

South Tipperary water above national average

By: Anne O'Grady

WATER compliance in South Tipperary in 2005 was above the national average and tests in 2006 showed a significantly improved water quality over the previous year, members of South Tipperary County Council were told on Monday last.

The good news was delivered during a report on Water Quality in the County during the past two years during which Cllr. Jack Crowe was told that the Council intend to produce a bore hole to augment the scheme at Dualla, where there have been ongoing problems.

Earlier, Mr. Denis McGuire, Sanitary Services said parameters for the tests were grouped into one of three classifications, Microbiological E coli & Enterococci bacteria, Chemical 24 parameters eg heavy metals, pesticides and Indicator 18 parameters e.g. colour, Ammonia, Aluminium, Iron.

In South Tipperary the Regulations applied to all 26 Public Water Supplies, three Group Water Supplies with an output volume of over 50 cubic metres per day and sixteen Private (commercial) water supplies of over 10 cubic metres per day.

Mr. McGuire stated that compliance in South Tipperary in 2005 had been above the national average, water quality (compliance) in 2006 had been significantly improved over 2005, all 485 tests on 26 Public Supplies in 2006 had been fully compliant for E. coli and Enterococci, 25 Public and the three Group supplies had been fully compliant for the 'Chemical' parameters and one Public Scheme, Killurney had contained Trihalomethanes above the standard. Corrective action was required to remedy this situation, he said.

Compliance for Aluminium, he stated, had improved from 67% in 2004, to 75% in 2005 and 80% in 2006.

Cllr. John Fahey stated that aluminium had close links to Alzheimers and he suggested that the Council should be doing all in its power to reduce its levels in water supplies.

Cllr. Derry Foley stated that pollution that could emanate from any source and could have adverse affects on aquifers which would have profound implications for the agricultural industry. He suggested the need to engage with organisations such as

the IFA.

Cllr. John Crosse said the Council faced big challenges in relation to landfills etc. He referred to the situation in Cullen where there had been problems again over the weekend. "People are saying they will not pay the water bill this year because of damage to appliances and farm troughs. They are all at a loss out there".

Cllr. Roger Kennedy asked if the positive results in relation to aluminium had been in one or two supplies or had been spread throughout the county. He also asked the means of removing it.

Cllr. Pat English welcomed the fact that asbestos pipes were being replaced and Cllr. Jack Crowe said they had ongoing problems every summer with certain areas,

such as Dualla, Graiguenoe and Holecross. Sometimes, he said, when water was boosted suddenly it was not up to the mark. "We must have proper water supplies for every area".

Cllr. Michael McGuire said apparently there was a leak in Cullen which could not be identified. Council staff, he stated, were there that morning trying to trace the leak. "The public are annoyed with the whole thing".

The Chairman, Cllr. Joe Donovan commented that not having water on a day when it was raining heavily was "something".

Cllr. Mattie McGrath stated that they had experienced water shortages in the last few years. He referred to certain supplies which had been disconnected over the years and appealed to the Council to

make a special effort to have them re-connected and joined up again. He also felt that there would have to be some streamlining on the emergency number.

Mr. Dan Walsh, Sanitary Services, said staff were trying to locate the leak in the Cullen area and they were hopeful of getting the matter resolved. He stated that the aluminium test was one of the indicator tests and aluminium sulphate was added as part of the treatment process. They had improved over the last three years in relation to aluminium residue and he was confident they would improve further.

Mr. McGuire said aluminium was not a health related situation. The average daily intake of this in ones diet was 20 to 50 milligrams per person per day

whereas from the water it would be 0.2 to 0.4 milligrams. The reason the standard was set was because it was added to remove discoloration and if it was above the limit it might be that the treatment was not working as it should be and there could be a build up of sediment. The standard was not a concern for health, he said.

