

## **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE HELD AT 4.00PM ON 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS an CHONTAE, TULLAMORE**

### **Present:**

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

### **In Attendance:**

Mr. T. Shanahan, Director of Services; Mr. J. Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer; Ms B. Corbet, Meetings Administrator; Mr. J. Cunningham, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing; Ms. Alaine Clarke, Executive Planner and Carroll Melia, Senior Executive Planner

### **Votes of Sympathy**

Votes of sympathy were extended and condolences expressed, to the families of Richard McNeill, Tullamore; John Maher, Tullamore; Ted O'Brien, Tullamore; Mary Quigley, Tullamore; Rev Canon Albert Thomas Waterstone, Tullamore; Sean Thornton, Tullamore; Mary Bray, Tullamore; Steven Smyth, Tullamore; Sister Mary Brendan Herlihy, Tullamore; Aidan Cronly , Tullamore; Brendan Cronly, Tullamore; Brendan McCabe, Tullamore; Fergus O'Bracken, Tullamore; Sarah Comiskey, Tullamore; Anna Dunne, Tullamore; Patrick O'Brien, Tullamore; Austin Brennan, Tullamore; Ann Mary, Tullamore; Rosalie Cassidy, Tullamore; Mary O'Toole, Tullamore; Pdraig Bracken, Tullamore; John Dunne, Tullamore; Tom Condrón, Tullamore; John Dempsey, Tullamore; Johnny Finaly , Tullamore; and all those in Tullamore MD who died since the last monthly meeting, on their recent bereavements.

Furthermore, the members extended sympathies to the family of the late Mary Cowen, mother of Laois-Offaly TD Barry Cowen and former Taoiseach Brian Cowen.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

- On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery the minutes of Special Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were approved.
- On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran and seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen the minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were approved.
- On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack the minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were approved.

### **2. Housing Report**

Mr. J. Cunningham, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing presented the Housing Report, as circulated, to the members. The members welcomed the Report and congratulated the new residents of Chancery Walk. Furthermore, the members raised a number of issues/queries to which Mr. J. Cunningham responded incl.: requisitions; Part V; retrofit scheme; decrease in DPG allocation; completion date for Clonminch; tenant purchase scheme; responsibility of Housing Associations; turnkey areas.

A letter to issue to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the exclusion of Part V housing units from Tenant Purchase Scheme.

### **3. Strategic Housing Report**

The members welcomed the report on the Clonminch Strategic Housing Development of 358 dwellings as presented by Ms. Alaine Clarke, Executive Planner and Carroll Melia, Senior Executive Planner. A number of members outlined this is a positive sign for the town, acknowledged the shortage of housing supply and welcomed the interest in developing the town.

However, the members also raised a number of issues outlining that the proposed development goes against the spirit, and could be considered a material contravention of the Tullamore [Town & Environs] Development Plan; the vehicular access through Clonminch Wood is problematic; 4/5 story building poses huge design flaws; concerned for the safety of children in Clonminch Wood due to increased traffic; too big for the outskirts of the town; concerns for antisocial behavior in back lanes and alleys; impact on surrounding estates; premature pending upgrade of the WWTP, existing capacity of infrastructural services to service the proposed development such as waste water in particular. Reference was made to existing sewerage system surcharging during heavy rain. The members expressed their concern that the development was premature pending the adoption of the draft County Development Plan. Furthermore, the members expressed their disappointment with the lack of consultation while posing a number of questions including; will this warrant a further review of the draft County Development Plan in respect of residential land zoning? Do the members have to approve a Section 183 for the Disposal of Land?

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to continue the meeting as proposed by Cllr. N. Feighery and seconded by D. Harvey.

In response Ms. Clarke and Mr. Melia advised in this case Offaly County Council are not the approving Authority as the application is over 100 houses. Comments from the members and reports from Service Departments will form part of the CEO report which will be based on the existing Tullamore Town & Environs Development Plan. While the members understand this report cannot be amended, they request to receive a copy of the report.

### **3. Roads Report**

The members welcomed the Roads Report, as presented and circulated by Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E. The members complimented Mr. Connelly and his staff on the quality of work to date. They raised a number of issues including: footpaths at Adams Villas, Callery Street, Heather Grove, Oakview and Whitehall; shores; rumble strips at bridge and junction at Rugby Club; road safety issues at Clyne's Hill. Mr. J. Connelly to investigate.

### **4. Part VIII - Acers Folly**

Deferred to next meeting.

### **5. Regeneration Projects**

Deferred to next meeting.

**6. AOB**

- On Thursday 15th October, Féileacáin, the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Association of Ireland, has organized a National Wave of Light where iconic buildings will light up pink and blue to mark Babyloss Awareness Day.
- The members also acknowledged today 10th September is World Suicide Prevention Day.
- Lawn cemetery in Clara to be considered as part of Part VIII process.
- Date for Abbey Court auction has been deferred, temporary dwellings are prohibited.
- Additional supports for grass cutting in Clara required.
- Unauthorized Development in Clara require follow up form Planning.

**The meeting then concluded.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

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**Meetings Administrator**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_