

# South Tipperary County Council

## Minutes of South Tipperary County Council Meeting held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, Clonmel On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.

<b>In The Chair</b>	Cllr. Tom Ambrose
<b>Present</b>	Cllrs. L. Ahearn, M. Anglim, J. Crosse, J. Crowe, J. Donovan, S. Healy, J. Fahey, M. Fitzgerald, D. Foley, R. Kennedy, C. Kinahan, D. Landy, S. Lonergan, S. McCarthy, A. Moloney, S. Meagher, P. Norris, S. Nyhan, J. O'Brien, R. O'Meara, B. Shoer, T. Wood, D. Ryan, M. Maguire and K. Bourke
<b>In Attendance</b>	E. O'Connor, B. McEvoy, S. Carr, S. Keating, C. Curley, G. Walsh, H. Houlihan
<b>Meetings Administrator</b>	Mr. John O'Mahoney
<b>Minutes</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. Roger Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Darren Ryan the minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2009, were adopted.

### Matters Arising

#### Housing Grants

In response to a query by Cllr. Healy, Mr. G. Walsh, S.E.O. advised that allocation for 2009 had not yet been confirmed.

#### HSE South

Cllr. Shoer circulated to the members a response from the Regional Health Forum in relation to his motion for a public representative to be part of the newly appointed Steering Committee. Cllr. Shoer requested that the Council write to the HSE seeking clarification on the contents of the reply. This was agreed.

<b>Conferences/Seminars</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. R. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. P. Norris it was agreed that:-
-----------------------------	---

“Cllr. Sean McCarthy be nominated to attend conference entitled “Challenges for Irish Women in these difficult Economic Times” to be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April at the European Commission’s, 18 Dawson St., Dublin 2”.

“Cllrs. D. Ryan, M. Anglim and J. Donovan be nominated to attend conference entitled “Public Relations and the Media” to be held in the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny,

Co. Donegal on 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April”.

“Cllrs. J. Crowe and T. Ambrose be nominated to attend conference entitled “ACC Annual Conference” to be held in the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> April”.

“Cllr. L. Ahearn be nominated to attend conference entitled “Leading Into the Future” to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the Horse and Jockey”.

“Cllrs. S. McCarthy, R. Kennedy, T. Ambrose, M. Anglim, D. Landy, J. Crowe, S. Nyhan, M. Maguire and L. Ahearn be nominated to attend conference entitled “LAMA Spring Seminar 2009” to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise”.

“Cllrs. S. Nyhan, R. Kennedy, T. Ambrose, J. Crowe be nominated to attend conference entitled “Rural Dwellers – A Threatened Species” to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April in the Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry”.

“Cllrs. J. Donvan and M. Fitzgerald be nominated to attend conference entitled “Tipperary Peace Conference – International Peace Conference” to be held in Ballykisteen Hotel on 30<sup>th</sup> April”.

**Section 183 Notice –  
disposal of dwelling  
house at  
Skeheenarinky,  
Burncourt, Cahir**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Fitzgerald  
Seconded by Cllr. R. Kennedy  
And Resolved:-

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, we hereby approve of the disposal of dwelling house and cartilage the total of which amounts to 0.224 hectares (0.554 acres) at Skeheenarinky, Burncourt, Cahir, Co. Tipperary in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section as circulated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2009.”

**Draft Traveller  
Accommodation  
Programme 2009-2013**

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Wood  
Seconded by Cllr. S. Meagher  
And Resolved:-

“That this Council in pursuance of Section 7 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation), Act, 1998 be and is hereby giving approval to the adoption of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan for the period 2009-2013”.

**Local Traveller  
Accommodation  
Consultative**

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Wood  
Seconded by Cllr. R. Kennedy  
And Resolved:-

**Committee Standing Orders**

“That Draft Standing Orders for Local Traveller Accommodations Consultative Committee be adopted as circulated”.

**Incremental Purchase Scheme**

A report had been circulated to the members outlining details of a demonstration project of a 19 unit scheme in Cahir chosen under the Incremental Purchase Scheme. Ms. C. Curley informed the meeting that information sessions would be held in Cahir and that the scheme was limited to existing social housing tenants in Cahir. This would include those renting from voluntary/co-operative bodies, Rental Accommodation Scheme or households that are for the first time being allocated a new house provided by a local authority.