Mr. Walsh said they had conducted trail bore holes in four or five locations, including Dualla and Thomastown. They had identified Dualla and Thomastown as areas where they were going to develop bore holes to augment the scheme. The long term was to develop Dualla as part of the Fethard scheme. He added that old disconnected schemes would be brought back into use where suitable.



Councillor Lily O'Brien, Senator Noel Coonan, Enda Kenny T.D., Ann McNamara, Chairwoman Templemore Community Services, Frank Morris, Michael Crowley, Templemore Community Services, outside Templemore Community Services Centre as Enda Kenny paid a visit in recognition of the contribution given by the Senior Citizens in Society.

Tipperary delegates to attend Muintir conference

A LARGE number of Tipperary delegates are expected to attend the 70th Anniversary Conference of Muintir Na Tire which takes place in Ballykisteen Hotel & Golf Resort, Co. Tipperary this weekend (March 9 and 10). This year is also the 50th anniversary of the death of the founder of Muintir Na Tire, John M Canon Hayes.

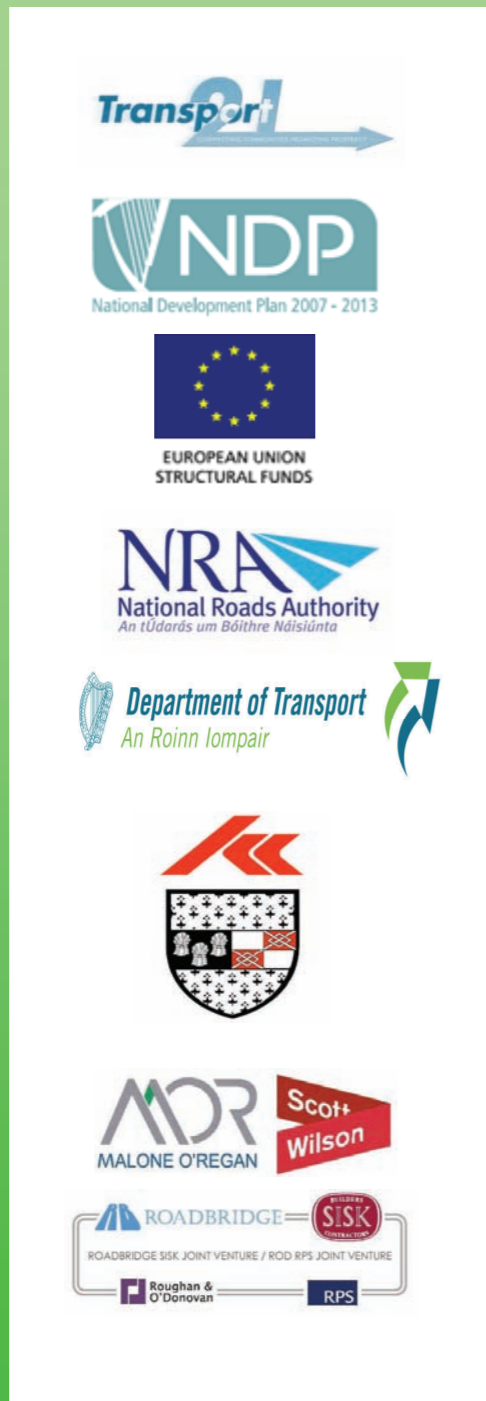
The Conference will be officially opened by Muintir Na Tire President Margaret O'Doherty and Guest Speakers include the Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Eamon O'Cuiv TD, Fr Sean Healy, CORI and Fergus Finlay, Chief Executive of Barnados.

On Friday, February 16, the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD laid a wreath at the grave of the founder of Muintir Na Tire, John M Canon Hayes in Bansha, Co. Tipperary and a number of other events are taking place to mark the anniversary.

Muintir na Tire is a national voluntary organisation dedicated to promoting the process of community development. Founded in 1937, it aims to enhance the capacities of people in communities, rural and urban, to become involved in local social, economic, cultural and environmental development.

