

**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, 16TH OCTOBER, 2019.**

Present: Councillor Garret Ahearn, Mayor
Councillor Pat English
Councillor Siobhan Ambrose
Councillor Richie Molloy
Councillor Michael Murphy
Councillor Niall P Dennehy

In attendance: Ms. Sinead Carr, District Manager
Mr. Eoin Powell, District Engineer
Mr. Michael Moroney, District Administrator
Ms. Marie O'Donnell, Staff Officer

Also in attendance: Mr. Pat Holland, Administrative Officer
Mr. John Fogarty, Executive Engineer
Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services
Mr. Brian Beck, Senior Planner
Mr. James Murray, Executive Engineer
Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance
Mr. Paddy Brennan, Accountant

On the proposal of Councillor Pat English, seconded by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes to allow members to read meeting reports and documentation which had just been circulated to them.

Item 1.1 – Minutes of September monthly meeting

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

Item 2.1 – Attendance of Rep from Planning Directorate

With the agreement of the Members, Item 3.2 on the agenda was taken as part of this item.

It was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Pat English and resolved:

“That pursuant to the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, and being satisfied that the roads are of public utility, and having considered the financial implications for the local authority and any submissions made, it is hereby ordered that the roads serving the housing estate known as

- **Cúirt Na Rí, King Street, Clonmel**

be declared public roads. In addition any open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains and service connections within the attendant grounds of the development are taken in charge, as outlined in red on the attached map, which was on public

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display during the prescribed period and the Director of Services Report to Members for the October 2019 Clonmel Borough District Meeting.”

Mr Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, Mr Brian Beck, Senior Planner and Mr James Murray, Executive Engineer referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members at the meeting detailing key issues relating to the Planning Directorate.

Key issues included:

- New Policy/Strategic Issues
- NPF: Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
- Conservation Grant Schemes
- Southern Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy
- Design and Best Practice for Cluster Housing Schemes in Rural Villages
- National Planning Framework: Regeneration and Development
- Clonmel 2030 Transformational Regeneration
- Taking in Charge Update – October 2019
- Number of Planning Applications Received
- Enforcement Proceedings in 2019

The following queries were raised by members:

- Members acknowledged the great work that was being carried out in the Planning section to date and acknowledged all staff of the section.
- It was agreed by all members that the Conservation Grant Scheme was not providing adequate funding to home owners of which a high percentage would be elderly and living in these old protected structures. The cost of replacing windows alone in these types of houses were not adequately covered under the grant not withstanding additional works that may need to be carried out.
- Will Clonmel remain the capital of the County and hold its status within the new Strategic Plan going forward?
- Information needs to be gotten out to the remaining estates to apply to the Council for Taking in Charge as the residents may not be fully aware of the process involved.
- What is the current update on the M24?

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

- Clonmel is a regional growth centre and Nenagh is a growth centre; the difference is in terms of policy perspective going forward with the Strategic Plan.
- Under the Planning & Development Act the Planning Section will be in a position to have omissions or deletions of protected structures which will alleviate the unnecessary burden of costs associated with these types of structures especially when works are necessary and need to be carried out by the owners of the properties.
- The recent local election brought awareness to residents of estates regarding the Taking in Charge process and many applications have come to the Planning section. A lot of information was given to residents of estates at that time by local elected members.
- There has been no formal decision on the M24 to date.

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The Mayor thanked Mr Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, Mr. Brian Beck, Senior Planner and Mr. James Murray, Executive Engineer from the Planning Directorate for their attendance and report.

Item 2.2 – Attendance of Rep from Water Services Directorate

With the agreement of the proposer and other, Motion 1747 was taken as part of this item.

Motion 1747 was proposed by Cllr. Garret Ahearn

Could Clonmel District give a review on the recent water outage in Clonmel and what steps are in place with Irish Water with regard to treatment plants to prevent this happening again and make a statement on the matter.

Reply:

It is presumed that the recent water outage in Clonmel referred to in the Notice of Motion is the interruption to drinking water supply which occurred on 09-11 August 2019. The following is the position in relation to same.

A period of adverse weather and resulting operational issues led to interruptions to the drinking water supply serving parts of Clonmel during the period in question.

As Councillor Ahearn, Mayor of Clonmel Borough District, is aware, the town of Clonmel and surrounding areas are served by a combination of surface and ground water sources of water supply, with water treatment plants at the following locations:

- (i) Poulavanogue, Clonmel (located in Co. Waterford), which treats surface water;
- (ii) Glenary, Clonmel (also located in Co. Waterford), which treats surface water; and
- (iii) Monroe, Clonmel, which treats groundwater from a wellfield in that area.

