

**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, 17th OCTOBER, 2018.**

Present: Councillor Richie Molloy - Mayor
Councillor Martin Lonergan
Councillor Siobhan Ambrose
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor Pat English
Councillor Andy Moloney
Councillor Micháel Anglim
Councillor Michael Murphy

Apologies: Councillor Catherine Carey

In attendance Ms. Sinead Carr, District Manager
Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Senior Engineer
Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Administrator
Ms. Marie O'Donnell, Staff Officer, Clonmel Borough District

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

Item 1.1 – Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 19th September, 2018 were proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy and agreed.

Item 2.1 – Attendance of Representative from Planning Directorate

Mr. Brian Beck, Senior Planner, Caroline Conway, Senior Executive Planner and Mr. James Murray, Executive Engineer circulated a District briefing note to members detailing key issues relating to the Planning Directorate under the following headings:-

Planning and Development

- Preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies;
- Cluster Guidelines;
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund;
- Rural Regeneration and Development Fund;
- Taking in Charge Update – Clonmel Borough District;
- Planning applications received in 2018.

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The following queries and issues were raised by Members:

- Can more information be made available to residents of estates explaining how they can go about the process of taking in charge their estates?
- Members had concerns that developers were not taking responsibility for estates and were leaving the responsibility with the local authority;
- Why were members not informed of the funding application for the site in Kilsheelan?
- What is the difference between changing from town plans to local area plans and how will it affect decision making at local level?
- Given the size of Clonmel it needs a proper development plan of its own not tied into other local areas;
- Will planning guidelines attached to the area concerned in relation to Cluster Housing be the same for individuals who want to buy?
- Have detailed plans for social housing being included in the plans for Cluster Housing and what will sites cost?
- Acknowledgement was given to the huge volume of work involved in Urban Regeneration Development Fund application and appreciation was given to all involved;
- When will the District find out if the Clonmel URDF application was successful?
- Members acknowledged that the new clinics with planners are very positive and a welcomed change in the process;
- The serviced site initiative – what is the estimated cost for sites?
- What percentage of invalid applications was received by the Planning Department?

Members' queries and issues were responded to as follows:

- Timeline for submitting URDF and RRDF applications was very short and the Planning Section reviewed the villages and towns to determine suitability under the Funds criteria and to ensure the best possible outcome with the applications. The Kilsheelan RRDF application was only finalised close to the deadline and therefore did not allow for further consultation.
- The cluster housing site for Kilsheelan is located on the N24 near the 60km speed sign and will have a separate access. The proposal is not social housing but sites for private houses. Sites will be owner occupied, not developer driven and subject to a Part 8 process. Sites will be sold at market value and funds will be invested back into other cluster sites.
- Decisions on URDF and RRDF applications funding to be made in November/December 2018
- When town councils were abolished the authority to develop a Town Development Plan changed to Local Area Plans (LAPs). This will mean that 9 Town Plans are changing to Local Area Plans and 2 County Development Plans will be 1 plan for the county.
- There was a peak last year in invalid applications due to change in criteria. Information on the percentage of invalid applications currently will make information available to members.

Item 2.2 – Attendance of Representative from Water Services Section

Mr. Pat Holland, Administrative Officer and Mr. John Fogarty, Executive Engineer circulated a District briefing note to members detailing key issues relating to the Water Section under the following headings:-

Irish Water Investment Plan:

Irish Water Infrastructure Projects for Tipperary:-

- Clonmel Town and Rural WWS (Advance Works)

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- Ardfinnan RWSS/Burncourt RWSS
- Clonmel Town and Rural WSS (EIS and Water Abstraction Order)
- Cahir Wastewater Treatment Plant Report has been received by Irish Water

A Council Workshop took place in the Civic Offices, Thurles on 2nd October 2017 at which presentations were made to the members. Various queries were raised by the members in attendance. It was agreed that a further workshop be held in early 2019.

Rural Water Programme:

The focus was to address remaining inadequacies in the quality of drinking water to ensure compliance with EU (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014.

It was also noted that approval by Irish Water for works to alleviate sewer flooding on the Quay, Clonmel had been granted and works to be programmed by Clonmel Borough District.

Find and fix programme continuing in Clonmel town with several more district metering areas being tested. The important role of rural water schemes which are receiving funding and support was acknowledged.

The following queries were raised by Members:

- IW Service Level Agreement – members need to be updated on significant changes;
- Heywood Road and surrounding area outages, what is the problem in this area and what are the plans to alleviate the problem in future?
- Are there plans for a new pump on the Quay, Clonmel?
- Feedback from residents in Giantsgrave is very positive regarding notification of any interruptions in the area and members were happy to report same;
- When water issues occur at the weekend are staff on duty to deal with immediately?
- Older schemes require replacement pipes and drains - householders have to get plumbers which put a financial burden on them. Are there plans for works on these combined drains?
- Problem in parts of Clonmel with limescale and hard water issues with residents' appliances;
- What is the current status of the Cahir Water Treatment Plant? Reports of a gas like smell in the area. Is this due to treatment system being at full capacity?
- News of reservoir in Giantsgrave is very welcome.

