

**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, 20th NOVEMBER, 2024**

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

In Attendance: Mr. Jonathan Cooney, A/ Director of Services
Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator
Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer
Ms. Mary Irwin, Staff Officer
Ms. Georgina O'Loughlin, A/Staff Officer.

Also in Attendance: Ms. Ita Horan, Head of Unit, LEO
Ms. Catriona Crowe, Senior Staff Officer, C & E
Ms. Triona O'Mahoney, Marketing Officer C & E
Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer.
Mr. John Fraher, Member of the Public
Mr. George Hogan, Member of the Public

Apologies: Councillor Michael Murphy, Mayor.
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer.

Councillor Pat English, Deputy Mayor welcomed all in attendance and, in particular, members of the public Mr. John Fraher and Mr. George Hogan.

1.1 Zoom Protocol

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that there were no persons in attendance by Zoom..

2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator informed the members that Councillors Siobhán Ambrose and John Fitzgerald will be excused from the meeting when Motion Number 2901 in relation to Denis Lacey Hall is being discussed.

3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 16th October, 2024.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 16th October, 2024, as presented, were proposed by Councillor John Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy and agreed by all.

Arising from Minutes

There was an amendment to the minutes of the 16th October, 2024. Councillor Dennehy requested that the minutes be amended as follows:-

“Councillor Dennehy asked for categoric reassurance without delay that the S. 183 adopted by the Plenary Council on 9th December, 2019 was not flawed in any shape or form”. This was seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy. This amendment has been made.

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4.1 Adoption of Clonmel Borough District Tree Strategy 2024 – 2029

The Tree Strategy, as presented, was proposed by Councillor Niall Dennehy, seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy and agreed by all. Members welcomed the Tree Strategy and congratulated all who were involved in compiling it. They stated that is a great achievement for the town of Clonmel to be the first District in the County to have a Tree Strategy. Members complimented Eric Ryan and Anthony O’Keeffe, Garden Section on the great work carried out by them in the town.

The District Administrator concurred with the Members in thanking Eric and Anthony and thanked Therese Gregory in the Borough District Office for her work in compiling the information for input into the Strategy.

4.2 Plebiscite on Townland name change.

The proposal to commence the process to determine if the name of the village of Ballyclerahan changes to Clerihan was proposed by Councillor Pat English and seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose. A vote was taken and all members were in agreement to proceed.

5.1 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Economic, Community and Rural Development.

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

Ita Horan highlighted the following initiatives which were not included on the report:-

- **Direct Grant Aid Measures**
20 jobs created in the Clonmel Area in the manufacturing and engineering sectors.
- **Energy Efficiency Grants**
This is a new initiative for all sectors with a maximum grant of €10,000 available to help purchase capital assets such as refrigerators, ovens etc.
- **Subscription Software Grant**
This grant is available to assist businesses with digital development. The maximum grant payable is €5,000.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English welcomed the 20 new jobs being created in manufacturing and engineering in the Clonmel area.
- In relation to the funding for the motorcycle tourism feasibility study, Councillor Ambrose asked if the motorcycle clubs have overcome the difficulties regarding insurance.
- Councillor Ambrose made reference to the closure of Mount Mellerey.
- Councillor Ambrose stated that it is great to see Tipperary being showcased and asked if it would be possible to have a pull-out section on Tipperary in the Cork Examiner stating that it would be very beneficial to businesses etc.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the launch of the Tipperary Gift Card and asked if it is only available to purchase in the Credit Union or will it be available in other retail outlets.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the funding allocated to St. Mary’s Choral Society under the Community Recognition Fund for the refurbishment of the White Memorial Theatre on Wolfe Tone Street.

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Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the availability for purchase of the Tipperary Gift Card, Ita Horan stated that she will check with Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer to see if other outlets will be available
- In relation to the feasibility study for motor cycles, Triona O'Mahoney informed the members that the consultants are following up on the insurance issues.
- Ms. O'Mahoney stated that Mount Mellery was being used for accommodation and proved to be very successful and funding options regarding the development of a wellness centre will be explored.
- Ms. O'Mahoney informed the members that she will check out the cost of inserting a pull-out on Tipperary into the Cork Examiner but that it may not be possible due to budget constraints.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Ita, Catriona and Triona for their attendance at the meeting.

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

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

Damien Dullaghan informed the members that there is a change of personnel in the Clonmel Library with the recent retirement of Anne Marie Mullins from her position as Executive Librarian and the appointment of Paul Devane to this position.

