relation to cost, quality and time as well as value/benefits. In addition TII Gate Reviews occur at the end of each Phase. The purpose of a Gate Review is to ensure a Project has met the certain TII requirements before it can proceed to the next phase.

In order for Tipperary County Council's to receive funding, TCC project reporting must be in compliance with TII policies for greenway project delivery. The PMG ensures the process and appraisal is carried out objectively and impartially which is a priority for publicly funded schemes

which affect the public in various ways and also for the Statutory Approval Process.

The PMG for the delivery of TII Projects are developed to fit within the context of greater institutional and regulatory obligations set out by the relevant Government Department or its Agencies and as such TCC have no authority to deviate from same.

Members spoke in support of the motion and said it was well researched.

It was agreed that the motion will be referred to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien for consideration/response.

Roads, Transportation, Health & Safety

Item No. 7.1 **Mgmt. Report** **contd.**

Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services, provided an update on key strategic road works across the county. He, together with Senior Engineers Mr. James Murray and Mr. John Nolan, addressed queries raised by members.

Feasibility Study – Limerick Junction to Clonmel

It was agreed that an update would be provided to Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan regarding the status of a feasibility study which she understood had been agreed several years ago. She noted that she was not aware of any subsequent progress on the matter.

Roads Climate Action Funding

It was noted that funding had been received; however, the allocation was considered insufficient to meet current requirements.

Roads Work Programme / Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)

As this programme is administered at district level, it was agreed that a query raised by Cllr. Ml. Anglim would be referred directly to the District Engineer for follow-up.

Ballina Bus Stop

It was agreed that the Active Travel Team would be contacted to confirm the status of the Ballina bus stop project. A progress update will be issued to Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler.

R689 Reinstatement

Responsibility for reinstatement works lies with the District. The District Engineer will engage with the contractor to address the outstanding reinstatement requirements.

Greenway Schemes

It was noted that project costs vary depending on the parameters and specifications of each individual greenway scheme.

N24 – Western Section

Significant progress on the project was reported. The draft EIAR has been completed. Several challenges and uncontrollable variables were acknowledged.

An Coimisiún Pleanála / CPO submission is currently targeted for Q4 2026, subject to TII review. Further public consultation is anticipated in advance of the CPO application.

N24 – Eastern Section

An allocation of €500,000 for 2026 was welcomed and will allow the project to re-commence. The first step will involve the procurement of a consultant to progress preliminary stages.

N52

It was agreed that Cllr. Joe Hannigan would be contacted directly to clarify the accident incident referenced. A follow-up with TII will then be arranged to secure the full accident history for the relevant section of the N52.

Ballina Greenway

No update was available. It was noted that the project is unlikely to proceed in its current form. Members were advised that six other greenway projects are presently in progress across the county.

LIS

It was noted that a total of 250 applications had been received and approximately 15 applications are processed annually, resulting in a significant backlog.

Speed Limit Review

It was noted that a meeting with the Superintendent had taken place. The next step is to present the matter to the district. It was noted that meeting the 1st of October deadline will be challenging.

Oireachtas Members Meeting Request

The Meetings Administrator, Mr. Ger Walsh, provided clarification regarding Cllr. Jim Ryan's request for a meeting with Oireachtas members. He confirmed that the request had been issued; however, the Oireachtas members did not agree to the proposal and indicated their preference to continue with the existing bi-annual meeting arrangement involving the Chief Executive and the Management Team.

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. David Dunne, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the business of the meeting to be completed. The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 2:15 PM.

Resumption of Standing Orders

The meeting resumed at 3pm.

Item No. 7.1 Mgmt. Report contd.

Planning and Development (including Town Centre First and Just Transition)

Mr. Brian Beck, Director of Services, provided an overview of key items in the Management Report. He responded to general queries raised in the Management Report as follows:

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Local authorities have published the Final Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Map for 2026, identifying all lands liable for the tax during that year. Submissions in respect of the map are invited up to 1 April. The next set of final maps will be published in January 2027.

Variation No. 1 is expected to proceed to public display by the end of March, following which a four-week consultation period will take place. A report on the consultation will then be brought back to the Council for consideration.

