

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 JULY 2024

In the Chair:	Cllr. M. Fitzgerald
Members Present:	Cllr. D. Dunne, Cllr. K Bourke, Cllr. I. Goldsboro, Cllr. M. Brennan.
Attending from Carrick-on-Suir MD	Mr. B Beck, A/Director of Services; Ms. H. Cahill, Meetings Administrator; Mr. D. Power. A/District Engineer; Ms. S. Holloway, Assistant Staff Officer.
Planning Directorate;	A.Devaney, C. Conway, T.Kiely
Housing Directorate;	S. O' Dwyer, B. Ryan, S. Lonergan

### ***1.0. Welcome and Introduction***

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

<b>Item 2.1.</b> <b>Conflict of Interest Declaration</b>	None to record.
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### ***3.0. Consideration of Minutes***

<b>Item 3.1.</b> <b>Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 23 May 2024</b>	The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 23 May 2024 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr, D, Dunne, seconded by Cllr. K. Bourke, and signed by the Cathaoirleach.
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<b>Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 24 June 2024</b>	The Minutes of the Annual meeting held on the 24 June 2024 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. I. Goldsboro Seconded by Cllr. D. Dunne and signed by the Cathaoirleach
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### ***4.0. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations***

<b>Item 4.1.</b> <b>Report of Housing Directorate</b>	<p>With Shane O'Dwyer, in attendance, the report of Housing Directorate was taken as read. The following matters arose: <u>Cllr. D. Dunne:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Queried how many homeless people there were in the Carrick on Suir Municipal District.</li><li>• Requested information re the OFD (Open Front Door) Scheme- how many properties do they hold in the district and who manages these? He mentioned one OFD property in the district which was vacant for 6 months. There are two people living there now but Cllr. Dunne noted that the property was in a disgraceful state when they got the keys. This property is a Council property so Cllr. Dunne queried who is responsible for cleaning it. He also questioned the delay in getting new tenants in situ. He had been informed</li></ul>
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by OFD that repairs were needed, but Cllr. Dunne was informed by the new tenants that the repairs were not done. This resulted in the house becoming infested with wood lice when a simple fix was required. In conclusion Cllr. Dunne commended the OFD programme and pathways away from homelessness.

- Cllr. Dunne also asked is there a council policy as regards a single person or a couple in a 3-bed house that want to downsize- would there be a possibility that we could write to all single people/ couples living in 3 bed properties and ask if they wish to downsize? Cllr. Dunne also queried the sense of allocating 2-bedroom houses to young people who are likely to have more children and therefore need a larger house, as this leads to the transfer list growing larger.

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Had heard a news article on Tipp FM reporting that there were only 19 HAP accommodations in the previous month. He asked will it be Tipperary County Council policy to get rid of HAP in favour of RAS- as was reported on Tipp FM?
- Stated that there was plenty of voids in Carrick district. He felt that we are slipping on these, which Cllr. Dunne would support. He also questioned council properties which were being illegally occupied- what is the Council doing to prevent this?
- Following on from letters which tenants are currently receiving about updating their data- Cllr. Bourke commented that some tenants are finding this extremely worrying as their circumstances may have changed so the fear is that they may no longer qualify for social housing. He is aware that these letters are resulting from instruction from the Department, not the Council but he feels that they are causing tenants a lot of worry.

Responding to these issues, S. O' Dwyer commented:

- Re homeless figures, he does not have the data to hand but will find this out and revert with same.
- OFD is managed by certain AHBs and maintenance of these properties also comes under their remit.
- Commented that for those wishing to downsize, a "right size policy" will be rolled out soon and will be advertised on the Co. Co. website. This initiative will be for both private and council tenants.
- Stated that unfortunately Housing are unable to assess people using a speculative method, ie. speculating on a client's future needs.
- Confirmed that HAP is still being actively used. There has been a reduction in it- Dept. will start to focus on RAS as an alternative option, but to run in tandem with HAP.

Responding S. O' Dwyer commented:

- Re voids- there are no major works underway in COSMD at present, and these are the voids which come under remit of Housing. He noted that the district offices are trying to reduce turnaround times, as are Housing. Is available to discuss further if needed.

S. O' Dwyer then provided the following further responses:

- There have been a number of court cases re illegal occupation of council property. Tenants are initially requested to leave and failing to do so, pursued through the correct channels.
- Re the HNA- this is required by the Dept as it will inform their allocation of funds & resources to the county councils. We have no discretion in this regard.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Welcomed the right size initiative, especially as it encompasses private and council property. There are a number of people in houses which are too big for them.
- Re the voids he commented that there are a few finished houses in the district which have not yet been allocated. He commended the District's turnaround times on voids. He noted that cases where the tenant passes away causes delays of up to one month, and the property may take another month to appear on CBL. He is aware that there is a high volume of people bidding on CBL properties as the housing crisis is getting worse.

**Item 4.2.  
Report of Planning and  
Development/  
Emergency Services  
Directive**

The report of the Planning and Development/Emergency Services Directorate was circulated and taken as read. attending to field members' queries, A.M. Deveaney stated that due to a family bereavement K. Ladden was unable to attend, and any queries relating to Taking in Charge of estates will be noted down and reverted to at a later stage.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Questioned the taking on charge of DPIs re Irish Water?

Responding to these issues, A.M. Deveaney,

- stated that Planning are currently engaging with LGMA on how to deal with DPIs going forward.

**Item 4.3.  
District Engineer's  
Report**

**Schedule of Municipal District Works-**

The Schedule of Municipal District Works for May 2024 was circulated and considered by the members, with the District Engineer, Mr. Denis Power outlining progress to date under the various headings. It was noted that there were 2 housing units available for letting and 8 properties awaiting minor repairs at Carrick-on-Suir. In addition, there is 1 unit at Fethard and 1 unit at Moyglass. The following matters arose:

Cllr. M. Brennan:

- Commented that the Fethard Car Park is dangerous at the moment with potholes, he witnessed a lady tripping in one this week. He asked if we have a timeframe in place for the timeframe of resurfacing the car park?

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Asked about the Low-Cost Safety Schemes. Improvements were made in a number of areas in Mullinahone, Fethard and Killneale requiring traffic calming measures. Will anything happen this year re traffic calming? Glengoose, Ballingarry and the Commons were not under the scheme and need traffic calming. Will we be applying for schemes next year?
- There are a lot of footpaths in the District in dangerous condition. She noted that IPB money was lower in 2024- will we be getting any more funding before year end 2024?
- Requested that junctions with hedges are cut back again prior to the return to school at end of August.
- Queried if mid-August is the correct time frame for resurfacing the Fethard Ballroom Car Park?

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Noted that there were a number of issues arising from the TII works on the N24. There were two bursts on the road which Irish Water have yet to repair.
- Asked why there is ponding on the N24 at the bottom of Clairin Hill and in Lissadell at the speed bump and asked of this can be seen to.
- Commented that while some of the landscaping was top class, the bottom of Kickham Street was very overgrown- while he appreciates efforts at re wilding/ biodiversity he feels that this is unsightly.
- Re the RRDF he commended the great work being done. He questioned if we have money and staff to look after all of the additional grass & flowers, or can we apply for funds?
- Asked where is the enforcement on Japanese Knotweed for private landowners stating that we need to come down heavy on these.
- Requested an update on the cemetery- noted topsoil was left on the extension area and also asked if there would be a new entrance as the cemetery can be quite busy with cars.

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- Thanked D. Power & H. Cahill for efficient work done to date.
- On behalf of the Residents Association Ballyneale Village asked if they could get flashing speed signs around the school to improve safety.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked what the process is for the next 3 years roads programme?
- Noted that there is a dangerous hollow at the end of Kilkenny Beg Hill- a truck may overturn and end up in the ditch. Do we have a reinstatement plan?
- Fethard Ballroom Car Park- there is a clothes bank in there which isn't really used and is in a corner and becoming a sort of dumping ground for rubbish. Tidy Towns would like to use the spot for a flower bed.

Responding to these issues, the District Engineer,

- Confirmed that the Fethard car park will be resurfaced in the next couple of weeks. He will try to get the dangerous pothole filled in the meantime.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Asked how will car park users be notified when it's being resurfaced as this car park is full most days.

District Engineer:

- Resurfacing will take one day maximum, so shouldn't be an issue.
- Continuing, the district engineer stated that re ramps, ramps are part of an overall safety scheme and not done on their own. Usually near pedestrian crossings, schools etc. Use of islands and kerblines may also be considered.
- He confirmed that there will be no more IPB funding come down the line for 2024.
- He stated that hedges at junctions have already been cut back, and will be cut again before the return to school.
- Re the drainage issues on the N24 he said that he has been in contact with Stephen G. Ryan multiple times about this. Glas will remedy before the end of their contract- it is on their list.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Queried how many times we will have to ask Glas to remedy this- they also left rubble at Ashpark which took months for them to move.

District Engineer:

- Will ask Stephen G Ryan to put more pressure on Glas. Also stated that re the bursts on the N24, he is in talks with Irish Water to reinstate these areas.
- He will look at the junction of Kickham Street and then talk to Glas re the design of the areas with long grass.



Cllr. David Dunne:

- Clonmel has also dedicated a lot of areas for bees & wildflowers. As well as these areas making it difficult to see children on the footpath who may wish to cross the road, there is a danger of them attracting vermin. Why not either prune them back at corners or concrete them, that way they won't have to be cut back. Or be in danger of being forgotten?

District Engineer:

- The biodiversity areas are a trial and error scheme. And some changes may be needed as they mature.
- As regards Japanese Knotweed on private grounds, he will talk to Environment about enforcing this. HE stated that the problem would appear to be worse than other years.
- The issue about accessing the new part of the cemetery will be discussed with R. Boland.
- As regards the flashing speed signs for Ballyneale these will be discussed after the speed limit change in November.
- He said that he is unsure about the process for the 3-year road programme. He will revert once he has more clarity on the issue.
- He has asked the GSS to check the hollow at Kilkenny Beg Hill. Once this has been done we can consider getting funding to reinstate this.

Cllr. I. Goldsboro:

- Can we apply for additional funding under Climate Action?

District Engineer:

- Additional funding under Climate Action has been applied for and granted.
- Confirmed he will ask if the Clothes Bank in Fethard can be moved.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- NTA query- is there a possibility of a TII bus stop In Carrick Beg? The new route to Dunmore East sometimes travels this route and it would be handy if there could be a pickup route in Carrick Beg, as the bus drops off at Ardkeen.

District Engineer:

- We can make an application to NTA about this.

Cllr. K. Bourke:

- We wrote to TII about this issue and got a standard reply, stating that they will be doing a review of all bus routes and will consider this request in due course. There is a

danger that the route will be moved to Piltown and the hospital drop off point is very important.

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald:

- Will be meeting Minister for Public Expenditure shortly to discuss safety measures in villages and schools. Specific funds to improve safety measure sin schools is required.

B. Beck:

- Have we received a response about the N24 bypass?

H. Cahill:

- We received an acknowledgement from them.

B.Beck:

- It might be worth asking about Minister about this when M. FitzGerald meets him.

Cllr. M. FitzGerald:

- Confirmed that he will speak to the Minister about the N24 bypass as it is a priority- spending on this to date will have been a waste otherwise.

B. Beck:

- Will provide figures to M. FitzGerald to support this argument prior to meeting the Minister.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Phase 3 of RRDF (Digital Hub)- can this proceed independently of Phase 2?

B. Beck:

- Yes, all phases are independent of each other. Phase 3 can progress before Phase 2 if necessary.

Cllr. D. Dunne:

- Improvement works on the Blueway- there has been significant kickback about this news on social media, as it is being done during the summer. Very glad that it will be open at weekends and if there is any way for it to be done quicker that would be great.

### Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan

#### **Item 4.4. District Administrator's Report:**

The Meetings Administrator circulated a report which included an update on the Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan. Phase 1 works at Sean Healy Park were expected to complete in the coming weeks and works at Ormond Castle Park, Strand Walk and Castle Street expected to be complete by the end of July.

With Uisce Éireann [UE] confirming that they would carry out repair works in 2024 to the Phase 2 area (*Chapel Street, (part of) William Street and North Quay from Castle Street to Dillon Bridge*) prior to the commencement of the regeneration works, this would prevent abortive work at a later date. The Tipperary County Council contract would then commence after UE contract.

In the meantime, it noted that the enterprise and digital hub at 43 Main Street would go to tender in August, with a view to having contractor appointed and on-site in September 2024.

**Item 4.4. cont'd/  
District Administrator's  
Report:**

**Just Transition Funding**

The Meetings Administrator referred to the recent announcement that Tipperary County Council received funding in the amount of €766,714 under Fáilte Ireland's EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme.

**Carrick-on-Suir Riverside Regeneration - €185,027**

Funding was awarded to Carrick on Suir Riverside Regeneration project where feasibility, concept development and detailed design and planning to link Carrick On Suir town centre with the riverside.

The announcement of capital investment in the development of the Carrick on Suir Riverside Regeneration projects will enhance the visitor experience and drive tourism in the Tipperary area.

**Community Centre Investment Fund:**

Under this fund community centres can apply for grants between €10,000 - €100,000 to develop and enhance their existing facilities. A wide range of works eligible for funding including refurbishment of kitchens and toilets, upgrades to windows and doors, energy efficiency upgrades and improving access for people with disabilities.

Application process opens on the 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**GMA Community Grants 2024**

**Item 4.5.  
General Municipal  
Allocation 2024-  
Community Grants  
Scheme.**

A report and recommendation circulated by the District Administrator contained a recommendation for award of community grants totalling €800.00. It was duly proposed by Cllr. I. Goldsboro, seconded by Cllr. K. Bourke and RESOLVED

*"In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001, and being of the opinion that it is desirable to so do, to promote the interests of the local community, and having regard to the recommendation from the District Administrator, that*



Item 4.5 cont'd/

*grants totalling €800.00 be and are hereby approved for payment in respect of community grants to the following recipients:*

Glengoose Community Centre	€400.00
Strylea Residents Association	€400.00

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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 38429**

DEO. Order 38429 authorising the Issue of Section 254 (planning) licence to Sorcha Deehy-Power for street furniture at 63 Main Street, Carrick on Suir

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**Items 5.2.  
D.E. Order 38555**

D.E. Order 38555 Service of Section 69 Notice on illegal occupants Fair Green Carpark

**Item 5.2.  
D.E. Order 38924**

D.E. Order 38924 authorising notice legal proceedings re unpaid fixed offence traffic notices.

**6.0 Correspondence**

**Item 6.1.**

The Meetings Administrator circulated correspondence issued to the Minister of Finance in response to Notice of Motion re the suspension of N24 Water to Cahir transportation Scheme

**Item 6.2**

The Meetings Administrator circulated correspondence which issued to Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Notice of Motion re Suspension of N24 Waterford to Cahir Transportation Scheme

**7.0. Notice of Motion**

**Item 7.1.**

None

**8.0. Any Other Business**

**Item 8.1.**

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This concluded the business of the meeting.

[14:50]

  
District Administrator.

  
Cathaoirleach.

26<sup>th</sup> September 2024