Members welcomed this new initiative.

**Regional Planning Guidelines**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Tom Byrne, Director, South East Regional Authority and Mr. Dominic Walsh, RPG Implementation Officer, to the meeting to make a presentation on the review of the Regional Planning Guidelines.

The existing regional planning guidelines were for the period 2004-2020 and required review within 6 years of adoption. The revised RPG's would be for the period 2010-2022. The Regional Planning Guidelines were the main vehicle for the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy and the revised guidelines would take account of new statutory requirements in relation to strategic flood risk assessment, river basins management plans, strategic environmental assessment and habitats directive assessment. The timetable for the preparation of the guidelines was outlined together with details of the public consultation that would take place.

Queries from members in relation to the following were responded to:-

River Basin Management Plans.

Third Level Education – an application had been made by Waterford I.T. for University Status.

Public Awareness – Regional Authority meetings were open to the media and press releases were issued on various issues.

Transboundary issues – regional authority forum structures ensure representation at political and official level and co-operation with adjoining local authorities.

## **County Development Board – Economic Review**

The County Manager introduced presentations from various agencies that carried out a range of economic and cultural activities in South Tipperary. The I.D.A. and Enterprise Ireland had conveyed their apologies as they were unable to attend the meeting.

County Development Board – Ms. Sinead Carr, Director of Services, reviewed activities and outlined key achievements under the County Development Board Strategy for the period 2005 to 2008 for economic, social and cultural activities together with progress under Local Agenda 21. Key challenges and opportunities were highlighted and proposed targets for 2009-2012 were set.

County Enterprise Board – Mr. Toss Hayes, Chief Executive Officer, outlined the background of the County Enterprise Board which was established in 1993 and was government funded with some EU assistance. Financial Assistance was available in the form of Capital Assistance, Employment and Feasibility Study Grants and €5.5m in financial support had been allocated from 1993 to 2008.

South Tipperary Development Company – John Devane C.E.O. outlined the background of the company which was formed in November, 2007 and provided one unitary structure for South Tipperary for the three cohesion groups Clonmel Community Partnership, Tipperary Leader Group and the Barrow Nore Suir Leader Group. He outlined budgets and activities under the Social Inclusion and Rural Development Programmes and the grants available to groups and individuals.

FAS – Oliver Clancy, South East Regional Employment Service, outlined activity in South Tipperary under Community, Training and Employment Services. He stated that there had been a significant shift in resources in FAS to deal with the rising number of unemployed people. The focus for 2009 would be on training, apprenticeship initiatives, upskilling for unemployed and redundancy responses.

Tipperary Institute – Pdraig Culbert, C.E.O. Tipperary Institute, outlined the background of Tipperary Institute which was celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The institute was a higher education, development and research centre. The programmes at the institute comprised 60% academic and 40% outreach. Of the 1,967 graduates, 68% were from Tipperary. He welcomed the development of the research centre in Ballingarrane Estate and thanked the members, Manager and officials for their co-operation.

Members thanked the speakers for their informative presentations on the activities of their agencies and queries raised were responded to.

**Fix Date for Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting of the Council was set for 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

**Presentation of EMAS Certificate**

Mr. Sean Keating, D.O.S. welcomed Ms Nuala Bannon, DOE, and Mr. Pat Keelan, FAS, on the occasion of the presentation of an EMAS Certificate to South Tipperary County Council. The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) was a management tool for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. The scheme had been available for participation by companies since 1995 and was originally restricted to companies in industrial sectors. Since 2001 EMAS had been open to all economic sectors including public and private services. South Tipperary County Council was the first local authority to receive this award. Tributes were paid to the staff of the Environment Section for their ongoing co-operation with the EMAS procedures.

The award was presented to the Cathaoirleach by Ms Nuala Bannon.

**Votes of Sympathy**

- Donnacha Commins, Motor Tax on the death of his sister Carol Leahy.
- Dolores Fahey, Civil Defence Officer on the death of her father Larry.
- Ailbe Grace on the death of his mother

**Lunch Adjournment**

**Resumption**

**Environment Campaign**

Details of the proposed Environment Campaign for 2009 were circulated to the members and noted.

**County Manager's Orders**

County Manager's Orders for the month of March were noted.

