

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF  
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
Remotely Via Zoom  
AT 10.00 AM ON Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**

**Present**

Cllr. Marie Murphy, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S. Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Bourke K; Bugler, P; Burgess, D; Carroll, J; Coonan, N.J; Darcy, G; Dennehy, N; Dunne, D; English, P; Fitzgerald, J; FitzGerald, MI; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hanna-Hourigan, M; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; Lowry, MI; S; McGrath, H; McGrath, M; McGrath (Rocky), J; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morris, S; Murphy, MI; O'Meara, K; O'Meara, MI; Ryan, J; Ryan AM; Ryan, P; Ryan, S; Smith; MI.

**Also Present**

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, M. O'Connor, K. Cashen, S. Carr, P. Slattery, Director of Services, E. Lonergan, B. Beck, A/Director of Services, L. McCarthy, Head of Finance, J. Cooney, S.E., D. Holland, S.E. A. Fitzgerald, Head of Enterprise, Ms. M. O'Neill, S.E.O., G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator/A Director of Services.

**Apologies**

Cllrs T. Black, J. Crosse, Mark FitzGerald, J. Hannigan

**Welcome &  
Introduction/Me  
etings Protocol**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Marie Murphy welcomed all to the first meeting of the Council for 2022 and wished everyone health and happiness for the year ahead. She then referred members to the meetings protocol for virtual meetings circulated with the agenda and asked members to observe the rules contained therein with regard to remote meetings. She called on the Meetings Administrator to take a roll call and commence the meeting with the opening prayer.

**Vote of  
Sympathy,  
Opening Prayer  
and Minutes  
Silence**

The Cathaoirleach extended the condolences of the members to the family of Aisling Murphy, her parents Raymond and Kathleen, her brother Cathal, sister Amy and her partner Ryan Casey, her extended family and teaching colleagues. Ms Murphy was brutally murdered in Tullamore on Wednesday afternoon as she jogged by a canal and her murder had triggered widespread outpourings of grief and anger. Aisling was also a talented musician, she played with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí and had played in Bru Boru. The Cathaoirleach asked that a Minutes Silence would be observed in memory of Aisling following the opening prayer and this was agreed.

Cllr M. McGrath joined in the expression of sympathy and spoke of being an acquaintance of Aisling. Aisling was a talented musician and they had both met through various Comhaltas Ceoltóirí events of which they were both members. She said that a precious life had been taken too soon.

A minute's silence was observed.

## **N.24 Waterford to Cahir**

The Cathaoirleach advised members that she wished to highlight and update the members on an issue relating to the N24 Waterford to Cahir project following a meeting of the First Citizens that she had attended that morning. This project had been mentioned in the National Development Plan – Project Ireland 2040 last October and the lead council to the plan, Kilkenny County Council confirmed at the First Citizens Meeting that morning that monies had not been allocated for the works for 2022. The N24 Waterford to Cahir Project formed part of the N24 national primary route and was a strategic transport corridor between the cities of Limerick and Waterford.

Cllr Murphy informed members that at the meeting of the First Citizens of Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford and Carlow, together with the Chief Executives of each County, it was indicated that an allocation in 2022 for this vital project would not be forthcoming. The upgrade of the N24 was a recurring item on the agenda for these meeting because of its importance to the south east region in terms of connecting the South East to the Western Corridor. A meeting with the Oireachtas members due for the 4th February had brought this forward to next Friday morning because of the urgency of the matter.

The Cathaoirleach said that the lack of funding in 2022 for the Cahir to Waterford section of the N24 was of major concern as it now left the project in 'limbo'. There was currently a 6km wide corridor sterilised from Cahir to Waterford. It was imperative that there should be multi annual funding for such vital infrastructural upgrades especially when these upgrades were on the National Development Plan. The Cathaoirleach suggested that the Council would write to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister for Transport highlighting the concerns of the Council and to ensure that funding was made available in 2022 to keep the N24 Cahir to Waterford project alive. Contact should also be made with the Oireachtas members in this regard.