Mr. Dullaghan informed the members that the final design for the library is nearing completion and statutory reports required for the planning process were being prepared. He stated that a grant of €3m has been allocated from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the construction of the library. However, there is still a significant shortfall needing to be financed. He informed the meeting that a new library of similar size to Clonmel has recently opened in Ennis.

Melanie Scott gave a presentation on "Beelines" which is a new piece of artwork that has been commissioned for installation at the N24 Cahir Road Roundabout, Ballingarrane, Clonmel. This piece is being funded by the OPW & Tipperary County Council. Melanie explained that they collaborated with the TII in terms of road safety regarding sightlines to get the specific area where the piece will be located.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English asked for the timeframe for part 8 regarding the construction of the library.
- Councillor Dennehy asked for the timeframe for the construction of the new library in view of the fact that Ennis were several years ahead of Clonmel with their application and only opened recently.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for information on the specification given to the artists for the artwork and if there will be an information sign on the roundabout giving details on the piece.
- Members stated that they were delighted to see the artwork being installed on the roundabout.
- Councillor English complimented Melanie and all involved in the recent events held for Culture Night on the Plaza.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the timeframe for the construction of the library, Mr. Dullaghan informed the members that it is a slow process with a project of this size. The application will be

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lodged within the next couple of months and will go to public consultation. He stated that it may take 18 months to 2 years for completion once funding is available.

- In relation to the specification given to the artists, Melanie Scott explained that there was an open brief given. Information was given on Clonmel and the artists also visited the town. The artist was selected by an independent selection panel in line with national guidelines. It was a 7 member panel with representatives both locally and nationally. There will be information on the website before the artwork is installed. It is hoped that the foundations will be in place before Christmas with the piece in place early in the New Year.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Damian and Melanie for their attendance at the meeting.

Prior to discussion on the District Administrators Report, Councillor Dennehy asked the District Administrator why his Notice of Motion was not included on the agenda. He stated that he had only been notified at the 11th hour regarding its non-inclusion and that this is the second time a Motion submitted by him has not been included on the agenda. He stressed that it is the members who develop and set policy and the Executive who implement this policy. The District Administrator replied that Councillor Dennehy had been informed in the appropriate manner regarding the non-inclusion of the Notice of Motion as Clonmel Borough District does not have the power to dispose of land which is a matter for Plenary Council. Councillor Dennehy attempted to propose his Motion which was supported by Councillors Pat English and Richie Molloy. However, the District Administrator again informed Councillor Dennehy that as the Motion was not on the Agenda it could not be proposed or seconded. Mr. Jonathan Cooney stated that the Executive has to be guided by legislation and that the disposal of land is a matter for plenary council. Councillor Dennehy insisted that the matter be passed onto Plenary Council. Mr. Cooney informed Councillor Dennehy that he is fully entitled to forward his Motion for inclusion at the Plenary Meeting but that it can only be submitted by him. This concluded the matter.

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 Ambrose expressed her thanks to the District Administrator and Therese Gregory for their work in organising the installation of the refuse bin at the Sports Hub.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update in relation to the erection of the signage and the provision of all-day toilet facilities at the Sports Hub which are currently only operational when the Manager is on site.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update in relation to the provision of the student accommodation at the Kickham Barracks Site.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there had been engagement with local clubs in the town regarding the provision of their facilities for use by camper vans during festivals and events.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to the works at Suir Island Gardens.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update in relation to the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme.

