

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, 25TH MARCH, 2026

Present: Councillor Pat English, Mayor
Councillor Siobhán Ambrose
Councillor John Fitzgerald
Councillor Niall P. Dennehy
Councillor Tom Acheson

In Attendance: Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services
Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator
Ms. Gillian Flynn, District Engineer
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer
Ms. Mary Irwin, Staff Officer
Ms. Georgina O'Loughlin, Asst. Staff Officer

Also in Attendance: Ms. Marie O'Donnell, A/Administrative Officer, LASNTG
Ms. Gillian Barry, Administrative Officer, Housing
Ms. Breda Ryan, Administrative Officer, Housing
Mr. Shaun Lonergan, Executive Engineer, Housing

Apologies: Cllr. Richie Molloy

The Mayor opened the Meeting by observing a minute silence in memory of Ms. Vera Hewitt, former Mayor of Clonmel who passed away on the 5th March, 2026 RIP.

The Mayor noted that this would be the final meeting of Clonmel Borough District that Carol Creighton would attend in her role as District Administrator. He expressed his gratitude for her dedication and commitment to promoting the town of Clonmel, praising her passion and enthusiasm in advancing numerous projects throughout the town. He wished Carol every success in her new role.

All the members present joined with the Mayor in acknowledging Carol's drive and passion for improving the Borough District and the town. They highlighted her open-door policy and acknowledged the strong, collaborative working relationship between Carol and the elected members. They extended their best wishes to her as she begins her new role.

Jonathan Cooney also commended Carol's enthusiasm for the town and recognised the significant growth and development of festivals and events during her time in the Borough District. He joined with the Mayor and Members in wishing Carol every success in her new position.

Carol thanked the Mayor, Members and Jonathan for their good wishes. She said it was a great privilege to serve as District Administrator in the Borough District. She thanked the Members for their ongoing support in progressing the various projects and acknowledged the media for their positive coverage of the work being undertaken. She spoke about the strong community spirit within the town and expressed her appreciation to all the community and voluntary groups who organise and participate in events in the town. She extended her gratitude to Jonathan Cooney and Sinéad Carr, C.E for their guidance and assistance throughout her time in the role.

Carol further thanked the entire Borough District Team; Indoor, Outdoor and Technical staff for their continued support.

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Finally, she wished Marie O'Donnell every success as she takes up the role of District Administrator.

1.1 Zoom Protocol

The Mayor confirmed with Katie O'Donovan, member of the Media who was joining the meeting by Zoom that she could hear all other speakers.

2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator informed the Meeting that Councillor Pat English will be excused from the Meeting when the allocation of funding under the Tipperary Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2026 is being discussed.

3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th February, 2026.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 18th February, 2026, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Tom Acheson, seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

3.2 Minutes of Standing Orders Committee Meeting held on the 5th February, 2026

The minutes of the Standing Orders Committee Meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 5th February, 2026 as presented, were proposed by Councillor John Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson and agreed by all.

3.3 Minutes of Special Meeting held on the 4th March, 2026.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 4th March, 2026 were proposed by Councillor John Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson and agreed by all.

3.4 Minutes of Special Meeting held on 9th March, 2026.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 9th March, 2026 were proposed by Councillor John Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson and agreed by all.

4.1 Attendance of Representative from Housing Directorate.

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

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the new housing scheme grants.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the Affordable Housing Schemes
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the significant number of housing projects underway and noted their positive impact in reducing the housing waiting list.
- Councillor Ambrose asked about the expected timeframe for the turnaround of vacant houses.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the availability of housing grants for older people.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the number of individuals using the 9 – 9 service on Thomas Street.
- Councillor English raised the issue of income thresholds for housing applicants and requested that a letter be sent to the Department seeking a review of these thresholds for Tipperary with a view to aligning them with neighbouring counties.
- Councillor English welcomed the phased delivery of the 61 houses at Thomas Street and requested an updated position regarding Cuirt an Rí.