Members spoke of their shock and huge disappointment at the decision. This project which was at an advanced stage was of major importance to the South East Region. They spoke of the economic and tourism impact this vital infrastructure would have on the affected areas and urged that a meeting would be held with the Minister as a matter of urgency. Reference was made to sterilised land along the route and the impact this was having on families waiting for a decision in relation to their future plans for building on the family holding. Reference was also made to health and safety issues on the route.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, joined with the members in expressing his extreme disappointment and huge sense of frustration in relation to the decision. The N.24 corridor was critical to the economic development of Tipperary, of the South East and connectivity to the mid-west and the west. He reminded Councillors that at the May Meeting of Tipperary County Council passed the following resolution as at that point in time the Council was focusing on the review of the National Development Plan and were deeply concerned that any decision made in that review would impact on the N24 as a corridor. **“That we the Members of Tipperary County Council request that the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan TD prioritises the planning, design and construction of the N24 Waterford to Limerick**

**Corridor road project within the Review of the National Development Plan. This project is critical to the development of the South East region and to the achievement of national targets on addressing regional imbalance by connecting the cities of Waterford and Limerick, the South East, South West and Mid-West Regions, Rosslare Euro port, the Port of Waterford and existing strategic transport corridors including the M7 (Dublin-Limerick), M8 (Dublin-Cork) and M9 (Dublin-Carlow-Kilkenny-Waterford) motorways. It is further requested that this Notice of Motion be sent to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD and Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath, TD".** The Resolution was also passed by members in the other South East Local Authorities.

Mr. McGrath said that this infrastructure was critical, not only to the towns in Tipperary that it bypasses but it was critical as it was one piece of infrastructure that had the capacity to maximize the existing motorway infrastructure in the country, it connected and had the potential to connect the M18, M7, M8, M9 and the N25. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Council would write to the Minister to seek a meeting and do everything possible to ensure that Kilkenny County Council does receive the allocation for this project. He said that following the meeting of the First Citizens there was huge support across the South East for the project and the importance of the project was recognized as being a critical development for the region and particularly Tipperary. People were aware of the volume of traffic transversing this corridor and there were key safety issues along the corridor.

**Item No. 1.2**  
**Disclosures/or**  
**Conflicts of**  
**Interest**

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator

**Item 2.1**  
**Minutes of**  
**Council Meeting**  
**held on 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**December, 2021**

The Minutes of the December Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 remotely via Zoom were proposed by **Cllr. Pat English**, seconded by **Cllr. Sean Ryan** and adopted.

**Matters Arising**

Biodiversity Officer

In response to an enquiry by Cllr English, it was noted that a meeting had been held recently with the Heritage Council but no update was available on the rollout of the Biodiversity Officer positions in 2022. However clarity would be sought on the issue and members would be updated.

Jigsaw Tipperary

In response to an enquiry by Cllr English it was agreed that a further letter would issue to the Minister regarding a commitment made for hubs in Clonmel and Nenagh.

**Item 3.1**  
**Approval to**  
**Attendance**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** seconded by **Cllr. Seamus Hanafin** 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: -

Seminar/Conference/ Similar Event	Dates	Venue	Nominees
Celtic Conferences	7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2022	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	Cllr. S. Ryan Cllr. I. Goldsboro Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. S. Lee Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. J. Crosse Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan Cllr. D. Burgess
Celtic Conferences	21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2022	O’Donovans Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Cllr. J. Hannigan

**Item 3.2**  
**Reports on**  
**Conferences**

Proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and seconded by **Cllr. Seamus Hanafin** and noted.

**Item 4.1**  
**Section 183**  
**Notice –**  
**Disposal of land**  
**at Bowling**  
**Green,**  
**Loughtagalla,**  
**Thurles**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Seamus Hanafin**, seconded by **Cllr. Sean Ryan** and resolved: -

**“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the Section 183 Notice for approval to lease the green area in Loughtagalla to the Loughtagalla Park and Residential Association for a period of 25 years in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above section as circulated on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2021”.**

This Notice was in respect of a Lease Agreement to allow Loughtagalla Park and Residential Association upgrade the existing public park at Bowling Green, Loughtagalla, Thurles, as a Biodiversity Play Park to include a walkway, a sensory garden, various seating areas, a new entrance plaza, tree planting, a new car park and associated site works.

## **Item 4.2**

### **Ethics Framework Compliance**

Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator, referred to Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 (the 2001 Act) which set out the ethical framework for all those involved in the Local Government Service, both members and employees. The framework imposed a statutory duty on all in the service to maintain proper standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.

Members were informed that Annual Declarations under Section 171 of the 2001 Act, were required to be submitted to the Ethics Registrar in writing on or before the last day in February 2021 containing particulars of his or her declarable interests; and an undertaking to have regard to and be guided by the relevant Code of Conduct in the exercise of his or her functions.

