

In the Chair: Cllr. M. Fitzgerald

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

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. K. Malone, Senior Engineer.

Cultural & Libraries Directorate

Mr D. Dullaghan

Invited Guests

Senator. I. Goldsboro

Other Attendees

Annmarie Magorrian – Freelance local journalist
Aileen Hahessy – The Nationalist Newspaper

1.0. Welcome and Introduction

**Item 1.1.
Summons and Prayer:**

The summons was taken as read

At this point an adjournment was proposed by Cllr.M. FitzGerald and seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne. Presentation of flowers was made to Senator. I. Goldsboro.

Senator. I. Goldsboro:

- Thanked her fellow councillors for the invitation to attend as well as council staff.
- Stated that the last 11 years at Carrick on Suir MD have been an honour, and that all the councillors have achieved a lot together.
- Commented that it was great to see all of the funding coming into the district.
- Said that all the councillors had faced many challenges such as climate change and that she would like to acknowledge the work of the whole district in this regard- staff, councillors and constituents.

- Welcomed her new beginning in the Seanad, saying that it should give Carrick MD and Tipperary South a voice there.
- Said that she still intended to work together with the councillors to further district goals, noting that they had not had a cross word in 11 years which says a lot about the ethos in the district.
- Commented that while funding is awaited in some areas, the district tried to do its best with the resources they have, such as the red roads.
- Noted that amenities, parks and playgrounds have all benefitted from improvements.
- Wished all the best to the person who would be taking her seat.
- Emphasised that she is very willing to help and engage with the district going forward, and thanked everyone again.

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Congratulated Senator. I. Goldsboro on her election to the Seanad, stating that this would be a valuable asset for Tipperary South, Ballingarry, Carrick on Suir and Killenaule.
- Said that Senator. I. Goldsboro's door would be open for comments and queries.
- Acknowledged all the hard work done by Senator. I. Goldsboro to date, stating that the seat is a Goldsboro seat, not just a Fianna Fail seat, and that he wished Senator I. Goldsboro and her daughter all the best in their future endeavours.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Congratulated Senator. I. Goldsboro and echoed Cllr. K. Bourke's sentiments, stating that Senator. I. Goldsboro did not get here without plenty of hard work, the fruition of which was shown by her being a poll topper twice.
- Commented that politics is a tough gig and that the councillors in the district all support each other.
- Said that it would be fantastic to have someone all the councillors could work with in Dail Eireann.
- Promised that if Senator. I. Goldsboro's daughter is nominated to take her seat, all of the councillors will look after her.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Congratulated Senator. I. Goldsboro, stating that he wished to echo the sentiments of the other councillors.
- Commented that he enjoyed meeting into Senator. I. Goldsboro when they were canvassing.
- Mentioned that the loss of Senator. I. Goldsboro was somewhat of a disappointment for him as he enjoyed

working with her, noting she had a vast 11 years experience of being a councillor.

- Said that her daughter would be a good replacement as undoubtedly Senator. I. Goldsboro would act as a mentor to her.
- Thanked Senator. I. Goldsboro for all her help.

Ms. M. Cox:

- Congratulated Senator. I. Goldsboro, stating that she was thrilled for her.
- Said that she was disappointed on a personal level, as Senator. I. Goldsboro was a pleasure to work with.
- Noted that all council staff were also thrilled for Senator. I. Goldsboro and wished her the very best of luck.

Mr. B. Beck:

- Thanked Senator. I. Goldsboro, saying that it had been great to work together.
- Congratulated Senator. I. Goldsboro and wished her the best of luck.
- Said that he was always at the end of the phone and that Senator. I. Goldsboro could contact him at any time.
- Commented that he hoped to see Senator. I. Goldsboro soon, and said well done on her election to the Seanad.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Said that it was an emotional moment for Senator. I. Goldsboro, which showed what working for Carrick MD meant to her.
- Stated that it was amazing for the councillors to have such a rapport.
- Noted that Senator. I. Goldsboro would be an excellent mentor for her daughter

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 23rd January, 2025 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. D. Dunne and seconded by Cllr. M. Brennan and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

4.0. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

Item 4.1.