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- Members asked if there was an update from the Garda Commissioners Office in relation to the erection of the CCTV in the town and requested that a letter be sent to ascertain the reason for the delay on this when the new Minister for Justice is appointed
- Following the General Election Process, members requested that a letter be sent to the Minister for Transport regarding the N24 stating that a by-pass for Clonmel needs to be considered in the overall proposal for the N24.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update from the Housing Section in relation to the development of the Jimmy Keating Site.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on the security issues at the Sports Hub.
- Councillor English expressed his disappointment at the lack of progress on the Clonmel Public Realm.
- In relation to the Suir Island Amenity Park and Bridge, Councillor English asked for the timeframe involved in obtaining the decision of An Bord Pleanala.
- Councillor English welcomed the erection of the Christmas Lights and the new lights on the Plaza. He congratulated the Borough District Staff involved in the organisation of a very successful Zombie Walk and festivities on the Kickham Plaza on Halloween Night. Members concurred with Councillor English on this.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In reply to the query raised regarding the signage at the Sports Hub, the District Administrator informed the members that she has been in contact with Aidan O'Flaherty, Sports Facility Co-Ordinator and he has agreed to erect new signage at the entrance.
- The District Administrator stated that she has been in contact with TUS in relation to the toilet facilities and she will continue to try to advance the installation of a coin operated mechanism on one or two of the toilets.
- In relation to the installation of the CCTV, the District Administrator stated that she has forwarded a letter to Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee and to the Commissioners Office and is awaiting a reply.
- The District Administrator informed the meeting that there is no further update on the student accommodation as the footprint for TUS/ETB needs to be assessed before land can be acquired for the construction of accommodation.
- In relation to the use of sports clubs by camper vans during festivals and events, the District Administrator explained that some of the clubs in the town would not have the appropriate facilities to offer but can be looked at if such an event arises. She has advised them about the Community Recognition Grants which they may be able to avail of to upgrade/improve their facilities.
- The District Administrator informed the members that work is progressing on Suir Island Gardens in accordance with the Contractors Works Programme. She also stated that additional funding has been received from LAWPRO for the inclusion of nature-based solutions as part of the project.
- In relation to the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme, the District Administrator informed the members that there is no further update to the report as circulated with the Agenda.
- In relation to the query raised regarding Jimmy Keatings Shop, the District Administrator informed the meeting that this is being dealt with by the Town Regeneration Team. This team has been established to tackle dereliction/vacant

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properties throughout the county by engaging with property owners to discuss their plans for their premises that have been left vacant/derelect for a number of years.

- The District Administrator stated that further information was requested from An Bord Pleanála in relation to the Suir Island Amenity Park and Bridge which has been submitted and an outcome is awaited.
- The District Administrator informed the members that the Christmas Lights will be turned on at the end of November and that Santa Claus is in town on the 7th December. She also highlighted the Christmas Markets being held on the 14th and 15th December on Kickham Plaza which are being organised by the secondary schools in Clonmel.

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 Ambrose asked for an update on the timeframe involved for the approval of funding for works under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme and requested confirmation that funding for the bends at Rathronan and Ballybeg have been included in the application.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the erection of signage and the pruning of trees at Lus-na-Greine.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the installation of the toilet facilities and drinking water stations on the Blueway.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the speed survey at Dromard .
- Councillor Dennehy asked for an update on the development of the Clonmel Arms Hotel.
- Councillor Molloy stated that the trees are overgrown at Cashel Court and Ardgeeha/Heywood Drive and asked if these can be pruned.
- Councillor Molloy raised an issue regarding mould in one of the Local Authority Houses and asked that this be looked at.
- Councillor English asked if there was progress on the works to be carried out on the River Suir by the OPW.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the repair of the stone wall at Gordon Place Car Park.
- Councillor English raised the issue of public lighting outages around the town and asked that these be repaired.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the road markings at Dunnes Stores and thanked the Borough District Staff for arranging the relining of Cashel Road.
- Councillor English asked if speed ramps can be installed in Summerhill, Ard Gaoithe and Honeyview Estate if the cost of installing raised platforms is too expensive.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- The District Engineer informed the members that the timeframe for approval for funding under the low-cost safety scheme is February/March, 2025. Works at Rathronan have been included in the application.
- In relation to the signage at Lus na Greine, the District Engineer informed the members that signs were currently being erected and that the Tree Surgeon will be commencing pruning works at the end of the week.

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- The District Engineer stated that the installation of toilets on the Blueway was not feasible and that the installation of a drinking water station will be reviewed and considered for the next application for ORIS Funding.
- In relation to the speed survey at Dromard, the District Engineer stated that this is being undertaken.
- The District Engineer stated that an application for planning has not been received to date from the owner of the Clonmel Arms Hotel.
- In relation to the pruning of trees on the N24, the District Engineer stated that funding to be provided by the TII to carry out these works. A GeoApp Funding Application has been made. The pruning of trees at Cashel Court will be reviewed.
- The District Engineer informed the members that she will forward the issue regarding mould to the Housing Section for follow up.
- In relation to the public lighting outages, the District Engineer will follow up with the Roads Section.
- The District Engineer confirmed that the road markings at Dunne Stores are on the list to be refreshed.
- Regarding the raised platforms, the District Engineer stated that multiple quotes are required and therefore these works need to go back out to tender.
- In relation to works to be carried out by the OPW on the streams, the District Engineer stated that Consultants from the OPW have carried out site surveys in the last week and their report is awaited.

