

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CARRICK ON SUIR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, NEW STREET, CARRICK ON SUIR AT 14:00 ON THE 23 JANUARY 2025

In the Chair: Cllr. M. Fitzgerald

Members Present: Cllr. D. Dunne, Cllr. K. Bourke (Zoom), Cllr. M. Brennan, Cllr. I. Goldsboro

Apologies:

Attended from

Carrick on Suir MD Mr. B. Beck, Director of Services; Ms. M. Cox, Meetings Administrator; Mr. D. Power, District Engineer; Mr. W. Morgan, A/Staff Officer, S. Holloway, Assistant Staff Officer, Mr. P. Farrell, Executive Engineer, Mr. K. Malone, Senior Engineer.

Environment Directorate Mr M. Moroney & Ms. Collette Moloney

LAWPRO Directorate F. Igoe

Planning Directorate Mr. P. Killeen, Mr. P. Crowley, Mr. K. McKenna

Other Attendees
Donal Doyle – Tipp Fm
Aileen Hahessy – The Nationalist Newspaper

1.0. Welcome and Introduction

Item 1.1. Summons and Prayer: The summons was taken as read

2.0. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Council

Item 2.1. Conflict of Interest Declaration None to record

3.0. Consideration of Minutes

Item 3.1. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24 October 2024 The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 19th December, 2024 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. D. Dunne and seconded by Cllr. I. Goldsboro and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

4.0. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

Item 4.1. Attendance of Environmental Directorate and consideration of report With Ms. C. Moloney and Mr. M. Moloney in attendance, the following queries from the members were addressed:
Cllr. M. FitzGerald:
• Thanked the directorate for their comprehensive report.

- Asked about the clothing bank on the Cashel Road in Fethard, stating that it was becoming a littering spot and was attracting rodents. Asked about the possibility of it being relocated as it is currently near a playground, stating that bringing it nearer to the other bring banks would be more suitable.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Asked about the potential for using moveable cameras at the bottles/ clothing banks which were becoming black spots for litter.
- Stated that when the Killenaule bring banks are full, extra bags are being dumped around it which looks unsightly, and that perhaps installing a camera there for a period of time might deter this behaviour.
- Noted that when requested, these bring banks are emptied in a prompt fashion.
- Requested signage at the bring banks to deter people from leaving household rubbish there, and also requested that their locations be reviewed going forward.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Commented that while it is good that the Faugheen village bring banks are being used, he noted that they are often at capacity.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Noting that the issue of dog fouling is a persistent one, asked about the possibility of having a green area where dogs are not allowed, apart from guide dogs, as this has been a success in other municipal districts.
- Mentioned that while Castle Park is looking wonderful and is a great facility, on Christmas day when the Goal mile was on a lot of participants brought their dogs and dint clean up after their dogs-this is an ongoing issue and the fault lies with the owners.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Said that the bring banks at Killenaule are very poor and were also installed on two disabled bays, requesting that this issue be looked at, as a different location may be more suitable.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked about the burial ground in Fethard- the report said that it would be complete by 2025 but requested any more details on this if available.

Responding, Mr. M. Moroney:

- Said that while it is excellent to see the clothes banks are being used, when they are full people should keep their bags.
- Noted that this is a national issue as the worldwide textile market has collapsed, and finding a service provider for the banks was an issue being dealt with by the Department. Second hand clothing shops are also at capacity and some are not taking clothes.
- The bring banks are in accessible locations to encourage use which means that when they are full they are noticeable unattractive, noting that moving them will only move the problem.
- Mentioning the possibility of using CCTV, he said that they are working on this this year as there were GDPR issues which are being investigated.
- Requested that if there is dumping, the members and the public inform the Environment section.
- As regards the issue of dog fouling, they are looking at it but it will be a multi-faceted approach involving education around the use of mutt mitts and perhaps using schools.
- Noted that a designated area could be made, either for guide dogs only or for a dog park, and that this is a District function. Said that the Regional Sports Hub in Clonmel which is guide dog only is an example of this.
- Said that the Fethard burial ground would be complete by end Quarter 2.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked about the possibility of moving the clothes bank in Fethard into the car park, as it is not currently with the rest of the bring banks, noting that the Tidy Towns committee would like to use the location for a flower bed.

