

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE HELD AT 4.00PM ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2022 IN THE TOWN HALL, TULLAMORE

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Mr. T. Shanahan, Director of Services; Ms. Jean Ryan, Senior Executive Officer; Ms B. Corbet, Meetings Administrator; Mr. John Cunningham, Housing

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended, and condolences expressed, to the families of: Noel Craven, Mucklagh; Maura Bagnall, Killeigh; Christina Hyland (Digan), Rosenallis; Liam Claffey, Tullamore; Michael Kinnarney, Kilcormac; Sr. Gemma Keegan, Tullamore; Denis Higgins, Ballycumber; Mary Waterstone, Tullamore; Peggie Coonan, Killeigh; PJ Guinan, Pullough; Albert Fitzgerald, Tullamore; Sean Curley, Tullamore ; Brigid Quinn, Tullamore; Gerry Donovan, Tullamore; Georgie Troy, Kilcormac; Mary Condron, Tullamore; Patrick Conway, Mucklagh; Mary Carthagina (Maura Corcoran) Rahan; Mary Walsh, Tullamore; Denis Clifford, Tullamore; Christy Leigh, Tullamore; Liam Leavy, Kilcormac; Kevin Mooney, Mountbolus; Kathleen Rooney, Clara; Evelyn Rooney, Clara; John Phelan; Clara; Colette Quinn, Rochfortbridge and all those in Tullamore MD who had died since the last monthly meeting, on their recent bereavements.

A vote of sympathy was also extended, and condolences expressed to Chief Executive, Anna Marie Delaney and her family on the passing of her father James Delaney, Mountmellick.

Matters Arising

Speed Limit review to commence early next year, submission are welcome prior to Public Consultation.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The following minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. K. Smollen and seconded by Cllr. D. Owens:

- (a) *Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 14th July 2022*
- (b) *Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th July 2022*

2. Housing Report

Mr. John Cunningham, Senior Engineer, Housing Department presented the report as circulated to the members. The members welcomed the report, raising a number of issues incl.: timeline for Raheen and Sycamore Drive, Ballycumber; funding for vacant property in Twickenham; discretion around €30k limit on DPG; turnaround time for vacant houses; waiting list for DPGs and HAG; prioritise retrofit scheme; purchase of one off houses; Housing Needs Assessment. Mr. John Cunningham responded to queries raised noting Raheen retendered is due to price increase; Twickenham will be funded under Buy and Renew Scheme; no discretion on DPG

scheme; specialist contractors required for Retrofit scheme; not actively purchasing one off houses; failure to reply to Housing Needs assessment will result in removal from the list.

The members requested correspondence be issued to the Minister regarding increasing the threshold under the Housing Assistance Payment.

3. Regeneration

Mr. John Connelly, District Engineer presented the report as circulated to the members noting there are eight projects currently under construction with a further 6 in final design or tender stage with additional schemes under Active Travel.

The members welcomed the report, raising a number of queries incl.: timeline for remaining TVR scheme in Ballycumber, Badgers Lane, ESB Mountbolus; Pedestrian crossing at Dolans; issues at Pedestrian Crossing at Collins Lane;

Mr. J. Connelly outlined Badgers Lane is gone to tender; Ballycumber by year end; Pedestrian crossing at Dolans will be included; traffic management is under constant review at Collins Lane, civil works close to completion.

The members complimented the efficiency of local contractors working on the 2022 Roads Programme.

4. Upcoming Events

Ms. B. Corbet confirmed following the success of the 2021 inaugural Halloween event Púca Spooka is confirmed for 22nd and 23rd October.

Tullamore Municipal District is again working with Up Close and Personal Promotions and are inviting all of Offaly and surrounding areas to come along and take part in Halloween festivities, which is suitable for all the family. The event is buggy, wheelchair and sensory friendly event. Parking will be available in various public car parks throughout the town, which will provide the opportunity for those attending the event to support the local business in town. This will again be a free event, however this year it will be strictly ticketed.

In order to facilitate set up for Púca Spooka, the play equipment of Lloyd Town Park will be closed and pedestrian access limited from Wednesday 19th October until Monday 24th October.

An event will take place in Millennium Sq. on Friday 30th September from 2pm to 6pm to mark Tullamore 400 with an outdoor art exhibition showcasing a selection of images of Tullamore. All are welcome to attend and look back at key highlights of the town over the past 400 years. Tullamore Municipal District are working in association with Offaly History and Up Close and Personal Promotions.

5. Community Grants

No grants submitted.

6. Notices of Motion:

Cllr. T. McCormack

“That Tullamore MD review its green areas around the town and outskirts and formulate a plan for fire protection in these days of climate change”.

The motion was passed on the proposal of **Cllr. T. McCormack**, seconded by Cllr. Danny Owens.

A discussion took place with respect to wild flower areas and biodiversity. This topic will be discussed with the Climate Action Team and Tidy Towns at which point the matter may be referred to the SPC.

Cllr. T. McCormack

"That Tullamore MD look at restarting a new scheme to help retailers with upgrading their shopfronts, for painting and new signage."

The motion was passed on the proposal of **Cllr. T. McCormack**, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey.

Cllr. McCormack requested the Executive to give consideration to the Notices of Motion and revert at the next meeting.

7. AOB

- Traffic congestion at school in Kilcoursey.
- Historical markings require clean up and upgrade in order to preserve same as part of Offaly's History.
- Congratulations extended to Josie Healion on achieving two silver medals in the Paracycling UCI World Cup and bronze in the World Championships. To be included for Civic Reception.
- The members welcome the announcement of grant funding of €20 million for Midlands Hospice.
- The members extended congratulation to Cathaoirleach Cllr. Neil Feighery on his recent marriage.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
13/10/2022