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- Councillor English asked for an update on the progress of the development of the 30 houses at Coleville Woods.
- In relation to the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, Councillor English asked for the number of properties in Clonmel Borough District that will be included under this Scheme in 2026.
- Councillor English noted that only 1 Housing Loan Application has been approved countywide and expressed concern regarding this low approval rate.
- Councillor English noted that the majority of housing projects are currently at construction stage and enquired whether any new schemes are due to commence.
- Councillor Dennehy asked whether any concession could be granted to a housing applicant who missed the reply deadline for a tenancy offer due to being delayed on holidays as a result of the conflict in the Middle East.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In reply to the query raised in relation to the housing grant scheme, Gillian Barry informed the members that the Department has allocated €5.6 million grant funding, representing an increase of 13% on last year's figure.
- Regarding the query raised on affordable housing schemes, Gillian Barry advised the members that a final decision from the Department is still awaited
- Gillian Flynn, District Engineer advised the members that it is difficult to give a timeframe for repair of vacant houses as the duration depends on the extent of works required for each property.
- In relation to the query raised concerning income thresholds for housing applicants, Gillian Barry agreed to contact the Department to seek further updates on same.
- In response to the query raised on the low approval rate for housing loans, Gillian Barry noted that approvals are based on strict eligibility criteria. She will contact neighbouring Councils to compare approval rates but reminded members that all local authorities operate under the same national policy and criteria.
- Gillian Barry to contact Councillor Dennehy to get the details of his query to clarify the position.
- Responding to the query raised in relation to the 9 – 9 accommodation, Breda Ryan informed the members that 16 is the maximum number accommodated. She stated that the day service is operating well and it is helpful having different agencies involved.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the 61 houses on Thomas Street, Shaun Lonergan advised the members that construction is ongoing but that there is a current live planning application in relation to the houses near Cuirt an Rí and a full update cannot be given until planning approval has been finalised.
- Shaun Lonergan informed the members that construction is ongoing on the houses at Coleville Woods and that an application for CALF (Capital Advanced Leasing Facility) funding is awaiting Departmental Approval.
- Responding to the query raised in relation to the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, Shaun Lonergan informed the members that surveys are currently being carried out on 30 units in Clonmel Borough District and will proceed to tender once these have been completed.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the commencement of new housing schemes, Mr. Lonergan informed the members that the Council is always open to progressing new schemes as opportunities arise.

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The Mayor thanked Gillian, Breda and Shaun for their attendance at the meeting.

5.1 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 welcomed the allocation of funding for the Enhancement and Painting Scheme 2026.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the roll-out of the 1st phase of CCTV.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the roll-out of the over-the-shop grant.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the works on the Kickham Barracks Chapel.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked Carol Creighton and Gillian Flynn for all their work in progressing the development of the Kickham Guard House Café.
- Councillor Ambrose requested that the NTA be contacted in relation to the timeframe for the roll-out of phase 2 of the Town Bus Service.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the works progressing on the new Garda Station at Kickham Barracks.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to URDF Call 4 on foot of criteria and guidance notes which were issued to County Councils on the 12th March for the current Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund. Councillor English noted that there are 2 categories and asked if an application will be submitted for both.
- Councillor English spoke about the great success of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and complimented all the participating groups including St. Patrick's Day Committee, Bianconi Twinning Committee, St. Patricks Well Committee, Gardaí, Civil Defence and Clonmel BD Staff both indoor and outdoor for organising a safe and fun event. Members concurred with Councillor English in acknowledging the success of the parade.
- Councillor English asked if the new toilet facilities in the STAC Chapel will be made available for use during festivals and events on the Plaza.
- Cllr. English welcomed the ongoing works at the Garda Station. However, he expressed concerns about the current noise levels associated with piling and requested that the contractor be asked to review the timing of the works, possibly starting an hour later in the morning and compensating with an additional hour in the evening.
- Councillor English raised the issue of the digger being left in the old section of St. Patrick's Cemetery during burials and asked whether it could be removed and brought back once the burial is over, as in some cases it is blocking access to graves.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- In relation to the query raised on URDF Call 4, Carol Creighton, District Administrator informed the members that a Steering Group has been established and currently working on the application to have it ready for submission before the closing date of the 1st May, 2026.
- Responding to the query raised in relation to the town bus, the District Administrator informed the members that she will contact the NTA to arrange a review meeting to discuss the roll-out of the next phase of the town bus service.
- In response to the query raised regarding the works on the Garda Station, the District Administrator agreed to contact the Contractor to check if works can commence at a later time. She also advised that the piling works are due to be completed within the next week or two.

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- In relation to the use of the toilet facilities at the STAC Chapel during festivals and events, the District Administrator informed the members that it will be necessary to contact the Director of STAC to agree this.
- Regarding the query raised in relation to the installation of CCTV, the District Administrator advised the members that the cost estimate for the project has been prepared and that the Project Engineer is working with the Consultants to agree the project phasing to avail of grant funding from the Department.
- Replying to the query raised in relation to St. Patrick's Cemetery, the District Engineer informed the members that it is not possible to remove the digger during burials due to the restricted layout of the old section of the cemetery. However, a cover will be provided to cover the digger during burials and alternative pedestrian access to the burial plot will be arranged.