Heavy rain overnight from the night of Thursday, 08 August to the morning of Friday, 09 August affected incoming water quality serving the water treatment plant at Poulavanogue. Consequently, in the interest of public health, this plant had to be turned off on the Friday. However, the Glenary and Monroe water treatment plants remained fully operational throughout the adverse weather. Parts of the town and surrounding area, which are normally served by Poulavanogue, were switched to the supply from Glenary. This resulted in intermittent service and reduced pressure to some customers as the system filled.

Works were undertaken at Poulavanogue to return the treatment plant to normal service. Water was reintroduced to the system. However, issues occurred with airlocks which affected supply to parts of the town centre. These issues were

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resolved and water was reintroduced to the network from Poulavanogue. In the meantime, Water Services, as the agent of Irish Water, continued to supplement the supply from the Glenary water treatment plant to maintain supply to the majority of customers.

While water was introduced to the Mountain Road area, it took some time for the return of normal supply and pressure, due to the elevated location of customers in that area. Alternative supply had been made available at Hillview Sports Club and at Mountain Road and remained in place until a full supply had been restored.

The Poulavanogue Water Supply is continually susceptible to a high raw water colour and has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for remedial action. It is listed on the Remedial Action List (RAL) maintained by the EPA. Raw water quality regularly affects the quality and operation of the plant during and after a high rainfall event.

It is procedure that when no water is available from Poulavanogue (which occurs 4 to 5 times per annum), water is diverted from the Glenary Water Supply Scheme to the town centre. This is dependent on storage availability and can be for no longer than four to five days.

For reasons of water quality and supply, going forward it has been agreed that the Poulavanogue Water Treatment Plant will be shut down in advance of heavy rainfall events and the scheme swapped over to Glenary during normal working hours. The high areas of the Mountain Road will be supplied by tanker(s). A follow up action which is required by the EPA (to protect water quality) is that the Poulavanogue Water Treatment Plant will be shut off automatically when turbidity reaches a critical level (subject to live site water quality data).

It is Irish Water's aim to replace this supply with an alternative source or treatment in the near future.

Separately, an issue manifested itself at the reservoir at Giantsgrave, Clonmel, which is served by a new pumping station at Rathronan, Clonmel. This strategic reservoir is served by the Monroe boreholes scheme and a pump failure, consequent on a lightning strike, manifested itself on 11 August 2019. As a result, the reservoir emptied leading to a loss of supply to customers in the Cashel Road and other areas north of the town. The pumps were repaired and operated manually to enable the reservoir to replenish so that supply to those customers affected could be restored.

Notification of the original water treatment plant interruptions was placed on the Irish Water outage portal by Water Services office staff at 09.00 am on Friday, 09 August. It was understood that water had returned to the town centre by that afternoon. A second outage was placed on the portal by Irish Water staff at 09.45 pm on Sunday, 11 August (this related to a pump at Powerstown Road, Clonmel). Subsequent communications on the schemes were managed over the weekend by the Irish Water and Tipperary County Council out-of-hours services. Furthermore, elected members were in direct contact over the weekend with Water Services staff who advised them of developments as they unfolded. An Irish Water press release was issued on Tuesday, 13 August, which detailed the

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sequence of events which had occurred and the steps taken to restore supply to affected customers. This was forwarded to the members of Clonmel Borough District and to the Oireachtas members representing Tipperary and was also copied onto the Council's website, www.tipperarycoco.ie.

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English
The reply to the motion was noted.***

Mr Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, Mr Pat Holland, Administrative Officer and Mr John Fogarty, Executive Engineer referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members at the meeting detailing key issues relating to the Water Services Directorate.

