

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT
MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 4.30 p.m. IN THE TOWN HALL, PARNELL
STREET, CLONMEL, CO. TIPPERARY ON WEDNESDAY, 15th JANUARY, 2020.**

Present: Councillor Garret Ahearn, Mayor
Councillor Richie Molloy
Councillor Niall P Dennehy
Councillor Pat English

In attendance: Ms. Clare Curley, Director of Services
Mr. Eoin Powell, District Engineer
Mr. Michael Moroney, District Administrator
Ms. Marie O'Donnell, Staff Officer

Also in attendance: Mr. Sean Lonergan, A/Senior Executive
Officer
Ms. Cora Horgan, CEO, Youth Work Ireland
Tipperary
Mr. Pdraig Ryan, Senior Social Worker
Ms. Marian O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Cora Morrissey, Administrative Officer
Ms. Colette Moloney, Senior Executive
Scientist

Apologies: Ms. Sinead Carr, District Manager
Councillor Siobhán Ambrose
Councillor Michael Murphy

Item 1.1 – Minutes of October monthly meeting

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 18th December, 2019, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Niall P. Dennehy, seconded by Councillor Pat English, and agreed by all.

Matters Arising: Cllr. Niall P. Dennehy requested that it be reflected in the minutes that in proposing the vote of congratulations for Cllr. Michael Murphy on his reappointment as Head of the Irish Delegation to the EU Committee of the Regions that he had said he was hoping for benefit to accrue from this appointment to Clonmel in a local government sense.

Item 2.1 – Refugee Resettlement Programme. Presentation by Youth Ireland Tipperary (Implementing Partner)

Mr. Sean Lonergan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Cora Morrissey, CEO, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary and Mr. Pdraig Ryan, Senior Social Worker gave a presentation in relation to the settlement of Syrian refugees in towns in Co Tipperary 2020. A briefing note was circulated to the members.

Key Points Raised:

- Number of Syrian families involved and how many people involved in total
- Timeframe for move to Tipperary
- Numbers coming to Tipperary being proportionate to share of national population
- Criteria used in selecting the towns where they will be housed.

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- Services that will be available to help the newcomers settle in their new communities.
- Educational needs of the refugees
- Reasons why Youth Work Ireland Tipperary were chosen for the resettlement project
- Details of where the refugees are currently living and what circumstances they have come from
- How it will impact on individuals currently on the Housing Waiting list.

The following queries were raised by members:

- All members welcomed the refugees to Clonmel and encouraged members of the public to give them the support and respect that they deserve.
- Members acknowledged the support that Youth Work Ireland – Tipperary will bring to the initiative. The details and information that was presented was impressive and all members wished the best to all the refugees that will set up their new lives in Clonmel and surrounding areas.
- The report mentions that there are 16 families, the question of how many people that equated to was asked by members.
- Where in Clonmel are the families being put, was this part of a consultancy process?
- Will this lead to a strain on G.P.'s and medical services locally as there already seems to be a strain on these type of services locally?
- We need to get word out to the Community that the refugees have gone through a vetting process and they are of no threat to the Community.
- Who is going to fund this initiative?
- Will it displace anybody who is currently on the housing waiting list?
- It was agreed by all members that the Refugees would be welcomed into communities and local sports and education and could see the positive benefits of this within the community.
- Members agreed that the County of Tipperary had a good reputation for welcoming refugees, as has happened in Thurles and Borrisakane.
- Has Clonmel already been assessed as a place that can cater for the Refugees?
- Other concerns from the general public are that this may put added pressure and burden on the already strained housing system. People need to be re-assured that this isn't the case and what way it will affect them.
- The members agreed it is their job as local representatives to lead the way in welcoming these Refugees from Syria.

Members' queries and issues were responded to as follows:-

- Tipperary County Council is obliged to respond to humanitarian issues. After being assessed it was shown that Clonmel was able to provide services required to house the Syrian refugees.
- Given the very low number of houses that will be set aside for the refugees in the overall context of the Council's housing programme, it represents a very low percentage of the housing stock. It will not affect the current housing list and the Council are aware of the concerns that the public have and the information will need to be put out there to this effect.

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- Serious thought has been put in place and with the good reputation that Tipperary has as a county for housing refugees we need to now follow the example set in this settlement of Syrians in Clonmel.
- People may not be aware that these people who came from their homes in Syria under very hostile conditions and have been living in camps for approx. 3 to 4 years and a period of time spent in reception centres. This is all before they have come to this stage of being located in towns around the Country.
- 240 Syrians have been assessed by Gardai to date.
- Funding for this initiative is provided by the Government but the housing element of the initiative is funded by the local authority.
- There will be consultation with members of the public to answer any concerns that they may have in relation to the settlement of the Syrian refugees.
- Currently there is no breakdown of the amount of members in each of the 16 families that will come to Clonmel.
- Tipperary County Council will be as transparent as possible in this whole process.
- When met with the Department of Justice it was confirmed that it was best policy to give the Syrian refugees Local Authority owned houses as opposed to houses from RAS or HAP schemes.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Sean Lonergan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Cora Horgan, CEO, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary and Pdraig Ryan, Senior Social Worker for their attendance and report.

