

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
Remotely Via Zoom
AT 10.00 AM ON 10TH, 2021**

Present

Cllr. Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Anglim, M; Black, T; Bonfield, F; Bourke K; Bugler, P; Burgess, D; Carroll, J; Coonan, N.J; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Dennehy, N.; Dunne, D; English, P; Fitzgerald, J; FitzGerald; M; FitzGerald, MI; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; 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; Murphy, Marie; O'Meara, K; O'Meara, MI; Ryan, A; Ryan, J; Ryan, P; Ryan, S

Also Present

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, M. O'Connor, 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., K. Prendergast, Economic Development Officer, G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

Cllr S. Ambrose.

Vote of Sympathy & Adjournment

The Cathaoirleach proposed a five-minute adjournment as a mark of respect on the recent passing of former Councillor Tom Ambrose.

Mr. Ambrose was first elected to South Tipperary County Council in 1974 and was returned at every subsequent County Council election over the next 35 years until he was succeeded on the Council by his daughter Siobhan in 2009. He also served on Clonmel Corporation, subsequently renamed Clonmel Borough Council, until 2004 when Siobhan took over his seat. Mr. Ambrose served as Chairman of South Tipperary County Council and Mayor of Clonmel on three occasions each and was also a Fianna Fail candidate in South Tipperary in the 1982 General Election. He was Fianna Fail party whip on South Tipperary County Council for many years when not serving as its Chairman. He also served as Chairman of South Eastern Health Board and was a Board member of UCD during his time. Outside of politics, he was a highly respected teacher at Clonmel's High School CBS.

Resumption.

Cathaoirleach Cllr M. Smith welcomed members to the May Meeting.

**Item No. 1.1
Welcome and
Introduction**

Cllr Smith referred to the meetings protocol circulated with the agenda and asked members to observe the rules contained therein with regard to remote meetings.

Cllr Smith welcomed the relaxation of restrictions imposed to curtail the spread of Covid19 from the 10th May, 2021 and in particular welcomed the opening of businesses throughout the County. He advised members and the public that while the doors of the Council offices remain closed, Tipperary County Council continued to operate on an appointment/telephone basis and was available to provide assistance and support as required.

Item No. 2.1
Disclosures/or
Conflicts of
Interest

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator

Item No. 3.1
Minutes of
Council Meeting
held on 12th
April, 2021

Proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Ryan** and resolved
“That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 12th April, 2021, remotely Via Zoom, as presented be adopted”.

Item 4.1
Approval to
Attendance

It was proposed by **Cllr. J. Carroll**, seconded by **Cllr. F Bonfield** 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 |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|---|
| AILG – County Development Plan Policy: Housing Supply Targets and Core Strategies | 30 th April, 2021 | Webinar | Cllr. P. English Cllr. A. Moloney Cllr. N. Coonan Cllr. S. Lee Cllr. R. Kennedy Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. M. Murphy |
| AILG – Local Authority Housing and the Housing Agency Webinar | 7 th May, 2021 | Webinar | Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. M. Murphy |

Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, no physical conferences, seminars or training took place since the last meeting of the Council.

Item 4.1
Reports on
Conferences

Proposed by **Cllr. John Carroll** and seconded by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield** and noted.

Item No. 5.1
Section 183
Notice – Disposal
of portion of land
to rear of 54
Childers Park,
Thurles

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

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, we hereby approve of the disposal of circa 50 sq. metres to the rear of No. 54 Childers Park within the town of Thurles, Co. Tipperary to Ms. Mary Gleeson, 54 Childers Park,

Thurles in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section as circulated on the 15th April, 2021”.

The disposal was required to facilitate the extension of the garden at No 54 Childers Park and the land was deemed surplus to Council requirements.

Item 5.2

Section 183
Notice – Transfer
title of property
at No. 1 Ashbury
Park, Roscrea

It was proposed by **Cllr. Michael Smith**, seconded by **Cllr. Shane Lee** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of property at No. 1, Ashbury Park, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary to Mr. Daniel Paul O’Hanlon, the personal representative of the late Noel & Frances Hanlon in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated o the 26th April, 2021”.

This disposal was required to facilitate the rectification of title.

Item 5.3

Section 183 –
Disposal of
property at rear
of No. 9 St.
Mary’s Road,
Castlequarter,
Killenaule, Co.
Tipperary

It was proposed by **Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro**, seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, and that the consent of the Minister is not required in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act of 2000, as amended and further by Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.015ha at rear of No. 9 St. Mary’s Road, Castlequarter, Killenaule, Co. Tipperary and contained in the Folio (s) TY28149F to Josephine Ivers by way of a Deed of Transfer, in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on Thursday 29th April, 2021”.

This disposal was required to facilitate the rectification of title.

Item 5.4

Section 183
Notice – Disposal
of land at
Ballycraggan,
Puckane, Co.
Tipperary

It was proposed by **Cllr. Joe Hannigan**, seconded by **Cllr. Ger Darcy** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, and that the consent of the Minister is not required in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act of 2000, as amended and further by Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of circa 0.009ha at Ballycraggan, Puckane, Co. Tipperary and contained in the Folio(s) TY1694F to Eamonn Kelly by way of a deed of Ratification for the consideration of €100.00 plus the council’s legal fees, in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on Thursday 29th April, 2021”.

This disposal was required to facilitate the rectification of title.

Item 5.5

Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme

The Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme had been developed to help restore vibrancy and vitality to town and villages. Tipperary County Council developed this mechanism to directly address the issue of vacant retail units. The scheme targeted both a reduction in the number of vacant retail units and the stimulation of a differing and engaging retail mix and experience in towns and villages across the county. The scheme limited the financial risk associated with the establishment of a new business thus assisting in providing an entry point to entrepreneurs wishing to start-up.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer, Community and Enterprise, and invited her to give members a short presentation on the new scheme.

Ms. Prendergast advised members that the Commercial Incentive Scheme was offered as part of Tipperary County Council's suite of interventions to support the Retail Sector. Conditions applied to the scheme in regard to qualifying locations (including towns, villages and settlements), qualifying premises, qualifying uses and qualifying applicants. The CIS was designed to enhance the vitality and viability of centres by providing a financial incentive to new business to choose specific properties, stimulating footfall in the town and villages; improving the commercial offer; improving diversity; encouraging an engaging retail mix and experience, encouraging new retail business start-up assist in job creation; and to provide an entry point to entrepreneurs wishing to start-up in the retail industry. The grant was made available only to premises that were vacant for a specified period of time and that those new business must have appropriate permissions and all rates and charges paid up to date.

Consultation and research in the formulation of the revised scheme had been carried out and a draft scheme was developed and presented to the Sub-Group of the SPC and a final proposal was put to the SPC before presenting to the full Council.

