

**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 MAY, 2024**

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, Staff Officer

Also in Attendance: Ms. Anne Marie Brophy, Senior Executive Librarian
Mr. Pat Bracken, Senior Executive Librarian
Ms. Fiona Crotty, A.O, Community & Economic Development
Ms. Myriam Madigan, Member of the Public

Apologies: Councillor Michael Murphy.
Anne Marie Fleming, Biodiversity Officer.

The Mayor welcomed everybody to the last meeting of the current council.

1.1 Zoom Protocol

There was nobody in attendance at the Meeting by Zoom.

2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator informed the meeting that there were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 17th April, 2024.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 17th April, 2024, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4.1 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Economic, Community & Rural Development.

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

Fiona Crotty spoke about the Planet Youth Project. Planet Youth is an Icelandic Prevention Model Tool to discourage drug use and engages with TY Students across the County. All 5 schools in Clonmel are on board. School Surveys will commence in Q3 2024. Fiona also spoke about the upcoming Age Friendly Expo which is taking place on the 20th June in the TUS College Campus Thurles.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English welcomed the setting up of the Substance Misuse Alliance Clonmel stating that is great to see a collaborative approach with all the Agencies working

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together to tackle the issue of substance abuse. He hoped that this can be extended to other parts of the County in due course.

- Councillor English welcomed the discussions between the Tipperary Sports Partnership, Canoeing Ireland and Tipperary County Council concerning the development of a canoeing feature on Suir Island.
- Councillor English asked for further information in relation to the Suir V Virtual Reality Project.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the Planet Youth Project.
- Councillor Ambrose noted the success of the Age Friendly EXPO seeking replication in Clonmel and the other towns rather than having it only in Thurles.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed that Sports Partnership has linked with the schools in relation to kayaking and the paddle up programme stating that it is very encouraging to see the River Suir which is a great amenity in the Town being utilised.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged and complimented the work being carried out by the Local Enterprise Office in providing funding, support and mentoring to businesses across the sectors, highlighting their 7th place ranking nationally in 2023.
- Councillor Ambrose noted the Tourism Conference hosted in Limerick in relation to Sports and hopes that Tipperary can host an event on this subject in due course.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the Age Friendly Expo being held in Thurles, Ms. Crotty informed the members that grants are provided to the community groups to attend the event. She also stated that it is hoped to have Health and Wellbeing Workshops in each of the Municipal Districts in tandem with the PPN in Q3 2024.
- Fiona stated that she will discuss the Suir V Virtual Reality of the River Suir with Valerie Connolly, Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator and revert to the members.

4.2 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity.

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

Anne Marie Brophy informed the members that the stage 8 process for the construction of the new Library Building has commenced.

Anne Marie conveyed Anne Marie Flemings apologies to the Meeting and stated that the Tipperary Biodiversity Forum will be starting shortly and will be looking for members from the different groups e.g. PPN, National Parks and Wildlife, Birdwatch etc.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:-

- Members welcomed the €3m capital grant funding for the construction of the Library. They asked if this €3m will be replicated annually or if the shortfall in funding needs to be funded by Tipperary County Council.
- Members asked for the timeframe involved for the part 8 process.
- Members welcomed the establishment of the Biodiversity Forum.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Ms. Brophy informed the members that the €3m is a once-off capital funding and that measures are being put in place to explore further avenues for funding.
- Ms. Brophy stated that she will revert to the members regarding the timeframe for the part 8 process.

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6.1 Report of District Administrator