Responding, Mr. M. Moroney:

- Stated that this could be looked at as there may be more space available in the car park in the future due to the Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

Item 4.2. Attendance of LAWPRO and consideration of report

With Mr. F. Igoe in attendance, and following a short presentation, the following queries from the members were addressed:

Mr. B. Beck:

- Took the opportunity to acknowledge LAWPRO's work and support in Carrick on Suir MD, saying that their expertise was a huge help in Ormond Park and the Bog Field.

- Noted that COSM is currently working with LAWPRO to design water-based solutions for Goldcrop as part of a Category 2 application, and that LAWPRO's expertise would be of assistance when it comes to the redevelopment of the site.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Asked if it was possible to install signage at the Ormond Park rain garden to explain what it is, and also at the Bog Field.
- Welcomed these measures as he felt they were correcting past mistakes, Carrick was previously full of bogs and rushes but a lot of these bogs were now backfilled and taken away.
- Noted that due to the bogs being backfilled, frogs are now quite rare but he hoped that this would change.
- Said that he has one major concern with Irish Water and that is the issues with backyard services and combined sewers.
- Noting a recent issue with raw sewage coming out at a dentist on New Street, stating that this meant that chemicals were going into surface water drains- asked do Irish Water have a role to play in this?

Cllr.M. FitzGerald:

- Thanked LAWPRO for a comprehensive presentation and report.
- Stated that pilot schemes are great but there is a huge roads network in COSMD- asked if estate development plans need to include swales onto the roads network?
- Mentioning the catchment Anner area farm inspection, said that any farmers he had been speaking to commended LAWPRO, saying that they really seemed to want to work with the farmers.

Responding, Ms. C. Moloney:

- Referring to the issue with the raw sewage seeping out of the network, this is a public health nuisance and as such is reportable to the Environment.
- Thanks Cllr. M. FitzGerald for the comments about the farmers, as positive engagement was desirable and what they were trying to achieve.

Responding, F. Igoe:

- Thanked Mr. B. Beck and his team and also Mr. A. Coleman
- Said that this work is very new for Tipperary, noting that the work has also gone national.
- Commented that he is looking at this through a water lens but that there are also other benefits such as climate resilience.

- Said that re the signage, he agrees with Cllr. D. Dunne and will look at this with the community.

Item 4.3. Part 8 St Marys National School Killenaule

Commenting, Mr. K. McKenna:

- Stated that the public consultation had concluded with no submissions.
- Said the works would involve upgrading the access to the front of the school, a raised table, pedestrian crossing and a bus shelter.
- Said that there had been one referral from the Department of Housing, which meant that they would have to engage an archaeologist.
- Stated that they were now seeking approval to progress the project to the next step, the design stage.

Proposing the next step, Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Welcomed this as good news story that they had been working on for some time, and should be positive for students and staff.

Seconding the next step, Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Stated that this is great news, but noted that with the low public engagement of the consultation, he would be fearful of complaints arising further down the process.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Commented that it was disappointing that the works would not be done this year but rather next year, as Killenaule have been seeking these works with years.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Said that this is a great day for Killenaule and said it was a long time coming, noting that as he and the other elected members know things often don't happen as quickly as one would like.
- Stated that this was welcome news for Killenaule as the road is very dangerous.

Item 4.4 District Engineer's Report

The Schedule of Municipal District works for 2025 was not yet ready as budgets have not been distributed yet, however Executive Engineer Mr. D. Power invited any questions. The following matters arose:

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Wished to acknowledge the hard work of the roads staff during the last storm, noting that some of them walked to work, with them clearing roads which were often worse than anticipated.

