

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING,
HELD AT 11.00 a.m. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PARNELL STREET, CLONMEL ON
WEDNESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

Present: Councillor Richie Molloy, Mayor
Councillor Siobhán Ambrose
Councillor Pat English
Councillor John Fitzgerald
Councillor Niall P. Dennehy

In Attendance: Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services
Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator
Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer
Ms. Mary Irwin, A/Staff Officer

Also in Attendance: Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer, Housing
Ms. Helen Butler, A/Administrative Officer, Housing
Mr. Shaun Lonergan, Executive Engineer, Housing

Apologies: Cllr. Michael Murphy.

Item 1.1 Zoom Protocol

There was nobody in attendance by Zoom.

Item 2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

Item 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 20th September, 2023.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 18th October, 2023, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Cllr. Pat English and agreed by all.

Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Item 4.1 Attendance of Representative From Directorate Housing

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Dennehy asked if the new initiative of renting out a room tax free will affect income e.g living alone allowance.
- Councillor English welcomed the number of turnkey projects being undertaken.
- Councillor English welcomed the housing grants allocation and noted that it is the highest allocation in the country and complimented the staff in the housing grants section for their work on this. Members concurred with Councillor English on this.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the number of houses which have been included in the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in Clonmel and asked how many are being included on the list for Clonmel for next year.
- Councillor English asked why the number of approved housing loans is so low.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the number of landlords who have left both the RÁS and HAP Schemes in the last 12 months.

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- Councillor English asked for an update on the timeframe involved in carrying out repairs on vacant houses.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the number of persons who presented as homeless this year to date.
- Members asked for an update on the cluster houses in Kilsheelan.
- Councillor Ambrose paid tribute to Sinéad Carr and the Housing Team on the number of housing developments completed in 2023 stating that Tipperary County Council is the most progressive Council in this area across the Country.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the 3 housing schemes already launched in Clonmel Borough District.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the 14 social houses in Ballyclerihan.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the Affordable Housing Scheme.
- Councillor Molloy stated that Members are conscious of the many people still on the housing waiting list. He asked if the homeless clinics are operational again in County Hall.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked for an update on the social houses in Ballyclerihan.
- Councillor Fitzgerald queried whether the expansion of RÁS would be better than engaging with Landlords through the HAP process and stated that maybe both schemes could be reviewed.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- In reply to the query raised on the number of housing loans, Shane Grogan informed the meeting that the process is complicated with a lot of time spent working with the applicants to ensure the application is valid before being forwarded to the housing agency for approval.
- In relation to the number of landlords who have left the RAS/HAP System, Mr. Grogan informed the members that he will revert with this information.
- Mr. Grogan informed the members that 15 houses have been completed under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in Clonmel to date and that final approval will not be received until the end of the year for the number of houses to be included in next years programme.
- In relation to the cluster houses at Kilsheelan, Sinéad Carr stated that she will ask Brian Beck to provide an update on this.
- Mr. Grogan informed the Members that the social housing at Ballyclerihan will be completed by the end of the year with tenancies being allocated next year.
- In relation to the numbers presenting as homeless, Helen Butler informed the meeting that 399 people have presented as homeless to the end of September. She confirmed that the Homeless Clinics are still being held in the HSE but that this will be reviewed once the housing section has been reconfigured.
- In relation to the query on the Affordable Housing Scheme, Mr. Grogan informed the members that the affordable housing fund can only be accessed for certain areas of the County and needs to comprise of new builds. Affordable housing schemes are currently being looked at for Clonmel and if there is a viable scheme identified for Clonmel it will need to be submitted to the Department for approval by end of Q1 2024.
- In relation to the timeframe regarding the turnaround of vacant houses in the District, Nicola Keating stated that she will check the timeframe involved for houses needing small repairs and revert with this information.

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- In relation to the rent-a-room initiative, the Manager stated that as soon as information is received on this scheme that it will be circulated to the members.