Key issues included:

- Irish Water Investment Plan
- Irish water Infrastructure Projects for County Tipperary (part of Irish Water submission (IP2) in 2016 to the then CER).
- Networks Portfolio Delivery (Water)
- Water Mains Rehabilitation Works
- National Disinfection Programme
- Phase 1: Water Treatment Plant Assessment:
- Phase 2: Necessary Upgrade Works
- Networks Portfolio Delivery (Wastewater)
- Wastewater Inlet Works, Storm Tank and Sludge Programme
- Proposed Sludge Hub Centre
- Non-Domestic Water Charges
- Council Workshop with Irish Water

The following queries were raised by members:

- Monroe Reservoir, what is the issue there?
- Are there a number of areas outside of the locality that will be added to the Sludge Treatment Plant?
- If there is an introduction of charges to be introduced to non-domestic water usage will this be a way of getting water charges in the back door, as a loophole may be found as the amount of usage will get smaller and smaller therefore ending up being a charge for non-domestic water charges as a norm?
- The workshop that was held recently with Irish Water was very disappointing as a lot of questions that were asked at the workshop Irish Water were not able to answer on the day and said they would get back to Members with answers and to date they never have. It was asked by all members why these workshops are held if they cannot come back with answers to questions being asked.
- Cllr. Garret Ahearn thanked the Water Section for their response to his Notice of Motion (Ref: 1747) regarding the water outages in the last few weeks and that they seem to have happened at the worst time especially with festivals on-going. People are also waiting three weeks for low pressure in rural areas to be rectified.
- There is an issue with the water tankers not being sent out to service the areas affected by water outages until 24 hours have passed from time of outage and the amount of people that it served was not good enough.

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- It was acknowledged by all members that despite all the outages the Water Section have responded excellently and acknowledged their support during those difficult times as lack of information had been very frustrating.
- What is Plan B with the treatment plants in Clonmel as there seems to be a lot of issues with them?
- There seems to have been a historic agreement between landowners and Tipperary County Council in relation to water agreements but since establishment of Irish Water they now issue bills. What were the arrangements during the handover?
- There is a lack of awareness for commercial, business and farm owners regarding the four different tariffs for water.
- It may have been for geological reasons but some housing estates had sewerage treatment access points on a main road – are these serviced now by Irish Water and is it a case of people unlucky to have sewerage access from their own property service their own?
- What remedial works were taken in last 10 years at Poulavanogue?
- Majority of the town are happy with the water supply, just frustrated over water outages.

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

- Through public consultation, five various sludge hubs have been identified and Clonmel has been identified as one of those potential sites. It is being done on a more rational basis.
- There was a consultation process set by Commission of Regulations of Utilities on water charges.
- It was agreed that the water outages were becoming more frequent which stems from weather conditions. Poulavanogue was built in 1933 and is not suitable for a modern town. Glenary was built in the 60's supplied by an upland source and is susceptible to a lot of things like e-coli and cryptosporidium etc and again is not suitable for a modern town.
- Poulavanogue is on the Remedial Action Plan by EPA for years and it will not come off of the list until it is shut.
- Major scheme extracts water from the River Suir which will give Clonmel a more modern service that it deserves.
- The Water Section fully accepts that the communications between Water Section and Irish Water could have been better and have had a review since with Irish Water.
- There is no programme of yet to bring wastewater lines out of house on to the front for easier access by Irish Water.
- The Monroe treatment plant is being brought up to a higher standard than currently which is also acceptable but wants a higher standard going forward.
The Irish Water section are now responsible for billing. If the Water Section is informed of any old historic agreement with the Council, these can be addressed if information regarding them is brought forward they can be investigated.
- The outages that have occurred recently have nothing to do with poor maintenance but to do with poor water source which does not accommodate a modern town like Clonmel the remedial action or solution is to close the plant.

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The Mayor thanked Mr Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, Mr Pat Holland, Administrative Officer and Mr John Fogarty, Executive Engineer from the Water Services Directorate for their attendance and report.

Item 3.1 – Clonmel Borough District – Draft Budgetary Plan 2020

The Clonmel Borough District – Draft Budgetary Plan 2020 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose, and agreed by all.

With the agreement of the proposer and other Members, Motion 1762 was taken at this time.

Motion 1762 was proposed by Cllr. Niall Dennehy

That Clonmel Borough District be provided with the following;-

A) Full details of All Capital Assets (liquid and other) of the then Clonmel Borough Council in 2014 which were transferred to Tipperary Co. Council to include;- Housing Stocks, Buildings, Lands, All other Valuable Infrastructure(s) etc, their then Valuations in 2014 and their current Valuations in 2019, to include any outstanding loans/liabilities on same.

B) Full details of Any Cash-on-Hand / Current Account Balances thus transferred in 2014.

C) That items A) and B) above be Provided in respect of the then South Tipperary Co. Council area of Clonmel in 2014, which also transferred to Tipperary Co. Council

Reply:

The Finance Directorate advises that Tipperary County Council does not have Audited Financial Statements (AFS) to a date in 2014 for Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary County Council.