Also, in accordance with electoral legislation members were required to submit a Donation Statement in respect of donations received, the value of which exceeded €600.00. These statements were to be furnished to the Ethics Registrar not later than 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

## **Item 5.1**

### **Nomination of member to Economic Development & Enterprise SPC**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Noel Coonan**, seconded by **Cllr. Phyll Bugler** and resolved: -

**“That Cllr. Peggy Ryan be and is hereby ratified nominee to the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC”.**

## **Item 5.2**

### **Nomination of member to Environment & Climate Action SPC**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Noel Coonan**, seconded by **Cllr. Phyll Bugler** and resolved: -

**“That Cllr. Peggy Ryan be and is hereby ratified nominee to the Environment & Climate Action SPC”.**

## **Item 5.3**

### **Nomination of Member to Thurles Regional Arts Centre**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Noel Coonan**, seconded by **Cllr. Phyll Bugler** and resolved: -

**“That Cllr. Peggy Ryan be and is hereby ratified nominee to the Thurles Regional Arts Centre.”**

## **Item 5.4**

### **Nomination of member to Regional Health Forum West**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Noel Coonan**, seconded by **Cllr. Phyll Bugler** and resolved:

**“That Cllr. Peggy Ryan be and is hereby ratified nominee to the Regional Health Forum West”.**

### **Item 5.5**

#### **Nomination of member to Tipperary Sports Partnership Committee**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Noel Coonan**, seconded by **Cllr. Phyll Bugler** and resolved: -

**“That Cllr. Peggy Ryan be and is hereby ratified nominee to the Tipperary Sports Partnership Committee”**

### **Item 5.6**

#### **Nomination of member to South East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force**

It was proposed by **Cllr. Noel Coonan**, seconded by **Cllr. Phyll Bugler** and resolved: -

**“That Cllr. Peggy Ryan be and is hereby ratified nominee to the South East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force”.**

### **Item 6.1**

#### **Consideration of Management Report**

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

#### **Community/Economic Development & Tourism**

Mr. Pat Slattery, Director of Services and Mr. A. Fitzgerald, Head of Enterprise responded to queries raised.

#### **RRDF and URDF Fund**

Cllr A. Ryan referred to a loan for 6m to co-fund projects under the RRDF and URDF for 2022. In 2021 she said that Tipperary County Council had submitted 3 applications under RRDF, Tipperary Town, Holycross and Nenagh with Nenagh being the successful project in securing funding. In 2021 Nenagh were awarded €9.25m under a URDF application and a further €670,000 under the RRDF. In 2022 they had been awarded €1.2m under the RRDF announcement. Since 2018 under the same funding streams Tipperary Town had received €1.1m under the RRDF for the Market Yard Regeneration and the River Ara Walkway. Cllr Ryan highlighted that Nenagh qualified for funding for both rural and urban regeneration and other towns in the county qualified for one funding stream. She outlined that one of the objectives of the RRDF was to achieve balanced rural development and she argued that if Tipperary County Council discontinued the practice of submitting bids for the one town under both streams and instead looked to support an individual towns application based not only on the town’s submission but also on its socio-economic needs. She said there needed to be a more equitable prioritisation for funding projects throughout the county.

Members of the Cahir/Cashel/Tipperary Municipal District expressed their disappointment that Tipperary had not been successful in securing funding for their application under the RRDF Scheme, the view that Tipperary Town was being overlooked was expressed and that it was unfair that Nenagh could apply for funding under two funding streams.

Other members expressed their views that members should work collectively for Tipperary as a County and not pitch one town against another. It was the objective of the Council to maximize the funding streams available to them and funding for any town in the County was welcomed.

Mr. P. Slattery, DOS and District Director for Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel Municipal District gave context to the application submitted. The protests that were in Tipperary in 2018 and 2019 resulted from disquiet and disappointment. Unemployment Rates were at 40%, 1 in five people did not have formal education, the disability level was the highest in the County, social housing and rented housing represented 50% of the housing in the town (twice other towns in the County). A Task Force was established and a plan was prepared over a period of 18 months which identified a range of actions to take place over 15 years. At the outset the Task Force was told by all stakeholders and State Agencies that the town would be prioritised because of the difficult issues highlighted. This had not happened. The application made for RRDF was the result of a long process, consultation had taken place with a range of agencies, the application was of a high standard and the projects contained in the application were seen as priority projects which were aligned with the objectives of the plan prepared by the Task Force. That the application was unsuccessful therefore caused huge disappointment.

Mr. Slattery confirmed that as the 3 projects contained in the application were so important to the future development of Tipperary that they would continue to seek funding for the projects. A meeting would take place with officials from the Department where feedback would be given on the application and following this a decision would be made on how to proceed.

