

Minutes of June Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 23rd June, 2025 at 11.30 a.m.

Members Present: Councillor Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Micheál Anglim
Councillor Declan Burgess
Councillor Liam Browne
Councillor John Crosse
Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan
Councillor Máirín McGrath
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor John O’Heney
Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

Officials Present: Mr. Dave Carroll, A/District Director
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer
Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator
Mr. James Swords, District Engineer
Mr. Richard Power, Executive Engineer
Mr. Patrick O’Neill, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer
Mr. Michael Begley, Administrative Officer
Ms. Verena McGrath, Assistant Staff Officer

Economic, Community, and Rural Development

Ms. Valerie Kavanagh, Administrative Officer
Ms. Caroline Rice, Tourism Development Officer
Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer
Ms. Majella Madigan, Integration Support Worker
Ms. Valerie Connolly, Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator

Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity

Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Roger Kennedy, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the June meeting. Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

2.1 Minutes of May Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on 26th May, 2025

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District May meeting held on 26th May, 2025 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor John Crosse and seconded by Councillor Declan Burgess.

Matters arising from the minutes

Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) spoke in relation to the St Michael's cemetery and the reports in the media that there is to be an appointment of a new supervisor and its implication for the graveyard in Tipperary town. She also inquired about access to the graveyard. Councillor Máirín McGrath questioned how soon before Dun Uisce would be taken in charge.

Mr. Anselm McGowan, the District Administrator, clarified that St Michael's cemetery has always had a supervisor and this role will now be split 50 / 50 between the two graveyards. He noted that this is not a new caretaker position in Tipperary Town. Additionally, he mentioned that access for cars in the graveyard requires an engineering solution as the road is very narrow for hearses and issues arise with cars passing in and out. Mr. James Swords, District Engineer, spoke in relation to Dun Uisce stating that a taken in charge map will be on display within the next month.

3.1 Economic, Community & Rural Development Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Valerie Kavanagh, Administrative Officer, Ms. Caroline Rice, Tourism Development Officer, Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer and Ms. Valerie Connolly, Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator to the Meeting. Ms Valerie Kavanagh thanked the Members and was taking the report as read and was available for questions.

Councillor Marie Murphy thanked Ms. Caroline Rice for the concise report and asked when the Tipperary Visitor Discovery Guide will be online. She also asked that in relation to the Cycle Right (schools programme) how many schools out of the 50 that participated were from this District. She noted the Slí Nádúr outdoor education programme currently running in Lisvernane NS and asked what it entailed and if it will be spread to other schools.

Councillor Declan Burgess thanked the team and asked about the announcement date for the next round of funding for the Local Enhancement Programme 2025. He mentioned that he had asked for the draft roadmap of the Tourism Strategy Plan 2025-2030 to be presented to the SPC so that there is more engagement and insight into the plan before it goes to Plenary. He highlighted that Tourism is a significant driving force. He said that he had previously written to the OPW Minister concerning the closure of Dominic's Abbey emphasising the need for it to be opened every day during the peak tourist season. He stated that he has also written about the access issues at Athassel Abbey requesting the installation

of a gate. Currently, tourists must climb over a wall to access the site. He also said that he had requested the installation of an information board and asked for support in advocating for these issues. Additionally, he requested that a representative from the Office of Public Works (OPW) attend District meetings to discuss various issues affecting the District, as he believed this would be highly beneficial.

Councillor Máirín McGrath inquired about the A3 Tipperary Hidden Gems map which is in draft stage and when it is going to be delivered for the whole county. She mentioned it would be great to see it at draft stage and said that the County has so much to offer. She requested information on the Tourism Activator clusters and the Tourism Activator cluster workshop development held in Aherlow. She also sought information on the CLÁR funding and the timeline for its announcement by the Department.

Councillor Liam Browne asked about the Tipperary Age Friendly event mentioning that it was the first he heard of it. He asked how the event went and said that he had recently attended an Age Friendly event in Dublin that featured a large number of stalls. He suggested that the event in Tipperary needed to be widened out and noted that the time of the event from 12-3pm might result in working people being excluded. He proposed the possibility of hosting smaller events spread across villages and towns and said he would love to hear more on the event.

Councillor John O’Heney spoke of the Inclusive Paddle up programme and asked if it could be expanded to include other schools. Councillor Annemarie Ryan spoke of how if the A3 Tipperary Hidden Gems map was in draft form, if circulated could it be updated. Councillor Murphy agreeing with Councillor Ryan and Councillor McGrath, spoke of the importance of local knowledge in relation to the A3 Tipperary Hidden Gems map and highlighted that Waterford County Council had included the Vee on their map, despite it being located in Tipperary. Councillor Roger Kennedy spoke in relation to Dominic’s Abbey and how the OPW were previously invited to meetings at the Cashel Town Council. He felt it would be good if they could attend the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD meetings.

Ms. Kathleen Prendergast responded in relation to the Tourism Strategy and agreed to circulate the report in advance of the next SPC meeting over the coming weeks. Ms. Caroline Rice said the plan is being finalised at the moment and she will do a presentation on it on the 4th of September. Ms. Valerie Connolly noted that 16 schools from the Municipal District participated in the Cycle Right, which is an inclusive programme. Ms. Valerie Kavanagh explained that the Slí Nádúr initiative inspired by the Forest School Approach connects classroom learning with outdoor environments. It involves storytelling, fundamental movements through sports and skills involving learning how to make things with nature. To increase the schools involved they need to recruit tutors to deliver the project.

Speaking in relation to the Age Friendly Expo, Ms. Valerie Kavanagh said that it was a fantastic event and that the afternoon suited people. They had a bus, food

and 80 stands and was well attended with 800 people traveling to the event. She said she would take the comments and feedback back to the office. In relation to the Enhancement grant most groups are provided 90% funding and she wasn't sure of the date but said it usually occurs in December. The CLÁR funding announcement may be September but she would seek clarification on that. Additionally, the A3 Tipperary Hidden Gems maps have been circulated internally and the website will serve as an additional resource to showcase more hidden gems. The Discovery Guide is currently online and a new website is in development.

Caroline Rice gave a presentation highlighting the work she has been doing in her role with Tourism. She addressed the challenges facing the Tourism sector, including exchange rates, inflation, war and how this has impacted Tourism. She spoke of how they have refreshed the brand and logo, launched a new merchandise range, rolled out craft shops across the county and worked on their online presence as well as introducing networking events, one which recently took place in Cahir. There is also membership open all year round and people have the capability to join anytime. She spoke briefly on the Airbnb Rural Tourism Fund and how the Government are to introduce strict new Airbnb rules. She also spoke of the marketing done with RTE Guide, Lyric FM as well as the Cois Suire filming which will be broadcast soon.

Councillor Murphy requested that the presentation be circulated.

Councillor Browne inquired about how much traffic the website receives. He said that the merchandise looked fantastic and asked how it was sold. He asked whether the shop purchases the items before selling them. Regarding Airbnb, he mentioned that the law may now require planning permission depending on the circumstance and this poses challenges across the county. He highlighted that the fact that the GAA's home was in Thurles was a huge promotional plus for Tipperary. Additionally, he suggested creating historical walks that feature the War of Independence and the Civil War. He shared how the War of Independence started in Solohead and proposed a Civil War walk through the Glen of Aherlow and Cahir. Cllr Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) thanked Ms. Caroline Rice for her presentation and supported Councillor Browne ideas for exploring these walks.

Ms Caroline Rice mentioned that the product development plan should be accessed as some of the projects have potential while others are not viable. She mentioned that the launch of the new website enhanced with search engine optimisation will see increased traffic. She didn't have an update on the Airbnb situation but felt that if new legislation rollout occurs this would have a knock-on effect. In response to the remarks about Tipperary being the home of the GAA, she acknowledged the suggestions and noted that the GAA experience and museum is attractive and should be part of a strategy. She did however question how do you develop these products. She agreed that the historical walks for the Civic War and War of Independence would be great but again questioned who delivers these products on the ground. She said that they could certainly promote such ventures.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged that there was a lot of potential there and recognised the work accomplished by Ms Caroline Rice in her role as Tourism Officer. Councillor Kennedy thanked Ms. Valerie Kavanagh, Ms. Caroline Rice, Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Ms. Majella Madigan and Ms. Valerie Connolly for their contributions.

3.2 Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Damien Dullaghan and Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer to the meeting. Mr. Damien Dullaghan thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Members and took the report as read and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Dullaghan noted that Tipperary's Cruinniú na nÓg, the festival of creativity for young people was officially launched by Minister of State for Community Development, Charities and Rural Transport, Jerry Buttimer T.D. on Thursday 5th June in Cashel Library and how it was a huge success. He also mentioned that the Craft Granary contract had gone out for tender.

Ms. Melanie Scott highlighted the Bealtaine Festival, an annual nationwide festival which celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. She shared that there were 150 different events across the county including a series of events that were organised in hospital and daycare facilities. One notable event was the Memory Box supported by the Tipperary Museum of Hidden History, which took place at St Vincent's Daycare centre in Tipperary Town. She also spoke of Memory Land, a playground festival for all ages held in Clonoulty, along with 6 or 7 galleries featuring works by older artists.

Councillor Murphy thanked Mr. Damien Dullaghan and Ms. Melanie Scott and said that Mr. Dullaghan had answered her question in relation to when the Cahir Library was out to tender. She inquired about the library's completion timeline and also asked about the artist in the Primary School Scheme specially how many of the 12 participants were from this District. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) thanked Mr. Damien Dullaghan and Ms. Melanie Scott and praised the memory box initiative commenting that it was an excellent idea and was very successful at St Vincent's Day care centre and she hoped that it would happen again. She emphasised that going out to day-care facilities was a brilliant idea.

Councillor Andy Moloney thanked the team, sharing that he is on the Community, Culture and Library Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). He acknowledged the importance and the volume of work being done and encouraged the Elected Members to visit the museum in Clonmel whenever they were in the area. This support is important for increasing visitor numbers and protecting our museums and heritage.

Mr Damien Dullaghan said that they hoped that work would start in the coming months with completion by 2026. Ms. Melanie Scott responded that there were 4 schools from the MD who participated in the Artist in the Primary School Schemes, these were Rossmore NS; Shronell NS; Lisvernane NS and St. Brigid's in Donaskeigh.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Damien Dullaghan and Ms. Melanie Scott and their teams for all the good work done. Councillor Andy Moloney said the new library will be a huge success.

3.3 District Engineer's Report

Mr. James Swords, District Engineer referred to the report circulated with the Agenda and advised the Members that a lot of the RI has been completed and the RM will be starting in July. He confirmed that rehabilitation works to Ballygriffen and Rossadrehid Bridges are out to tender and he was available for any questions.

Councillor Ryan (Shiner) requested an update on the footpath from the bottle bank in Bansha to Cluen. She also inquired if there was a follow up from TII on the footpath on the Bansha Road and under Longford Bridge. She also asked about speed ramps on St Michael's Street as the traffic moves quickly on that road. She then spoke on the major water issue in Davis Street where the water leak was causing road subsidence. She contacted Uisce Éireann in relation to the issue but asked for clarification on what the role of the Road Section is in relation to this issue and where the responsibility lies. She expressed that the situation was very unfair on local people and businesses and the damage is significant. She mentioned that local business had to intervene and asked for clarity on the responsibilities of the Council and Water Services in this situation.

It was appreciated that Clonera to Ballydavid was included in the Restoration Improvements and it was noted how some roads have been brought forward on the list and if this represents better value for money.

Councillor Browne inquired about the progress of the restoration works, asking if they are currently 5% complete and whether the surface dressing scheduled for September is on track. He expressed concerns regarding grass cutting along Golden Road, noting that it poses dangers in certain areas. He also requested an update on whether there is potential for a roundabout at Dualla Road/Friar Street junction in Cashel. Furthermore, he raised safety concerns about the junction on the road which links with the M8 and the roundabout at the new Bregawn Housing Estate and asked what the Council could do about it.

Councillor Hanna Hourigan spoke of a farmer whose land, located next to Donohill Road, is saturated, with a visible leak on the road surface. She mentioned that Uisce Éireann had recently issued an appeal for water conservation efforts by the residents in West Tipperary. She noted this farmer is unable to carry out silage

work and inquired who is responsible if the water is originating from the centre of the road.

Councillor McGrath inquired about the timeline for the surface dressing in the Cahir area and whether the Kilmoyler project, under Climate Change Funding, was going ahead as this would alleviate flooding. She noted that there was a lot of engagement with CIS schemes going ahead and will be delighted once they are finished and wished to acknowledge the engagement.

Councillor Burgess thanked James Swords for his report. He inquired about the safety improvement works and the footpaths extending from St Joseph's Avenue to the village. He acknowledged that it was great that the estate is now finally connected to the village safely and asked for an update as to when the footpath improvements from St Joseph's Avenue towards the school would commence. He also sought an update on the Golden Road footpath connecting a new section together on the High Kings Loop. He highlighted that the verges were overgrown at the Castlelake cross turning for the Farnamanagh junction and were dangerous and needed to be cut back. He also asked for an update on whether Dualla Road/Friar Street is deemed suitable to have a roundabout.

Mr James Swords, District Engineer responded to Councillor Ryan (Shiner) that Bansha to Cluen is part of the bigger N24 scheme. While the hard shoulder was part of the footpath, the TII was not in favour of it, but he would follow up on the matter. The footpath on the Bansha Road and under Longford Bridge is still ongoing. Concerning the water leak on Davis Street, he stated that it is an Uisce Éireann issue and they have the resources to deal with the problem. He said there was a poor response from Uisce Éireann and the Roads team could not assume responsibility for the risks at that location.

The District Engineer advised that under Restoration Improvements (RI) program, two additional roads were added to the list. In response to Councillor Browne, he stated that the surface works on Golden road RI are scheduled for next month when the school are finished, and that the footpaths are nearly completed. He also noted that the RM dressing is planned for mid-July. Regarding the proposal of a roundabout at the Dualla Road junction that there will be a workshop on a design before July meeting and that no work would commence before school term begins. Concerning the roundabout near the new Bregawn Housing Estate, he stated that the Engineer involved with the construction of the estate would need to do a Safety Audit before anything could be done. He also mentioned that the grass cutting is a resource issue.

In response to Councillor Hanna Hourigan inquiries in relation to water leaks on the road, the District Engineer indicated that this is an issue for Uisce Éireann. Addressing Councillor McGrath questions, he stated that RM would begin mid-July and the Kilmoyler project would begin in the next two weeks. Regarding Councillor Burgess questions, he stated that the same contractor working in Boherlahan would complete the plans in approximately 4/5 weeks and that the

High Kings Loop footpath is expected to begin within a month or 6 weeks. He also reiterated that a workshop for the potential Dualla roundabout will be held.

Councillor Crosse spoke of the leaks on the Davis Street as being unacceptable especially since they forced businesses to close. He noted that the media had to get involved. He inquired whether the responsibility of the pipe lay with Uisce Éireann, and the road fell under the Council's jurisdiction. He felt that, for future incidences like this, clear guidelines should be established with Uisce Éireann. He mentioned that he received a call from the Gardai and found it unacceptable that Council staff were unable to intervene. He called for Council officials to meet with Uisce Éireann to put in place a plan and safety measures and close roads in such instances. Councillor Ryan agreed and inquired who assumes responsibility when such a situation arises. The District Engineer advised Councillor Ryan that, regarding the speed ramps on St. Michael Avenue, the Council would need to conduct a speed check before proceeding.

Councillor Moloney mentioned that during his time in Clonmel, a proposal for three roundabouts in Cahir was put forward, but TII stated it was not feasible. He expressed his frustration, saying the roundabout leading into Cahir was a disgrace. Despite TII's refusal to address the issue, there is a local individual willing to undertake the work at no cost. Councillor Hanna Hourigan spoke of when the contractors from Uisce Éireann were unable to locate the leak on the farmer's land near Donohill. They abruptly halted their work, informing the farmer that they could only bill for a set number of hours despite not identifying the water's source. Regarding situations where road excavation is necessary, she raised the question of who needs to be present during the process, emphasising that there seems to be a lack of collaboration.

The District Engineer mentioned that for road digging, open licenses are required; however, staff who previously worked in Water Services with the council do not need these licenses. He emphasised that Uisce Éireann has sufficient resources to address the problems at hand, and their inadequate performance should not be blamed on the Council. Meanwhile, Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer pointed out that our operational system differs significantly from Uisce Éireann, and our staff are no longer trained to handle water-related issues. Additionally, he noted that the Roads Section face budgetary constraints and cannot reallocate resources to address Uisce Éireann's issues.

Councillor Annemarie Ryan reported that she made several calls on Thursday and Friday, inquiring whether the Council could address road safety issues due to the sinking road on Saturday. The Senior Engineer mentioned that if a safety concern arises, the Gardaí must respond. He added that if the Gardaí reach out for assistance, we will mobilise as needed. The primary emergency response should come from the Gardaí. Additionally, he noted that it is Uisce Éireann's responsibility to restore the road to its previous condition.

Councillor John O'Heney spoke of the ongoing roadworks near Bridge Street, Tipperary Town which were anticipated to be completed on Friday. However, the

contractor has dug up what they did last week and they have not restored the area. Local businesses are facing disruption due to a lack of parking spaces on this road. Councillor Browne made the point that if Uisce Éireann dug up footpaths and left holes then it is their fault. However, if someone breaks their ankle then they sue the Council. Councillor Declan Burgess said that Uisce Éireann are terrible for reinstatement works and asked whether the Council can do inspections on works. Councillor Murphy asked if the works should be inspected in a timely manner. She felt there should be processes in place to inspect works and feedback to Uisce Éireann. Councillor Browne felt that Tipperary County Council should sign the work back. The District Engineer said that they don't sign back work. The Cathaoirleach mentioned that these issues could be raised at the next workshop with Uisce Éireann. Some of the Elected Members expressed their belief that these workshops were a waste of time. Councillor Murphy felt that there was a need to attend these workshops and have the opportunity to engage.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the District Engineer and his team.

3.4 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to the Members with the agenda.

Councillor Murphy noted that the recent contracts for works in Cahir were for Phase 1b and 3a and asked why was it organised like this. The District Administrator commented that Phase 1a facilitated works on another phase to happen. Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) asked when was the commencement date for Capital works on Dan Breen House. Mr Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer responded that the Dan Breen tender will issue to the Building Works to Protected Structures Framework in mid-July and Tipperary Town Courthouse and Bridewell Project tender will issue to the same framework in approx. mid-August. It is envisaged to have contracts signed by mid-September for Dan Breen and Mid October for Tipperary Town Courthouse and Bridewell.

4.1 Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended on the death of the following:

- Freddie Bourke (née Kelly), The Bungalow, Donohill, Co. Tipperary
- Jerry Burke, Raheen, Cahir, Co. Tipperary

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Liam and Santina Maher on the launch of their new business, MACE and Applegreen, in Boherlahan village
- Tipperary U14 Ladies team for winning All-Ireland Silver title
- Congrats to Councillor Declan Burgess on turning 30.

5.1 Any other business appropriate to a meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD arising with the permission of the Cathaoirleach.

None

This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.

Signed/ Roger Kennedy Dated/ 28/7/2025
Cathaoirleach

Signed/ Anselm McGowan Dated/ 28/7/2025
District Administrator