The main changes to the previous scheme were to:

- Rename the new scheme to Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme;
- Include two additional purposes:
 - To support the economy by improving the attractiveness of the towns and village centres
 - To support new businesses by offering to off-set costs at initial start-up phase
- Set the maximum amount of any grant under the scheme to €5,000 p.a.

Ms. Prendergast outlined the criteria of businesses who could avail of the scheme which included Qualifying Use, Qualifying Locations and Grant Details. She referred to Exceptional Areas of Development which allowed Municipal Districts to specify designated areas that fall outside of the Prime Retail Area (PRA) but were under development within the town centre for inclusion in this grant scheme Location 1 – Prime Retail Area.

To qualify for the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme, the subject unit's location would dictate the value of the grant. A business must occupy a currently vacant property located on lands zoned for either of the three categories: -Prime Retail Area, Town Centre or Village Centre use, or be in

a vacant unit that meets the planning permission requirements anywhere within the administrative area of Tipperary County Council. It was highlighted that applicants would only be accepted by online application.

Ms Prendergast urged members to promote the scheme in their respective areas.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Prendergast for her informative presentation and welcomed the scheme which he said demonstrated real and imaginative efforts to improve our town and village centres.

Cllr J. Crosse, Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC welcomed the scheme and thanked Cllrs S. Hanafin and Mary Hanna Hourigan, members of the SPC, for their input into the formulation of the scheme.

It was proposed by **Cllr J. Crosse**, seconded by **Cllr S. Hanafin** and resolved: -

“That the County Tipperary Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme 2021 as presented be adopted”.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, thanked the members for their consideration of the scheme. He referred to a number of schemes that had been introduced during the pandemic to assist local businesses. These were administered on behalf of central government but this particular scheme was introduced by Tipperary County Council as an incentive that it could offer by way of a grant. The Council had learnt from the previous scheme and revisions had been made to this scheme. Thankfully businesses were beginning to reopen and it was hoped that this trajectory would continue. It was therefore a good time for this scheme to be introduced. He thanked the members, the members of the SPC, Ms Kathleen Prendergast and Mr. Pat Slattery for their input into the Scheme. He also acknowledged that this scheme was one of the items that Cllr Smith had asked to be reviewed on his election as Cathaoirleach in 2020.

Members welcomed the scheme. It was suggested that consideration would be given to open/walk- in information days in Civic Offices and District Offices for small businesses and it was agreed that this would be examined

Ms Prendergast responded to a number of general queries as follows in relation to the conditions of the scheme and welcomed further queries by email and telephone.

Potential for Displacement – The Commercial Incentive Scheme was in place in County Tipperary for 6 years and during this time it had been shown that the removal of displacement from the scheme did not have an impact.

Local Enterprise Office – businesses and the retail sector would continue to receive support from the Local Enterprise Office and the option for training and inclusion in their database was incorporated into the revised application form under the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme.

Prime Retail Area – areas were defined by the County Development Plan. These areas were being promoted as the key areas for businesses. If there were specific areas within a Municipal District that were being focused on for development or regeneration, that area could receive consideration to be treated as the same category as Prime Retail Area under the scheme.

Ground floor units – these units were covered for office developments provided there was no change of use, which was not permitted.

Expansion of business – expansion of businesses to a next-door property could be considered. However, movement of a business from one location to another was not covered by the scheme.

Ms Prendergast stated that each application would be assessed and considered independently.

Item 5.6

Royal Sites of Ireland Tentative Bid List Rock of Cashel

The members had been circulated with a report outlining that the Royal Sites of Ireland were a group of six unique collectives of largely prehistoric monuments and sites associated in early medieval and medieval sites as the principal ancient sites of royal inauguration in Ireland. Spread throughout the island, four of the sites represented the ancient Kingdoms of Ireland and its current provinces of North (Emain Macha), South (Rock of Cashel), East (Dún Ailline) and West (Rathcroghan). Tara was the seat of the High Kings of Ireland situated in the ancient 'fifth' province of Meath (Midhe) while the Hill of Uisneach the 'omphalos' or Centre was where the 5 kingdoms met. The respective Local Authorities of Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, with Tipperary as lead authority have been working together during the lifetime of the last Tentative List to develop the case for 'outstanding universal value' the key attribute for world heritage sites. As the current list was up for renewal, the Royal Sites had to reapply to remain on the Tentative List and progress further.

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to take Item 11.5 Notice of Motion Ref. 2149 with this item.

Item 11.5

Royal Sites of Ireland

Motion 11.5 (Ref no. 2149) was proposed by **Cllr R. Kennedy**

“That this Council fully support the application to have The Rock of Cashel (Carraigh Phadraig) included in The Royal Sites of Ireland application for World Heritage Site”.

This motion was seconded by **Cllr. D. Burgess.**

Members spoke in support of the motion. They spoke of the importance of this site from a tourism potential to the County and the added benefit that the visit by Queen Elizabeth II brought to the status of the site.

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services, advised members that the Council was anxious to deliver a high-quality application and members would be kept updated as the process continued. He stated that the approval of the Council was required to the application to get on the Tentative List.

He informed members that in an effort to engage with communities in this challenging time of Covid, a website www.royalsites.ie was launched to update people and to allow people feed into the process. A nationwide survey would take place during the month of May and he encouraged members to promote this survey through all means available to them.

The members unanimously agreed to support the application of Tipperary County Council to get onto the national Tentative List with a letter of support from the Cathairleach on behalf of the Members.

Item 6.1

**Draft Annual
Financial
Statement (AFS)
2020**

It was proposed by **Cllr. John Crosse**, seconded by **Cllr. Seamus Hanafin** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, excess expenditure in respect of the Financial Year ended 31st December 2020 for Tipperary County Council be and is hereby approved as follows:

| Service | Service Description | of | LA | Amount € |
|----------------|--|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| A01 | Maintenance/Improvement Housing Units | | | 3,047,275 |
| A04 | Housing Community Development Support | | | 95,056 |
| A07 | RAS and Leasing Programme | | | 1,222,733 |
| A09 | Housing Grants | | | 1,076,115 |
| A12 | HAP Programme | | | 204,965 |
| B01 | NP Road - Maintenance and Improvement | | | 288,203 |
| B02 | NS Road - Maintenance and Improvement | | | 2,320 |
| B03 | Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement | | | 2,834,804 |
| B04 | Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement | | | 2,616,410 |
| B05 | Public Lighting | | | 16,240 |
| B06 | Traffic Management Improvement | | | 36,275 |
| B07 | Road Safety Engineering Improvement | | | 67,302 |
| B08 | Road Safety Promotion/Education | | | 2,373 |
| B11 | Agency & Recoupable Services | | | 103,504 |
| C01 | Water Supply | | | 122,087 |
| D02 | Development Management | | | 50,031 |
| D05 | Tourism Development and Promotion | | | 117,241 |
| D06 | Community and Enterprise Function | | | 498,655 |

| | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| D08 | Building Control | 2,338 |
| D09 | Economic Development and Promotion | 27,182,325 |
| D11 | Heritage and Conservation Services | 51,003 |
| D12 | Agency & Recoupable Services | 723 |
| E01 | Landfill Operation and Aftercare | 57,987 |
| E02 | Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations | 275,229 |
| E06 | Street Cleaning | 73,158 |
| E10 | Safety of Structures and Places | 88,738 |
| E12 | Fire Prevention | 17,002 |
| F01 | Leisure Facilities Operations | 176,629 |
| F02 | Operation of Library and Archival Service | 27,443 |
| F04 | Community Sport and Recreational Development | 106,823 |
| F05 | Operation of Arts Programme | 71,404 |
| G01 | Land Drainage Costs | 8,798 |
| H01 | Profit/Loss Machinery Account | 14,112 |
| H02 | Profit/Loss Stores Account | 1,209 |
| H03 | Administration of Rates | 13,301,224 |
| H05 | Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses | 18,397 |
| H07 | Operation of Markets and Casual Trading | 2,452 |

Item 7.1

Consideration of Management Report

Cllr M. Smith advised members that the Management Report as circulated focused on the Clonmel based Directorates and he proposed to take any motions relative to that Directorate with the report.

Community/Economic Development & Tourism

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 11.2 NOM 2140 in the name of Cllr Michael O'Meara as part of the Management Report on Community/Economic Development & Tourism.

Motion 11.2 (Ref No. 2140) was proposed by **Cllr. M. O'Meara.**

Item 11.2

Shop Enhancement Grant Scheme

"I am requesting that Tipperary County Council start a Shop Enhancement Grant Scheme for Villages with a population of less than 1,000. This grant would assist shops and businesses in small villages kick start their retail activity post covid. I believe that

funding for this may be secured under the town and village renewal scheme or a similar scheme”.

This motion was seconded by **Cllr. A. Ryan.**

The response to the motion was noted as follows: -

The Retail Support Enhancement and Painting Scheme is offered by the Community and Enterprise Directorate to all Municipal Districts in County Tipperary since 2016 and in the main, all MDs participated. In addition, the MDs provided additional funding from the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) which was feasible because of LPT income.

Each MD has the discretion to target specific locations. In 2020 each MD scheme was as follows:

- Carrick on Suir MD – The Prime Retail Area (PRA) and a number of other nearby streets were targeted along with Ballylynch Industrial Park.
- Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD – The PRA in Cashel and Cahir was the area included and in Tipperary Town the scheme targeted the PRA along with the Limerick Road. In addition, Ballyporeen had a specific Building Façade Enhancement Scheme which was funded from the GMA.
- Clonmel MD – The scheme was targeted at the Town Centre Area and also included Clerihan.
- Thurles MD – The Scheme targeted all businesses in the PRA of Templemore, Roscrea and Thurles.
- Nenagh MD – All businesses and houses in the PRA were included in the scheme along with the towns of Borrisokane, Ballina, Cloughjordan and Newport.

Accessing funding for such a scheme from the Town and Village Renewal Program can be challenging and often proves to be an unsuccessful funding source. They have a range of requirements that can be difficult to comply with such as; the naming the benefactors of the scheme at the outset; foretelling if the necessary and appropriate planning permissions or other permissions required will be in place; usually a short timeframe for expenditure and it is normally a condition that any support for a single private enterprise would be deemed as non-qualifying under the scheme. However, each MD will examine the new 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme to establish its suitability for such a project.

The 2021 Enhancement and Painting Scheme under the Community & Enterprise Directorate has already been advised to the MDs and the target locations that are eligible under the scheme have already been identified by the MDs each using their own discretion.

At the discretion of the MDs, consideration may be given to the inclusion of additional towns or villages in the scheme in the 2022. However, any such change or expansion of the scheme to include extra towns and villages will be subject to budgetary constraints. Facilitating this change would have resulting impact on the future availability of the scheme for the current

towns, given that the scheme funding would have to be diverted from them to the extra towns or villages.

Members spoke in support of the motion.

Community/Economic Development & Tourism

Mr. Pat Slattery, Director of Services, responded to queries raised.

CCTV Rollout

A number of members spoke of the need for the rollout of community CCTV. Cllr J. Ryan referred to recent incidents in Thurles Town Park and Town Centre and the need for CCTV to be installed in these areas. He called for a revision of the laws in relation to GDPR and Data Protection which were restricting the rollout of CCTV. Cllr J. Ryan was advised to progress his request for CCTV through the Thurles Municipal District. The upkeep and replacement cost of equipment once installed was highlighted as this was a cost on the relative committee. The lack of prosecutions through CCTV was also noted.

Members were advised that ongoing meetings with the Chief Superintendent were being held and local Gardai were in favour of having their Garda Stations used to store monitoring equipment. However Departmental and Garda Central approval to the use of garda stations to house monitoring equipment for CCTV was awaited following approval by the CCMA and LGMA.

It was agreed to revert to Cllr S. Ryan with an update on the pilot CCTV Scheme in Fethard.

Community Action Plans

Members were advised that due to Covid 19 restrictions it was not possible to progress Action Plans with the various communities but once restrictions were removed meetings would be reconvened. It was noted that funding was limited.

Community Enhancement Programme

This scheme was being considered by the LCDC and the application process would commence shortly. It was agreed to examine the possibility of application forms being issued automatically to previous applicants.

Beara-Breifne Way

It was agreed to examine and progress the signposting of the Beara-Breifne way throughout Tipperary.

Lough Derg Blueway

It was noted that the development of Greenways/Blueway's would be pursued through the recently adopted Lough Derg strategy.

Clonmel/Carrick-on-Suir Blueway

Additional funding to carry out improvements to the Blueway was welcomed.

Healthy Ireland

It was agreed that the suggestion of a healthy Initiative for teenagers would be followed up with Comhairle na nÓg following recent initial discussions.

Town Centre Renewal/Dereliction

An inhouse Town Centre Renewal Working Group had been established and dereliction in Town Centres would be one issue that this group would focus on with a view to identifying various solutions that could be used to bring these properties back into use.

Water Services

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 11.3 NOM 2142 in the name of Cllr A. Moloney and Item 11.6 NOM 2150 in the name of Cllr P. Bugler as part of the Management Report on Water Services.

Item 11.3

Life Guards in known bathing areas

Motion 11.3 (Ref No. 2142) was proposed by **Cllr. A. Moloney.**

“That this Council provide Life Guards in known bathing areas previously staffed by Council in the event of swimming pools not opening to full capacity due to Covid”.

