

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT
MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 11.00 a.m. BY ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 16th JUNE,
2021**

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

In attendance: Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services
Mr. Eoin Powell, District Engineer
Mr. Jim Dillon, District Administrator
Ms. Carol Creighton, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Marie O'Donnell, Staff Officer

Also in attendance: Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Gillian Flynn, Executive Engineer
Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer
Mr. Tony O'Neill, Senior Executive Technician
Mr. Fiona Crotty, A/Administrative Officer

From the outset the Mayor of Clonmel, Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose welcomed the signing of the contract for Kickham Barracks and that the contract for the LIT Sports Hub would be signed very shortly.

Item 1.1 Remote Meeting Protocol

Noted by all Members. The Mayor confirmed with each Member that they could see and hear all other Members.

Item 2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Mr. Jim Dillon, District Administrator confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

Item 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 16th March, 2021

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 19th May, 2021, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy, seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald, and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

- Cllr. Pat English asked if there was any update on the CCTV in Clonmel?
- Cllr. Pat English asked if the Department had come back to the District in relation to stage 2 of the URDF?
- Cllr. Pat English requested that we write again to Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to the Irish Rail network locally and the Waterford to Limerick Junction line.

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- Cllr. Pat English requested that we write again to the Minister Peter Bourke in relation to his notice of motion previously, to re-instate the former Clonmel Borough Council
- Cllr. Pat English asked if he could get an update on the take up on the Outdoor Seating and Accessories Scheme?
- Cllr. Pat English asked if a report was received from the Conservation Architects who are looking after the Town Hall and what is the timeframe?
- Cllr. Pat English asked if there was any response back from Irish Water in relation to the supply matter in the town?
- Cllr. Michael Murphy asked if there was any update on Market Place?
- Cllr. Michael Murphy thanked Mr. Jim Dillon, District Administrator and Ms. Carol Creighton, Senior Staff Officer for their comprehensive report on the roundabout scheme in Clonmel.
- Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose welcomed the opening of the Columbarium in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Response made by Mr. Jim Dillon, District Administrator as follows;

- It was agreed to write to both Minister Eamon Ryan and Minister Peter Bourke as no further response was made to date.
- There is no update in relation to Market Place or the Clonmel Arms Hotel.
- Mr. Jim Dillon, District Administrator stated that at the last district meeting it was stated that the District would proceed to allow the Road Works Programme 2021 go ahead but no Proposer or seconder was requested at the time and asked if he could have same today. It was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

Item 4.1 The Proposed Taking in Charge of Meadowlands, Moangarriff, Clonmel.

It was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose and seconded by Cllr. Pat English and agreed by all.

Item 4.2 Clonmel Borough District Casual Trading Act 1995, Bye-Laws 2021

Mr. Jim Dillon, District Administrator referred to the workshop prior to this meeting and stated that the outcome of that meeting was that the District go back out to public consultation with these bye-laws and include a number of pitches as agreed. He confirmed that the process would happen next week.

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Pat English

Item 5.1 Attendance of Representatives from Directorate Housing

Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Gillian Flynn, Executive Engineer, Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer and Mr. Tony O'Neill, Senior Executive Technician referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Housing Directorate.

Key issues in the briefing note included:

- Housing Construction
- Capital Assistance Scheme Voluntary Housing
- Housing Grant Allocations 2021
- House Purchases 2021 Housing Loan Applications
- Tenant Purchase Scheme
- RAS and Leasing 2021
- HAP 2021
- HAP Place Finder Service 2021
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses
- Breakdown of 25 Vacant Houses
- Offers of Tenancy

The following queries were raised by members:

- In regards to housing construction, is there any other schemes available to catch up with the problems with housing demand especially in Clonmel?
- In relation to the Energy Efficiency Works Phase 2, how many houses will be retrofitted with energy efficiency works this year in Clonmel.
- What was the reason for the invalid applications for housing loan applications?
- How long will it take to complete the current list of vacant houses?
- In relation to the Part 8 Development of 14 social houses in Clerihan any update?
- It was acknowledged the huge amount of work that the housing section are doing across the board and acknowledged that Covid 19 has slowed down a lot of the construction projects which will soon get underway.

Members' queries were addressed as follows:

- The housing section are to revert to members on a number of issues raised to clarify the information being sought.
- Lots of work is going on around the County in relation to Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiently Works no works will happen in Clonmel in 2021.
- The applications for housing loans that were not approved to date does not mean that they are invalid it means in most cases that they are awaiting further information and clarification around their application so they are in progress at the moment as opposed to invalid.