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

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to Jimmy Keating's' Site at Elm Park and raised the concerns of the residents regarding anti-social behaviour at this location.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on the security issues at the Sports Campus.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the progression of the Tree Strategy.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update in relation to the proposed meeting with Minister Eamonn Ryan regarding the lack of progress on the N24.
- Councillor English raised the concerns of residents regarding the use of motor bike scramblers at Carey's Castle and requested that Waterford County Council and Tipperary County Council arrange a meeting with Coillte to discuss the issue and review proposals for the area.
- Councillor English raised the issue of sulky racing on the Blueway and requested that the Gardaí be asked to patrol the area. Councillor Ambrose supported Councillor English in relation to this issue.
- Councillor English acknowledged the repair works carried out on the play equipment at Denis Burke Park and Mulcahy Park and asked for an update in relation to the timeframe for the reopening of the Elm Park Playground.
- Councillor English welcomed the success of the Camper Van Facility at Suir Island and asked if this facility can be further upgraded.
- Members welcomed the planning application submitted by Remcoll for the development of the Market Street Site and also that the owners of the Clonmel Arms Hotel are engaging with the planning section.
- Councillor Ambrose proposed that a meeting be sought with the Minister for Justice seeking clarification on the long delay regarding the installation of the CCTV in the Town. Councillor English seconded the proposal and all members spoke in support of same. They thanked the District Administrator and the team in the Borough District for all their work to date in progressing the matter.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the progress on the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme and thanked Michael Scully, A/Senior Executive Engineer for his work in progressing same.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the works to be commenced in summer months on the Blueway.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged all the work and projects progressed in the Borough District to date.
- Councillor Fitzgerald raised the issue regarding the operation of only 1 Fire Engine in a town the size of Clonmel stating that there is no cover if there is more than 1 incident at any one time. He asked that a plan be put in place to rectify the situation. Councillor Molloy and Councillor English spoke in support of this.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the Jimmy Keating Site, the District Administrator stated that she has met with the Housing Section to see if they are interested in acquiring this site through CPO.

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- The District Administrator informed the members that she is meeting with Adrian Flaherty, Sports Recreation and Facilities Officer, TUS in the afternoon to discuss the security issues and signage.
- In relation to the Tree Strategy, the District Administrator informed the members that the Consultants propose to hold a Workshop on the 24th May if the members are available to attend. The Manager informed the members that the Consultants will meet with the Town Centre Forum after Councillor Workshop.
- The District Administrator informed the members that she not received a reply from the Ministers Office regarding the N24 and will follow up on same.
- In relation to the issue regarding the use of scramblers, the District Administrator stated that she has been in contact with Coillte in relation to same and will contact Waterford County Council and the Gardaí to make them aware of the situation so that a collaborative approach can be taken to provide a solution to this issue.
- The District Administrator stated that she will follow up with the Gardaí and the Engineering Section in relation to the issue raised regarding sulky's on the Blueway.
- In relation to the re-opening of the playground at Elm Park, the District Administrator stated that she will follow up on same.
- The District Administrator informed the members that the Camper Van Site will not be developed further at the present time as a planning decision is still awaited on the development of the Suir Island Bridge which is going to have an impact on the Camper van site if the major development proceeds.
- In relation to the installation of the CCTV, the District Administrator informed the members that she had been in contact with Inspector Declan Boland and felt confident from this conversation that approval should come through in the coming weeks. Due to the ongoing delay, Sinéad Carr agreed to contact the Minister for Justice, as requested by the Members.
- In relation to the query raised in relation to the number of fire engines operating in Clonmel, the Manager informed the members that she will ask Dave Carroll, Chief Fire Officer to bring a report to the next meeting to discuss how the service operates.

6.2 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 maintenance of the grass margins on the bypass and raised the issue regarding the lack of maintenance of the green area around the Frank Drohan Monument on the Inner Relief Road and the green areas around the other monuments located within the District.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the maintenance programme to be carried out by the OPW on the stream at the Old Bridge.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the issues with the traffic lights at Queen Street and Fethard Road and repairs to the pedestrian lights at Gladstone Street.
- Councillor English stated that the boundary wall at Gordon Place/O'Neill Street was damaged and asked that this be repaired.
- Councillor English stated that the Old Boulick Stream has dried up and is now rat infested and asked that something be done to resolve this.
- Councillor English raised the issue regarding the condition of the road at Thomas Street and asked that this be looked at.

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- Councillor Fitzgerald asked if the road can be improved at Orchardstown, Clonmel stating that there is a severe drain on the road and asked if this can be made safe.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on funding for the footpaths at Lisronagh.
- Councillor Molloy raised the issue regarding a lack of bins at Marlfield Village and asked if additional bins can be provided.
- Councillor Molloy asked that inspections be carried out on the lifebuoys at Sandybanks.