This motion was seconded by **Cllr. D Dunne.**

The response to the motion was noted as follows: -

It is acknowledged that the swimming pools and leisure centres operated by Tipperary County Council are currently closed due to the national Level 5 restrictions mandated by the Government of Ireland in response to the unprecedented circumstances occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, consequent on the decision of the Government as announced by An Taoiseach, Deputy Micheál Martin, on 29 April 2021, these facilities may reopen on 07 June 2021 (subject to the public health situation at the time) for individual training only. A number of higher risk activities (including indoor team/group sports including matches, training and exercise classes) will be considered at the end of June for later in the year.

While locations within County Tipperary are used by the public for swimming, areas of freshwater within the county cannot be designated as bathing areas unless they meet the minimum quality standard for bathing as set out in the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008. No locations within County Tipperary have been so designated and, consequently, the provision of a lifeguard service is premature at this time. It must be acknowledged that the employment of lifeguards at locations used for bathing, which are not designated bathing areas, would send out mixed messages to the public that the area in question was safe to bathe in.

At the request of Cllr Moloney, it was agreed to revert to him with details of the relevant contact person for the erection of Bathing Warning signage in the Cahir Area. Cllr Moloney stressed that signage would be required in three languages.

Item 11.6

Upgrade of WWTP – Ballina

Motion 11.6 (Ref No. 2150) was proposed by **Cllr P. Bugler**.

“I hereby request Tipperary County Council to write to Minister of Environment and request that he allocates the required funding immediately to Irish Water so that the upgrade of WWTP-Ballina can be commenced after planning permission has been granted. The WWTP-Ballina needs to be upgraded without delay due to ongoing problems of unacceptable effluent entering Lough Derg”.

This motion was seconded by **Cllr. G. Darcy**.

The response to the motion was noted as follows: -

A planning application, planning register reference 21487, was submitted by Irish Water to Tipperary County Council on 13 April 2021 for the upgrading of existing wastewater treatment plant to increase the treatment capacity comprising of the decommissioning of the existing inlet works, the construction of (a) a new below ground inlet pump station, (b) a new above ground inlet screening works area (including 1 no. above ground storm overflow weir chamber and inlet flume), (c) 1 no. partially below ground storm tank overflow flume and 1 no. partially below storm water storage tank, (d) 1 no. above ground oxidation ditch splitter chamber, 1 no. partially below ground oxidation ditch and 1 no. blower housing, (e) 1 no. below ground pump sump, (f) 1 no. partially below ground clarifier splitter chamber and 1 no. partially below ground clarifier tank, (g) 1 no. below ground meter chamber, (h) 1 no. partially below sludge thickening tank and (i) 1 no. outfall flume – the development will also consist of the decommissioning of the existing treated effluent outfall to the Grange river, and the construction of a new treated effluent pipe and outfall which will extend approx. 70 m into Lough Derg/River Shannon before discharging to the lake/river via a single port diffuser, replacement of selected pipework within the existing process units and ancillary development including associated underground chambers, cabling and piping, and all associated site development works at Ballina Waste Water Treatment Plant, Ballina, Co. Tipperary.

A decision on the planning application is due on 07 June 2021.

If the elected members agree, the Notice of Motion can be referred to the relevant Minister. However, this is Deputy Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, under whose remit Irish Water operates, in lieu of Deputy Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport. It may be prudent to await such referral until and unless a grant of permission has issued in respect of the above planning application.

Cllr Bugler referred to the WWTP in Ballina being at over capacity by 1,400 people and that effluent was taken into this plant from Killaloe also. There was unacceptable effluent and raw sewage entering the Mill Stream/Grange Stream which was a spawning stream. This in turn affected the water in Lough Derg. She stated that Ballina had a strong angling club and there were concerns about fish life due to water quality.

It was agreed that the motion would be forwarded to Deputy Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for comment/response.

Water Services.

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, A/DOS and Mr. Denis Holland, S.E, responded to queries raised as follows: -

Boil Water Notice Golden - Kilfeacle

It was regretted that it had not been possible to lift the Boiled Water Notices for the entirety of the area that was impacted. Members were advised that it may not be lifted before the water main rehabilitation took place. Staff were working actively to ensure the boiled water notice was minimised as much as possible

Boil Water Notice Borrisokane

The primary disinfection at this plant needed to be supplemented by increased disinfection which was through a UV System. A UV System was not required in every scheme and was dependant on the risk rating and the nature of the catchment and treatment required. A national disinfection programme was being undertaken.

Water Mains Rehabilitation works – Tipperary Town

It was noted that where rehabilitation works took place in housing schemes that the back-yard services were discarded and a new service was normally laid to the front of the properties

Clonmel Town and Rural Water Supply Scheme

It was noted that at a workshop held on the 21st April, Irish Water made a presentation to Clonmel Borough District members on water developments generally and in particular Clonmel and outlined the proposed upgrading and development of the Monroe Wellfield.

Maintenance of Sewerage Network

Irish Water had arranged a new National Jetting Framework in relation to hiring specialist contractors to deal with blockages and sewerage issues

Private Well Water Treatment Grants

It was agreed to request the Department to consider modification of the terms/conditions of the scheme to allow dwellings with inadequate public water supply to be considered for a private well grant.

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme

7 villages including Kilsheelan, Cloughjordan and Golden had been identified for consideration in the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme with Irish Water. An announcement was expected in the near future in relation to the locations in County Tipperary identified for progression.

Essential Maintenance Works Carrick-on-Suir Water Supply

It was agreed to convey to Irish Water the members concerns regarding a breakdown in communication between Irish Water and residents in Carrick on Suir during recent essential maintenance works and the impact of these works on their water supply.

Cahir WWTP

It was agreed to examine any possible conflict between plans for Cahir Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Cahir Local Area Plan.

Irish Water

A number of members voiced their dissatisfaction with Irish Water and the service it provided. Cllr S. Morris expressed his intention to propose a vote of no confidence in Irish Water, he felt such a motion would give the members a voice. He outlined recent incidents where it was his opinion that Irish Water were not providing a service fit for purpose and he had no confidence in Irish Water's ability to carry out their duties.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive stated that the common theme with all the complaints raised by members was the need for investment in water services and water services infrastructure, some of which had not benefited from investment for a long period of time. The Chief Executive advised members that he had regular meetings with Irish Water and at these meetings the concerns of the Members are raised. There was always active engagement with Irish Water following these meetings and progress on issues raised was monitored. The Chief Executive was keen to maintain a healthy working relationship with Irish Water as they were our provider of Water Services. He acknowledged that the members had raised genuine concerns.

Mr. Eamon Lonergan agreed with the Chief Executive that a collaborative working relationship with Irish Water was vital. Every effort was being made to improve relations with Irish Water and regular meetings were held to review the status of projects and to make them aware of the concerns of members.

