

Minutes of November Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 25th November, 2024 at 11.00am

Members Present: Councillor John Crosse Cathaoirleach
Councillor Declan Burgess
Councillor Liam Browne
Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan
Councillor Roger Kennedy
Councillor Máirín McGrath
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor John O’Heney
Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

Officials Present: Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator
Mr. James Murray, Senior Roads Engineer
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. Richard Power, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer
ECRD Directorate
Ms. Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer
Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Administrative Officer
Valerie Connolly, Sports Partnership
Libraries/Cultural Services/Biodiversity Directorate
Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer
Ms. Ann-Marie Brophy, Senior Executive Librarian

Apologies Councillor Micheál Anglim
Ms. Sharon Kennedy, District Director

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John Crosse, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the October meeting. Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

2.1 Minutes of October Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on 22nd October, 2024

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District October meeting held on 22nd October, 2024 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan.

Matters arising from the minutes

There was no matter arising from the minutes.

3.1 Economic, Community & Rural Development Directorate Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Margo Hayes and Ms Kathleen Prendergast, Economic, Community & Rural Development Section together with Ms Valerie Connolly, Sports Partnership to the meeting. Ms Margo Hayes thanked the Members for their continued participation and in particular Councillor Murphy and Councillor Ryan (Shiner) who sits on the LCDC. She wanted to highlight the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 which was launched on the 7th November by Minister Humphreys. There will be €206,558 funding available for capital projects with an additional €34,426 available for running costs, including insurance, utility costs, rental and the closing date is 7th March. 2025. She also confirmed that Tipperary is one of 4 locations in Ireland who will received the Tulsa Energy Programme and Tipperary Town and Roscrea are the project locations. Under this Scheme workshops will be run in schools and 40 households in town will benefit from a €300.00 minor energy efficiency upgrade which will focus on prevention child poverty. She advised the Members that Leader Grant funding has a rolling call, however a targeted call with a county wide fund of €300,000 has been made available for projects which will enhance the environment/improve biodiversity and the closing date for EOI is 18th December, 2024.

Councillor Marie Murphy thanked the ECRD team for the revised format of the report and requested clarification regarding whether or not insurance was covered by the Local Enhancement Programme. Ms Hayes confirmed that it was, however reiterated that €34,426 is a small amount for the whole county. Councillor Burgess referred to the Tipperary Tourism State of the Season Survey and asked once the data is compiled that the Members would be updated. He also requested details in relation to the provision of a basketball court and biodiversity garden at Tipperary Hills. Councillor Burgess also commended the team particularly Kathleen Prendergast on the launch of the LOVE Tipperary Gift Voucher Scheme which is a worthwhile initiative. He also wanted to thank Aine Roche for bringing the Health Tipperary and Tipperary PPN Health Wellbeing Roadshow to Halla na Feile and acknowledge Knockmealdown Active who won the national Pride of Place award in the Community Wellbeing category. Councillor Browne also supported Councillor Burgess that the LOVE Tipperary campaign was a great idea and asked if the Members could be provided with a list of businesses who has signed up to the initiative. He wanted to thank Kathleen Prendergast for her work on this and the Christmas Business Support Grants.

In response Ms. Prendergast acknowledged the comments in relation to tourism and will get a response from the Tourism Team. She also thanked the Members for the comments in relation to the LOVE Tipperary Campaign which is about

keeping cash in the County and she confirmed that there are 200 businesses signed up including larger stores like Tesco, Aldi, Lidl, Eason's and Penneys. She confirmed that they will be commencing a three point market campaign targeting, corporate bodies, smaller businesses and the public. She acknowledged that many larger businesses buy their corporate gifts in August/September and next year they may get a larger share of that market. Ms Prendergast confirmed that €8,000 was paid in this District under the Christmas Retail Support Grant including the Excel, St Paul's Community Hall Clogheen etc. Ms Valerie Connolly referred to the Sports Nation Fund and that 4 Municipal Districts were availing however she deferred to the District Administrator to provide clarification on why it would not be proceeding in Tipperary Cahir Cashel MD. Ms Connolly confirmed that Rosie Tobin is a lead of a Community Sport Hub in Canon Hayes Centre, Tipperary Town and will be working with Clubs and Schools which is very positive. The District Administrator advised that an ideal location for the 3x3 court had been identified as part of a major social regeneration scheme in Tipperary Town. However, it was premature to install at this point prior to major other Capital works being undertaken. A secondary location was submitted when we believed that the court would be 100% funded, however, we were notified that match funding of 30% (13,000 euros) was required when grants were announced. The District didn't believe this would represent value for money and the grant funding could be used by the other districts and not lost to the County. Councillor Burgess enquired about the use of the biodiversity element of the grant. However, Valerie Connolly advised that under the rules of the funding it had to be used in conjunction with the 3x3 court at one location only. The District Administrator noted that we already have biodiversity measures underway at the second-choice location.