Members' queries were responded to as follows:

- Water Section to devise a new plan for Grague in which it will be able to get water back quicker;
- Heywood outage was caused by sand washed downhill;
- Weather conditions including high winds and rain contributed to problems at existing treatment plant which has limited capacity;
- Proposal was there for pump on Quay, Clonmel and issues of undersized piped being addressed;
- Kilcash issue will be resolved as soon as possible;
- Outage in Glenary was an unexpected event due to weather conditions and Water Service will be better prepared in future;
- Cahir Waste Water Treatment Plant Report has been submitted to IW for consideration;
- Limescale and hard water is a fact of life in this part of Tipperary but these concerns and the issue of combined sewers and drains in the town will be raised with Irish Water.

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Item 3.1 – Clonmel Borough District- Draft Budgetary Plan 2019

Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance, set out the 2019 General Municipal Allocation (GMA) to Members as follows:

Amount available for 2019 GMA

The overall amount available for the GMA for 2018 included an additional amount of €591,455 over 2017 levels (which was 50% of the additional Local Property Tax (LPT) raised in 2018).

As a result of the decision made at the September 2018 council meeting where members decided to revert to the 2017 level for LPT this additional LPT will not be available for the GMA for 2019.

In addition other projects which were flagged for funding by maintaining LPT rates for 2019 at 2018 levels now have to be funded from alternative sources in Budget 2019 including the GMA.

Basis of allocation GMA

The total county provisional allocation for General Municipal Allocation for 2019 as outlined above is €350,000. This is allocated to the Districts based on the population of the Municipal Districts at the time of the 2016 census and recognises the changes in populations of the Districts following the local elections in 2019. The proposed GMA allocation for Clonmel Borough District is €83,157.

The following queries and issues were raised by Members:

- Concerns raised regarding the merger and the abolition of the former Clonmel Borough Council which has contributed to infrastructural deficits;
- The Council is too big and the sooner town councils are brought back the better;
- Reduction in GMA will impact on communities and support for projects such as Christmas lights;
- Parking income in Clonmel is substantial but not benefiting the town;
- Local Government Funding is reduced in order to pay off the debts of banks.

Members' queries were responded to as follows:

- It was voted by the Council Members to revert Local Property Tax back to 2017 rates;
- Parking in Clonmel is 43% of take in for full County and funds are invested in the town;
- No buoyancy with rates – revaluation process in progress;
- Local Government Fund maintained;
- Same level of spending in last few years - projects like Suir Island Car Park now happening in Clonmel;
- Commercial rates have been harmonised throughout the county with reduction in Clonmel;
- Christmas lights can be examined in the context of harmonisation process;
- The Council have to work within the budget parameters that are available.

The General Municipal Allocation was noted by Members of the District.

Item 4.1 Update of Festivals and Events and approval of additional applications for 2018

A District briefing note was circulated to members detailing additional events in the District and funding allocations as follows:-

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Municipal

Macra na Feirme National Conference - €10,000

Community

Cahir Development Association – Cahir Fest - €1,000

Clonmel Bridge Centre - €500

Friends of Bridgewater House - €500

Clonmel Rotary – Band Spectacular - €730

Costs associated with Cannonball & National Enterprise Town Awards - €500

Cahir Women’s History Group - €500

The report and funding recommendation was proposed by Councillor Pat English and seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy.

Item 5.1 – Reports of Officers

District Engineer and District Administrator reports were circulated to Members with the meeting agenda.

The following queries were raised by Members –

- When will Ardfinnan Bridge project go to tender and timescale for completion of works?
- What applications are being prepared in relation to outdoor recreational schemes?
- Laneway at Bianconi Drive - when will works be carried out?
- When will works begin on footpaths in Marlfield?
- Junction box on Queen Street - when will works be complete?
- The Clonmel traffic survey and model is 90% complete – what elements are finished and can further details be provided on the survey work?
- Members raised concern regarding St Patrick’s Cemetery footpaths as they are in poor condition. When can works be expected to begin on improving them?
- Columbarium – have the plans been drawn up yet?
- Have tenders gone out for O’Connell Street/Gladstone Street design?
- Suir Island Master Plan - when can members expect the final draft to be available?
- Can members have an update on Seskin upgrade?
- Glenconnor Road is in poor condition and needs to be addressed.
- Greenway between Cahir and Cashel – can this be progressed?

Members’ queries were responded to and agreed as follows:

- Ardfinnan Bridge repairs project will be going to tender in November for the conservation contract. The duration of the contract depends on the contractor and river levels etc.
- Grants needed for further enhancement works on the Blueway;
- Marlfield Lake Flood Study, there will be a cost benefit analysis required by OPW. As of yet there has been no funding commitment from the OPW;
- Senior Engineer will follow up with the TII regarding junction at Heywood Road and report back with update at a later date;
- O’Connell Street/Gladstone Street traffic study. Figures are being reviewed up to 2018 figures. Broad data for modelling stage. Preliminary work is done to fast track when consultants take on project. Tender in progress and Council will be in a position to award before the end of the year.