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, DOS, and Chairman of the Steering Group for Project Ireland 2040 clarified that the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) applied to the five main cities and larger towns including Nenagh, Clonmel and Thurles and the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) applied to smaller towns with different criteria applied to both funds. RRDF focused on dereliction and the principles of Town Centre First. Match funding was required and this was a percentage of the project costs with URDF match funding being a higher percentage than RRDF. The funding stream that applied to a particular town was decided by the Department and this was based mainly on population and job creation.

Tipperary County Council had been successful to date in securing funding under both URDF and RRDF through the National Development Plan. €1bn had been set aside nationally under the RRDF over a 10-year period of which we were in the fourth year. Tipperary had received €38m in grants to date under both the URDF and RRDF with 14 projects being developed across the County. On some occasions, more than one application would be made in response to a funding application and this had proven to be a successful strategy. The aim of the Steering Group was to maximize funding for Tipperary through all funding sources available. Unfortunately, not all applications were successful but some applications that were not successful in their initial application, were reimagined and redeveloped and were successful in subsequent applications.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, referenced Project Ireland 2040. In relation to URDF and RRDF Funding, the County had been extraordinarily successful in securing funds under these and this was acknowledged and welcomed. In excess of €38m had been secured to date and the Council was ambitious to receive more and would use every opportunity to secure funding to secure the objectives for any town in the County. He shared the disappointment at the outcome of the Tipperary Town application. However, when funding was received for any town in the County, this investment should be welcomed. The Chief Executive referenced a number of projects that were coming to fruition, Thurles, Fethard, Clonmel and Tipperary Town and future funding would be sought for all these towns. He also referred to three previous applications that were unsuccessful in Carrick on Suir, Nenagh and Kilsheelan, the applications had been redrafted and resubmitted and were subsequently successful. It was important to act cohesively as a County in relation to all applications and maximize funding from the Project Ireland funding streams.

In relation to the RRDF announcement for Tipperary Town, Tipperary County Council had submitted a strong application, this was not successful and a meeting was scheduled with the Department to understand the reasons why it was not. This feedback would be used to turn the application around and move forward. The projects contained in the application were valid and viable projects and the Council was fully supportive of them. Other funding sources would be examined, including the Council's own resources. Tipperary County Council was committed to the development of Tipperary Town. The ERDF, the Outdoor Recreation Scheme and Town and Village Renewal Scheme would also be used to seek funding for projects. It was noted Tipperary Town had featured in a large application to the value of €500,000 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and an announcement was awaited on this application.

#### Lands for Enterprise Development, Thurles.

In response to an enquiry by Cllr J. Ryan, he was advised that the Council were seeking to purchase lands in Thurles for Enterprise Development but this was delayed due to legal issues and advice had been sought in this regard and Councillors would be updated in due course.

#### Broadband, Ballina.

Cllr Butler expressed her concerns that the projected dates for the installation of broadband in Ballina of 2025/2026 and stated this was unacceptable. It was agreed to seek further details on the anticipated timescale for the installation of Fibre Optic broadband for Ballina.

#### CCTV

In response to queries from members in relation to CCTV in Littleton, Thurles and Borrisokane, it was noted that the Data Protection Assessment had been completed and all documentation in relation to the installation of the CCTV for all the Schemes was almost ready for submission in the coming weeks. The equipment for these would be housed in Garda Stations. It was now necessary to have all the schemes approved by the Data Commissioner to ensure that images could be used in evidence and were lawful. Reference was made to a recent newspaper report where Limerick County Council were prosecuted and fined by the Data Protection



Commissioner as they did not have Garda Commissioners approval for their CCTV cameras.

#### Just Transition Fund

Mr. Slattery advised that a review meeting was scheduled for the end of January and feedback would be given to the members following this meeting. It was noted that the National Director Kieran Mulvey had stepped down from his role but he was not aware of his successor at this stage. Tipperary projects would continue to be prioritised, including walkways in the bogs, bushcraft and the energy housing scheme in the north of the County.

#### Connect Hubs, Cashel

Cllr Burgess sought an update on the provision of Connect Hubs in Cashel as there was demand in the area for such a service and it was agreed that this would be provided to Cllr Burgess.