However, the last Audited Financial Statements (AFS) for the nine Local Authorities' in Tipperary, prior to the merger, were up to 31st December 2013. All balances from 1st January 2014 were merged into the accounts of Tipperary County Council for the calendar year 2014 in compliance with Circular Fin 10/2014.

Attached (on MinutePad) is a copy of the audited AFS for Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary County Council for the year ended 31st December 2013. South Tipperary County Council didn't break down assets / liabilities on an area basis.

These Financial Statements contain all the assets and liabilities of both entities at 31st December 2013 and these were subsequently transferred into Tipperary County Council for AFS 2014 in accordance with Fin 10/2014.

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English
The reply to the motion was noted.***

Item 3.3 – Reports of Officers

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

- The members thanked all staff involved in Tidy Towns both outdoor and administrative staff. With more supports put in place there may be a chance of winning a National title next year.
- The temporary patching work carried out on Mitchel Street was welcomed by all Members and they will continue to engage with Engineers to get small works like this carried before the Urban Realm upgrades are carried out.
- It was agreed by all that the Blueway has become a huge success and is a great outdoor amenity that enhances all other outdoor amenities. It complements the vision of the Council in what has been achieved.
- A memorial bench is to be unveiled on Saturday 19th October 2019 is a lovely tribute to Frank O'Donoghue RIP who was a huge loss to the Clonmel Tidy Towns Group all members were encouraged to attend.
- Well done to all staff who were involved in the preliminary design consultation on the Urban Design Project, members of the public were also being encouraged to complete the online survey for their feedback on the design.
- Any feedback or update on the Clonmel Arms?
- Any feedback or update on Kickham Barracks?
- Any update on the Sports Hub?
- Is there any update on the Glenconnor Junction regarding safety and traffic?
- Any update on sale of the Old Museum?
- Is there any update on works starting on the Quaker wall?

Members' queries were responded to as follows:

- There is no further update on the Clonmel Arms and it was pointed out that it is a private matter.
- In relation to the Kickham Barracks, the design team are progressing the 1st Phase and tender will be complete by end of this year. It is intended that by quarter 1 of 2020 they will be going to building stage.
- The Design Team are progressing the Sports Hub tender by the end of this year and by quarter 1 of 2020 they will be going to building stage.
- The Old Museum is currently with the Solicitors for the sale to be formally completed.
- The Urban Design Project process is at preliminary design stage with feedback and comments from the public possible until 25th October, 2019.
- The issue of the Quaker wall is with Environment currently.
- The response to the Glenconnor Junction is that a traffic impact statement was carried out and no need for works at this junction as confirmed in previous meetings.

Item 4.1 – Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The Chief Executive Orders for the period up to the 11th October, 2019 were noted.

Item 5.1 – Consideration of the following Notices of Motion

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Motion 1759 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

That sections of the footpath in Irishtown are considered under the 2020 Programme having regard to their poor condition. (I refer in particular to that section from Guiney's up as far as St Mary's Church)

Reply:

I have surveyed this section of footpath and there is about 95 metres that needs attention. I will include this for consideration in the 2020 Roadworks Programme

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy
The reply to the motion was noted.***

Motion 1760 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District look at extending the C.C.T.V system in the Elm Park area to cover the road leading to St. Oliver's Church at Honeyview Estate to curb the escalation in anti-social behaviour in the area.

Reply:

Instances of anti-social behaviour should be reported, if not already done so, to An Gardai Síochána.

CCTV can be effective in addressing/reducing anti-social behaviour and public order offences if it is part of a broader crime prevention and community safety strategy. CCTV is not recommended as an isolated response.

The Borough District is presently proceeding through the process to obtain the authorisation of An Garda Síochána's National CCTV Advisory Committee for extensions to the current Clonmel CCTV scheme at Suir Island, Kickham Barracks and Heywood Road (north). The feasibility and necessity for further possible CCTV extensions can be examined following the conclusion of this process. In addition, there is currently no budget available to fund any further CCTV extensions.