3.2 Culture Services / Libraries & Biodiversity Directorate

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer and Ms. Ann-Marie Brophy, Senior Executive Librarian to the meeting. Councillor Roger Kennedy complemented on the amount work done year on year. Councillor Browne stated that the library in Cashel is fabulous. Councillor Moloney noted that the first Culture and Library SPC meeting would be held next week. Councillor Murphy said it will be great to have the new library in Cahir.

3.3 District Engineer's Report

The District Engineers report was circulated with the agenda and it was noted by the Members. The majority of the Works Programme has been completed and drainage works are still ongoing. Councillor Hanna Hourigan noted that the Glencourt estate was due to be taken in charge at the February meeting. Councillor Roger Kennedy complimented staff on the roadworks done during the year and noted that the programme had been finished to a high standard. He noted that Gouldscross Bridge is an elevated spot for frost and cars are constantly hitting the wall and can it be salted. Councillor McGrath thanked Mr. James

Swords for the report. She noted the salting route but commented that it doesn't go far enough as local roads are more heavily trafficked and she enquire as to the insurance implication for salt bins. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) reiterated what Councillor McGrath highlighted and asked if the Glen of Aherlow could be added to the salting route. She also commented that the traffic lights had been hit by a car in Tipperary Town and enquired if there are sensors in the middle of the road beyond the white line. Councillor Murphy asked when Ballyporeen bridge works will be completed. She wanted to complement Tipperary County Council staff on the road salting to Tipperary border and asked if there was any engagement with Waterford County Council to meet at the border. Councillor Browne also thanked the Road staff for works to date and enquired if drainage similar to what was carried out at Wallers Lot could be done at Thomastown. He has been receiving calls in recent week regarding the taking in charge of Caiseal Na Ri in Cashel as water is leaking onto the road and he asked who should be contacted if a Council matter. Councillor Burgess echoed calls made by Councillor Brown and noted there was a busy Montessori on that road. In relation to Caiseal Na Ri, Councillor Burgess noted that the new footpath was being destroyed with water coming from the builder's site. He noted it wasn't a new leak. Councillor Browne also enquired if the land adjacent to the graveyard in Cashel was Council owned.

In response the District Engineer advised that Glencourts Taking in Charge had been advertised. In relation to the traffic lights in town, he noted that sensors are present before and after the white line to identify when traffic appeared. In response to Councillor Murphy, he advised that the bridge works would be completed in two/three weeks depending on weather. He noted that surface water at Wallors Lot was a long term project and monitoring was ongoing for a 12-month period which ends in March 2025. Land across from the graveyard is not owned by the Council. With regard to the leak on the Golden Road, Uisce Eireann have similar powers to gain access. He noted that it was a Health and Safety issue and would refer to the Environment Section.

The Senior Engineer, James Murray, spoke of the Council's 12 routes and how they have agreements with Limerick and Offaly and are not in a position to expand the service given the limitations of the Working Time Act.

There are two on-duty engineers on any given night. Tipperary County Council salts a greater proportion of the road network than most other counties. We have retained the same routes year on year and people are used to it. Councillor Burgess asked if Members get an opportunity to feed into routes. Councillor Browne spoke of the Working Time Act where special emergency work can be done outside. Councillor Moloney spoke of the Racecourse Cross and Poulmucka and the stopping points which are critical at the junctions in Cahir. Councillor O'Heney agreed with a review being done where Councillors could have opportunity to feed in. Councillor Murphy requested that the MD/Roads Team would liaise with Waterford County Council in relation to salting the Waterford side of the Vee Road. This was seconded by Councillor McGrath. Senior Engineer, James Murray, reiterated that the salting is a planned service and not an

emergency programme and it is important to understand its limitations. He further advised that councils work independently of each other and that it would be inappropriate for him to interfere with Waterford's salting programme. Councillor Kennedy stated that Gouldscross Bridge could be gritted during the day. Councillor Annemarie Ryan(Shiner) asked if the gardai were contacted for the accident that occurred on Friday evening. The District Engineer advised that the incident was being investigated.

