

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District
held via ZOOM at 2:00pm on the 28 April 2022**

<u>In the Chair:</u>	Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald
<u>Members Present:</u>	Cllr. Kieran Bourke, Cllr. D. Dunne, Cllr. I. Goldsboro via Zoom, Cllr. K. O'Meara via Zoom
<u>Apologies</u>	
<u>In Attendance:</u>	
<u>Carrick on Suir Municipal District:</u>	Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services Ms. Marie O'Gorman, District Administrator Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer Ms. Liz McGrath, Staff Officer
<u>Environment & Climate Action Directorate:</u>	Ms. Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer (via Zoom) Ms. Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer (via Zoom) Mr. Rúairi Boland, Senior Executive Engineer (via Zoom)
<u>Culture/Library Services and Fire/Emergency Services Directorate:</u>	Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian (via Zoom)
<u>Tipperary Tourism CLG:</u>	Ms. Marie Phelan, Tourism Development Officer

Welcome and introduction

<u>Item 1.1.</u>	
<u>Summons and Prayer.</u>	The summons was taken as read.

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

<u>Item 2.1.</u>	
<u>Conflict of Interest Declaration.</u>	None to record.
<u>Item 2.2.</u>	
<u>Minutes of the Monthly meeting of CoSMD held on 28 March 2022</u>	The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 28 March 2022 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. D. Dunne seconded by Cllr. K. Bourke and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

***Item 3.1.
Attendance from
Environment and
Climate Action
Directorate:***

A report on the activities of Environment and Climate Action Directorate was circulated and taken as read.

Mr. Marion O'Neill SEO attending virtually, outlined the salient points pertaining to Carrick on Suir Municipal District and responded to questions raised by the members as follows;

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Sought update in relation to implementation of solar compactor (Big Belly) bins
- Commended the work of the teams on the ground dealing with litter and street cleaning.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald:

- Enquired whether there could be additional monies allocated for burial grounds grants in view of extra costs incurred arising from prevailing inflationary pressures.
- Conveyed his appreciation of the Enforcement Officer, Mr. John Ryan, who resolved a major dumping issue in his area recently on the day it was reported.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Requested that additional supplies be provided to Tidy Towns Groups engaged in litter picking activities in the county-wide National Spring Clean.

Responding to these matters. Ms O'Neill stated that,

- The solar compactor bins were working well and that the system was being managed through the District Office. She undertook to provide comprehensive reports at her next scheduled attendance.
- Regretfully, as the budget allocation was adopted each year at the Annual Budget Meeting, Ms. O'Neill stated that there was no scope at this juncture to provide additional funding for burial ground committees.
- With three groups registered under the National Spring Clean in the District, she stated that she would have no difficulty in providing additional materials as requested.

Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer, referred to the successful operation of the 12 solar compactor bins commissioned within the Municipal District and he noted how the available information maximised the efficiency of the bin collection routes.

Item 3.2.

**Attendance from
Library/Cultural
and
Fire/Emergency
Services
Directorate:**

A detailed report compiled by the Culture Team was circulated and taken as read, with Mr. Damien Dullaghan in attendance virtually.

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services in attendance, indicated that he would deal with any Members' queries relating to fire and emergency services

Mr. Dullaghan noted that library services had resumed as normal which was a welcome development. While on-line events had become the norm throughout the pandemic, they were now holding in-branch events which were very well supported, referring to 3 groups in particular engaged via the Creative Ireland funds.

The report was welcomed by the Cathaoirleach and the Members.

Item 3.3.

**Tipperary
Tourism CLG -
Annual
Presentation:**

Ms. Marie Phelan, Tourism Development Officer, and board member of Tipperary Tourism CLG presented her annual report to the Municipal District containing a detailed overview of county tourism policies and plans, marketing of various tourism products, Tipperary Tourism and Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce, engagement with its partners, the 5 Momentum Projects contained in its Resilience Plan 2021/2022, actions taken to support businesses, the accreditations and awards achieved realising significant growth of exposure through social media and internationally, branding and training initiatives undertaken and ongoing and comprehensive details of the packages available to members of the hospitality industry through membership of Tipperary Tourism.

The members each in turn congratulated Ms. Phelan on her uplifting and informative presentation and among the items discussed were,

- The accreditation of The Suir Blueway among the first three blueways in the world (along with Lough Derg Blueway and the Boyne Valley Blueway) on the 5th April 2022, which was welcome news.
- Impending visit of Rose of Tralee contestants and their escorts for filming at Ormond Castle.
- Concerns that inflationary pressures would result in increased prices applied throughout the hospitality sector.
- The need to update signage for Ormond Castle on approach roads and to place same at more suitable locations.
- The need to accommodate camper vans for users of the Blueway.