- Mentioned that Mullinahone to Urlingford Road, which is a regional road had gotten no salt or attention and was a very busy road. Said that a solution is needed as it is a busy road and near a number of secondary schools and also near Kearney's Hill.
- Commented that these storms may become more regular and that we need to be proactive in our approach.
- Also mentioned the Mullinahone to Callan road- this is another regional road that is very busy and had become treacherous during the icy weather as it had not been salted- requested that we salt it going forward.
- Asked about public lighting, saying that she knew Airtricity were the former contractor, but said that now there were lights logged with up to 6 months, and these lights were still out.
- Said that there were lights out with months in Killenaule, Moyglass, Glengoole, and that new lights were meant to be installed in Cottage Path Ballingarry and Mill Road, which still hadn't been installed.
- Queried who the new contractor is as public patience is running out.
- Noted that the church in Ballingarry is still in darkness after 6 months- asked if we could expedite this as it was dangerous for elderly people leaving Mass.
- Said that the Fethard bridge on the road to Moyglass had been hit and signage and bollards were needed.
- Asked for an update on the LIS scheme and its current status.
- Queried the Climate Action Roads programme as the storm has expedited the degeneration of some of the roads, asking if some of the roads in the red zone would be high priority, and if so can we put in an application for these, as these roads were deteriorating.
- Concluded by again thanking all staff for their work during the storm.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Thanked all staff for their trojan work during the recent winter storm.
- Asked about the access to equipment to clear footpaths and entrances, citing the N76 at Glenbower being impassable something which shouldn't happen again.
- Asked what the protocol is to call in the army or extra staff from other districts.
- Asked if we can get extra equipment and salters, stating that it was a disastrous situation where people were stuck in their houses who were 100- 500 yards from the nearest regional road.

- Stated that he had been circulating a survey which had thus far been completed by 100 people, looking for feedback.
- Stated that with the pending red warning for the weekend, he hoped that the public would heed warnings and stay inside, as all the roads crews will be back out again after the most recent storm, doing clean-up work.
- Asked if we could call in external contractors to help with the clean up after storms.
- Congratulated the farmers and councillors who did great work in their local communities.
- Queried which contractors got paid and which didn't, noting a local TD who had been posting his work on social media and queried if he had been paid as a contractor.
- Stated that the local farmers helped out of community spirit.
- Asked if there is the potential to gather in the farmers' safety details and keep them on a retainer for future storm events.
- As regards the N24 snag list, requested that he and Cllr. K. Bourke walk the N24 and go through the snags with them, noting that there are barriers still up in some areas which was detracting from the work, and some other small snags which should be fixed.
- Asked if there was potential for funding for a park warden, as we have a lot of new open spaces like the Blueway and the rain gardens, currently under a 3 year contract but they would be difficult to maintain with existing funds/staff once the period is up.
- Said that the park warden role could encompass a dog/litter warden, as well as maintenance of trees and shrubs ensuring that all the new open spaces are kept at top standard.
- Asked if the wall at Pill Road would be repaired following the car crash which had rendered it dangerous.
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Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Thanked the staff, as well as the local farmers who helped clear the way for funerals.
- Said that he went to one council depot for grit, which he got no problem but noted that grit supplies were limited-wondered about getting a bigger area to store grit?
- Thanked the farmers for their brilliant work.
- Asked if we could retain the farmers as contractors who had done work during the storm?
- Said that public lighting was a huge issue as public were getting very frustrated with this, stating that similar to Cllr. I Goldsboro, he had some lights logged since last May which were still out.

- Mentioned the traffic calming lights at Fethard, Ballinure and Killenaule, where the lights were out as the batteries had been taken.
- Asked if the new speed signs will be replaced e.g. 80km/h replaced with 60 km/h, noting that he had seen 2 poles in an area with no grassy margin and no protective covers.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Commended the trojan work of the roads staff during the storm, saying that it was easy to criticise.
- Complimented the staff who had made roadways for essential workers to get to work, commending S. Smith GSS in particular.
- Stated that we need to learn from these situations as they were going to become more frequent with climate change.
- Mentioned SAS Agri Contractors who had a 2-tonne manure spreader and could have used it to spread grit if he had supplies- stated he will raise this at the Roads SPC.
- Commented that the public lighting issue is massive and that constituents now felt that we are fobbing them off as it is going on for so long.
- Mentioned some of the roads damaged by frost, such as St Patricks Place estate in Fethard which is dangerous, and as it is largely a housing estate for the elderly, we will need funds to repair it.
- Noting the pending red warning for Friday, said that it was his understanding that roads crews could not work in a red warning- does this mean they will all be out doing a clean-up on Saturday?

