

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CARRICK ON SUIR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, NEW STREET, CARRICK ON SUIR AT 14:00 ON THE 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

In the Chair:	Cllr. M. Fitzgerald
Members Present:	Cllr. I. Goldsboro, Cllr. M. Brennan, Cllr. D. Dunne.
Apologies:	Cllr. K. Bourke.
Attending from Carrick-on-Suir MD	Mr. B Beck, Director of Services; Ms. M. Cox, Meetings Administrator; Mr. D. Power. A/District Engineer; Mr. P. Farrell, Executive Engineer; Ms. Cahill, Staff Officer, Ms. S. Holloway, Assistant Staff Officer.
Environment Directorate;	Mr. Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Colette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist.
LAWPRO;	M. Morrissey, F. Igoe

1.0. Welcome and Introduction

Item 1.1. Summons and Prayer:	The summons was taken as read.
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2.0. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Council

Item 2.1. Conflict of Interest Declaration	None to record.
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3.0. Consideration of Minutes

Item 3.1. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 26 July 2024	The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 26 July 2024 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr D. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. I. Goldsboro, and signed by the Cathaoirleach.
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4.0. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

Item 4.1. Report of Environment Directorate	<p>The briefing report of Environment and Climate Action Directorate was circulated and taken as read.</p> <p>With Mr. Michael Moroney Senior Executive Officer and in attendance, the following queries from members were addressed:</p> <p>Cllr. I. Goldsboro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asked about the current status of works at the Calvary graveyard in Fethard, and about Grangemockler and Mullinahone graveyards, as both are nearing full capacity.• Raised the issue of Nine Mile House graveyard, as it is regularly visited by many of her constituents and there is
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no graveyard committee in place- some assistance may be needed.

- Asked about septic tank grants- she notes that for many people applying for the Croí Cónaithe in rural areas, the septic tank is becoming an issue. Is there any possibility to make an allowance for these Croí Cónaithe grant applicants to also apply for the septic tank grant?

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Raised the issue of St. Mary's cemetery, and the proposed extension section which was being used by the developers of the new housing estate, but he understands has since gone back into our hands. Cllr Dunne wants an update on when the area can be used - he understands the developer may have put some topsoil on it.
- Asked about the Deposit Return Scheme- there's a new incentive where clubs and community grants can collect the bottles/cans in a container for cash. Will this have an effect on fees for domestic recycling/bin companies as there will be less glass & cans being recycled.

Responding to these issues, M. Moroney commented:

- Re the Deposit Return Scheme- it is performing very well, but it will have an impact on domestic refuse companies and county council amenity services. The rationale for the scheme does trump the monetary loss incurred. The burden will be on the county council to ensure that the other amenity services are being fully used.
- The extension construction works are ongoing at Fethard cemetery. He stated that he did not currently hold information about the other graveyards, but he will endeavour to find out more and revert. He noted that re Nine Mile House graveyard, if there is no committee in situ, they will consider doing something to assist
- St Marys cemetery- graves cannot be dug on topsoil, he pledged to discuss this issue with R. Boland.

Responding, C. Moloney Stated:

- Re the possibility of people applying for the Croí Cónaithe grant also being allowed to apply for the septic tank grant, she stated that there is no latitude to expand the categories of people eligible to apply for this septic tank grant. She had made representations to the Department on this issue and they reverted stating that the 3 categories of person eligible to apply for this grant will not be altered.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Re Calvary graveyard, members of the committee have told him that there are people being interred in side channels etc which is not ideal and asked whether urgency

could be placed on the contractor to complete the extension

M. Moloney noted this issue for discussion with the contractor.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Enquired who to contact as regards removing clothing recycling bins- County Council or a private company? There is one in particular on the Cashel Road in Fethard which is becoming a dumping site.

Responding to this, M. Moloney stated:

- This issue with clothing banks can be discussed with R. Boland or A. Carroll. It would be the intent of the council to remedy rather than remove them.

**Item 4.2.
Report of Lawpro**

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) Briefing note for Carrick on Suir Municipal District for September 2024 was circulated and taken as read. F. Igoe ran through a comprehensive presentation and accepted questions afterwards:

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Commended the appearance of the Bog Field after the works, he had initially thought it would be suited for a skateboard park but he can now see the benefits of the development as it is.
- Stated that at his workplace they have been instructed by EPA to install settlement tanks in their car park to catch any pollution from cars before it enters into water, and questioned if every petrol station also has to have a similar container system?
- Asked why solar panels are being installed on agricultural land, when the vegetation will only grow near them for one year, and his understanding was that any silt/ run off will then escape into rivers. Questioned the impact this was having on the environment and asked why solar panel farms are not being installed in car parks instead.
- Commented that action was required to stop farmers cutting ditches & enlarging fields, which is causing flooding; stating that this coupled with climate change is making the perfect storm and more flooding is inevitable.

Responding to this, C. Moloney stated:

- Re petrol stations, they are regulated and required to have interceptors. Fire Department and Environment both have a role to play in managing their emissions.