Service Level Agreement

It was noted that the framework for the replacement of Service Level Agreements between Irish Water and the Local Authority was to be finalised by end of July, 2021.

VFM Irish Water

Cllr M. Anglim, while complimenting Irish Water on watermain rehabilitation works currently underway in Ardfinnan, referred to the high unit cost (per metre) of watermain rehabilitation works incurred by Irish Water and the high unit cost (per metre) of water connections being charged by Irish Water.

Environment & Climate Action

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Item 11.1 NOM 2110 in the name of Cllr T. Black and Cllr D. Dunne as part of the Management Report on Environment & Climate Action.

Item 11.1

Notice of Motion – Illegal Dumping

Motion 11.1 (Ref. No. 2110) was proposed by **Cllr. T. Black**

"That Tipperary County Council write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government to request that a national task force be established to tackle the problem of illegal dumping, littering and

dog fouling. It would support an effort to tackle this national issue and could highlight any successes and best practice and also encourage compliance and people to engage”.

This motion was seconded by **Cllr. D. Dunne.**

Subject to Council approval this motion will be forwarded to the Mr. Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing and Local Government for comment/response.

Cllr Black in speaking to the motion said that it was now commonplace to see littering and dumping in our communities and while the Environment Section were active in Tipperary in attempting to combat the issue, he felt that it needed to be addressed nationally which may lead to more funding and a change in legislation on how local authorities could deal with dumping. Cllr Dunne supported the motion, stating that it was a proactive approach to the scourge of littering and dog fouling in our County by an unscrupulous cohort of people.

Cllr MI Fitzgerald expressed his opinion that a National Task Force was not required and the use of CCTV and court convictions was a more effective deterrent.

Ms. C. Curley, D.O.S. referred to the need for behavioural change in relation to dumping and the need for a national campaign to relay a strong message.

It was agreed that the motion would be forwarded to Mr. Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing

Ms. C. Curley, Director of Services and Ms. M. O'Neill, S.E.O., responded to queries from members as follows: -

Mattress Amnesty

Members welcomed the application to the Department to fund a mattress amnesty event at the five Civic Amenity Sites under the Anti-Dumping Initiative.

Weed Control

It was agreed to revert to Cllr Jim Ryan on the findings of the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office on the use of Eco-Friendly Herbicides following his request to have the matter examined.

Housing

Ms. S. Carr at the outset welcomed Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer and Mr. Shane Grogan, A.O. to the Housing Section and advised members that a revised contact list of senior and middle management staff in housing from the 1st June would issue to members. Ms. Carr advised the members of the following items: -

Differential Rent Scheme.

A request would issue to tenants to submit current income details in the coming weeks in line with normal practice for the revision of rents.

Housing Allocation Policy

It was noted that this item would be on the Agenda for the June Monthly Meeting.

Disabled Persons Grants

Members were informed that an allocation of €1.5m had been received for local authority applicants. This was a welcome increase on previous years grants.

Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services and Mr. J. Cooney, Senior Engineer, responded to queries as follows: -

Affordable Housing

A number of schemes relating to affordable housing had been introduced in the last number of years, the Service Site Fund and Affordability proposal. Tipperary County Council had applied to the Department for approval to introduce both schemes but both had been unsuccessful as it was deemed Tipperary did not have an affordable issue at that time. It was noted that an Affordable Housing Bill was going through the Dail at the moment. It was agreed that there was a cohort of people who were above the income limit for social housing and an inhouse team were examining the content of the proposed Bill in this regard.

House Purchases for Social Housing

It was noted that the current policy outlined by the Department at the beginning of the year was to increase the number of dwellings being constructed and accordingly reduce the number of dwellings being acquired. However, the limit on dwellings being acquired was now under review as a result of Covid 19 lockdown. The acquisition of dwellings was used in areas where particular needs required this or there were difficulties with land acquisition.

Housing Applicants

Criteria in relation to savings held by housing applicants would be examined by the Housing SPC

Choice Based Letting Scheme

This scheme was due to commence in Q4 of 2021.

Social Housing Eligibility Limit

Requests had been submitted to the Department for a review of the limit in Tipperary having regard to adjoining counties and it was a matter that had been raised by the Housing SPC. This limit was hampering the ability of some people to access social housing.

Allocation of Tenancies – Clonmel Borough District

The low level of tenancies being allocated in the Clonmel Borough was due to the low level of turnaround of housing stock. New units of accommodation would be coming on stream through the New Build Programme.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

It was noted that there were certain designated dwellings that were unable to avail of the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

A national review of the Tenant Purchase Scheme was ongoing and an update on this would be sought from the Department. A Review of Tenant Purchase Scheme activity in Tipperary would be carried out by the Housing SPC

Councillor Nomination Form

Following representations from members it was agreed that the Councillor Nomination Form would be amended to list all councillors for the applicant and to ensure that the Councillor was contacted by the applicant if they wished to include them as their nominated representative.

Ms Carr urged members to allow this new practice time to work as it had been introduced in March and inconsistencies would be dealt with as they arose. For historical applications, it had been agreed that from March to September when a house was being allocated, all Councillors in that particular District would be advised of that allocation once accepted.

HAP

In response to a query on the ability of HAP applicants to secure a permanent LA house under the Allocation Scheme, it was clarified that all HAP applicants had the option of identifying up to three preferences for their area of choice. They would be assessed along with all other applicants when a vacancy arose in those areas of choice. The allocation would then be decided based upon the priorities as agreed under the allocation policy. Where there were 2 or more individuals designated as being of a similar priority, then length of time on the list would come into play in deciding the allocation.

Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project

It was noted that housing units provided for the housing of Syrian Refugees were from the Council's own housing stock and there was no facility for additional units of housing to be provided in lieu.

4 Bed and 1 Bed Dwellings.

It was agreed that there was a shortage of this type of dwelling. These dwelling types were being incorporated into new schemes and were examined in the acquisition of stock and through the Vacant Housing Officer working with property owners to convert vacant properties into one bed units.

Conversion of housing stock from 3 Bed to 2 bed

Notwithstanding that the asset value of housing stock had to be protected, on occasion, taking into account the nature of a particular dwelling, its location and cost implications, conversion of dwellings from 3 bed to 2 bed have been carried out.

Turnkey Development Prior Park, Clonmel

This development was being handed over to the Council on a phased basis.

Mountain Road, Cahir – 2021 Construction Programme.

The proposed access to this scheme was an independent access from Mountain View Drive. Stage 1 approval was for a preliminary layout and

design and the dwelling types could change when the detailed design was finalised.

Coolnamuck Road, Carrick-on-Suir.

Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District was actively dealing with this project in collaboration with the planning and roads departments. The Masterplan had been prepared with agreed funding in place.