Item 2.2 – Attendance of Rep from Directorate Environment & Climate Change

Ms Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Ms Cora Morrissey, Administrative Officer and Ms. Collette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Environment & Climate Change Directorate.

Key issues included:

- Burial Grounds
- Community Environment Action Fund 2019
- Burial Ground & Tidy Town Grants
- SPC Meetings
- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses
- Derelict Sites
- Litter Enforcement
- Public Awareness
- Waste Management
- Civic Amenity Sites
- Environment Protection
- Climate & Energy
- Complaints

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The following queries were raised by members:

- What is the current status of tackling derelict properties; reference was made to properties at Queen Street and Morton Street? Given the shortage of social houses in Clonmel people are frustrated when they see these properties lying idle and derelict in the town. Can we go for compulsory purchase order on these two properties?
- Dog fouling continues to be an issue on the Blueway; can the Council have more mutt dispenser bags and bins available along this area?
- Was there a previous commitment to put bins on all access points to the Blueway?

Members' queries and issues were responded to as follows:-

- The Council are actively working on rendering properties non-derelict. There are some issues with anti-social behaviours and in some high profile areas we need to engage with other stakeholders.
- Currently access points at Presentation Convent, Careys Slip and Green Lane have bins with mutt dispensers.
- The Council agree to investigate to see if more bins can be installed along the Blueway.

The Mayor thanked Ms Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Ms Cora Morrissey, Administrative Officer and Ms. Collette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist from the Environment and Climate Change Directorate for their attendance and report.

Item 3.1 – Report of District Administrator

The District Administrator report was circulated to Members with the agenda and the following queries were raised by Members:

- No matters arising from the District Administrators Report.

Item 3.2 – Report of District Engineer

The District Engineer report was circulated to Members with the agenda and the following queries were raised by Members:

- Cllr. Richie Molloy stated that the recent pedestrian fatality on the Frank Drohan Road highlights the importance and need for lighting along this stretch of the walkway adjacent to the road. Cllr Pat English asked would it be possible to put in ducting while works were going on so that would save digging up the roads again if lighting was to go in on that stretch of road? Cllr. Garret Ahearn acknowledged the sensitivity of the topic being discussed. He stated that the Council now has additional funding for lighting to continue along the N24 walkway/cycle lane due to the local property tax (LPT) increase voted through which allows for these type of projects/works to be carried out.
- Members of the public are frustrated over the amount of money being spent on the N24 as they cannot understand how this work was necessary, road seemed to be in good condition prior to the commencement of the works. They feel the money would have been

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better spent providing funding for lighting on the walkway and to have it lit up in the evenings to provide light for walkers and cyclist.

- Members requested that a letter go to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to express the concerns of the members of the public regarding the condition of the road and to ask if they can confirm that it will be finished properly.
- Cllr. Richie Molloy asked that steps in Mulcahy Park near the river be looked at as they are very slippy and also eroded.
- Cllr. Pat English asked if there was any update on his previous notice of motion regarding Barron Park?

Members' queries were responded to as follows:

- Mr. Michael Moroney, District Administrator said in relation to the recent fatality on the N24 walkway that the Council's sympathies are with the family of the deceased at this time. He said that the Council was examining possible funding options for this work and that this was an ongoing process. But that he was hopeful that the Council would be in a position to come back with a proposal regarding same.
- Mr. Eoin Powell, District Engineer stated in relation to the condition of the road works on the N24 that the road is assessed and tested and this is ongoing throughout the works. The sign off on the project and on the standard of the completed works is carried out by the Council's Roads Capital office. They will confirm if the completed works are acceptable or not.
- Mr. Eoin Powell, District Engineer confirmed that the identified steps in Mulcahy Park will be examined.
- It was confirmed that the issue raised regarding Barron Park will be put on a list for consideration, but no guarantees as it depends on other similar projects and priority for 2020 and in any case will have to be agreed to by the members.

Item 4.1 – Correspondence

- Acknowledgement from Minister Eoghan Murphy, Re: Local Government Reform
- Acknowledgement from Minister Eoghan Murphy, Re: Funding for Local Authority Adaptation Grants.

All correspondence was noted.

Item 5.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy to the family of the late Grainne Ahearn, formerly of Melview, Clonmel.

A vote of sympathy to the family of the late Thomas "Toddy" O'Brien, Bianconi Drive, Clonmel.

Best of luck was conveyed by members to Cllr. Garret Ahearn in the upcoming General Election campaign and to everyone else involved with the other candidates.

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Item 6.1 – Any other business

There was no other business.

Signed: 
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Date: 19/2/2020

Signed: 
District Administrator

Date: 19/2/2020