- Promotion of links to the Lingaun Valley Tourism group so to encourage tourists to base themselves at Carrick on Suir while taking in the ancient and sacred sites.
- The need to promote the Carrick on Suir Marina and the unique offering of its tidal river.
- The knock-on effect of the Ukraine crisis to an area which has limited bed spaces on offer.
- The prevailing cycling culture with two great cycling sportsmen – Sean Kelly and Sam Bennett – emerging from Carrick on Suir.
- The need to promote the area as a destination route from Kilkenny to Cashel, incorporating the Carrickmaclear Project currently seeking funding under ORIS.

Responding to these matters, Ms. Phelan noted that the County Development Plan contained an objective to provide facilities for campervans. She undertook to convey the Members' concerns about the possibility of price hikes in the hospitality industry to the next board meeting of Tipperary Tourism, and referred to the promotion of the Butler Trail from Kilkenny as a means to increase tourism numbers in Carrick on Suir District.

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services agreed that new branding and signage was a necessity and referred to the Councillors' workshop (*held earlier on the 28 March 2022*) considered the viability of the Marina and its future. He referred to the tourism document recently commissioned and indicated his intention to convene a small team to create an action plan to promote Carrick on Suir, including the Marina over the next twelve months.

Referring to the Ukrainian crisis, he suggested that the prevailing difficulties with accommodation represented a point in time and the use of hotels initially would decrease over a period where pledges of accommodation were being worked through. Compared with other counties such as County Clare where there were 2000 people housed in hotels, Mr. Beck noted that the situation in Tipperary with fewer hotel beds, was not as chronic.

Item 3.4.:
District
Engineer's
Report:

The District Engineer's report as circulated was taken as read. Following consideration of same the following items were raised by the Members:

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Commended works undertaken by the Parks staff in refurbishing park benches at Town Park and spoke of the very positive feedback received from the public. He also commented that much work was achieved with the tree pruning programme and suggested that the

Item 3.4.:
District
Engineer's

Report cont'd:

removal/replanting at Castle Park represented a win-win for that area.

- Sought update on proposed works to the N24 and information in relation to works scheduled for Castle Heights.
- Requested resurfacing of road at Marian Avenue when footpath reinstatement got underway.
- Indicated that he had been in touch with a representative at Irish Rail in relation to the condition of railway gates and the Railway Station at Cregg Road which he considered to have a very poor appearance.
- Suggested that the footbridge bridge at Árd Mhuire-Collins Park needed attention in addition to the 'Skew Bridge at the Mart which needed renewal of black and amber markings.

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Expressed his thanks to Mr. Michael Tierney Executive Engineer for his efforts to have out of order public lighting restored at Mountain View, Ballylynch, on Good Friday.
- Referring to the capital programme which he welcomed, he nonetheless expressed concern that contractors would be difficult to engage in the first instance, and in view of the rapid increases in material costs there was a possibility that some works would not be completed within time and budget. In s that context, he queried whether unspent budgets would be returned to TII.
- Sought update in relation to proposed resurfacing at New Street, while referring to the locus of a recent mishap at a dishd footpath on the corner of William Street/New Street; queried whether the proposed works would address any deficiency at that locus.
- Noting that footpaths at Cláirín housing estate were scheduled for reinstatement in Q.3, he highlighted the issue of a trip hazard which he reported in the previous week along with photos of the locus; he requested that it be given urgent attention.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald:

- Requested examination of cracked concrete at a manhole located outside Daybreak garage at Fethard.
- Sought update in relation to report of pothole located in the vicinity of the Old School at Moyglass
- Requested update in relation to CLAR funding for Drangan
- Sought provision of street lighting and road markings at Cloneen Village.

Item 3.4.:
***District
Engineer's
Report cont'd:***

Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer outlined his responses to queries as follows;

- Undertook to examine the situation at Castle Heights to ascertain if further works were required.
- Indicated that he was liaising with Irish Rail and had opened up a line of communication with same.
- Stated that he was confident that the €3m allocated for N24 works would be spent.
- Agreed to deal with issue of dished footpath at New Street/ William St. junction and to examine issue of footpath at Cláirín housing estate.
- Indicated that he required to meet with Board of Management at Drangan in relation to CLÁR funding and would do so as a matter of urgency
- Agreed to follow up the issue of lighting and road marking at Cloneen village.

Item 3.5:
District
Administrator's
report:

Streetscape and Shopfront Enhancement Scheme 2021/2022

Reporting on its implementation, the District Administrator indicated that the Streetscape and Shopfront Enhancement Scheme 2021/2022 was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. She stated that the closing date was 29 April 2022 – extended from 30 September 2021 with its initial budget of €43,681 increased to €181,330.

She informed that there were 52 applications on hands for projects with an overall costing in excess of €203,000 and to-date approx. €12,300 was paid to 11 recipients for small projects finalised.

She also indicated that there was significant activity evident within the town of Carrick on Suir with those applicants endeavouring to complete works before the deadline.

Electric Vehicle

The District Administrator informed the Members that the Municipal District had taken delivery of an electric vehicle (van) on the 22nd March last. She informed that the van was purchased through the Council's Fleet Management Team from Cleary Motors, Thurles, at an overall cost of €27,000. It was a demonstration model registered in 2021 and she stated that such vehicles were difficult to procure presently owing to issues with supply.