Energy Retrofitting Scheme - Double Glazed Windows and Doors

As previously advised to members the Stage 1 Energy Retrofitting Works had been carried in the three southern districts from 2015 to 2020 and members had been informed at that stage that should funds be received for Phase 2 of the scheme, these monies would be spent in the north of the County. An indication of funding had been received under the Midlands Retrofit Scheme which was to assist in areas where there was no longer peat harvesting such as Littleton, Thurles and Rathcabbin areas. Further additional funding had been received under the National Retrofit Scheme and this would be used in the two Northern Districts.

Once the rollout of the Multi Annual Programme was notified, the Council would have an idea of the numbers expected to be delivered in the next 3 to 5 years which would be spread across the five districts based on the number of houses per district

In relation to the Phase 2, because of the extent of the works involved and to ensure Value for Money, it was proposed to roll this phase out in schemes or blocks of houses rather than individual houses. These works would be carried out based on the existing energy rating of the units and age of the properties.

Generally, in relation to Double glazed windows and doors in local authority dwellings this was a matter for the District to examine as part of their maintenance budget

P1, P2 & P3 Grant Applications.

Grants funding for the five grants schemes in 2021 was €3.27m of which 81% was already committed to date on P1 applications only with 35% of the year remaining. In 2020 a sum of €350,000 was spent on the replacement of single glazed and aluminium windows and doors as part of the Priority 1 applications for Housing Aid for the Elderly. The SPC had just considered the issue of incorporating double glazed windows and doors as part of the HOP scheme. Having seriously considered same, the SPC concluded that these items should not be included for a variety of reasons, including a) the existing backlog from 2018 & 2019 had not yet been addressed; b) P2 and P3 applications for 2020 and 2021 had not been accepted and there would clearly be a latent demand for these applications once the scheme opened again for P2 and P3 applications; c) including double glazed windows and doors would result in a significant demand on existing funds which could not be met (given the existing back log & the expenditure to date) and would result in an ever growing new backlog of applications where the funds would not exist to address it. And d) raising expectations amongst vulnerable populations where the need could not be actually met would lead to significant frustrations by the applicants and also frustrations by elected members.

Disabled Persons Grants – Local Authority Housing

The normal allocation for Local Authority Dwelling DPG's was €650,000 and as notified to the members by Ms Carr, an additional €1.5m had been received. This allocation would have no impact on the Mobility Aid Grants and Housing Aid for the Elderly Grants. This allocation was welcome and applications on hand for a number of years would be examined by the technical staff to ascertain those most in need.

RBI Home Loans

Reference was made to the high rejection rate of these loans. It was noted that 39 applications were received since the 1st January of which 14 were valid with 8 approved. Applicants that were refused received advice from staff to assist them in submitting a further application if they so wished.

Halting Sites.

It was noted that a caretaker service had recently been engaged for halting sites and it was hoped that this would be a significant benefit to the occupants and adjoining residents of the sites. The Housing Section would also link with the Environment Section and Inter Agency Services to address issues of concern. Members were also informed that in relation to anti-social behaviour on halting sites and in local authority estates, there had been significant legal action taken by Tipperary County Council in relation to anti-social behaviour and this had not progressed through the Court Service due to Covid 19 restrictions. The Director of Services also requested that it be noted that there were over 270 Traveller families in the county but only a small minority of members were responsible for the significant level of anti-social behaviour experienced in some areas and the Council would continue to tackle these issues where they were raised.

Investment Portfolio Companies

Long term leasing schemes were carried out with a small number of individual landlords to date. The vast amount of housing units delivered were through our own LA build scheme or with approved housing bodies, and turnkey developments. To date there had not been a significant number of properties in one development that had been offered as a long-term lease. It was acknowledged that different streams of delivery were required to meet the housing need. Every effort was made to ensure that the Council did not become over reliant on any one sector and all options would be explored, in line with government policy, to meet the housing need whilst focusing on our own build schemes

Item 7.2

Regional & Local Roads Allocation Policy

A proposed change to policy in the apportionment of the Regional and Local Roads allocation with a certain % to be prioritised for local roads in the red category of the Pavement Index Condition Surveys had been debated at a workshop held on 28th April 2021 and the approval of the Council was sought to the proposed change.

This was proposed by **Cllr I. Goldsboro** and seconded by **Cllr M. Hanna Hourigan**.

A number of members spoke in opposition to the proposal with some members requesting further time to consider the implications of the

proposed change. They were feelings that Districts were being pitted against each other and towns were being pitted against rural areas.

In response Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, advised members that the 3 years roads programme would be carried out as normal and the monies proposed for targeted investment would focus on the worst roads in the county irrespective of their location.

Mr Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, while acknowledging the members constructive debate, reiterated that the aim was to target the worst roads with poor ratings and that these roads were not common to any particular District. The overall targeted fund was €1.2m out of a €50m budget with an additional €4.6m available through the Active Travel Budget. Tipperary County Council had some of the worst ratings for local/regional roads in the country. It was his hope that the members would reach a consensus on the proposed change to the Regional and Local Roads Allocation Policy and it was not the intention to pit districts against each other. However, he stated that the issue would not go away and it was important that a model would be agreed that would address the concerns of the Council. As Chief Executive he was accountable to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) to meet targets and he could not stand over the Council spending money on roads and not treating the worst roads in the County. Equally, he was not going to allow a policy to be brought before the members that would allow the deterioration in urban roads.

Members expressed mixed views on the proposal and as they were unable to reach a consensus, it was agreed to defer further consideration to the June Monthly Meeting.

The Chief Executive urged members to bring any proposals they had in relation to addressing the issue of category 1 to 4 roads in the County to either Mr. Marcus O'Connor, DOS or himself in advance of the June Meeting.

The Tipperary County Council Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2020 had been circulated to the members and was noted.

Item 7.3

Local Community Development Committee Annual Plan 2020

Item 7.4

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) progress update

The LECP 2015-2020 had been implemented in County Tipperary and had now been finalised. The plan was monitored biannually by an LECP Advisory groups made up of membership from the Economic Strategic Policy Committee and The Local Community Development Committee. An Interdepartmental working group was developing guidelines for Local Authorities in the development of the new LECP process. Tipperary Local Community Development Committee had made a submission to that process and the LCDC Chairperson and Chief Officer had been consulted. The new Guidelines and process would be presented to the council members once these were received

The key objective of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2015-20 was to promote a more integrated and targeted approach to addressing the strategic social, community and economic issues facing the County of

Tipperary in a way that meets the priority needs of the community. The LECP concentrated on identified high level priorities where cooperation and collaboration amongst local agencies would deliver better services to the people of Tipperary.

A report had been circulated to the members outlining the key achievements and recommendations from the new LECP process.