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- Cemetery footpaths will be focused on in 2019 as this time of year is not suitable for this type of work.
- Columbarium will not be in place this year but planned for next year.
- Suir Island Master Plan to be finalised before the end of the year.
- No accidents have occurred in Seskin since signs were erected.
- Glenconnor Road programmed for improvement next year.
- The Greenway will be part of an application in conjunction with Community & Enterprise Department input.

Item 6.1 – Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The Chief Executive Orders for the period to the 1th October, 2018 were noted.

Item 7.1 – Consideration of the following notices of Motion

Motion 1455 was proposed by Councillor Michael Murphy

That the Council provide an update on the re-instatement of the collapsed wall at the old Quaker Graveyard in O'Neill Street.

Reply:

The section of the Quaker Cemetery wall that collapsed has been assessed and as it is a protected structure it will need to be reconstructed in an appropriate manner. There are a number of difficulties including burial plots immediately inside the wall and a narrow lane at other side of the wall that would be impacted. To reinstate the wall with supporting piers would cost approximately €90,000 and funding for this work will need to be secured. The Council has sought clarification from IPB in relation to insurance cover and are awaiting response.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1456 was proposed by Councillor Michael Murphy

Following on from the taking in charge of the Ivowen Estate Kilsheelan in 2017, that the Council would provide an update on proposed works within the estate, such works to be financed by the bond secured by Tipperary County Council.

Reply:

The Area Engineer is finalising a Programme of Works. Underground services are being surveyed and road resurfacing works will commence depending on the condition of these services.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1463 was proposed by Councillor Michael Murphy

That under the 2019 Area Roadworks Programme, consideration is given to re-surfacing works from the entrance of Annsfort Stables, back towards Kiltinan, taking into account its very poor and dangerous condition.

Reply:

This road will be surveyed by the Area Engineer and subject to its condition, it will be considered for inclusion in a future Roadworks Programme

The motion was seconded by Councillor Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1476 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

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That Clonmel Borough Council provide a raised platform at the pedestrian crossing / lights at Showgrounds Shopping Centre on the Davis Road, Clonmel, as traffic is not stopping when pedestrians try to cross the road.

Reply:

The Town Engineer will investigate this further.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1477 was proposed by Councillor Andy Moloney.

That driver feedback signs be erected in New Inn Village, on the Cashel and Cahir approach roads.

Reply:

The Council is currently developing a policy on the installation of driver feedback signs. I await the outcome of this policy before I can commit to installing more signs.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Lonergan.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1478 was proposed by Councillor Andy Moloney

That a roundabout is provided at the junction of Market Street and Clonmel Road in Cahir while there is scope to do this at the moment

Reply:

Initial surveys would suggest that a raised/kerbed roundabout would not be suitable here as it would restrict turning movements. Surveys and detailed design would need to be carried out to determine a suitable design option. This could then be costed and a suitable funding source determined. This location could be incorporated into the public realm works for Cahir Square and funded under that project.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Lonergan.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1480 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District provide dog waste bins along the new Greenway/Blueway between Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir.

Reply:

It is planned to install waste bins at the access points to the Suir Blueway.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1481 was proposed by Councillor Andy Moloney

That this Council provide a pedestrian crossing on the Clonmel Road in Cahir.

Reply:

This location will be surveyed by the Area Engineer. If the need for a crossing can be established, then this will need to be designed, costed and funding sourced.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Lonergan.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1486 was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District Council re-investigates the possibility of applying for funding for public lighting for the walking / cycle track on the by-pass, (ref. my previous motion on this issue).

Reply

Funding will be applied for when suitable grant schemes become available.

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**The motion was seconded by Councillor Micheal Anglim.
The reply to the motion was noted.**

Motion 1487 was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District Council contacts Transport Infrastructure Ireland once again, to impress on them the need to insert some kind of traffic calming on the N24 at the entrance to Rathkeevin National School, similar to the traffic calming that is in place as you pass through Croagh, Co. Limerick, on the N21.

Reply:

This has been referred to the Council's Road Design Section to raise again with the TII Safety Inspector.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1488 was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District Council looks at replacing sections of the footpath from the crossroads at St. Patrick's Well up to the junction at the Cahir Road.

Reply:

The Town Engineer will survey the condition of this footpath.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 8.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was submitted for the Tipperary Fire and Rescue Service having been recognised at the recent National Safety Awards receiving the top award for its Safety Management System.

Item 9.1 – Any other business

There was no other business.

Signed/_____ **Mayor of Clonmel Borough District**

Date/_____

Signed/_____ **District Administrator**

Date/_____