#### Questum Phase 2

Mr. A. Fitzgerald, Head of Enterprise advised that Phase 2 comprised four parts. 2 life science projects were completing feasibility studies, one was in the food sector and one digital hub. This digital hub would be part of the overall provision of digital hubs in Clonmel. Engagement had taken place with a number of industry and business leaders, however the Council was awaiting the formal letter of approval from Enterprise Ireland in this regard.

#### Precinct 3 – Joint Council and IDA Project

It was noted that the tender process had been completed and the process to appoint the successful group of Companies was in progress.

### **Water Services.**

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, A/Director of Services and Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer, responded to queries raised as follows: -

#### Road Reinstatement Irish Water

In response to an enquiry by Cllr J. Ryan regarding road reinstatement by Irish Water, it was confirmed that the Council were engaging with Irish Water on this issue which was of concern and Irish Water were looking at frameworks to deal with permanent reinstatement.

#### WWTP Ballina

Tenders had been issued by Irish Water for the upgrade of Ballina WWTP. Following a query by Cllr Bugler regarding Notice of Motion No. 2150 which was discussed at the May 2021 Meeting of the Council it was agreed to follow up the communication issued to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage as requested in the Motion.

#### Boiled Water Notice Carrick on Suir

Cllr Dunne expressed his anger at the lack of updates from Irish Water to consumers in the areas affected by a Boiled Water Notice in Carrick on Suir and expressed his disillusionment with Irish Water. It was confirmed that

the Council was working actively with Irish Water in relation to the lifting of the Boiled Water Notice.

#### Water Supply Interruptions.

A number of members referred to water supply interruptions in their areas. Mr. D Holland, S.E. acknowledged that there had been an increase in the number of disruptions in recent months at various locations throughout the County and the Council's ability to respond had been tempered by the effects of the pandemic and staff shortages. This would have delayed the response times due to the mobilisation of staff. These outages formed part of the information given to Irish Water in respect of mains rehabilitation in the County. A programme for rehabilitation works would be completed in 2022 subject to budget availability and members would be informed of where works would take place at Municipal District Meetings.

#### Service Level Agreement

It was confirmed that the current Service Level Agreement would expire in 2025 and negotiations were ongoing in relation to an alternative framework.

#### Irish Water Workshop

It was confirmed that an Irish Water Workshop was scheduled for April and members would have an opportunity to raise particular issues at that workshop

### **Environment & Climate Action**

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 9.1 Notice of Motion Ref: 2334 as part of the Management Report on Environment & Climate Action.

#### **Item 9.1**

Motion No. 2263 was proposed by A Moloney.

#### **Notice of Motion** **EV Charging** **points in the** **County**

**"Can this Council provide an update on the rollout of EV charging points in the county following recent surge in EV sales. We need strategic locations for charging pints especially near tourist locations for rented market to charge and visit"**

The motion was seconded by Cllr Marie Murphy

The response to the motion was noted as follows: -

There are 55 electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) located at 25 locations across the county. They are mainly operated by commercial providers and some by Tipperary Co Co. These are mostly in the larger towns and on the motorways. As stated in the CCMA - LA Electrification of Fleet and EV Charging guidance document, there is limited financial support available for the installation of this infrastructure and significant costs involved in the site preparation, ESB-N connection fees and the annual running costs.

## Locations

- Carrick on Suir MD 2 locations

Carrick on Suir (4 EVCP) 2 \* 22 kW chargers at Court House Carpark and 2 \* 22 kW chargers at Strand Lane carpark.

- Cashel/Tipperary/Cahir MD 5 locations

Cashel (6 EVCP) Rapid charger ESB 3 ports two car spaces 50 kW, and 4 350kW Ionty chargers Wallers Lott Service area. Tipperary Town (6 EVCP) 2 no. 22 kW Chargers at Tesco 2 no. 22 kW Chargers at Abbey Street carpark and 2 no. 22 kW Chargers at LIDL

- Clonmel BD 5 Locations

Clonmel (10 EVCP) Rapid charger ESB 3 ports 2 \* 50 kW at Gordon Place carpark, 2 \* 22 kW chargers at Mary St carpark and 2 \* 22 kW chargers at Bumbles carpark. 2 \* 22 kW Chargers (Easygo at Clonmel Park Hotel) and 2 \* 7 kW chargers TCC at Suir Island Carpark.