Cluster Developments

In relation to clustering, it was noted that existing boundary areas continue to be utilised. Sufficient zoned land remains available within these established boundaries, and all future development will be required to comply with the applicable density guidelines. Two-Mile Borris was cited as an example of a successful cluster development. Members agreed that the concept is sound and that the number of applications currently being submitted is under ongoing review.

Capacity for Clubs

The increase in joint applications from clubs was noted and welcomed. Members agreed that such collaborative applications are encouraged in order to maximise funding opportunities.

Waste Water Services

It was agreed that a recent Uisce Éireann Circular on Waste Water Services will be circulated to the members. A development-led infrastructure approach has been announced. It was further noted that there remains a risk of a developer withdrawing from a project under this model.

Ghost Estates

It was noted that the Council had engaged with RTÉ in relation to a recent programme on ghost estates. Details of ten estates were submitted as part of this engagement.

Housing Developments

It was noted that where a contractor is seeking to progress to Phase 2 of a development, consideration is given to their performance during Phase 1, including how arising issues were managed and resolved. Every estate presents its own distinct circumstances and must therefore be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Quarry Lane

The importance of the project was noted. It was further confirmed that the scope of the Quarry Lane works has been included in the RRDF application

Town Centre First Team

It was agreed that engagement would take place with Cllr. Phyll Bugler to organise a further visit to the area as part of the ongoing Town Centre First initiative.

Emergency Services & Emergency Planning

Mr. Brian Beck, Director of Services, provided an overview of key items in the Management Report. He responded to general queries raised on the Management Report as follows:

Blueway Access

Under Blueway developments, it was noted that additional funding of €250,000 has been secured to support the enhancement of Blueway infrastructure, including the provision of emergency access points.

Library, Cultural Services & Biodiversity

Mr. Damien Ginty, Director of Services provided an overview of key items in the Management Report. He responded to general queries raised on the Management Report as follows:

Wetlands Projects

It was agreed to engage with Bio Diversity Officer to facilitate meetings with Tidy Towns groups in relation to ongoing and proposed wetlands initiatives

Seachtain na Gaeilge

The programme of events organised across all the libraries for Seachtain na Gaeilge was acknowledged and welcomed.

Finance & Information Technology

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Item No. 7.2 and Item No. 7.3 were taken as part of the Management Report on Finance & Information Technology

Item No. 7.2
Schedule of
Uncollected
Rates 2025

This item was noted. Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance, further noted an improvement on the 2024 position, with an additional €1 million collected in commercial rates.

Item No. 7.3
Tipperary
County
Council
Ransomware
Policy

This item was noted.

Item No. 7.1
Mgmt report
contd.

Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance referred to the report as circulated. He responded to general queries raised on the Management Report as follows:

Cyber Security Awareness

It was agreed to circulate training dates for Q2 2026 and format (online/in-person) once confirmed.

Rate Payments Incentive Scheme

The scheme has been advertised and brought to the attention of the chamber of commerce and all rate payers.

Energy Costs

The potential impact of rising energy costs is currently being examined by the Roads Section to determine the implications for the 2026 Budget. It was noted that plans may need to be adjusted during the year in response to cost pressures, and the position continues to be monitored closely

Item No. 9.1
Consideration
of Orders for
the period to
the 28th
February
2026

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 28th February 2026 were noted.

Item No. 10.1
Cllr. Richie
Molloy NOM.
Ref. 3092

At the request of Cllr Molloy, it was agreed to defer NOM 3092 to the April Meeting for consideration.

Item No. 12.1
Reply dated
the 27th
January 2026
from the
Office of the
Minister for
Transport

Re. NOM 3038 Funding Scheme for the maintenance and improvement of existing footpaths and the development of new footpaths.

This item was noted

Item No. 12.2
Reply dated
the 18th
February
2026 from the
Office of the
Minister for
Justice, Home
Affairs &
Migration

Re NOM Ref. No. 3078 - Local Community Safety Partnership.

This item was noted.