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- As soon as a house becomes vacant we make them available for letting. There were 5 houses available for letting as at the end of May and this figure currently it is down to 2. There is a very quick turnaround.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Gillian Flynn, Executive Engineer, Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer and Mr. Tony O'Neill, Senior Executive Technician for their attendance and report.

**Item 5.2 Attendance of Representatives from Directorate
Community & Economic Development**

Ms. Fiona Crotty, A/Administrative Officer referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Community & Enterprise Directorate.

Key issues in the briefing note included:

- Community/LCDC
- Grant Schemes
- Initiatives
- Sports
- Tourism
- Broadband
- Economic Development

The following queries were raised to the Briefing Note by members:

- There is a deficit of information out there in relation to the supports available to small and medium businesses that are being delivered locally, how can we better communicate these welcomed supports?
- In relation to the ORIS scheme who can apply for same?
- Members welcomed all the sport initiatives over the Covid19 period rolled out by the Sports Partnership section they were very well received.

Members' queries were addressed as follows:

- Supporting the local SME's and promoting the type of schemes will continue to be done through promotion to our own website and social media but we will investigate and look in to all options to better get the information out to the business community.
- The ORIS scheme for measure 1 has closed last Wednesday and ORIS scheme for measure 2 applicants is open until the end of the month, Mr. Shane O'Dwyer, Administrative Officer can clarify to members in relation to the different bodies that have applied but it is aimed towards local authority applicants.
- Ms. Fiona Crotty took the opportunity to remind members of the Healthy Homes Initiative and were invited to attend the webinar.

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The Mayor thanked Ms. Fiona Crotty, A/Administrative Officer for her attendance and report.

Item 6.1 Report of District Administrator

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

Queries raised by the Members on the report of the District Administrator.

- In there any date set for the meeting between Remcol, the owners of Market Place and the planning section to discuss future plans of the site?
- Is there any update in relation to the Clonmel Arms Hotel?
- Is there any update in relation to the design for Suir House and gardens and in particular the bridge at that location?
- Will swimming lessons resume shortly as part of the re-opening of Clonmel Swimming Pool?

Members' queries were addressed as follows:

- A meeting has taken place with the District Planner and Remcol, the owners of Market Place but the District Administrator was not aware of any plans being submitted as of yet.
- There is no update on the Clonmel Arms Hotel.
- There have been 2 concept designs for Suir House Gardens and once a final concept is chosen it will be brought back to the members for discussion.
- The issue currently with the Swimming Pool in Clonmel is that we are restricted in relation to the size of the dressing room during Covid19. The moment we are in a position to resume lessons we will be carrying out same.

Item 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 which Mr. Eoin Powell, District Engineer responded to were as follows:

- Mr. Michael Murphy referred to a previous notice of motion and asked what was the update in relation to the trees in the Glenview Estate, Clonmel?
- Mr. Michael Murphy also referred to another previous notice of motion in relation to parking at the top of Abbey Road and asked for an update?
- A request was made for a HGV sign to be erected at the Cashel Street/William Street.
- When will resurface roadworks commence on the Dungarvan Road?
- Members noted that it was great to see the traffic calming measures on Marlfield road commencing.

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- What is the final list of roads that are being approved under the road restoration improvement works?
- Can the District Engineer clarify the cycle route in Irish town?
- Is there any update from OPW in relation to the Marlfield flood alleviation programme?
- Can the District Engineer give a date on when the works at Rathronan Cross will be finalised?

Queries raised by the Members which Mr. Eoin Powell, District Engineer responded to were as follows:

- The trees in Glenview Estate will be done over the Summer months.
- Parking issue in Abbey Road has not been addressed yet due to priority given to other projects but will be looked into shortly.
- The HGV sign will be erected as soon as possible.
- The works on the Dungarvan road will be done as soon as the schools are closed due to major diversions in the area.
- Marlfield road speed cushions are yet to go in but under the Active Travel funds for the Marlfield road this will be done in tandem.
- In relation to the red roads, the decision was made to keep the €250,000 from the town in the district, the normal procedure is that the members would agree the roads.
- Cycle route in Irishtown is the route at the back of the Quay wall from Joyces Lane heading up past the Boat Club.
- Fethard Road patching is not priority at the moment.

Item 6.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

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

- No issues were raised.

Item 7.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 11th June, 2021

This was noted by all Members.