- Nenagh MD 8 Locations 1 – Borrisoleigh, 3 - Nenagh, 2 Birdhill & 1 Cloughjordan

Nenagh (8 EVCP) 2 \* 22 kW chargers at Abby Court Hotel. 2 \* 22 kW chargers at Circle K Limerick Road and 2 \* 22 kW Chargers at LIDL. 2 \* 22 kW chargers TCC owned. Birdhill (8 EVCP) 2 \* 22 kW Chargers (ESB) and 6 \* Tesla Superchargers (up to 150kW) Cloughjordan (1 EVCP) 3.7 kW charger Borrisoleigh (2 EVCP) 2 \* 22 kW Chargers

- Thurles MD 5 locations

Thurles (6 EVCP) 2 \* 22 kW Chargers at Railway Station and 2 \* 22 kW Chargers at LIDL Monegall (2 EVCP) Rapid charger ESB 3 ports 2 \* 50 kW at Obama Complex Roscrea (4 EVCP) Rapid charger ESB 3 ports 3 2\* 50 kW and 2 \* 22 kW chargers at SuperValu carpark.

Alternative renewable fuel options such as hydrogen and HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) are coming on stream which will be more economical. The Council will be preparing a Climate Action Plan which will include climate adaptation and mitigation measures addressing the decarbonisation of the transport sector. The general view is that the private sector will continue to expand the rollout of public EV Charging infrastructure and the role of the local authority will be to assist ECVP operators in the operations and maintenance of installed public charging facilities.

An EV Charging Infrastructure Policy is currently being drafted which will assess the demand and supply needs in the different areas.

Cllr Moloney noted the reply and spoke of the particular need for EV charging points in the car park at Cahir Castle as this was a factor for tourists when planning their holiday itineraries especially in view of the commitment by Hire Companies to change their fleet of hire cars to electric

vehicles. The lack of EV charging points was noted as a hindrance to the tourism sector and there would be a need for a significant expansion of these points around the County.

**Consideration of Management Report – continued.**

**Environment & Climate Action**

Mr. Ger Walsh, A/ Director of Services and Ms. Marion O’Neill, S.E.O., responded to queries raised as follows: -

Derelict Sites Levy

It was clarified that a derelict sites levy was charged on dwellings in prescribed areas only. The Council continued to engage with property owners to have their properties removed from the Derelict Sites Register.

Landfills

In response to a query by Cllr J. Ryan it was agreed to update members at the Thurles Municipal District Meeting regarding the status of closed landfills at Monanearla and Brittas Road.

Household Waste Inspections

It was noted that due to Covid 19 restrictions households were currently being written to seeking evidence of how their household waste was being disposed of.

Litter Fines

In response to queries by Cllr Marie Murphy, members were informed that the Council continue to work with offenders in respect of outstanding litter fines to have the issues resolved. The introduction of legislation to allow the use of CCTV in the prosecution of offences was welcomed. Cllr Murphy remarked on the lack of media reporting on successful court prosecutions. Inadequacy of the current fine for littering was noted and the Cathaoirleach indicated her intention to write to the Oireachtas Joint Committee for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting the opportunity to highlight the issues on the ground and the importance of updating the relevant legislation – Litter Act 1997 and Waste Management Act 1996 as quickly as possible.

**Housing**

It was agreed to take Item 6.2 Housing for All – Housing Delivery Plan with the Management Report on Housing. Mr. Jonathon Cooney, Senior Engineer, was invited to make a presentation to the members.

**Item 6.2**

**Housing for all – Housing Delivery Plan**

Mr. Cooney advised members that the Housing Delivery Action Plan had to be submitted to the Department by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The Department had been advised that the Plan would be brought before the members at the January meeting. The plan had been considered by the Housing SPC on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

The Plan was completed having engaged with the Approved Housing Body (AHB) sector. The Housing Needs Assessment had been reviewed which had 1109 households identified as the nett need in the County, gross need was 3531 when the 2422 on the transfer list was included.

The Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) was a projection of future growth and the Housing Supply Target from the Department was 986 units per annum, this informed the Core Strategy and how many units overall

were to be delivered in settlements over the lifetime of the Development Plan in the County. The target under Housing for All was 887 units compared to 625 units under Rebuilding Ireland over a 4-year term 2018-2021. The Rebuilding Ireland figure included long term leasing and acquisitions while Housing for All in Tipperary was essentially Build and Buy and Renew. Tipperary County Council was seeking to deliver 1125 units over a 5-year period.

The 1125 units would be delivered via the Local Authority and AHB's with an approximate 55:45 split with a spend of approximately €70m per annum. It was expected that an oversupply would occur in 2025 and 2026, and it was expected to reach the target figure in 2025. It was an ambitious and challenging plan.