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 Ambrose asked for the timeframe for the installation of the 2 drinking water stations on the Blueway.
- Councillor Ambrose referred to the feedback received from the NTA and T.I.I. in relation to the junction at Ormonde Stores and asked for an update on the timeframe for the potential new design requested.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if a visit to Suir Island Gardens can be arranged.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if the wall on the outside of St. Patrick's Cemetery can be extended. She also asked for an update on available funding to install a 2nd Columbarium.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on Part 8 Traffic Calming measures at the Loretto School.
- Councillor Ambrose highlighted the deteriorating condition of sections of Coleville Road and requested that repair works be undertaken.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked the District Engineer and Staff for the works carried out on Glenconnor Road.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for the timeframe for commencement of works on the Old Bridge to Suir Blueway Link.
- Members asked for an update on the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- Councillor English raised concerns regarding the lack of litter bins in Irishtown and asked if this can be addressed.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to works at Suir Island Gardens.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the repair of the public lights at Cnoc Aoibheann.
- Councillor English asked if a reply has been received from the Department in relation to the application made for emergency funding to repair roads in the town damaged by the recent heavy rain.
- Councillor English asked for a completion date for the reinstatement of the damaged wall at Toberaheena Well.
- Councillor English asked for the timeframe for repair of the 1798 man outside the Town Hall, Parnell Street.
- Councillor English asked when repair works will be carried out on the Heywood Road.

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Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the installation of the drinking water stations on the Blueway, the District Engineer informed the members that they should be installed by the end of June once the connection has been finalised with Uisce Eireann.
- Regarding the query raised in relation to the junction at Ormonde Stores, the District Engineer informed the members that the consultants are reviewing 3 additional options to be submitted back to the NTA and TII as requested.
- The District Engineer informed the members that she will review the request to install a second columbarium in St. Patrick's Cemetery in consultation with the Environment Section. She also advised the members that it is proposed to incorporate an additional row of burial spaces into the cemetery, if required.
- In reply to the query raised regarding the additional works at Toberaheena Well, the District Engineer informed the members that these works will be completed by mid-May.
- Responding to the query raised on the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme, the District Engineer informed the members that updates on the Scheme will be given at the Plenary Meeting.
- The District Engineer advised the members that the preliminary design has to be reviewed and updated and reissued to the NTA for their consideration prior to approval to proceed to Part 8 in relation to traffic calming measures at Loretto School.
- In relation to the Coleville Road, the District Engineer advised the members that patching works will be carried out, where required, and works will be reviewed in 2027 under the Schedule of Road Works Programme.
- The District Engineer informed the members that it is anticipated that works will commence in May on the Glenconnor Road.
- The District Engineer informed the members that construction of the Old Bridge to Suir Blueway Link will commence in 2027 subject to funding.
- Responding to the query raised regarding the lack of litter bins in Irishtown, the District Engineer stated that she will review and install bins, if necessary.
- The District Engineer informed the members that reinstatement works will commence on the Heywood Road over the Easter holidays with works being carried out from the railway line to the N24.
- The District Engineer advised the members that repairs to the 1798 man will commence at the end of April.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the allocation of additional emergency funding for road repairs, the District Engineer informed the members that a reply had not been received from the Department.
- The District Engineer advised the members that she has raised the public lighting issue at Cnoc Aoibheann with Michael Tierney, Executive Engineer and this will be resolved as soon as possible.
- The District Administrator informed the members that a visit to Suir Island Gardens has been organised for Tuesday next 31st March at 10.00 a.m.

Councillor Pat English excused himself from the meeting and Councillor Siobhán Ambrose chaired the remainder of the meeting.

5.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

The Report was noted by the Members.

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5.4 Consideration of Tipperary Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2026 and approval of "Community" category grant awards

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was noted.

The Report was proposed by Councillor John Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson and agreed by all.

5.5 Consideration and Adoption of General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2026.

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was noted.

The Report was proposed by Councillor Tom Acheson, seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

Item 6.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 20th March, 2026.

These were noted.

Items 7.1 to 7.3– Notice of Motion

In the absence of Councillor Richie Molloy, it was proposed by Councillor John Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson and agreed by all that the Notices of Motion as listed on the Agenda in his name be deferred, as no request was submitted to have them moved at the meeting.

Item 8.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for noting.

Item 9.1 Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to:-

The McGrath Family on the passing of Jackie McGrath

The Casey Family on the passing of John Casey

The Keating Family on the passing of Jimmy Keating.

10.1 Any other Business

There was no further business discussed.

Signed: 
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Dated: 15th April 2026

Signed: 
District Administrator

Dated: 15th April, 2026