Items 8.1 to 8.11 – Notices of Motions

Motion 2170 was proposed by Cllr. John Fitzgerald

That the Council attend to a flooding/shore issue close to this house (Eircode E25CY86) which is causing damage to the outer road margin and front wall. It may have been caused by waste water from a neighbouring property both at Ballydoyle Rosegreen.

Reply:

The District Engineer has inspected this property and will arrange to have the affected gully cleaned in the next few weeks as part of the normal maintenance on the road network in the district.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2171 was proposed by Cllr. John Fitzgerald.

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That the Council paint and upgrade the Arts Centre at Nelson Street, Clonmel prior to the summer programme of events. The exterior requires an upgrade as do the windows which are of iron. This is a protected structure also and will have to be renovated in accordance with maintenance to structures such as this.

Reply:

The Arts centre in Nelson Street is privately owned and operated. As such the Borough District would have no role in painting or upgrading the building. However, the Arts Centre may apply to the Borough District under the Painting and Enhancement Scheme for grant funding towards these works.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Siobhán Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2179 was proposed by Cllr. John Fitzgerald

That this Council applies traffic calming measures for safety purposes outside Clerihan N.S., as traffic numbers and activity has increased and road users are not always observing the existing safety and slowing facilities in place. The suggestion is for road calming strips in this busy location.

Reply:

The District Engineer will inspect this issue on the ground to determine the extent of the problem, if any, and include this for consideration as part of the proposed Development Contribution Scheme works programme for 2021.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2181 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy.

As a follow up to my previous NOM in November 2020 around the concept of Community Playing Fields and the subsequent consultation that the Council undertook with schools and sporting clubs in relation to a demand for same, that an update would be provided on this.

Reply:

The Borough District asked Clubs and schools to indicate their interest in availing of the use of community playing pitches in Clonmel. A number of replies were received and the Borough District are currently examining the suitability and feasibility of the provision of these areas in an effort to maximise the usage potential of the different sites. Once it can be determined if it is financially viable, we would intend to revert to the various interested parties to determine if they wish to proceed.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2190 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English.

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That Clonmel Borough District prepare an inventory of all vacant and derelict properties in the District to identify opportunities for adaptive re-use. Much of such vacancies is evident in units above shops and other street level businesses. The Council should engage with property owners with a view to developing suitable new uses for the properties and bring them back into productive use particularly given the need for housing and office space in our District

Reply:

The identification and subsequent enforcement of Derelict Sites legislation is a matter for the Environment section. However, the Borough District work closely with the Environment section in relation to this matter and a register of all known derelict sites has been compiled and is being progressed.

In relation to vacant properties as referred to in the Notion of Motion, the Vacant Homes Officer based in the Housing section has been actively engaging with property owners, where known, to encourage them to avail of the Repair and Leasing scheme, whereby Landlords can upgrade their properties and leases them to the Council. The repayments under this scheme are made by way of a reduced monthly rent to the landlord over a 20 to 25 year period depending on the loan duration.

I will also liaise with the Planning section with regards to compiling a Countywide policy on Vacant properties

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2191 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English.

That Clonmel Borough District agree to immediately revoke what appears to be a policy of removing public litter bins from various locations, where cases of anti-social behaviour/misuse of bins exist, as the removal of such bins does little or nothing to stop the illegal dumping of waste yet denies law abiding citizens the opportunity of having a public litter bin to properly dispose of their waste. The lack of litter bins leads to more litter in our street and continued dumping

Reply:

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The District Engineer arranged for the removal of a number of litter bins at various locations around town in 2018 and 2019, all for the express purpose of preventing ongoing illegal dumping of household waste in and around the bins at those very locations. These particular bins were surveyed twice weekly by the District Engineer over a period of about 6 to 7 weeks and it was noted that on each occasion that all of the bins were constantly overflowing with illegal household waste, not litter waste. None of these bins were removed for anti-social behaviour reasons.

Since these bins were removed it has proved to be a success as all of the illegal dumping has ceased at these locations, so much so, that the Council has no plans for reinstating the bins at these locations.

It should also be noted that there are over 120 litter bins located throughout the centre of Clonmel Town, that the last litter bin removed was in early 2019 and that there are no proposals to remove any other bins in town at this time.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2192 was proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy.

That Clonmel Borough District allocate one hour every day for children with special needs or additional needs in the Mulcahy Park playground for the summer period ie June to end of August as was done last year

Reply:

The Borough Council erected signs in Mulcahy Park during the summer of 2020 to cater for the use of the playground at the park by children with special needs. These signs will remain in place until the end of summer 2021.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2193 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English.