Responding, Mr. D. Power:

- Recognised the work of the farmers during the snow storm, saying that it was a great community effort.
- Confirmed that unfortunately we do not have the capacity to add more to the existing roads network for gritting, but that the elected members are welcome to put in representations about this.
- Said that at the moment the budget for gritting is at capacity and while all of the roads mentioned by the elected members are indeed busy link roads to national routes, at the moment there is no capacity.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Asked if the full capacity issue relating to money or manpower?

Responding, Mr. K. Malone:

- Stated that the pressures are mostly financial at the moment, as there is no more money in the budget and not enough drivers for the salt trucks at present.
- If more routes are added, more drivers will be needed.
- Confirmed that the €1 million budget set aside annually for harsh weather is used up now.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Stated that this was unacceptable and that constituents will argue that road tax should fund this
- Asked if there could be a proposal whereby the farmers could be funded to clear these secondary roads and girt them, which shouldn't be too expensive and would ultimately save on the clean up cost

Responding, Mr. K. Malone:

- Said that he will discuss this with James Murray but is not overly optimistic.

Mr. B. Beck:

- Said that there was huge work done by the community during the recent storm.
- As the Chief Officer of the LCDC, said that the LCDC has agreed to establish a sub group of organisations to prepare a proposal of how the community could respond to such situations in a coordinated manner.
- Commented that there is a wide range of organisations represented at LCDC level who possess the knowledge to make a template to be used going forward.

Responding, Mr. D. Power:

- Confirmed that all outside contractors must operate under the Council's safety system
- Said that his understanding of the situation at Glenbower N76 is that it was caused by people going to scenic spots during the snow- the snow plough got stuck there for 4 hours which led to the road not being gritted at this time.
- Stated that as regards calling in the army, they were used to bring staff to work in hospitals and that the Council staff also assisted with this.
- As regards public lighting, up to July 2024 there had been 2 contractors over this, whereas now there is only 1 contractor carrying out repairs- he will chase Mr. M. Tierney for an update on the outstanding lights and understands the elected members' frustration in relation to same.
- An inspection of Fethard bridge will be scheduled.

- As regards the LIS schemes, the closing date for these is August 2025 and the intention would be to clear as many off the list as we can. A workshop will be held on the new rules.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald:

- Asked for clarification on the closing dates of the schemes?

Mr. D. Power:

- Confirmed that August is the closing date for LIS and that he would double check the date for CIS.
- Said that he would schedule in the walk on the N24 for Wednesday or Friday next week.
- Re the park warden, stated that he would make enquiries as to what we could get.
- Commented that the maintenance of the Blueway is the responsibility of Clonmel BD.
- Said that the insurance details of the car driver will pay to repair the damaged wall on Pill Road.
- Said that the issue with the speed signs is an ongoing issue as the batteries were being removed from them and that we need to seek a better solution to this.
- As regards the speed survey signs the local roads would be lowered to 60 km/h and the regional roads lowered to 80 km/h in February, with the next step being the national secondary roads.
- Commenting on the issue with damaged estate roads this would be raised at SPC meeting as more funding would be needed to repair these.
- Referring to the pending storm, confirmed that no crews would be out during the red warning, and also once darkness falls. All works would be assessed and done by priority.
- Encouraged the elected members to use the on-call system if they spot any issues, rather than contacting GSSs directly.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Welcomed the plan of action re the LCDC community proposal but questioned if more funding would be needed for this, and if so where would it be obtained from?
- Asked if the Council have an emergency plan, and if so is it accessible to the public, and does it cover issues like what happens if a road is blocked, or if floods happen.