Members noted the content of the report.

Item 8.1
Agree venue for
June Monthly
Meeting

Members were advised that the venue for the June Monthly Meeting had been considered by the Privilege and Procedure Committee and having regard to the fact that the country was still under level 5 restrictions, it was agreed that the status quo in relation to virtual Plenary and Municipal District meetings would continue to apply for the month of June pending further updates.

It was also noted that access to Council Offices would continue to be restricted to an appointment-based service and offices would be closed to walk-in services in line with the most recent CCMA LA services sectoral framework.

Item 8.2
Agree date for
Annual Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held on 25th June, 2021 at 10 a.m. and a decision on whether to convene in person or virtually would be considered by the Privilege and Procedure committee following the issue of further national guidance in early June.

Item 8.3
Deputation with
An Tanaiste

Members were advised that the agreed date for a virtual deputation with An Tánaiste was Wednesday 26th May at 11am and confirmation was awaited from his office on the details of the deputation. It had been agreed by the Council, that if allowed by the Tanaiste's office, that the deputation would consist of the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive, Meetings Administrator, Chairs of each Municipal/Borough District and other relevant Senior staff.

The content of the deputation had been discussed by the Corporate Policy Group and it had been agreed that the agenda would focus on a number of key themes covering areas highlighted in the Council's submission on the review of the National Development Plan and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan as follows: -

1. Balanced Regional Development - N24 Strategic Road Corridor.
2. Economic Development, Employment and the case for additional inward investment on TCC Strategic Investment sites, Ballingarrane (Clonmel), Stereame (Nenagh), Benamore (Roscrea).
3. Renewable Energy, Decarbonisation and the Bio-Economy with a briefing on the National Bioeconomy Campus, Lisheen, Thurles.
4. Rural Development including support for Tipperary County Council's programme on the provision of Remote Working and Digital Hubs.

The Cathaoirleach informed members that he proposed to raise the future of the Dean Maxwell Nursing Home in Roscrea with the Tánaiste. Other members requested that St Brigid's Hospital, Carrick-on-Suir, would also be

raised and it was agreed that both items would be included on the agenda if permitted.

Item 8.4
N24 Cahir to
Limerick Junction
Launch of Route
Options
Consultation

Members were advised that the launch of the N.24 Cahir to Limerick Junction route options would take place on the 25th June, 2021, at 2. p.m.

Item 8.5
Civic Reception
Tipperary Senior
Footballers and
Bloody Sunday
Commemoration

Members were advised that the proposed date for the Virtual Civic Reception to the Tipperary Senior Footballers and the Bloody Sunday Commemoration was Thursday 27th May 2021 at 7pm;

It was proposed by Cllr Marie Murphy, seconded by Cllr Roger Kennedy and resolved that Tipperary County Council, acting on behalf of the people of Tipperary, and in exercise of its powers under Section 74 of the Local Government Act, 2001, confer a Civic Honour on the Tipperary Senior Football Team & Management in recognition and appreciation of the distinction earned in winning the "Munster Senior Football Championship 2020 " and in so doing bringing honour to the County of Tipperary.

It was also resolved to commemorate the centenary of Bloody Sunday in recognition and appreciation of Tipperary's involvement in this historic moment one hundred years ago on 21st November 1920, in Croke Park, Dublin.

Item 9.1
Consideration of
Orders for the
period to the 30th
April, 2021

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to 30th April, 2021 were noted.

Item 10.1
Notice of Motion
Jigsaw Mental
Health
Programme for
Tipperary

Motion 10.1 (Ref. 2080) was proposed by **Cllr. P. English.**

"That Tipperary County Council look for clarification from Minister Mary Butler, T.D., Minister of State for Mental Health, on the continued delays and obstacles to the roll out of the Jigsaw Mental Health Programme for Tipperary. Also, will she confirm why there are delays with the new services based out of Thurles and in particular to the uncertainty about the provision of staff Outreach Jigsaw Hubs in both Clonmel and Nenagh."

This motion was seconded by **Cllr John Fitzgerald.**

It was agreed that this motion would be forwarded to the Minister of State for Mental Health, Mary Butler, T.D. for comment/observation

Item 10.2

Notice of Motion **– Supports to** **ASD Units in** **Schools**

Motion 10.2 (Ref. 2115) was deferred to the June Monthly Meeting at the request of **Cllr S. Ryan.**

“That Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Education Norma Foley TD to provide additional supports to ASD units in schools so that children with special educational needs can enrol in the nearest possible school with an ASD unit. Such a move would make the process of enrolment easier for children and parents”.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr M. Smith informed members that at a meeting of the South East First Citizens Forum held on the 23rd April, 2021, it was agreed that support would be sought from all local authorities in the South East to the progression (including planning, design and construction) of the N24 Waterford to Limerick Corridor. It was further agreed that a Notice of Motion would be placed on the agenda for the May meeting of the local authorities seeking a resolution of support for the project.

Item 11.4

N24 Waterford to **Limerick Corridor**

Motion 11.4 (Ref No. 2148) was proposed by **Cllr. M. Smith.**

“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 Europort, 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”.

This Motion was seconded by **Cllr. R. Kennedy.**

In speaking in relation to the motion, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Michael Smith, noted that the N24 corridor is a strategic transport corridor connecting the cities of Limerick and Waterford. The corridor:

- links three existing motorways, the M7 Dublin to Limerick motorway, the M8 Dublin to Cork motorway and the M9 Dublin/Carlow/Kilkenny/Waterford motorway.
- provides a strategic link between Rosslare Europort, the Port of Waterford and Shannon/Foynes Port.
- enhances regional accessibility by connecting the South East, South West and Mid West regions.

At present, the planning of the N24 Waterford to Limerick corridor is being progressed in two sections by TII, the Department of Transport and the local authorities:

- Consultants have been appointed by Kilkenny County Council which is the lead authority for the Waterford to Cahir section of the corridor. This section of the N24 is approximately 60km in length. It extends from the M8 Junction 10 Cahir North Roundabout, north of Cahir in Co. Tipperary to the southern terminal of the M9 Dublin to Waterford motorway at the Quarry Roundabout, north of Waterford City. The project is currently at Phase 2 Options Selection.
- Consultants have also been appointed by Tipperary County Council which is the lead authority for the Cahir to Limerick Junction section of the corridor. This section of the corridor is approx. 34km in length. A Corridor Options Report for this section will be published in June 2021.

Following the publication of reports for both sections as outlined above, the project will progress to Phase 3 with the publication of Compulsory Purchase Orders and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. The Consultants appointed have been tasked with bringing both sections of the corridor through the full planning process up to an including the point at which a decision is made by An Bord Pleanála.