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

- The District Engineer informed the members that grass cutting has commenced on the N24 and that strimming will be carried out around the monuments.
- In relation to the maintenance works on the stream at the Old Bridge, the District Engineer informed the members that she will follow up with the OPW as no update has been received to date.
- The District Engineer informed the members that detectors will be replaced in the next week or so on the traffic lights at Queen Street. In relation to the pedestrian lights at Gladstone Street, she stated that she has requested a company to look at repairing same on a temporary basis as these lights will be fully looked at when the public realm works are being carried out.
- The District Engineer informed the members that she will look at patching works to be carried out at Thomas Street, however, a road opening licence is required first for these works and they cannot be carried out until after this is complete.
- In relation to the issue raised regarding the Boulick Stream, the District Engineer stated that she will follow up on this matter.
- In relation to the boundary wall at Gordon Place/O'Neill Street, the District Engineer stated that she will follow up on same.
- The District Engineer stated that she will follow up on the road at Orchardstown and see if works can be carried out to close in a small area of the drain.
- The District Engineer informed the members that the works on the footpath at Lisronagh still have to be assessed.
- The District Engineer stated that she will review the bins at Marlfield.
- The District Engineer informed the members that inspections will be carried out on the lifebuoys.

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 May, 2024.

These were noted by the Members.

Items 7.1 to 7.7– Notice of Motion

Motion 2815 was proposed by Cllr. John Fitzgerald

That this Council would initiate the relevant procedure to facilitate Clerihan Community Council's request, that two vintage signs may be erected on the Clonmel and Cashel Roads from the Village, stating:

"Welcome to Clerihan Village"

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This request is supported by both Clerihan Community Council and Clerihan Tidy Towns.

REPLY:

Clonmel Borough District is willing to erect the vintage signs (funded by Clonmel Community Council) in Ballyclerahan provided that the official placename is on the sign. Currently, in accordance with Logainm.ie, which is the Placenames Database of Ireland and is under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the official placename for the Village is Ballyclerahan. This is also listed on the Placenames Order for Co. Tipperary. If Clonmel Borough District members wish to change the official placename, the procedure for same is set out in Part 18, Section 189 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

189.—(1) A town council may by resolution, for which at least one-half of the total number of members of the council vote in favour, adopt a proposal to change the name of the town to a proposed new name.

(2) Where a town council adopts a proposal under subsection (1) it shall—

(a) notify such persons as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Minister of the proposal and such persons shall be entitled to make submissions in writing to the council within a period of 2 months from the date of the notification, and

(b) publish a public notice of the proposal inviting submissions with regard to it from any person concerned within a period of 2 months from the date of the public notice, and

(c) consider any submissions received.

(3) Following compliance with subsection (2), the town council may by resolution, for which at least one-half of the total number of members of the council vote in favour, decide—

(a) to proceed with the proposal (in this section referred to as the “original proposal”) in accordance with the resolution under subsection (1), or

(b) to proceed with a proposal (in this section referred to as the “amended proposal”) to change the name of the town to such other name as it considers appropriate, or

(c) not to proceed with the original proposal.

(4) Where the town council has made a decision under paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (3), the town council shall seek, in accordance with regulations made by the Minister under section 196, the consent of the majority of the qualified electors in the town concerned to the proposed new name as set out in the original proposal or amended proposal as the case may be.

(5) (a) Where a majority of the qualified electors consent to the proposed new name the Cathaoirleach of the town council concerned shall make a declaration, in a form prescribed by regulations made by the Minister under section 196, confirming such consent and specifying the proposed new name and the date on which, in accordance with paragraph (b), it comes into operation.

(b) A proposal confirmed by declaration under this subsection shall come into operation—

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(i) on the 1st day of January next following the date of such declaration where the interval between the date of the declaration concerned and the 1st day of January is not less than 3 months, or

(ii) in any other case, on the first anniversary of the said 1st day of January.

(c) Every declaration made under this subsection shall be published in the manner prescribed by regulations made by the Minister under section 196 and shall be notified to such persons as may be so prescribed.

(d) Every declaration under this subsection shall be published in the Iris Oifigiúil, as soon as possible after its making.

(6) Section 196 applies to this section, as appropriate.

Seconded by Councillor Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2817 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District provide an additional safe pedestrian crossing on the Davis Road, Clonmel, adjacent to the old Barlow Factory to cater for the large number of pedestrians from the local area who shop in Dunnes Stores and Lidl etc.

REPLY:-

There are two pedestrian crossings proposed for the Davis Road Active Travel Scheme, one each either side of the entrance to Dunnes Stores. It is hoped that the scheme will go to Part 8 this year.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2818 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District require the Irish Government to hand back the upkeep and maintenance of public water and sewerage services to Local Authorities and to make water a constitutional right by holding a Referendum on same.