Attendance of Economic Community and Rural

With Mr. B. Beck in attendance, the report was taken as read. There were no questions arising from same.

Directorate and consideration of report

Mr. B. Beck:

- Mentioned that Local Enterprise Office (LEO) had created 149 jobs last year. 96 jobs were created in 2023.
- Said that he would have a more detailed report on these figures for a Carrick on Suir MD meeting in coming months.

Item 4.2. Attendance of Libraries and Cultural Directorate and consideration of report

With Mr. D. Dullaghan in attendance, he informed the members as follows:

- Tipperary Libraries website, tipperarystudies.ie which is a historical archive for the area, was proving to be a tremendous success.
- Said that the website was a source of artefacts such as GAA programs, such as Swan and Davin, Macra na Feirme and local drama societies.
- Noted that the website had 2.6 million views up to February 2025, and 3 million views were anticipated by March 2025.
- Said that it was a valuable source of the history of the Carrick on Suir district.

The following queries arose from the members:

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked if members of the public can bring in documents for digitising?

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Thanked all the library staff for their hard work to date.
- Commented that 3 million views was unbelievable.
- Mentioned that the tipperarystudies.ie website would be an amazing source for school projects, and would preserve history for future generations.

Responding, Mr. D. Dullaghan:

- Stated that the tipperarystudies.ie website was a combination of acquisitions from auctions and donations from the public.
- Said that people have donated a great deal, and that a huge amount of information comes from private donations.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Thanked Mr. D. Dullaghan, stating that he had no doubt that he would lose a few hours scrolling through the tipperarystudies.ie website.

Responding, Mr. D. Dullaghan:

- Thanked Cllr. M. FitzGerald for his comments.

- Proposed: Cllr. M. Brennan, seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne.

Item 4.3. Taking in charge- Oakwood, Ballingarry

4.4 District Engineer's Report

Mr. D. Power, A/District Engineer, circulated a comprehensive Schedule of Municipal Works for 2025. Mr. D Power commented:

- Funding for national and secondary routes would remain the same.
- District road funds were up €4,000, town remained static.
- There was also funding for work on 3 bridges.
- The Active Travel scheme was Killenaule School traffic calming project.
- €129,000 allocated for the new speed signs, with some up but more yet to go up.

The schedule of Municipal Works 2025 was proposed by Cllr. D. Dunne and seconded by Cllr. M. Brennan.

The following queries arose:

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Commented that while he welcomed all the money being budget, he was dismayed that there were no funds for housing estate maintenance, which was disgraceful.
- Stated that there were block grants previously for housing estates, but that these were all stopped in 2014.
- Noted that urban areas were hugely neglected, and that money was gravely needed.
- Stated that there were housing estates in Fethard and Grangemockler which were disgraceful and that people needed to stand up and be counted when it comes to this issue.
- Urged his colleagues to back him on this issue.
- Asked the rural councillors to back him also, noting that 20% of the town fund had been lost to the rural areas- he had backed them on this issue so he urged them to back him on this occasion.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Stated that he would gladly second Cllr. Bourke on this issue.
- Noted that at the workshop he had raised this issue.
- Commented that footfall and car journeys on some of these housing estates would be equal, or more, than that of some of the roads being worked on.
- Thanked Mr. D. Power for walking the N24 with him and Cllr. Bourke to do the snag list.
- Said that they found many items, bike stands which were loose, drains blocked, roundabouts needing attention, loose stones being thrown.
- Commented that the N24 was an excellent project and that he supported it 100%, even though it caused traffic delays and the councillors took the flack for this.
- Requested an update on the Feasibility study on the Greenway/Blueway link project.
- Commented that we were lucky during the recent storms as there was not much damage in the district.
- Noted a recent Uisce Eireann issue when a sewage issue was reported by a property owner- first report was made on a Friday with 3 more reports coming in over the weekend.
- Said the sewage issue was with a house which was a high point in the town and that it was highly likely that the house would be flooded.
- As Uisce Eireann were not responding to the issue, Cllr. Dunne had to resort to ringing Mr. D. Power in a panic as the property owner was 72, and his son had been helping him to bail out the water.
- Commended the work done pre storm by the council staff, saying that Uisce Eireann were impeding council staff by their inaction.
- Said that Uisce Eireann eventually responded when the issue had been resolved- there was a blockage 3 doors down which council staff had freed.
- Commented that Uisce Eireann should have responded Friday, not late Saturday.
- Mentioned the issue with flooding at Manor Close estate- a road had completely flooded which was the developers fault as they had installed a drain which was not working.
- Said that the council's responsibility was to keep drains open and working and that the council staff should not be using their manpower for resolving Uisce Eireann issues.
- Said that in these cases people tend to ring councillors first, and then the councillors have to ring council staff which he doesn't like having to do at weekends.
- Requested that the District write to Uisce Eireann to discern ownership of these problems.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Voiced his support for Cllr. K. Bourke's call for funding for housing estates, noting that St Patricks Place, Churchview, Castlequarter and Grangemockler all needed attention.
- Mentioned a housing estate in Grangemockler where the manhole covers were all above ground and needed attention, saying that at a Plenary Meeting, councillors had been informed that there may be a Central Government fund to help.
- Said that the lack of action here was disgraceful, with him being approached by constituents while canvassing and there had still been no action to date.
- Said that although some of the potholes in the housing estates had been filled, rain empties them out again.
- Said that he hit one of these potholes himself recently and it almost ruined the suspension in his jeep.
- Referring to public lighting said that there were still lights out everywhere.
- Said that when he checks on them on the Fault reporting app, it shows that there are none outstanding but that the lights were still all out and hadn't been repaired.
- Said that while he appreciated no new speed ramps being installed, he said that numerous batteries were missing from digital speed signs in the district- asked if anything can be done about this.
- Said that the digital speed sign near the doctors in Killenaule was out of action and that he had received complaints about this.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Agreed with Cllr. Bourke's call for funds for housing estates, and said that the district would also need a pot of funds for any housing estates which were being taken in charge.
- Commented that it was the earliest he had ever seen a Roads Programme starting, commending council staff.
- Mentioned Garrinch bridge saying that while the first section had been completed, there was another section of it now collapsing, with the potential to damage cars- requested works be done ASAP.
- Spoke about Jesuits Walk, as you leave Fethard to go onto the Clonmel Road- the verge needs to be trimmed back and some drainage works done.
- Said that he had to give a constituent a lift back from Fethard recently who had walked in this route due to flooding making it impassable.

Responding, Mr. D. Power:

- Said that in relation to writing to the Minister, he would talk to management about this and understood their concerns.
- Commented that the N24 snags were all sent to GLAS, and Mr. B. O' Keeffe, Executive Engineer, had also added snags to the list.
- Referring to the Greenway project, he would leave Mr. B. Beck answer this.

Mr. B. Beck:

- Said that the Greenway project was in the hands of L. O' Farrell, Executive Engineer, who would be reporting regularly to Carrick MD and Waterford in this regard.

Mr. D. Power:

- Commented that the issue with the foul sewer was out of our control which was very frustrating.
- Said that the underlying issue did not lie with the Council, and that Uisce Eireann need to tend to it immediately.
- Noted that staff did as much as they could as the situation evolved.
- Said that he would discuss the issue of flooding at Manor Close fully with Cllrs. Dunne and Bourke.
- Regarding the public lighting, said he would seek an update from Mr. M. Tierney, Roads, on the progress with this issue.
- Commented that re the digital speed signs, they were considering other ways to install the batteries in order to make them more secure.
- Stated that in relation to Jesuits Walk, the plan was to get the GSS to check the road and also to check the road for inlets.

Cllr.M. FitzGerald:

- Stated that GSS Mr. J. Horan will be aware of these issues as they were attended to a few years ago.

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Asked for an update on Garrinch Bridge.