Due to construction sites being closed into Q2 2021 there was a significant impact on delivery and 85 units would be delivered in 2022 that had originally been planned for 2021. This has been factored into the 2022 target of 230 Build with an anticipated delivery of 245 new builds. The programme for 2023 was at an advanced stage with a delivery of 215 new builds, against a target of 155 units. Proposals for 2024-2026 will continue to be notified through the Housing Management Report on a bi-monthly basis as schemes are progressed.

Members thanked Mr. Cooney for his informative presentation. They expressed their hope that the targets contained in the plan would be met particularly in view of the current shortage of tradespeople. Reference was made to the need for 1, 2 and 4 bed dwellings and for town centre living and rejuvenation. It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated to the members for their information.

## **Housing**

### Long Term Voids

It was confirmed that as a result of the loan approved by members, long term voids were being addressed with the housing vacancy rate down to 2.7% from 4.5%.

### HAP

It was acknowledged that a number of landlords of HAP dwellings were selling properties due to the current market and this was a matter of concern and a challenge. The role of the private sector was highlighted in the provision of housing.

### Housing Assessment Officer

A vacant Housing Assessment Officer post would be filled as soon as possible.

**Item 6.3**  
**All Island**  
**Strategic Rail**  
**Review**  
**Submission**

At the December Meeting it was agreed to prepare a draft submission on the All Island Strategic Rail Review 2021-2022 and this has been circulated to the members with the agenda

The draft submission had been prepared in response to the publication of the "All Island Strategic Rail Review November 2021" public consultation paper. The publication of the All Island Rail Review was an opportunity for Tipperary County Council to contribute to decisions being taken on the future of the national railway system and policy formation with respect to rail services and infrastructure.

Mr. Paddy Crowley, A/ Senior Engineer, informed members that an inhouse Committee had been formed to prepare the submission on behalf of Tipperary County Council. This submission should be read in conjunction with previous submissions. The rail structure in Tipperary was of critical importance and in particular the strategic rail freight interchange at Limerick Junction. The rail structure needed to support the development of the County. It was open to any member to lodge an individual submission and the closing date was the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.

The approval of the submission as circulated was proposed by Cllr R. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr A. Ryan and agreed.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, informed members that he had met with Mr. Jim Meade, C.E.O. Irish Rail on the following issues: -

The Irish Rail Freight Strategy – The proposal to designate Limerick Junction as the western gateway for rail freight with a proposed strategic freight terminal was discussed and also the objective contained in the strategy to look at the Dublin/Tipperary/Cork access as the strongest potential for rail freight. Potential timescales were discussed and Tipperary County Council's support of both objectives was confirmed and our willingness and ability to work with Irish Rail in respect of the strategic freight terminal at Limerick Junction. Further engagement would take place with Irish Rail on this issue.

All Ireland Strategic Rail Review – The proposed submission by Tipperary County Council was discussed and the support of Tipperary County Council for the objectives contained in the review was assured.

Issues raised by Members – As requested by the members, the Limerick to Waterford Line with particular reference to services from Clonmel and the Limerick to Ballybrophy Line were discussed. It was considered that there was much more potential for freight on the Limerick to Waterford Line which would give greater demand for passenger traffic. Irish Rail were supportive of greater passenger presence on the line but there was a constraint in relation to rolling stock which would be examined. It was also considered that there was potential on the Limerick to Ballybrophy line to improve commuter services particularly into Limerick.

The Chief Executive said that there was agreement to further discussions on the issues raised as required.

**Item 6.4**  
**Draft River**  
**Basin**  
**Management**  
**Plan 2022 to**  
**2027**

Ms. Colette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist, Environment and Climate Action made a presentation to the members summarising the content of the Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027.

The River Basin Management Plan is a national plan that aims to protect and restore good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater, and coastal waters for the benefit of health, biodiversity, climate, communities, and jobs. The Draft Plan was launched in September, 2021 with Public Consultation taking place to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. It is anticipated that the final Plan would be completed in late 2022 with implementation to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027.

An assessment of 4,842 water bodies had been carried out in preparing the plan with 1,603 –At Risk (Restore), 1,256 –In Review (Assess & Protect) and. 1,983 –Not at Risk (Protect). The plan contains water quality objectives and a programme of measures to achieve those objectives.

The following initiatives by Tipperary County Council feed into the plan:

SuDs (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems): key component of 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle TCC had representation on the Nature based SuDs working Group and in Dec 2021 a Guidance Document was published. The focus is to adopt a policy whereby any new developments would prioritise Nature based SuDs. There is also a drive to retrofit nature-based SuDs in existing Towns as part of public realm enhancement.