Again, responding to this, F. Igoe stated that

- The solar panels/ runoff would appear to be a new issue, and that he is unaware of the silt issue but would try to find out more about it. Re green roofs and solar panels- LAWPRO always try to find nature-based solutions in context, and encourage multiple functional uses.
- Removal of hedgerows is a huge problem, and negates the effect of the nature-based solutions that is strived for; a natural water retention project is being devised in conjunction with OPW, in an attempt to find natural flood solutions.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked if LAWPRO would be willing to present to community groups, such as the Tidy Towns?

Responding, F. Igoe:

- Said that LAWPRO are a small team but would certainly consider this. LAWPRO currently do some nature-based solutions workshops with children and Lions Clubs.

Commenting, M. Morrissey:

- Stated that yes, they are certainly willing to engage with villages and community groups.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- queried about the possibility of LAWPRO presenting at the Tidy Towns Awards.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- stated that F. Crotty may have a presentation already planned for that awards night.

M. Cox:

- confirmed that MD can engage with PPN network to do this.

Responding, F. Igoe:

- stated that LAWPRO have done presentations to PPNs in the past, and in doing so LAWPRO tries to localise the presentation in order to make it relevant.

Item 4.3. District Engineer's Report

Schedule of Municipal District Works-

The Schedule of Municipal District Works for September 2024 was circulated and considered by the members, with the District Engineer, Mr. Denis Power outlining progress to date under the various headings. The following matters arose:

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked about LIS scheme on this year's schedule

Responding, D. Power stated:

- This route will be done, GSS in the area is to get in touch with the contractor.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Commended the council on all aspects of the work done in and around Drangan. Residents finally have peace of mind after almost being flooded in recent times.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Asked for an update on public lighting on the Mill Road in Ballynonty.
- Thanked the council staff for their support for the lights on Cottage Path, Ballynonty.
- Asked if there was any lighting feature available to highlight the pedestrian crossing in Fethard, as visibility of the crossing is very poor.
- Queried the status of the Fethard ballroom works.
- Asked about the availability of traffic calming measures for Mullinahone, Fethard Road Killenaule, and Killenaule outside the primary school.
- Also asked about other villages outside schools- Glengoole, Ballinure, Ballingarry and whether there are any programmes that can be used to prioritise these areas?
- Re the Killenaule new public amenity project- can this be considered for inclusion in ORIS/TVR as it is a great project.
- Re the Ballydonnell drainage scheme- will works start soon as residents are concerned about flooding as winter comes.
- Thanked D. Power and road staff for all their work to date.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Commented that while councillors are raising these issues at meetings, the engineers are often already aware. This is just to bring the issues up officially.
- Raised the issue of N24 reinstatement work at Pill Road under the rail bridge after a leak was repaired, and the roundabouts in O' Mahony Avenue that are badly chipped. Stated that there are too many bins on the N24 and in the wrong places, and also brought up the issue that the traffic lights had been out for a few days as contractor had to come from Galway. Asked about the removal of the loose stones at the Presentation Primary School, and about the culvert which was tarred over at Clairin hill which is causing ponding.
- Asked about the removal of the vegetation on the flood wall as it is bad for the structure.

- Queried the blight of dumping in Carrick on Suir- there are a number of black spots which is very unfair and he felt that cameras should be used.
- Raised ongoing issues with Irish Water with the council still being used to solve their sewage problems, which he thanked the outdoor staff for. 5 issues came in one Monday, with Irish Water being required to replace a number of AJs.
- Commented that the works on the Blueway are looking well.
- Asked when Clairin footbridge will be signed off on, commenting that it looks to be steep for wheelchair users.
- Commented about public lights which are reported as being out but are taking a long time to be repaired.
- Asked for an update on the flooding at Cregg Road & Grangemockler, and what preventative measures are being suggested.
- Looked for an update on the proposed speed surveys.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Commented about the speeding at the primary school in Killenaule stating that it is an accident waiting to happen. Same situation in Ballinure- he has witnessed cars travelling at 75/85 km/h near the school
- Noted that he has raised the issue of a number of the digital speed signs not working and/or being obscured by hedgerows. The digital speed signs in Killenaule & Fethard are not working.
- Noted that lights in a number of areas at crossings are not working and not safe.
- Stated that at Moyglass school, there is water gathering on the road which is making people use the other road which is causing congestion.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- At the entry to towns & villages at the 50 km/h signs, a lot of the hedgerow needs to be trimmed back to make the signs more visible.
- At the exit from Fethard at Jesuits Walk, from the bridge going out towards the garage, can the verge be cut back as people use it for walking?

Responding, D. Power:

- Stated that he will send the GSS to check that grassy verge and see if it can be cleaned.
- Stated that re the lights, a new contractor is in place. The public lights need to be separated from the private at the Fethard town wall and then check if they can be fixed.
- He will get the GSS to examine the pedestrian crossing at Fethard and see if it can be better lit.