Its basic structure is the democratically elected representative Community Council and it endeavours to represent the interests of local communities at the different levels of policy-making.

It has a national network of over 1500 Community Councils, Community Alert groups and associated development groups.



M8/N8 Cullahill to Cashel Road Improvement Scheme is funded by the National Development Plan 2007-2013 and part-funded by the European Union under Trans European Transport Infrastructure Networks (TEN-T)



Minister for Transport Martin Cullen TD turns the sod at the official ceremony held in October 2006 at Two Mile Borris, Thurles, County Tipperary.

M8/N8 CULLAHILL TO CASHEL

If you require further information regarding the M8/N8 Cullahill to Cashel Road Improvement Scheme.

Project Contacts:

Kilkenny County Council Project Engineer Ian Gardner at Kilkenny County Council, 056-8838238
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M8N8 CULLAHILL TO CASHEL ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME



NEWSLETTER

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KEEPING YOU IN THE PICTURE.....

Description of the Scheme

The M8/N8 Cullahill to Cashel project forms part of the major inter urban scheme to provide a high quality dual carriageway/motorway linking Dublin to Cork. The new road will comprise 10.5km of motorway from Cullahill to Urlingford and 29km of dual carriageway from Urlingford to tie in to the existing Cashel Bypass.

The scheme involves the construction of principal structures including road and river bridges, a railway bridge together with accommodation underpasses, culverts and mammal underpasses. There will be 4 grade separated junctions, at Cashel, Horse & Jockey, Two Mile Borris and Urlingford. There will be an at grade junction at Oldtown south of Cullahill to tie in to the existing N8 temporarily until the next phase to the north is completed.

Work to date

The scheme was successfully brought through the planning process which included an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). An Bord Pleanála approved the scheme following detailed submissions and a subsequent Oral Hearing.

Kilkenny County Council have recently appointed SRB Civil Engineering Ltd (a joint venture between Roadbridge Ltd and John Sisk & Son Ltd) to design and build the M8/N8 Cullahill to Cashel Scheme.

Roughan & O'Donovan and RPS Consulting

Engineers as well as other specialist sub-consultants have been commissioned to undertake the Detailed Design of the scheme.

Scheme Commencement

To commemorate the start of the site works, a Sod Turning Ceremony, attended by Martin Cullen T.D. Minister for Transport was held on October 5th 2006.

What happens next

SRB Civil Engineering Ltd (SRB) have completed the establishment of their main site office compound immediately north of Urlingford.

The contractor has commenced construction works in some areas of the site which include;

- Site Clearance
- Topsoil Strip
- Soft Ground Excavation at Ballytarsna, Two Mile Borris and Longfordpass
- Rock Excavation at Grangemore and Longfordpass
- Haul Road Construction
- Drainage Culverts
- Fencing
- Local Road Diversions on N75 west of the Turnpike, Ballyvinnane and Lisheen Road
- Temporary Service Diversions
- Enabling works for Bridges & Structures

- Environmental Surveys and mitigation measures

Work has commenced on the following bridges ;

- Structure 106 on the Existing N8
- Structure U01 Underpass on the existing N8 at Ballytarsna
- Structure 119 on N75 at Twomileborris
- Structure 121 Lisheen Mine Road

Other works to commence in the next few months include:

- Structure 104 at Grangemore
- Structure 110 at Pouldine
- Structure 112 at Ballyvinnane
- Rock Excavation at Inchirourke
- Bulk Earthworks at Ballytarsna, Horse & Jockey and Longfordpass

Local road diversions around bridge locations will have a mandatory reduced speed limit which will be enforceable by Gardai. Some Road Closures will also be required for which alternative routes will be provided. Road closures will be subject to statutory procedures and will be advertised in the local press.

Kilkenny County Council and SRB will have continuous liaison with landowners and members of the public during the course of the project.



Soft Ground Excavation at Ballytarsna



Bridge Structure 120 Bord Na Mona Railway



Fencing at Longfordpass