Item No. 12.3
Reply dated
the 18th
February
from the
Office of the
Minister for

Re NOM 3066 - Short-Term Letting.

This item was noted.

**Housing,
Local
Government
& heritage**

**Item No. 13.1
Motions from
other
Councils**

The following Resolutions from other Local Authorities were considered and noted: -

Galway County Council

"That in light of the increase in road traffic fatalities and incidents in 2025, representing a failure of national road safety leadership, that this council will write to the Minister for Transport calling for the following:

- That funding will be issued to Galway City Council to pilot the installation of red-light cameras at key junctions on publication of the National Safety Camera Strategy later this year, and that any fines collected would be retained by Galway City Council to help offset costs of other road safety improvements.
- That this council calls for a re-evaluation of the role of the RSA and that the recommendations of the Indecon Report 2024 should be implemented immediately.

Upon adoption, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities."

Wexford County Council

"That this Council calls on the Government to fast-track and publish the legislation outlawing the use of anonymous social media accounts, profiles and user/chat groups on all social media platforms."

Wexford County Council

"That this Council calls on the Government to task Irish Public Bodies (IPB) with the provision of insurance cover for residential and commercial properties that are unable to obtain insurance from commercial insurers due to previous flooding events or because they are located within designated flood risk zones.

This Council acknowledges that the risk profile of such properties makes it uneconomic for the private insurance market to provide cover on a commercial basis. In that context, the Council further calls on the Minister for Finance to introduce a modest, ring-fenced insurance levy to establish and support a national flood insurance claims fund, which would underpin the provision of such cover and ensure long term sustainability.

This Council believes that access to insurance is essential for the protection of homeowners, businesses, community viability, and local economic resilience, and that a state supported mechanism is required to address this market failure."

Westmeath County Council

"That Westmeath County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage of Ireland and call on the Minister to increase the respective income thresholds for Social Housing Provision and Housing Assistance Payment."

Wicklow County Council

"That Wicklow County Council notes with deep concern the Government's decision to ratify CETA and in particular the Investor Court System (ICS), after trying to rush through the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2025 to circumvent the judgement that CETA is unconstitutional.

This Council believes that ICS risks selling out Irish taxpayers, Irish workers' rights and Irish climate and environmental protections for the sole benefit of multinational big business.

Wicklow County Council therefore calls on the Government to suspend Ireland's participation in the ICS element of CETA pending a full, independent assessment of its impacts on local authorities, public services, and environmental protections."

Clare County Council

"That Clare County Council call on the Irish Government, and in particular the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, to urgently respond to the recent appeal from the Irish Beekeepers' Association and associated national beekeeping organisations for:

1. The establishment of a properly resourced, dedicated and coordinated all-Ireland bee inspection service, to protect managed honeybees and wild pollinators from disease outbreaks, parasite and invasive threats;
2. The immediate reinstatement and expansion of professional bee inspection capacity in the Republic of Ireland, working in cooperation with counterparts in Northern Ireland, to ensure early detection, rapid response and effective biosecurity controls;
3. Enhanced national measures to combat invasive species and emerging parasite, including the Asian hornet and the Tropilaelaps (Tropi) mite;
4. Proactive surveillance, preparedness and contingency planning for the potential arrival of the Tropilaelaps mite in Ireland;
5. Full and continued Government support for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan;
6. Recognition that bee and other pollinators are essential to Irish agriculture, food security, biodiversity and the wider environment.

This Motion is to be circulated to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Minister of State with responsibility for biodiversity, all Oireachtas members representing County Clare, and local authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland."

Item No. 14.1 **Expressions** **of votes of** **sympathy /** **congratulations**

Members passed a vote of sympathy to the following: -

- Marie Looby, Finance Section, on the death of her Stepmother Margaret Croke
- Vera Hewitt, former Mayor of Clonmel and former Member of Clonmel Corporation

Item No. 15.1
A.O.B.

There being no other business, the Meeting concluded at 3.35 p.m.

Signed/  Date 13th April 2026
Cathaoirleach.

Signed/ _____ Date 13th April 2026
Meetings Administrator