Item 5.1 Report of District Administrator

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Questions raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to the Clonmel Arms Hotel asking if the contract has been finalised.
- In relation to the Market Place Development, Councillor Ambrose stated that following the visit of Minister Jack Chambers to Clonmel that his Department has been in contact with the owners.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to bins/signage at the Sports Hub.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the removal of the old telephone kiosks
- In relation to the CCTV installation, Councillor Ambrose asked if it would be easy to add another area once installed or would it involve a new application.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed that an announcement will be made on URDF Call 4 at the end of the month which will be open for application in January.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the interim flood relief works being carried out in Marlfield with a further update to be provided at the January Meeting.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the play equipment at Mulcahy Park.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update regarding the outstanding Blueway works.
- Councillor Ambrose wished Motor Tax staff well on their move to the Town Hall
- Members welcomed the upcoming rollout of the Town Bus Service on the 4th December, 2023.
- The Members acknowledged and thanked Carol Creighton, District Administrator for her work on the Christmas Lights in the town.
- Councillor Dennehy also welcomed the new town bus service and asked for an update on the number of hackney licences operating in the Borough District stating that a proper taxi service is needed in a town the size of Clonmel.
- Councillor English asked if a reply was received from An Garda Siochána in relation to the drop in personnel in the Gardai, reinstatement of Community Gardaí and the number of personnel employed in the drugs unit.
- Councillor English asked for an update from Irish Rail on the upgrading of services.
- Councillor English stated his disappointment at the delay by the Garda Commissioners Office in relation to the installation of CCTV.
- Councillor English welcomed the news that the Abbey Street Project was gone out to Tender and commended the District Administrator for driving this project forward.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on the vacant/derelict properties being included for works under URDF. He also welcomed the public meeting being held on the 16th November by the new Town Team in relation to this.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update from the Environment Section on the replacement of the Dog Pound in Kilsheelan.
- Councillor English welcomed the interim flood relief works at Marlfield and stated that it was paramount that works be carried out at Marlfield with climate change and the increase in rainfall.
- Councillor Molloy complimented and thanked Liz McGrath, Senior Staff Officer and the Civil Defence Team on the recent zombie walk held on Halloween Night.

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Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the development of the Clonmel Arms, the District Administrator informed the meeting that the Borough District is engaging strongly with the new owners and that there should be positive news in the next 2–3 weeks.
- In relation to Market Place the District Administrator stated that STAG are currently working on artistic features to enhance the area. She stated that the problem lies with the need to get private developers to engage with the planning section.
- In relation to the signage and refuse bins at the Sports Hub, the District Administrator stated that the Borough District will be paying for the signage and she will raise this issue again at the Sports Hub management meeting to be held in the coming weeks.
- The District Administrator stated that Eir will be removing the telephone kiosks and she will revert to Councillor Ambrose on the timeframe involved when she gets the date.
- In relation to the installation of CCTV, the District Administrator stated that she is still waiting on the letter to issue from the Garda Commissioners Office and confirmed that another application will be needed if any new area are added to the list.
- In relation to URDF Call 4, the District Administrator confirmed to the meeting that the call is expected in January, 2024.
- The District Administrator informed the members that the new playground equipment will be installed in Mulcahy Park within the next week.
- In relation to the works on the Blueway, the District Administrator informed the meeting that works cannot be carried out until after the flood season.
- The District Administrator stated that she thinks there are about 4 hackney licences in operation at the moment in Clonmel. Sinéad Carr stated that she will speak to Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, Roads with regard to raising the issue at the Roads Strategic Policy Committee as the policy will have to be assessed if there is a need to increase numbers.
- The District Administrator stated that she didn't have a reply from the Gardai in relation to personnel numbers and will follow up on same.
- In relation to Irish Rail, the District Administrator stated that she had corresponded with Irish Rail and was awaiting a reply.
- In relation to URDF 3 regarding the refurbishment of vacant properties, the District Administrator informed the members that a workshop will be held with them in relation to the process once priorities have been decided on.
- In relation to the Dog Pound, the District Administrator informed the members that as far as she is aware there has been no interest from private businesses to re-open a Dog Pound at Kilsheelan.
- In relation to the flood alleviation works at Marlfield, the District Administrator stated that Michael Scully, A/Senior Executive Engineer will give an update on the works at the January Meeting.
- The District Administrator stated that she will ask Jonathan Cooney, Senior Engineer for a report on the works in the Town Hall and report back to the members.
- The District Administrator welcomed the new town bus service and informed the members that there will be an official launch date with the NTA and Tipperary County Council prior to the 4th of December.
- The District Administrator thanked everybody involved in the Zombie Walk and asked the members to promote Santa coming to town on the weekend of 1st December and also spoke about the Christmas Markets to be held on the Plaza on the 16th /17th

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December which is an initiative by the local secondary schools in association with Clonmel Borough District.

Item 5.2 Report of District Engineer – Roads Programme

The District Engineer's report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English asked for an update on the gates at Sheehy Terrace/O'Neill Street.
- Councillor English complimented Nicola Keating, District Engineer and Adam Coffey, Executive Engineer on the resurfacing works completed around the town.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update from the Environment Section regarding the works on the entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on the sequencing of the traffic lights at Queen Street and Oakville.
- Councillor English raised the issue of leaves blocking the drains and gullies at Carrigeen/Wilderness Grove Estates and asked that this issue be kept under review.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the Clonmel/Marlfield Greenway.
- Councillor English raised the issue of safety regarding the equipment at Denis Burke Park and Elm Park and asked that these items be checked.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if works at Rathronan Bend have been included in the next round of safety improvement works.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the announcement which will be made in January regarding the preferred route for the N24.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the 80 burial spaces which have been provided in St. Patrick's Cemetery and the additional 80 spaces to be provided after Christmas and thanked Adam Coffey and the staff for their work on this.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there is a plan in place to keep the gullies clean around the District.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the filter light at the Crescent.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the train services at the Railway Station.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked the staff involved in the rollout of the road works programme.
- Councillor Fitzgerald raised the issue regarding the poor lighting at the Loretto Convent and asked that this be looked at.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked if something could be done to rectify the ongoing issues with the electronic speed warning lights at Ballyclerihan.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked that the road at the entrance to Churchview Estate in Clerihan be looked at and repairs carried out.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked if ½ moon signage could be erected at the entrance to Clerihan Village as this issue had been raised at a recent meeting of the tidy towns group.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked if the recycling bins in Ballyclerihan could be put on a raised platform to bring them up from the level of the car park.
- Councillor Molloy asked if the disabled parking spaces which were removed at St. Patrick's Cemetery to facilitate works will be reinstated.
- Councillor Molloy also highlighted the issue with trolleys being punctured. These trolleys are used to transport flowers to graves and Councillor Molloy asked if these can be repaired or replaced.

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Queries raised by the Members which Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer responded to were as follows:

- In relation to the gates at Sheehy Terrace/O'Neill Street, the District Engineer informed the members that these works will be carried out in 3 weeks.
- In relation to the traffic lights at Queen Street/Oakville, the District Engineer informed meeting that the sensors were checked and are working ok. She stated that she might have to look at removing a parking space.
- In relation to the filter lights at the Crescent, the District Engineer stated that in order to accommodate filter lights at this location an extra lane would need to be added and that the street is not wide enough to accommodate this.
- In relation to the gullies and drains, the District Engineer stated that the situation will be monitored and that the gullies will be cleared.
- In relation to the Clonmel/Marlfield Greenway, the District Engineer advised that the consultants are finalising the design.
- The District Engineer stated that she will follow up with Eric Ryan, Town Gardener, on the safety issues regarding the playground equipment.
- The District Engineer informed the members that works at Rathronan Bend have been included in the application for the safety improvement grant 2024.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that a decision is expected on the N24 route by Q1 of 2024.
- In relation to the issues raised on public lighting, the District Engineer stated that she will refer the matters to Michael Tierney, Executive Engineer and revert with an update.
- In relation to the pothole at Ballyclerihan, the District Engineer will arrange for this to be repaired.
- The District Engineer informed the members that she will look into the signage at Ballyclerihan.
- The District Engineer will look into the possibility of erecting a platform for the placement of the recycling bins at Ballyclerihan.
- The District Engineer stated that she will follow on the query regarding the reinstatement of disabled bays at St. Patrick's Cemetery and will look at repairing the trolleys.

Item 5.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

The Report was noted by the Members.

Item 6.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 10th November, 2023

The members raised a query in relation to delegation order no. 35801 regarding the Bulmer's experience centre at Dowd's Lane Visitor Experience Centre. The District Administrator informed the Members that this order was raised in relation to costs associated with the project.