**Investment in Primary Education**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. L. Ahearn

*“That this Council calls on Government to maintain investment in primary education, to avoid increasing class sizes at primary level and to ensure that the educational*

*opportunities of our children are protected in these economically challenging times, and instructs the County Manager to inform the Taoiseach of this resolution”*

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Taoiseach in this regard.

**Bus Stop in Ardfinnan**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Liam Ahearn:-

*“That this Council calls on Bus Eireann to provide a bus stop in the vicinity of the Roundabout Bar, Ardfinnan rather than passengers having to walk back back the long distance from the village centre”.*

It was agreed to insert the word “additional” as there was an existing bus stop in the village”.

**Red City Cemetary,  
Fethard**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Billy Shoer:-

*“That this Council erect a new gate at the Red City Cemetary, Fethard”.*

Red City burial ground is in the ownership of South Tipperary County Council and is located on the roadside on the Fethard-Rosegreen local road. There is no gate to the burial ground from the roadside at present. Access is via stepping stone styles inserted into the burial ground boundary wall. As the ground level of the burial ground is c. 1 metre above the road level, the only way to provide a new gate as access is via a laneway which runs along the side of the burial ground(on the Fethard side).

The Environment Section is currently investigating the ownership of the laneway with a view to the provision of such a gated access.

**Footpath – Hill View  
Estate, Ballyclerihan**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Billy Shoer:-

*“That the footpath from Hill View Estate Ballyclerihan be completed into the village”.*

There are currently no plans in the 2009 Clonmel Area Roadworks programme and no additional funds available to complete the footpath from Hillview Estate, Ballyclerihan

into the village.

The position can be reviewed and considered for inclusion as part of the 2010 Roadworks Programme.

*Cllr. Shoer asked that this motion be reconsidered.*

**Broadband –  
Mullinahone and  
Ballingarry**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Jimmy O’Brien:-

*“That this Council calls on the Minister for Communications to immediately provide Broadband for the Mullinahone and Ballingarry Areas”.*

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Communications in this regard.

**24 hour Garda presence  
in Fethard**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Jimmy O’Brien:-

*“That this Council calls on the Minister for Justice to provide 24 hour Garda presence in Fethard”.*

In discussion on this motion, members asked that Gardaí numbers be reviewed for all towns and villages in South Tipperary.

**Traffic Calming  
Measures – Marlfield  
Road and Village**

The following Notice of Motion was not moved in the absence of Cllr. D. Ryan:-

*“That this Council in cooperation with Clonmel Borough Council install Traffic Calming Measure on the Marlfield Road and Village”.*

**Traffic Calming  
Measures – Fethard  
Road, Clonmel**

The following Notice of Motion was not moved in the absence of Cllr. D. Ryan:-

*“That this Council in cooperation with Clonmel Borough Council install Traffic Calming Measures on the Fethard Road, Clonmel”.*

**Payment of Rent for  
those who have no  
means of transport**

The following Notice of Motion was not moved in the absence of Cllr. D. Ryan:-

*“To ask the Manager to outline what facilities are now available to people to pay their rent now that Revenue Collectors no longer call to peoples homes and they have*

*no means of transport”.*

**Waste Facilities at  
Nodstown, Bohereahan**

The following Notice of Motion was not moved in the absence of Cllr. T. Wood:-

**“That the Manager outline what steps will be taken to resolve the continuing problems at Nodstown, Bohereahan due to the inadequate waste facilities from the village”.**

**Roads Programme for  
Cashel Area**

The following Notice of Motion was not moved in the absence of Cllr. T. Wood:-

*“That in view of the Governments directive on local authorities to halt almost €500 million worth of spending on local and regional roads, the manager would advise as to what effect if any this has on the recently adopted programme for 2009 in the Cashel area”*

**Water Problems in the  
Ballyheens, Dualla**

The following Notice of Motion was not moved in the absence of Cllr. T. Wood:-

*“That the Manager advise as to what measure will be taken to resolve the serious water problems in the Ballyheens, Dualla area.”*

**“Grow your own”  
programme**

The following Notice of Motion was not moved in the absence of Cllr. T. Wood:-

*That the Manager advise if any pieces of ground have been identified in the vicinity of Cashel to enable Aimsir Bia progress their “grow your own” programme.*

**Reinstatement of road  
at Ardgeehan  
Industrial Estate,  
Clonmel**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Billy Shoer:-

**“That this Council have the road reinstated at the Argeeha Industrial Estate, Cashel Road, Clonmel”**

The Notice of Motion refers to the work being carried out by the Council on the laying of a watermain at this location.