REPLY:-

That if members agree, the District will write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage with the request to hand back the upkeep and maintenance of public water and sewerage services to Local Authorities

Seconded by Cllr. Niall Dennehy

All the members spoke in support of this Motion. Councillor Ambrose stated that their communications system needs to be updated.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2819 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District upgrade the public lighting in Gortmalogue Housing estate as the existing lighting is in very poor condition.

REPLY:

All public lighting upgrades in Tipperary County council will be carried out as part of the PLEEP - Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project. This will take a couple of years to complete.

Seconded by Cllr. Niall Dennehy

The reply to the motion was noted with Councillor English stating that more clarification was needed on this.

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Motion 2820 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District looks at erecting stop signs for motorists exiting Beechwood Drive, Glenaleamy Drive, Knockaun Court and Linden Lea in addition to a 30km speed limit sign being erected at the entrance to Beechwood Close.

REPLY:

These signs have been added to the list of signs to be erected in Clonmel Borough District.

Seconded by Cllr. Pat English

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2821 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District carries out another speed survey on both the Silverspring road and also on the adjoining St. Patrick's Road with a view to rolling out traffic calming measures. (Ref my previous motions on this issue).

REPLY:

A speed survey on Silversprings Road was carried out in January 2023. The results of the survey indicates that the 85th percentile speed was below speed limit, therefore there is no requirement for traffic calming on this road.

A speed survey on St Patrick's Road was carried out in January 2023. The results of the survey indicates that the average speed was below speed limit and the 85th percentile speed was above the speed limit by 2km/hr therefore this road would be considered marginal and a lower priority requirement for traffic calming.

Seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy

The reply to the motion was noted. Councillor Ambrose asked that another speed survey be carried out as the speed at these locations has increased.

Motion 2822 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District carries out another speed survey on Prior Park Road with a view to rolling out traffic calming measures. (Ref my previous motions on this issue).

REPLY:

A speed survey will be carried out at Prior Park Road. The results will be reviewed to assess whether traffic calming is required at this location. If traffic calming is required, then it will be assessed on a priority basis and will be subject to the availability of funding.

Seconded by Cllr. Pat English

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 8.1 Correspondence

The correspondence as circulated with the Agenda was noted.

Item 9.1 Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to Councillor Niall Dennehy on the passing of his brother, Michael.

A vote of sympathy was extended to Councillor Richie Molloy on the passing of his uncle, Michael Dempsey.

A vote of sympathy was extended to Seamus Healy on the passing of his brother, Camillus (Cammy).

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Item 11.1 Any Other Business

The Manager addressed the meeting regarding the construction of the performance space at Abbey Street Car Park. She stated that this development is part of the transformational vision for Clonmel and will bring additional footfall to the town. The Manager informed the members that the funding received to carry out these works was specific to this project and if not utilised for this development cannot be transferred to another project.

She acknowledged that there was a lack of communication about the closing of the car park at this stage but informed the members that there was a lot of discussion at pre-design stage with the business people and the Friary Church and that there was additional consultation at part 8 stage. She also stated that the District Administrator and Project Engineer will be engaging again with the Business people in the area. She understood the concerns of the traders with the difficulty around parking and highlighted that there is ample space for parking in Suir Island car park. The Manager informed the meeting that solutions are being sought to address parking for the elderly attending mass at the Friary on Tuesday mornings.

Queries raised by the Members

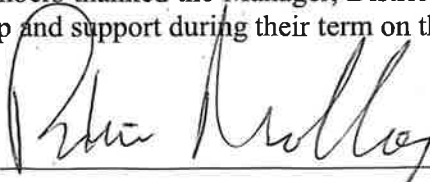
- Councillor Dennehy stated that the public realm has not yet been delivered for the town and also that Kickham Plaza should be the area used for such events.
- Members agreed with the lack of communication and recognised the benefit of the Friary Car Park to residents, businesses and mass goers.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the query raised regarding the non-delivery on the public realm project, the Manager stated that the design drawings etc. are in place but that the application for funding has been unsuccessful to date. She informed the members that funding will be sought again for this project under URDF Call 4.
- The Manager informed the members that solutions will be looked at for the elderly attending mass.

The Manager thanked the members for their support over the last 5 years for the various developments and projects that have progressed during the term of this Council and wished each of them the best of luck in the upcoming local elections.

The members thanked the Manager, District Administrator and Borough District Staff for all their help and support during their term on the Council.

Signed:  Dated: 10/7/2024
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Signed:  Dated: 10/7/2024
District Administrator