Agriculture

Agriculture is a primary focus in the effort to prevent water quality deterioration. Tipperary County Council worked on awareness in conjunction with LAWPRO & Agricultural consultant's association (ACA) and presented to derogation farmer's (farmers above 170kg/N threshold) on Environmental issues from Local Authority perspective with positive feedback. The Nitrates action plan aim is to reduce the Nutrient loadings

Bloomin' Algae APP.

Piloted in 2021 to report the presence of harmful blooms of blue green algae. The record sent is examined and verified by an expert and speeds up warnings to minimise risks to public and animal health. Results are verified within 24hrs. No sampling was required therefore avoiding delays and costs.

Ara Walkway Public Realm Project

This is a 950 meters looped walk around Tipperary town containing a number of features including a playground, a wetlands area to encourage biodiversity and a seating area for outdoor events. The section provided 26 native Irish trees for planting on the school grounds at the entrance to the Ara walkway.

Submissions on the draft plan can be made direct to Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage [www.gov.ie/draftRBMP](http://www.gov.ie/draftRBMP) and people are encouraged to visit the LAWPRO Virtual Consultation Room at [LAWaters.ie](http://LAWaters.ie)

Members thanked Ms. Moloney for her informative presentation.

**Item 7.2**

**Agree date for Workshop**

Members were advised that this workshop which was previously scheduled for the 13th January in the Horse and Jockey would now be held remotely due to current Covid 19 restrictions. The proposed date was the 25th January, 2022. The workshop would be a half-day session and Councillors would have the option of joining a morning or afternoon session. The workshop would be facilitated by Ms. Michelle O'Halloran, Halloran HR Resolutions Ltd.

**Item 8.1**

**Consideration of Orders for the period to the 31<sup>st</sup> December**

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 were noted.

**Item 10.1 –**

**Resolutions from other Local Authorities**

The following resolutions from other Local Authorities were noted by the members: -

**Sligo County Council**

Sligo County Council calls upon Minister Eamon Ryan to refuse to grant a prospecting licence to Flintridge Resources (Galantas) for almost 50 townlands in North Leitrim. We stand with communities in Leitrim who have voiced their clear opposition to this carbon heavy, energy intensive gold mining industry. We also stand with our colleagues in Leitrim County Council who unanimously voiced their opposition to the granting of this licence. Companies like the one to which the Minister intends to grant a licence have no role to play in helping create a sustainable future for this and future generations in the region. The industry is long associated with negative impacts on the landscape, air and water quality, carbon emissions, and the displacement of and/or negative impacts on existing industries like tourism and agriculture. We ask the Minister to listen to the thousands of people who have made objections to this proposal. We also encourage other local authorities around the country to voice their opposition.

**Donegal County Council**

That this Council apply to the Department for the restoration of Section 140 Motions to Councils.

**Louth County Council**

That Louth County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely:

1. Access to Free Travel
2. Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy

**Item 11.1**

**Votes of Sympathy**

Members passed a Vote of Sympathy to the following: -

- Ann Marie O'Dwyer, Motor Tax and Helena Egan (Agresso Support) on the death of their mother Helen Egan



- Brian Casey, catchment Scientist with LAWPRO on the death of his father Tony Casey
- The family of Marie Brady, Former Branch Librarian, Cloughjordan Library
- Stephen McEvoy, Machinery Yard on the death of his mother Catherine (Annette) McEvoy
- Cora Morrissey on the death of her father William (Willie) Morrissey
- Michael Begley, Cahir Area Outdoor Staff Member on the death of his mother Phyllis, Ballyporeen

**Votes of  
Congratulations**

Members passed a Vote of Congratulations to the following: -

- Moycarkey-Borris GAA on winning the Mid County Under 21 A Hurling Final for the first time in 35 years
- Maria Curley, Templemore on becoming Tipperary Ladies Senior Captain for 2022.
- Maria has been wearing the Tipperary jersey for the past 12 years winning her first underage Munster Medal in 2010. The holder of 2 Intermediate All Ireland titles Maria has accumulated a vast amount of football experience both on and off the playing field

**Item 12.1**

**Any Other  
Business**


Book of Condolences

It was agreed that a Book of Condolence would be opened for Ashling Murphy in compliance with Covid 19 restrictions.

There being no further business, the meeting then concluded.

Signed/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed/  \_\_\_\_\_  
Ger Walsh,  
Meetings Administrator.

Date: