

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE HELD AT 4.00PM ON
THE 10th OCTOBER 2019 IN THE TOWN HALL, TULLAMORE**

Present:

Cllr. F. Moran, (Cathaoirleach); Cllr. N. Feighery; Cllr. D. Harvey; Cllr. T. McCormack; Cllr. S. O'Brien; Cllr. D. Owens; Cllr. K. Smollen

In Attendance:

Mr. T. Shanahan, Director of Services; Mr. J. Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. J. Dooley, Executive Engineer; Ms. I. O'Connell, A/Executive Scientist, Environment & Water Services; Ms B. Corbet, Meetings Administrator

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended and condolences expressed, to the families of:
Seamus Carroll, New Road, Tullamore; Breda Connelly, Arden Vale, Tullamore; Jim Lambe, Arden View, Tullamore; Seamus Dignam, Clara and all those in Tullamore MD who died since the last monthly meeting, on their recent bereavements.

Cllr. S. O' Brien proposed suspending Standing Orders to move item No. 5 Regeneration Projects up to item No. 1, this was seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen.

1. Regeneration Projects

(a) Tullamore Street Enhancement (ERDF/URDF)

Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S., updated the members on the Tullamore Street Enhancement Programme. The members welcomed the report and largely acknowledged the positive progress made while also recognising the cooperation on the part of the traders and acknowledged the concerns of traders in advance of Christmas period. The members raised a number of queries incl: the contract schedule issues with ESB; filter light at Patrick St; safety of trucks turning off Patrick St; possibility of returning William to two way during the works, access for emergency services on Bridge St/High St; work schedule leading up to Christmas; commencement of works on LHS of William St; engagement with contractor to work longer hours and resurface at night; issues with footpaths for people with a disability; promotion of 1hr free parking; location of 1916 Plaque.

In addition, Cllr. K. Smollen outlined he had concerns as to the benefit of the final project to the general public, furthermore he outlined he would be truthful with his constituents. A number of members disagreed with the comments requesting that he outline which members were being untruthful or withdraw his comment as it insinuated other members were being untruthful. The comment was not withdrawn.

Members generally also noted Tullamore Town is still very much open for business outlining the Street Enhancement works would complement the town centre and benefit the town as a whole which will in turn allow businesses to survive and thrive.

Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. and Mr. J. Dooley outlined in response, projects of this scale are always going to fluctuate with respect to timescale; the turn off Partick St is within the appropriate design parameters; it is not possible to make William St two way during the works for Health & Safety Reasons; the emergency services are informed regularly; works will cease the end of Nov with the exception of snagging; works will commence on the Partick St end of William St. to facilitate ESB, due to the size of the area and H&S concerns it is not possible to resurface roads at night; use of wide foot paths for signage and dining will require planning premission/licencing; 1 hour free parking in Texas

and O'Neill place will be promoted and extended to other areas of Tullamore at an appropriate time leading up to Christmas; the design team currently are drawing up proposals for 1916 Plaque.

(b) Clara and Ballycumber (TRVS)

Mr. J. Connelly also updated the members on Clara and Ballycumber Town & Village Renewal Schemes. The Contractor is appointed for both schemes and it is expected that the works would commence late October.

As the project was scaled back slightly Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran raised concerns over how far down the town works would go. Mr. J. Connelly to liaise with Mr. T. Ennis on the matter.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

The following minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack and seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey:

- a) *Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12th September, 2019*
- b) *Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th September, 2019*

3. Draft Budgetary Plan 2020 – Consideration of the General Municipal District Allocation

Mr. T. Shanahan, DOS presented the Municipal District Allocation for Tullamore, as circulated to the members. Mr. T. Shanahan updated the members and advised the Chief Executive was proposing a General Municipal Allocation of €177,000, (increased from €170,000 in 2019) allocation for Tullamore MD in the Draft Budget 2020 to be considered at OCC's Statutory Budgetary Meeting. Following discussions, Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran proposed seeking an additional €30,000 in 2020, which was seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack.

4. Tullamore River Project

Ms. I. O'Connell, A/Executive Scientist, Environment & Water Services advised the members of the proposal to develop the Tullamore River Project. The members welcomed the report, outlining this is a very positive initiative for Tullamore and could be a major feature for the town.

5. Roads update

The members welcomed the Roads Report, as presented and circulated by Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E. The members raised a number of issues including: CIR schemes; ORIS funding; works in Marian Place; resurfacing at Black Lion junction; works at Gortacur; safety works at Blueball; flooding at back lanes in Park Avenue; zebra crossing from Henry St into Harbour St; lighting at Tinnycross/Ballydaly; footpath at Clara swimming pool; speed ramps at The Green, Clara.

Mr. J. Connelly, in response outlined the closing date for the CIR scheme was 20th September with no date for notification as yet; announcement on ORIS funding imminent; works to commence on Marian Place next week; application submitted for low cost safety schemes submitted for resurfacing at Black Lion junction; TII funding will be applied for with respect to safety works at Blueball; Mr. J. Connelly to investigate issue at zebra crossing from Henry St to Harbour St.; a scheme is currently being prepared for lighting at Tinnycross/Ballydaly; footpath at Clara swimming pool is included in the tender for Westwood Grove; speed ramps are not part of OCC policy, Mr. J. Connelly to investigate traffic calming at The Green, Clara.

6. Notices of Motion:

Cllr. T. McCormack

“That the Municipal District of Tullamore explore a traffic plan for the Collins Road area of town”

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey. Mr. J. Connelly to investigate installing an extra traffic light phase on the junction at Collins Lane. Mr. J. Connelly also to investigate the need for new traffic light system from Ballin Ri to Educate Together.

Cllr. T. McCormack

“That the Municipal District of Tullamore contact Irish Rail and look for an update on what they have done since our last meeting to address the issues discussed”

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey to seek update from Irish Rail on issues incl.: extra carriages, pedestrian and vehicular access should be separate, lighting very poor, fear of Tullamore becoming an unmanned station.

7. A.O.B.

Grass cutting

Grass cutting at Pearse Park to continue. Mr. J. Connelly, to investigate dumping and long grass at Arden View, in addition to moss on cobble lock at Marian Place.

Housing

Cllr. S. O’Brien requested a Housing Report at the next meeting specifically outlining the exact number of houses vacant in Tullamore. Mr. T. Shanahan advised there is a Housing update scheduled for October.

Direct Provision Centres

Cllr. K. Smollen raised concerns over the possibility of Marian Hostel and St. Anthony’s being used as Direct Provision Centres.

New Years Eve Event

Cllr. T. McCormack gave an update on a proposed concert, to be held in O’Connor Square on New Year’s Eve. He proposed that the concert be funded from GMA available funding of €25,000, previously allocated to Entente Florale. He outlined the expected costs, totalling €27,000 approximately includes stage, sound, screens, marketing etc. This would facilitate a two hour event, hosting local bands and Chasing Abbey with a family friendly atmosphere which would promote the new O’Connor square and could also commence the 400 year anniversary of Tullamore. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and largely supported by the members.

Civic Reception

Approval was given at CPG and plenary Council to the hosting of a Civic Reception by Tullamore MD to honour the recent achievements of Grainne Walsh at the European Games. Cllr. D. Harvey to contact the family with a provisional date of 14th November 2019.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

_____ **Cathaoirleach**

_____ **Meetings Administrator**

Date: _____