Councillor Kennedy noted that there were 20 houses listed on the report for minor repairs and when will they be ready for re-let. District Engineer, James Swords, advised that 3-4 would be ready for re-let within the coming week but not all the houses will be finished by year end and it was important to keep in mind that this was a constantly evolving list.

3.4 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator requested that his report be taken as read but prior to taking questions wished to apologise for the necessary cancelling of the Cathaoirleach Awards due to weather conditions. He explained that the Excel was not available and we had booked Cahir House Hotel for the event to take place on Thursday, the 28th of November. Councillor Browne advised that he was still awaiting a copy of the Cashel Town Forum minutes. He, further enquired as to why the works in the Plaza began in December and would they be finished by the weekend as the Christmas lights were due to be turned on. He further enquired if any casual trader applications had been received.

Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator advised that he attended a Cashel Town Forum meeting 10 days earlier and established under the Constitution of the Town Forum that the minutes were confidential to encourage frank and open discussion. He had earlier spoken to the GDPR officer and been advised that the minutes could not be released without consent of the members of the forum. At the meeting the members refused to release same. Councillor Browne noted that most people in Cashel don't even know the forum exists nor who makes up the forum. The District Administrator advised that the forum included the Cashel Chamber of Commerce, the OPW, Tidy Towns, Failte Ireland, the Heritage Company and one Elected Member was nominated by the Council. Councillor Burgess occupies this seat. The District Administrator further advised that the works on the Plaza had actually commenced in early November as we were strongly advised that the Tourism season ran to the end of October and the works will be completed by year end. The Council in consultation with the Chamber of Commerce had agreed that 3 smaller trees would be erected at different locations. Project Engineer, Frank Cussen, advised that all underground works would be completed this week and that paving would start next week weather permitting. The District Administrator advised that 11 valid applications had been received and there was only one incidence of 2 applications for the same pitch.

4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The orders were noted.

5.1 Councillor Liam Browne (Ref. ID 2891)

That this Council, erect a Columbarium Wall at St Cormac's Cemetery in Cashel, for people to place cremated ashes in, rather than buying a full burial plot. This might ease the pressure on the graveyard filling up, and increasing numbers of people choosing to be cremated rather than be buried

Reply

The provision of a columbarium wall within a burial ground has been an integral part of the Council's proposals for the provision of new burial grounds in recent years. However, the retrofitting of a columbarium wall within an existing burial ground, while providing an alternative to the traditional practice of interment, does present some challenges, included in which are cost, design and location, anticipated demand and precedent for the provision of similar facilities at other locations within the county. To date, a columbarium wall has been retrofitted by the Council in only one burial ground in the county. This took place at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Clonmel in 2021. While the subject matter of the Notice of Motion is acknowledged, Environment and Climate Action will investigate the feasibility of providing a columbarium wall at St. Cormac's Cemetery, Cashel and, in that respect, will have regard to the parameters referred to above. Environment and Climate Action will keep Councillor Liam Browne, and the other elected members of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel District, informed of developments in this regard as they unfold.

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

5.2 Councillor John O'Heney (Ref ID 2894)

That this Council will carry out upgrading works to the Zebra Crossing on Gashouse Lane, that links Main Street in Tipperary Town with Station Road, and that these works include repainting the Crossing markings, along with the addition of more signage and lighting to warn drivers and pedestrians of impending danger.

Reply

This location will be assessed and considered for inclusion in upgrade works in the coming year if required.

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

6.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

There was no vote of sympathy

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- John Ryan, GSS on his retirement and thank him for his service and wish him luck in the future.
- Liam Sweeney on his retirement and thank him for his service and wish him luck in the future.
- Former Tipperary Ladies Footballers Aishling Moloney and Aishling McCarthy who were named on the AFLW All-Australian Squad
- Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams for winning the Tipperary Minor 2024 County Final.

7.1 Any other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/  Dated/ 25/11/'24
Cathaoirleach

Signed/  Dated/ 25/11/'24
District Administrator