Responding, Mr. B. Beck:

- Stated that as the task had been taken on by LCDC they would have numerous grants and funding streams available to them.

Responding Mr. D. Power:

- Said that re the emergency plans there was a draft flood plan at the moment which was out for comment by various members of staff.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked if there was legislation in place stating that speed signage is needed on all roads/ cul de sacs. A constituent had approached him who lives in a small cul de sac with an Air B n B and he was worried that they would see the speed sign and treat it as a target instead of driving with caution as the road is narrow and bendy.

Responding, Mr. P. Farrell:

- Commented that all speed limits should be treated as a limit not a target.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked if the speed limit on that particular road could be reduced, or is the speed sign needed at all?

Responding, Mr. D. Power:

- Stated that if the cul de sac is off the road which it is of equal speed limit to, then the sign is necessary

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked if this could be reviewed?

Responding, Mr. D. Power:

- Confirmed that this could be reviewed.

Item 4.5 District Administrator's Report

The Meetings Administrator circulated her report incorporating an update in relation to Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan for Phases 1, 2 and 3. She also reported on the EU Just Transition Fund Riverside Regeneration, as well as available grants like the Creative Ireland Grant Scheme, Local Enhancement Programme 2025, Community Monuments Fund 2025 and Tipperary Festivals Grant Scheme 2025.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Congratulated the staff again on a successful Christmas festival stating that he was blown away by the numbers coming into Carrick for the day.
- Commended the huge work that went into it, noting that Ms. M. Cox was first on the scene and the last to leave.
- Mentioned the St Patricks Day Festival and Parade as it would be a Carrick and Hinterlands festival this year, and

that he would encourage groups all over the district to participate, noting that Explore Carrick were working on this as well and hopefully it would be as big a success as the Christmas festival.

- Highlighted the need for all the various parties to work together to promote the local area.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Again thanked all the staff for the work that went into the festival.

Mr. B. Beck:

- Thanked all the staff and elected members for their efforts in bringing about the festival, but also acknowledged the efforts of the local businesses, as it was everyone working together who made it a success.
- Stated that category 2 RRDF was currently being worked on with the submission date being 14th March 2025- part of the preparation of the application would be to meet with the Department, and that members would be kept informed about this.

Ms. M. Cox:

- Thanked Cllrs. D. Dunne and Mr. P. Bourke for their assistance during the festival, stating that the intention for this year would be to make it bigger and better. Commented on the collaboration between businesses, OPW, Ormond Castle team, Explore Carrick on Suir, and sections of the council, with everyone willing to contribute.
- Also acknowledged the work of the staff during the winter storm, and stated that they were planning storm management for the pending storm.
- Emphasised that the date for the St Patricks Day Parade is Sunday 16th March.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Said that no doubt the event will be bigger and better and that he found the 2021 parade very enjoyable.

**Item 4.5
General Municipal
Allocation**

None

Item 4.6 None
Assistance of bodies
under Section 66 of local
Government Act, 2001

5.0. Chief Executive's / Delegated Employee's Orders

Item 5.1. None

6.0. Correspondence

Item 6.1. None

7.0. Notices of Motion

Item 7.1. None

8.0. Any Other Business

Item 8.1
Any other business
arising with the
permission of the
Cathaoirleach

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Queried if the MBI petitions had been handed in prior to the municipal district meeting.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Confirmed that they were, but there was no chance to examine them as of yet- a receipt was issued to MBI but they were not for discussion yet.
- Reminded Cllr. M. Brennan of his obligation to notify the Cathaoirleach if raising AOB at a municipal meeting.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Asked if he could get a copy of MBI's complaint?

Mr. B. Beck:

- Confirmed that the district office does not have a copy of the complaint.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald

- After a brief discussion Cllr M. Fitzgerald closed the meeting

This concluded the business of the meeting (15.48pm)


District Administrator.


Cathaoirleach.

23rd January 2025