6.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

The Report was noted by the Members.

Item 7.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 15th November, 2024.

These were noted by the Members.

Items 8.1 to 8.7– Notice of Motion

Motion 2892 was proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy

That Clonmel Borough District replace the gate leading into laneway of houses in River Street in Clonmel as it's in very poor condition and leading to security concerns of local residents..

REPLY:

A new gate has been ordered to replace the existing gate. It is expected that this will be replaced before the end of the year.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2900 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District look at providing a safe exit for the residents of Wheatfields/Ashgrove Drive, Lawn, and Court/Glenview Close/Ballingarane and Garden Close Estates. The existing T-Junction onto the R707 Cahir Road is very unsafe for anyone trying to exit onto the Cahir Road.

REPLY:-

The existing T-Junction between the L-7624-0 and the R-707 at Ballingarrane has adequate sightlines as per the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and therefore can be considered safe for cars exiting on to the R707 Cahir Road.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

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Councillor English asked the District Engineer to review again in terms of speed.

Motion 2901 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District request Tipperary County Council to purchase the Landmark Historical Building the Denis Lacey Memorial Hall in Clonmel. This historical building could facilitate a multitude of Cultural and Community groups.

Councillor Ambrose excused herself from the meeting during this motion.

Councillor Fitzgerald was not present at the meeting at this stage as he had excused himself from the meeting earlier.

REPLY:-

Tipperary County Council are actively working on the design of a new Library on Emmett Street, Clonmel. Once this is completed, this building will have both a performance space, lecture room and Art Gallery. It would be the view of the Council to concentrate its resources on delivering this project, rather than investing in another building for Cultural Services.

Seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Councillor Dennehy asked if any of the Councillors were consulted on the above.

Councillor English requested that this Motion be proposed at Plenary Council.

Motion 2902 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District request the National Transport Authority to look at extending the Clonmel Town bus service to the Old Bridge Community to ensure the area has a regular bus service into Clonmel Town Centre.

REPLY:

District Administrator has written to both the NTA (National Transport Authority) and to the general manager of Local Link Tipperary, who are responsible for Clonmel Bus Service, requesting the extension of the bus service to the Old Bridge area of the town. Local Link manager has responded to say that there are no immediate plans to extend the Clonmel service to the Oldbridge area of Clonmel and that the TFI Local Link 856 Dungarvan to Clonmel service travels through Oldbridge and residents of Oldbridge can use this service to connect to the Town Bus service at the Showgrounds stops. We await response from the NTA.

Seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2903 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

What is the latest update regarding both the rollout of the proposed new entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery on St. Patrick's Road and also a timeframe for the second phase of the new extension of the cemetery?

REPLY:

The works at the entrance to St Patrick's Cemetery are currently being retendered. The original tender competition was run earlier in the year however, the contractors who tendered are no longer willing to stand over their tenders due to inflation. It is hoped to have updated tenders for the entrance works in early December. The works will proceed subject to budget approval from the Environment Section.

Seconded by Cllr. Pat English

The reply to the motion was noted.

Councillor Ambrose asked if the funding was ringfenced and Nicola Keating informed the meeting that this funding is approved.

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Motion 2904 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That under future road programmes that consideration is given for the re-surfacing of sections of the road network within the Old Toberaheena Estate on the Cahir Road.

REPLY: The Old Toberaheena Estate will be added to the list of roads for consideration for the next road works programme.

Seconded by Cllr. Niall Dennehy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2095 was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

That funding is sourced through either future roads programmes, roads schemes or climate action initiatives to support the cost of re-surfacing the road network that leads up to the Holy Year Cross in Killusty.

REPLY:

The L-25102-0 at Killusty South is classed as a local tertiary road and as such can only be considered for resurfacing through the Community Involvement Scheme. This will require an application from the local residents when the scheme reopens. New applications will be invited at the end of 2025. In relation to Climate Adaptation works, this can be added to the list of works for consideration when the 2026 Climate Adaptation fund are made next year.

Seconded by Cllr. Pat English

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 9.1 Correspondence


There was no correspondence to be noted.

Item 10.1 Votes of Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was passed to Anne Marie Mullins on her retirement from the Library and to Paul Devane on his new role.

11.1 Any other Business

There was no other business discussed.

Signed: 

Deputy Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Dated: 20/11/24

Signed: 

District Administrator

Dated: 20/11/24