Responding, Mr. D. Power:

- Confirmed that GSS Mr. J. Horan would look at this issue also.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Referring to the District's Housing voids, complimented the staff as he understood they had the fastest turnaround time in Tipperary, noting that this was a result of a lot of hard work.
- Said that it was frustrating when houses sometimes went on CBL and were not ready.

- Said that at the Housing SPC it was noted that work on voids was speeding up.
- Noted that the timeline of every house is different, as handover of keys may take longer in cases of bereavement etc.
- Said that also in cases where a house is allocated but refused, this also adds time to the timeline.

Responding, Mr. D. Power:

- Stated that the average turnaround time for a void is 29 weeks, but Carrick MD's is 18 weeks.
- Also noted that the average cost is €30,000 for a void, Carrick's average cost is €26,000.
- Said that at the moment, there are 11 vacant houses needing minor repairs, with 1 vacant house being available for letting.

**Item 4.5
District Administrator's
Report**

The Meetings Administrator circulated a comprehensive report incorporating an update in relation to the Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan for Phases 1, 2 and 3. She also reported on the EU Just Transition Fund Riverside Regeneration Programme, as well as upcoming grants such as Tidy Towns, Local Enhancement Programme and Burial Ground Maintenance Grant. She also discussed the Public Consultation Phase of Proposed Material Alterations to the Carrick on Suir Draft Local Area Plan 2025-2031, currently open for submissions up to 31 March. She also reported on upcoming events, the St Patricks Day Parade and L'étape cycling event.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Asked if the doggie waste bin in Sean Healy Park can be reinstated.
- Requested more information on the public consultation on the Local Area Plan- as to whether the public can add comments and if they need to read the entire plan.
- Commented that the L'étape cycle event looks amazing and that he would be available to help out.
- Said that the launch of the St Patricks day event was an amazing day, attracting a huge crowd and lot of work had been put into it.
- Encouraged people to use the QR code to book into the St Patricks Day Parade, and asked his fellow councillors to also tell their constituents to use the QR code.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Said that it was great to see all the events upcoming, L'étape and St Patricks Day.
- Stated that there was potential for L'étape to lead to bigger cycling events, and all footfall coming into the district was good.
- Commented that there Grand Marshalls for the parade, Carriganog Racing and the Special Olympians, were an excellent choice.

Responding, Mr. B. Beck:

- Said that the public consultation was on the proposed material alterations to Carrick on Suir Local Area Plan.
- Stated that people have to read and comment on these, not the whole plan, making it a relatively short read.
- Said that the Town Centre First Plan is available as an appendix to the Local Area Plan- this can also be commented on.
- Encouraged all to read the Town Centre First Plan, saying that it is a compact read at 50- 60 pages, and as it is not a statutory document, it is a more pragmatic read.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Queried if people can comment voicing their support for the material amendments, not just to comment to disagree.

Responding, Mr. B. Beck:

- Stated that yes, people can comment to support and not just to oppose.
- Noted that people usually only comment to oppose, emphasising if it is not contained in the document, it cannot be considered.
- Said that all comments can only be made on the material amendments as published.

Responding, Ms. M. Cox:

- Confirmed that the doggie waste bin would be reinstated.
- Said that the Town Centre First Plan is an excellent document, being very readable, with good graphics and bullet points.

**Item 4.6
General Municipal
Allocation**

Deferred until March meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. FitzGerald

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Dunne

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

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:

- Commented that he was disappointed that in the CE's full page in the Nationalist she made no mention of Carrick- all the other towns were mentioned.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Said that this was a fair point.


Mr. B. Beck:

- Stated that the CE gave an entire day in Carrick on Suir, and got a feel of what is going on at both district and community level.
- Said that the CE is fully aware of Carrick MD and what it is trying to achieve, and that she does understand the district.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Thanked Mr. B. Beck, commenting that the CE does seem to be aware of Carrick on Suir MD.

This concluded the business of the meeting (15.00pm)


District Administrator.


Cathaoirleach.

27th March, 2025