- Re the Fethard ballroom, a SUDS design is currently being done up for same.
- Re traffic calming at Killenaule school- funding is needed for the design of this. He will consider this at the 3-year road programme workshop, and will also sit down and consider funding for same.
- Ballydonnell drainage works are ongoing.
- Re the N24 issues- he has walked the route and looked at all of these. Paudie Ryan is the new EE and he will email all these issues on to him for examination.
- Said that an OPW screening assessment will be done on the flood wall and this will include any vegetation.
- Any issues regarding dumping will have to be discussed with Environment.
- TCC is tied in to a contract with Irish Water until 2026 which covers these sewage repairs.
- He will talk to Gillian AT about Clairin footbridge inspection and any issues.
- The delay in fixing the traffic lights is due to the wait for the contractor as there is only one contractor taking care of these now.
- Drainage money is in place for works at Cregg Road.
- TII works took place in Grangemockler 6 weeks ago to repair the bridge. Possibility of opening the third eye on the bridge may also be explored.
- The speed surveys were done, but no information/ reports have come back yet.
- He is aware of a number of the digital speed signs being out. Some are due to batteries being removed, some also need wiring fixed which will take longer to repair. The same goes for issues with public lighting.
- Requested that Cllr. Brennan send him a pin drop of the location of flooding at Moyglass school so he can see an exact location.
- As it is now pruning season, there will be an ongoing programme between landowners and the county council to prune back hedges.
- A speed sign review will be coming up on a national basis, probably sometime after November to tie in with the speed changes.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald enquired about the possibility of a speed workshop

Responding, D. Power:

- Agreed that once the speed signage document has been received from the Department, a speed workshop can be arranged thereafter.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Queried whether, once the review is completed, the cost will be borne by the council aswell as the resources to install same

Responding, D. Power:

- Said that he has asked that question and not received a definitive answer to date.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Congratulated D. Power and his staff on the work in Manor Close, all the residents are extremely happy with this. Also raised the issue with flooding due to two unconnected surface water drains, and asked whether this could be resolved

Responding, D. Power:

- Stated that the option of running a pipe to connect two gullies to solve this is under consideration.

At this point, Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Stated that K. Bourke had passed on his apologies for being absent for this meeting, and asked the minutes to note this.

**Item 4.4.
District Administrators
Report**

Carrick on Suir Regeneration Scheme

The District Administrator provided an update on the RRDF stating that Phase 1 was near completion, with Healy Park being completed once the railings were installed at the Plaza area and Ormond Castle Park and Castle Street due for completion within the next two weeks.

It was also noted that as part of the development of the work along Strand Walk, conservation concerns about the negative visual impact of a long access ramp on the historic architectural character of Strand Walk and the Ormond Castle context were raised. A Disability Access Study was undertaken by MWP to determine whether enough disability access points were allowed for in Castle Park if the new proposed ramp was not constructed and the existing ramp closed off. The recommendation is to install proposed stepped access from Strand Walk to Castle Park and having regard to a number of concerns raised by the public about the suggested closure of the existing ramp access from Strand Walk to Ormond Castle Park, it is proposed to maintain that access and continue to monitor it post completion of Phase 1. This will be reviewed in six months to assess the impact of this ramped access and to review whether further works are necessary.

Team Tipp County Clean up 11th to 13th October

Elected Members were informed of a Countywide Clean-up campaign starting on the 11th October. This is been led by the Environment Section and groups can register online or by contacting Environment.

The District Administrator also brought the Christmas Retail Support Programme and Climate Action Work Engagement fund to the attention of the Elected Members.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Compliments on the fabulous RRDF work at Sean Healy Park & Castle Park, especially the two sculptures made from the tree which was felled which are beautiful. People are now really seeing the benefit of the RRDF, it's not just a drawing on a page anymore.

Item 4.5. General Municipal

The Meetings Administrator indicated that there were no items to consider under this heading.

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Item 4.6. Assistance of Bodies under Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001

The Meetings Administrator indicated that there were no items for consideration under this heading.

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

Item 5.1. D.E. Order 39162

D.E. Order 39162-S254 licence for placement of outdoor tables for Alla's patisserie

Items 5.2. D.E. Order 39562

D.E. Order 39562- Legal proceedings re unpaid fixed offence notices

Item 5.3. D.E. Order 39565

D.E. Order 39565- Licence for erection of scaffolding at 23 Kickham Street, Carrick on Suir

6.0 Correspondence

None

7.0. Notice of Motion

Item 7.1. None

8.0. Any Other Business

Item 8.1. Cllr. I. Goldsboro thanked H. Cahill for her support & advice over the last couple of years and offered best wishes to in her new role in Housing and also to W. Morgan in his new role.

Cllr. D. Dunne concurred with the sentiments, stating that H. Cahill is not only a colleague but a friend. Cllr Dunne also welcomed W. Morgan in his new role as Staff Officer in Carrick MD.

Cllr. M. Brennan wished H. Cahill all the best and welcomed W. Morgan to Carrick MD.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald stated that H. Cahill had been great to work with and wished her the best in her new role and also welcomed W. Morgan.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

[3.21pm]


District Administrator.


Cathaoirleach.

24th October, 2024