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Niall Dennehy
The reply to the motion was noted.***

Motion 1761 was proposed by Cllr Niall Dennehy

That Clonmel Borough District call on the Government and on both Houses of the Oireachtas to Repeal the Local Government Reform Act 2014, with the Full Restoration of Clonmel Borough Council (formerly Clonmel Corporation) and the Full Restoration of South Tipperary Co. Council

Reply:

Subject to approval of the District, the notice of motion will be referred to the relevant Minister for his consideration and reply.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

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***Cllr. Michael Murphy confirmed that he could not support the motion.
The reply to the motion was noted.***

Motion 1772 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District provide traffic calming measures in Morton Street, Clonmel, as the area has a very elderly population with the F.H.I.S.T housing and Morton Place Residential Centres and cars are driving at high speed through Morton Street

Reply:

A traffic speed survey was carried out on this road over an eleven day period from 26th September to 7th October 2019. The speed limit on this road is 50kph.

Two locations were monitored, one outside No. 10 at the top (west) end of the street, and the other outside Marion Court at the eastern end of the street.

The results were as follows:

Outside No. 10:

- Average speed was 18kph.
- The 85 percentile was 26kph.

Outside Marion Court:

- Average speed is 31kph.
- The 85 percentile is 39kph.

Based on the above survey results there is no speeding issue anywhere along Morton Street, and as such there is no necessity or requirement to introduce traffic calming measures.

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy
The reply to the motion was noted.***

Motion 1773 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough Council upgrade the Rathronan Cross Junction on the Fethard Road as the Junction is one of the busiest junctions in the District and needs urgent attention

Reply:

I have inspected this cross roads and noted that some upgrading works are necessary. I will include this for consideration in the 2020 Roadworks Programme.

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose
The reply to the motion was noted.***

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Motion 1776 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District Council contacts the As I am Charity (Ireland's National Autism and Advocacy Organisation) to express our interest in Clonmel being designated as an "Autism Friendly Town". To date, eleven towns in Ireland have expressed an interest in seeking this designation which involves the support of the entire community

Reply:

AsIAM is Ireland's National Autism and Advocacy Organisation and they have developed the "Autism-Friendly Communities" initiative. This initiative follows a series of principles aimed at fostering autism inclusion and empowerment in local committees. These are:

- Understandable staff training;
- Environmental evaluation;
- Assistance dog-friendly and;
- A commitment to enact at least one change in the community.

The focus of this initiative relates solely to autism. It is considered by the Borough District that rather than a focus on a singular disability or cohort in society, that a holistic approach towards a disability-friendly and universal access community would create greater impact.

Programmes such as the HSE's Gold Star Disability project and the Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme aim to promote greater independence, integration and participation for all people in their local communities and society.

The Borough District will liaise with the Council's Community Development Directorate to examine the feasibility of such initiatives for Clonmel.

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English
Members agreed that AsIam.ie be contacted to express interest in
Clonmel being designated as an autism-friendly town.***

Motion 1777 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose

What is the latest update regarding the rollout of phase 2 of Questum?

Reply:

The C&E Directorate advises that scoping out of Phase 2 Questum has commenced with the following actions:

1. Meeting held with the property team of IDA and IDA's Director for the Regions. The purpose was to find out what other locations in the country were doing with provision of Advance Technology Buildings (ATB) and the timeline for proposals to the IDA for the next round of ATB construction;
2. Liaison with local industry to ascertain views and advice on what local provision for supply companies would look like from their perspective;
3. Assessing the growth requirements of the current partners in Questum;

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4. The Advisory Board for Questum have Phase 2 as one of their actions during 2019 and 2020. Data and research is being compiled from national and international sources;
5. C&E have engaged technical consultancy services to begin to do some preliminary sketches and options for an ATB;
6. As part of the 2020 budgetary process, C&E have applied for capital funding to facilitate a full business, design and part 8 planning of Phase 2 during 2020.

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy
The reply to the motion was noted.***

Motion 1778 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose

What is the latest update regarding the provision of additional dog fouling bins at various locations around the town, on the bypass footpath and along the Blueway?

Reply:

These locations have yet to be established in order to see where best to locate additional dog fouling bins. As soon as we have established exactly where to locate the bins the Councillors will be informed.

***The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English
The reply to the motion was noted.***

6.1 – Correspondence

- Letter issued to Irish Water
- Letter issued to Department of Justice
- Letter issued to Mr. Jim Daly, T.D., Minister for Mental Health

All correspondence was noted.

Item 7.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

There were no votes of sympathy/congratulations.

Item 8.1 – Any other business

No further queries were raised under “Any other business” by Members.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Date: _____

Signed: _____
District Administrator

Date: _____