The surface restoration is of a temporary nature at present and will be maintained by the County Council. Permanent reinstatement works will be carried out within the next 4 weeks.

**Community Childcare Sector**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Denis Landy:-

*“The Council calls on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to begin negotiations with Community Childcare workers through their union, SIPTU, in order to address the real and immediate issues facing the Community Childcare Sector”.*

Members spoke in support of the motion.

**Ahenny High Cross**

*“That this Council in conjunction with the Department of Environment through the OPW carry out an urgent investigation into the apparent deterioration of the Ahenny High Crosses with a view to putting a plan in place to ensure no further damage occurs to these very important monuments”.*

The Ahenny High Crosses are recorded monuments protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.

The monuments are in the guardianship/ownership of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The OPW are the agency responsible for the management of site. The importance of the crosses is fully recognised and we would be concerned that all appropriate measures should be taken to protect them.

Following discussion it was agreed to write to Minister Mansergh seeking his assistance. Cllr. Landy requested that the Heritage Officer endeavour to have the OPW inspect the crosses.

**Correspondence**

(a) Reply dated 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, from Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs regarding the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme.

(b) Reply dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, from HSE South, regarding the Health Centre in Bansha.

**Resolutions from Other Local Authorities**

**Limerick County Council**

“That, Limerick County Council calls on the Government to introduce appropriate legislation to ensure that the overheads faced by small businesses are curtailed as many are finding it increasingly difficult to remain in business.”

**Limerick County Council**

“That, Limerick County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to keep Passaskenry Agricultural College in County Limerick open”.

**Longford Town Council**

“That the Rural Development Programme 2009-2013 administering the Leader and Social Inclusion Programmes through the joint Leader Partnership Development Companies be amended to allow funding from Local Authorities be considered as matching funding for all projects under the programme”.

**Monaghan Town Council**

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Finance to reduce the current vat rate to at least the same level as Northern Ireland so as to give business in the Border Region a stimulus to retain shoppers”.

**Monaghan Town Council**

“That this Council rejects outright the proposed reintroduction of across the board third level fees as this will lead to deprivation of the less well off among the student population. Means testing should be introduced. The present proposal would deprive the nation of the talents of possible future leaders in every facet of our society”.

**Monaghan Town Council**

“In the interest of protecting rate paying retail shops and services from undue overheads, that this Council correspond with Phonographic Performance Ireland (PPI) and Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO) to ensure fees being levied to shopkeepers are not done in duplication for the same service”.

**Monaghan Town Council**

“That this Council recognises Seachtain na Gaeilge’s significance of celebrating and promoting the Irish language, condemns the Government for its recent attacks on the Irish Language, namely the proposal to abolish Early Immersion (Tumoideachas) Education and cuts to support for summer courses in Irish colleges in the Gaeltacht. This Council appals these cuts and calls for their immediate reversal”.

**New Ross Town Council**

“That this Council calls on the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to publish legislation as soon as is practicable to amend the Planning & Development Acts 2000 – 2006, Section 42 (3)(b), to the

effect that the appropriate period for planning for a planning permission fully granted, is extended to 8 years”.

**Nenagh Town Council**

“Nenagh Town Council calls on Government to maintain investments in Primary Education, to avoid increasing class sizes at Primary level and to ensure that the educational opportunities of our children are protected in these economically challenging times and requests the Mayor to inform An Taoiseach of this resolution”.

**Votes of  
Congratulations**

- Denis Leamy and Alan Quinlan on wining the Grandslam/Six Nations Championship and Triple Crown
- John and Denis Fogarty on their performances in the Magners League
- Colaiste Dun Iascaigh – All Ireland Senior B Football Final

**Any Other Business**

Nitrates Directive Councillor O’Brien queried the potential responsibility being placed on the Council to carry out extensive inspections under the Nitrates Directions and it was agreed to revert to him in this regard.

**Signed/\_\_\_\_\_ Dated/\_\_\_\_\_.  
Cathaoirleach.**

**Signed/\_\_\_\_\_ Dated/\_\_\_\_\_.  
Meetings Administrator.**