Items 7.1 to 7.5– Notice of Motion

Motion 2718 was proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy

That Clonmel BD erect a suitable memorial to the late Johnny Healy on the Greenway. Mr Healy was a renowned boxer international boxer in the 1930's and early 40's. It is worth noting that he defeated two Olympic flyweight champions in that great national bouts during the 1930's.

REPLY:

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This request for a memorial will be investigated for the Greenway. A policy on requests from memorials on the Greenway may need to be developed as we have had a few such requests recently.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

The Manager stated that both herself, the District Administrator and District Engineer will look at policy and see how this can be progressed.

Motion 2719 was proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy

That Clonmel BD mark parking spaces in Parnell Street to ensure the maximum number of cars are enabled to park in this street.

REPLY:-

Parking spaces on Parnell Street are currently marked longitudinally but are not marked as individual spaces. The provision of individual spaces would not be suitable due to the variability of vehicle lengths that tend to park on Parnell Street.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2722 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

What is the latest update regarding both the rollout of phase 2 and also the future construction of an Advanced Building Solution (new factory) within the Ballingarrane Business, Science and Technology Park.

REPLY:-

Second phase of Questum/Precinct 2: The feasibilities complete on a number of projects and basis for applications to the 'Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme' is in place during the three year period of the scheme.

TCC/IDA Precinct 3 project for advanced building solution.

Meeting milestones on project plan after experiencing a few delays on technical issues mid year. Engagement with infrastructure and service providers to the facility happening at present to scope out the provision of water, electricity and traffic related considerations to the site. On target to submit planning application during Q1, 2024.-

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2723 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

In relation to the proposed new Clonmel Library when will a provisional design be made available?

Reply:

The Design Team for the new Library in Clonmel, led by ABK Architects spent a considerable amount of time working with relevant sections of Tipperary County Council at the beginning of the design process. This included lengthy consultations with the Library Service which was essential before they commenced the actual design brief. They are currently finalising the provisional design, i.e. the Stage 1 design. The contract between Tipperary County Council and ABK clearly sets out what the Design Team must achieve in order to complete the Stage 1 process. The Architect as Design Team lead is responsible for co-ordination of all design team member outputs and will collate all reports into a single end of Stage 1 report. This report will

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include inputs from the mechanical and electrical engineering team, the structural and civil engineering team and a quantity surveyors cost plan. It is anticipated that the Design Team will revert to Tipperary County Council in the coming weeks with a full Stage 1 design for the project.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2724 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

What is the current update regarding the upgrading of Abbey Street Car Park (opposite the Friary) which when works are completed will also serve as a much-needed performance space for both artists and festivals.

Reply:

The Tender for Works contractor has been published on eTenders. Deadline for receipt of tenders is 8th December. Contractor for the works is expected to be appointed by January 2024.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 8.1 Correspondence

The email sent to Irish Water by the District Administrator regarding a Notice of Motion raised at the September Meeting asking Irish Water for a reply in relation to recent water disruption issues in both Clonmel Town and also in Templetny (Clonmel Rural Supply Scheme) as issued with the Agenda was noted. Members spoke in support of the email.

Councillor English asked that Irish Water be written to again as no reply had been received to letter sent on the 25th August.

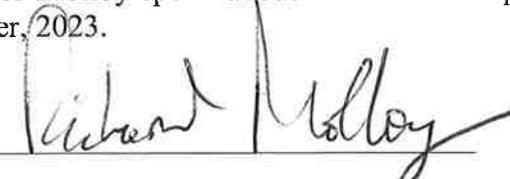
Item 9.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

The members proposed that a vote of congratulations be sent to the Clonmel Commercials Team to congratulate them on their win against Newcastlewest in the AIB Munster SFC quarter-final and to wish them every success against Dingle in the semi-final on Sunday, 26th November.

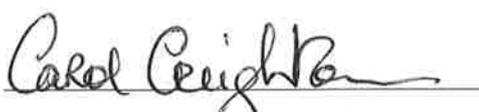
Congratulations were also extended to Willie Maunsell on his tremendous run coming in 10th place in the Dublin City Marathon.

Item 10.1 Any Other Business

Councillor Molloy spoke about the Civic Reception being accorded to Cuan Saor on the 1st December, 2023.

Signed: 
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Dated: 13/12/23.

Signed: 
District Administrator

Dated: 13/12/23.