This project is supported by a number of existing national and regional policies including the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and various County Development Plans through which the corridor passes. The progression of a strategic transport corridor between Waterford and Limerick is also identified in the National Development Plan 2018 to 2027.

However, there is significant concern that the progression of this critical project may not be supported or provided for within the current review of the National Development Plan. It is particularly critical, at this time, with the forthcoming publication of the revised National Development Plan that momentum on this project is maintained and that the Consultants appointed continue the work for which they have been engaged.

Cllr A.M. Ryan then proposed a further motion as follows: -

That we the Members of Tipperary County Council note the following: In relation specifically to the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Scheme, it is accepted that there is particular urgency with this project having regard to the high levels of heavy traffic passing through Tipperary Town and therefore that the section of the route around Tipperary Town be prioritised in both the construction and completion phases of this scheme.

This was seconded by **Cllr P. English** and agreed by members.

It was agreed to forward both motions to the Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D. Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and Transport, Mr. Paschal

Donoghue, T.D. Minister for Finance and Mr. Michael McGrath, T.D. Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

Item 12.1

Stalking Offences

Motion 12.1 (Ref No. 2147) was proposed by **Cllr R. Kennedy: -**

“That this Council call on the Minister for Justice to reconsider her Department’s decision not to have a specific offence of stalking introduced on to the stalking introduced on to the statute books, and to not only introduce an offence of Stalking but also to introduce longer sentences for the crim than are currently available to prosecutors”.

This motion was seconded by **Cllr P English**

It was agreed to forward the motion to the Minister for Justice for comment/response.

Item 12.2

Iconic Newspapers Employees

Motion 12.2 (Ref No. 2171) was proposed by **Cllr P. English**

“That Tipperary County Council request Iconic Newspapers Ltd to recognise the National Union of Journalists and engage with the NUJ Workers Representatives to address concerns of their employee’s working in Tipperary Newspapers owned by Iconic Newspapers Ltd”.

This motion was seconded by **Cllr N. Dennehy.**

It was agreed to forward the motion to Iconic Newspapers for a comment/response.

Item 12.3

South-East Ports in Rosslare and Belview

Cathaoirleach Cllr M. Smith briefed members on Motion Ref. 2152 in his name, noting that ports were key assets which could support regional economic development and could create employment opportunities for companies across all counties in the region – not just in supporting exporting companies but also in construction, engineering, logistics, wind energy and other areas.

The two key ports in the South East – Rosslare and Waterford – operated in different business areas and could complement each other. Brexit had enhanced their strategic potential as had the forthcoming development of offshore wind farms in the Irish and Celtic Seas. As it stands, the economic potential of the two ports has been under realised, there has been a lack of national focus and investment. The development of the two ports could also strengthen the argument for key pieces of road connectivity such as the N24 upgrade.

The motion sought to strengthen the case for increased investment in the two ports and crucially, to ensure that they would work closer together to support opportunities across the South East region.

Motion 12.3 (Ref No. 2152) was proposed by **Cllr M. Smith**

“That this Council calls on the Government in the light of Brexit and other market influences to recognise the strategic value of the South-East Ports in Rosslare and Belview, Waterford through

- Strategic investment in the Ports, in particular through the purchase of additional land for the expansion of Rosslare Europort and the advance construction of Rosslare Europort Harbour Access Road
- Amalgamation of the ports structure and governance to create a Tier 1 port as a combined entity
- Designation of the combined entity as the service port for off-shore renewables in The Irish and Celtic Seas

The motion was seconded by **Cllr R. Kennedy**.

It was agreed to forward the motion to Mr. Micheál Martin, Taoiseach and Mr. Charlie McConologue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for comment/response.

Item 13.1 – 13.3

Correspondence

Correspondence circulated was noted: -

- Reply dated 19th April, 2021 from Office of the Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment re. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
- Reply dated 22nd April, 2021 from Office of the Attorney General re. CETA
- Reply dated 28th April, 2021 from Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage re. Multi-annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme 2019-2021.

Item 14.1 – 14.6

Resolutions from other Local Authorities

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

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

That Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown 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 Accommodation for State Examinations for students with epilepsy

Cork City Council

That Cork City Council will send a letter of support which condemns the racial and misogynistic abuse being afflicted on the Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr. Hazel Chu.

Limerick City and County Council

That, Limerick City and County Council, recognising the scale of the Housing crisis, reaffirm its commitment to work with Government and all relevant agencies towards delivering new housing units and, in particular, ensuring that sufficient Social and Affordable housing is built for those in need of same.

Recognising, however, its duty to use Limerick city and County Council property in the best interests of society, this Council reject the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021, published by the Government, removing the role of the Elected Members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency.

The Council further agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that Elected Councillors retain the right to control such sales or transfers and to be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council-owned lands.

The Council further agrees to circulate this Motion to each Local Authority and the Association of Irish Local Government requesting their support for this.

Limerick City and County Council

That, Limerick City and County Council call on Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to retain the existing policies in relation to one-off rural housing as per the adopted Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (Section 3.9 Rural Settlement Policy and including the Rural Settlement Strategy Map) in the emerging Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Monaghan County Council

That this Council records its support for the World Health Organisation's plea for the equitable global distribution of all vaccines, treatments and therapies developed to combat the coronavirus scourge, and further notes:

- That some 130 countries across the world would yet to receive a single vaccine;
- That some countries have made arrangements for the delivery of vaccines far in excess of their population need;

Item 15.1

Votes of Sympathy

Members passed a Vote of Sympathy to the following: -

- Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Mayor of Clonmel Borough District on the death of her father Tom Ambrose, former Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council and Mayor of Clonmel Borough Council.
- Cllr John "Rocky" McGrath on the death of his mother-in-law Mary Kearns.
- Marie O'Gorman, Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District, on the death of her brother Martin (Murt) Allen, former employee of Clonmel Corporation
- Jonathan Sheehan, Environment Section on the death of his father John
- Family of Anna Tobin, wife of Dick Tobin, former member of South Tipperary County Council.

Votes of Congratulations

Members passed a Vote of Congratulations to the following: -

- Sean Mockler of Moycarkey Coolcree AC who finished in the men's U23 Hammer final in the European U23 Throwing Cup (Sunday May 9th) in Croatia.
- Finn McGreever of Derrycastle, Ballina/Killaloe who set the Irish Record in the 400m freestyle in the Irish Swimming Championship.
- Sharlene Mawdsley, Newport and the Irish 4x400 metres relay team who qualified for World Championship Final in Athletics and Olympic qualification.
- Emer Neville, Clonmel, on being elected National President of the Irish Second-Level Students Union (ISSU)

Item 16.1

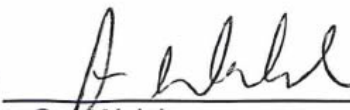
Any Other Business

There were no items raised.

The meeting than concluded.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: 8th June 2021