This was noted.

Item 3.6:
General
Municipal
Allocation:

Carrick on Suir Municipal District Community Grants Scheme

Closing for receipt of applications on the 14th April, and with a budget allocation of €50,000, the District Administrator indicated that 21 applications were received under the

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Community Grant Scheme, seeking support for projects costing a total of €51,742.

She indicated that 3 no. applications from sports clubs within the District accounted for €21,332 of that total, mainly relating to costs associated with utility bills and reflecting the prevailing inflationary economic situation.

She stated that it was intended to bring a recommendation for awarding of grants to the Members at their May monthly meeting.

This was noted.

Carrick on Suir CCTV feasibility study

The District Administrator referred to the Members' approval of a budget of €5,000 from the GMA towards commissioning a feasibility study on the replacement of the Community CCTV Scheme in Carrick on Suir.

She informed the meeting that J & N Security Consulting had been appointed to carry out this body of work and would commence its engagement with stakeholders on the 9th May next.

The main issues to note were that the applicant in this instance will be Carrick on Suir Development Association (CoSDA) – CoSDA previously delivered an analogue Community CCTV system in 2004 which was now not fit for purpose. The funding source would be the Department of Justice. Ultimately, the Carrick on Suir MD function would be to act as Data Controller as with previous system.

This was noted.

**Item 3.7:
Assistance to
Bodies under
S.66 of the Local
Government Act,
2001:**

The District Administrator stated that there were no items for consideration under this heading.

Chief Executive/Delegated Employees' Orders

Delegated Employee's Orders as circulated were noted as follows;

**Item 4.1:
D.E.O. 29526.**

Acceptance of quotation from J&N Security Consultants in relation to CCTV Assessment at Carrick on Suir in the sum of €8,268 (excl. VAT).

**Item 4.2:
D.E.O. 29646.**

Acceptance of tender from Dive & Marine Specialist Contractors Limited in the sum of €2,499.90 (excl. VAT) for removal of water-borne debris at Carrick on Suir Marina.

Correspondence

Item 5.0:

The District Administrator stated that there were no items for consideration under this heading.

Any Other Business

Item 6.1.

***Electric Vehicle
Charging points
at rural towns
and villages:***

Cllr. K. O'Meara queried whether there were any proposals in train to install EV charging points in rural towns and villages, in the context that this was crucial for support of the tourism sector in rural areas.

Mr. Willie Corby, District Engineer indicated that this matter was the remit of the Department of Transport who were shortly to open a public consultation on its EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy and that this would inform the plan for delivery going forward.

Item 6.2.

***Display of
historical
memorabilia:***

Cllr. K. Bourke referred to commitments given by the District Administrator (both present and past) in relation to the display of important memorabilia gifted to the local authority through town twinning and other events in the time of Carrick-on-Suir Town Council and its forerunner, Carrick-on-Suir Urban District Council which items were currently in storage. He noted that there had been no progress in relation to this matter despite those commitments, and he considered it remiss not to commemorate the efforts of former unsalaried Councillors who worked for the good of their town.

The District Administrator acknowledged that the matter had not received the attention it deserved but reassured Councillor Bourke that with a full staff complement now in place, she would assign this body of work at the earliest opportunity.

Item 6.3.

***Carrick on Suir
Regeneration
Plan: "A Journey
from the Suir
Blueway to the
Ormond Castle
Quarter-
Delivering our***

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services informed the meeting that the Carrick on Suir Municipal District's Category 1 application under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund - Fourth Call 2021/2022 was now submitted to the Department.

The total project cost was €17,989,387 and the amount of funding sought was €14,931,510. This was a hugely ambitious project and represented the greatest opportunity

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**Community's
Ambition;**

for the town of Carrick on Suir. This was welcomed by the Members.

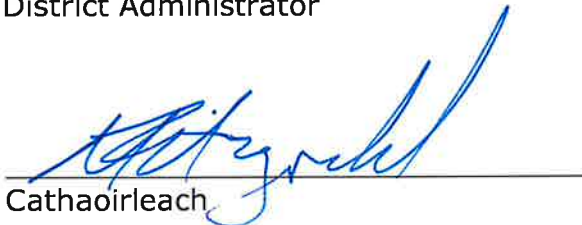
Cllr. D. Dunne warmly welcomed the development while acknowledging the huge body of work that it represented. He suggested that it would be a catalyst for the development of the town in the years to come, and paid tribute to all involved. He expressed confidence that Carrick on Suir Municipal District would work through any issues presenting in the future.

Cllr. K. Bourke wished to be associated with the tributes while commending the democratic process undertaken during the course of the project. He expressed the hope that the application would be successful and congratulated Mr. Beck and his team. He concluded that this project would be a game-changer for Carrick on Suir over the next decade.

This concluded the business of the meeting. (15:51)



District Administrator



Cathaoirleach

26 May 2022

