

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Tullow
held in Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow, Co. Carlow,
on Thursday 18th December, 2025 at 4.30pm.**

- Present:** Cllr. John Pender, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Ben Ward
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue
Cllr. Jim Deane
Cllr. William Paton
- In Attendance:** Michael Brennan, Director of Services
Barry Knowles, Senior Executive Officer
Ben Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer
John Daly, Senior Executive Engineer
Orla Barrett, Senior Engineer,
Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer
Niall Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer
Aileen Nolan, A/Arts officer
Philip Cullen, Artist
Hilda Minchin, Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Cllr. Charlie Murphy
Pat Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer

The Chairperson welcomed all present to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Municipal District of Tullow meeting held on 16th October, 2025

The Minutes were taken as read and as there were no matters arising, the minutes were:

Proposed by: Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue

Seconded by: Cllr. Ben Ward

AND following a show of hands RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

1.2 Confirmation of Minutes of the Budgetary Meeting – General Municipal Allocation meeting held on 16th October, 2025

The Minutes were taken as read and as there were no matters arising, the minutes were:

Proposed by: Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue

Seconded by: Cllr. Ben Ward

AND following a show of hands RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

2. Business Prescribed by Statue, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Municipal District Members

2.1 Notice of proposed Sale of Freehold Interest in Premises at Tullow Industrial Estate, Tullow as per Folia No. CW1842L 0.590 Acres Estate to Mervyn and Bernadette Campbell

The Members noted the details of the proposed sale and recommended Council approval.

2.2 Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

(i) Part XI Hacketstown Fire Station Fire Training Centre

Mr, Ben Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer presented details to the Members on the proposed training tower which will be the first of it's kind in the Republic of Ireland.

The Members welcomed the proposal and congratulated Mr. Woodhouse on the project.

The Hacketstown Fire Station Fire Training Centre as presented was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue

Seconded by: Cllr. William Paton

AND following a show of hands RESOLVED that the proposal be approved.

2.3 Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

(i) An Cúirt (Kealy's Bar), Hacketstown, Co. Carlow.

Mr. Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer updated members with regard to planning for this housing development and advised that this item would be presented to the February meeting of the Municipal District for consideration.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

3.1 Municipal District Engineer's Report

Mr. John Daly, Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. Orla Barret, Senior Engineer presented their report to the Members:

- The Members were informed that part of the construction at Phelim Street, Rathvilly would be delayed until at least Spring, 2026.
- The programme of works is proceeding with minor amendments.
- The Members were requested to submit a list of projects before 1st February, 2026 for the coming year so that a list could be collated.

The following was also discussed:

- Parking on the footpath outside Allied Irish Bank in Tullow was raised and the Members were advised that this would be investigated.
- Issues with parking on the footpath on Ballon Hill in Ballon were raised and the Members were advised that this would be looked into.
- The repainting of zebra crossing at Tullow Community School was raised and the Members were advised that Uisce Eireann would paint the crossing when the works they are carrying out nearby are complete.
- The reduction of the speed limit on the N80 was welcomed and the refresh of road marking at junctions was suggested and the Members were informed Transport Infrastructure Ireland were responsible for lines and signs and that there is a contract running for national and secondary road markings currently.
- The Members were advised that a reduction in the speed limit on the R448 will be revisited. They were also informed that other counties linked to the N80 were considering a speed reduction also. They were further informed that consideration was being given to changing the static speed camera to average speed cameras.
- The pedestrian crossing at the Thomas Traynor Road development will be connected to the electricity supply in January 2026.

The Members thanked Mr. Daly, Ms. Barrett and Mr. Pat Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer and team for their work.

3.2 Housing Report

Mr. Niall Barrett Senior Executive Engineer and Mr. Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer presented their report to the Members and the following was also discussed:

- The development at Thomas Traynor Road would be completed in January 2026.
- Nine units at Hogan Street, Hacketstown are completed.
- The Part VIII is progressing for Kealy's Bar, Hacketstown.
- The upcoming availability of 78 new homes was welcomed by the Members.
- The Members expressed concern about both the affordability of affordable housing and its availability.
- The Members were informed that Expressions of Interest were being sought from private developers for the provision of affordable housing. None had been received to date. The Members were informed that affordable housing is often city centre driven where no parking is required.
- The requirement for a mix in the types of new homes to be constructed in the future was raised by the Members.
- The ESB connections at Tullowbeg will be completed in Quarter 1, 2026.

- The condition of the land owned by Respond! on the Shillelagh Road, Tullow was raised and the Members were informed that Respond! had advised that the land was not commercially viable for them to develop.
- The Members were informed that Mr. Niall Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer was now having quarterly meeting with Uisce Eireann and that good working relationships had been formed.

The Members thanked Mr. Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer and Mr. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer and team for their work.

3.3 Arts/Culture Progress Report

Ms. Aileen Nolan A/Arts Officer gave a presentation to the Members on the work of Carlow County Council's Arts Service in the Municipal District of Tullow.

Following the presentation the following was discussed:

- The reutilisation of the old Tullow Fire Station as a workspace for artists. The space will be kept as usable and flexible as possible.
- The success of Culture Night and the possibility of it becoming a weekend or week event.
- The Live and Local events which took place in 2025 will be called Carlow Beo in 2026 and events will run from April to November.
- The success of the concerts in care homes project was mentioned and the importance of such events for residents.
- Percent for Art and the Public Art Working Group and the importance of the provision of public art for new developments.
- The Members were informed that applications were open for Art grants were now open.
- The Members were invited to the launch of the new Strategic Arts Plan "Arts for a Flourishing Carlow" on 15th January, 2026 in Carlow Town Hall.

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated the Municipal District of Carlow on the deer artwork recently installed at the Deerpark Roundabout in Carlow Town.

The Members thanked Ms. Nolan and Mr Cullen for their presentation and the work of the Arts team.

3.4 Road Schemes Update

Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Engineer provided a report to the members on the following:

- Pedestrian travel updates.
- Local Area Plan is on display.

- ZEBE regional Strategy is expected to be on display in January 2026.
- Regarding the N80, the works at Leagh bends have received Planning Permission. The Members were informed that the speed reduction to 80 kilometres per hour had been implemented and the provision of average speed cameras in the future was discussed.
- Significant costings are likely to be incurred at Kilbride due to traffic management works.
- Regarding Hillbrook Active Travel, Members discussed the need to ensure access for emergency vehicles to the lower block.

4.0 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

5.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6.0 Any Other Business

The areas in County Carlow eligible for the CLÁR Programme were discussed and the Members noted that eligible areas need to be extended. Mr. Michael Brennan, Director of Services informed the Members that the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht had conducted a national review of the CLÁR areas and he will report back when the findings are known.

The Cathaoirleach wished everyone a happy and safe Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

 Cllr. John Pender,
 Cathaoirleach,
 Municipal District of Tullow.

 Date