That Clonmel Borough District as a priority review the Urban Design Teams decision to remove the healthy viable trees in both Gladstone Street and O'Connell Street, Clonmel. That the review of the viability of the existing trees would be carried out by a qualified Landscape Architect or Arboriculturist with a view to the retention of healthy viable trees

Reply:

As part of proposals to carry out extensive works in Clonmel town centre as part of the Urban Design project, Tipperary County Council and more particularly Clonmel Borough District, carried out extensive consultation with the businesses, general public and interest groups in Clonmel. The issue of the retention of existing trees in O'Connell Street and Gladstone street was raised as an issue. Retention of the existing trees as an option was genuinely examined in detail but having explored all options, a decision was taken that they had to be removed and the reasoning for the necessary removal of these trees was fully explained as part of this consultation.

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Subsequently, as part of the Part 8 process it was clear in all drawings and reports that the existing trees would be removed and replaced with new trees that are more suitable to the urban setting.

All submissions made during the Part 8 process were considered and these submissions were addressed in the report by the Chief Executive dated November 2020 on this matter. A survey conducted as part of the process showed that 69% of people who responded to an online questionnaire were satisfied or very satisfied with the proposals in relation to trees and landscaping.

The reasoning for the removal of the existing trees is as follows;

- The existing tree root system has been growing unrestricted for many years and is now intertwined with services and extends in all directions, the excavation works to renew the services and the paving will result in extensive root damage and will more than likely result in the death of the tree.
- The scheme proposes wider footpaths. If the trees were left in the current positions they would be unsuitably located and would be obstructive to pedestrians and in particular vulnerable users (those with sight difficulties etc). The location of the trees will also impact on the vistas along the street that the proposals are seeking to enhance.
- The existing trees are not suitable for an urban environment, this was noted in the Entente Florale results for Clonmel with a recommendation to remove them and replace them with more urban appropriate trees.
- The trees were not set in the appropriate volume of clay to allow them to thrive and as a result have struggled for survival in the town centre as is obvious on observation. A number of the Mountain Ash variety have died as a result of dry weather and this has resulted in a mix of varieties and tree sizes.

The retention of the existing trees, results in trees situated in the centre of the footpath as an obstacle to pedestrians. Trees to the trafficked side of pedestrian crossings are not suitable due to visibility requirements. Unfortunately It is not possible to relocate the existing trees to a new site. The root system would be damaged too extensively during the removal to allow their relocation.

The proposal includes plans to replace the existing trees of a more suitable type for an Urban landscape, and indeed the plans are to increase both the number of trees and the amount of landscaped areas.

It is not intended to engage a landscape architect or an arborculturalist to re-examine the viability of the existing trees.

**The motion was not seconded.
The reply to the motion was noted.**

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Motion 2194 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

That Clonmel Borough District Council ensures that both sensory and disability elements are included in the proposed new playground as part of the overall Clonmel Sports Hub.

Reply:

The proposed playground at the Sports Hub is an "Adventure Playground", and we will liaise with LIT who are the clients in this case and revert to the Members with an update.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2195 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

What is the latest update regarding the upgrading of the new entrance into St. Patrick's Cemetery and in turn the re-surfacing of sections of the pathways within the cemetery (ref my previous motions).

Reply:

The District Engineer is currently arranging for a design of this entrance. However, in the meantime, and although the funding is available, he is waiting for the provision of the funding along with a capital code for the works from the Environment Section.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2196 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

That Clonmel Borough District Council examines the junction at the raised platform in Clerihan Village. Motorists are experiencing long delays trying to enter the village coming from their homes and the school.

Reply:

The District Engineer will arrange for this to be investigated and will report on same at the next District meeting commencing after the start of the next school term.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 9.1 – Correspondence

Cllr. Pat English requested that the Clonmel Borough District write again to Minister Peter Bourke to re-instate the former Clonmel Borough Council and to Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to the Irish Rail network locally and the Waterford to Limerick Junction line.

Item 10.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

- A vote of congratulations was issued for John O'Donoghue who is celebrating 100 years in the family business.
- A vote of congratulations was issued for Clonmel Plumbing who are celebrating 40 years in business.

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- A vote of sympathy was issued to the family of the late Mr. John Ryan, Heather Hill, Mountain Road, Clonmel.

Item 11.1 – Any other business

None.

Signed: _____

Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Date: _____

Signed: _____

District Administrator

Date: _____