

**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, 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019.**

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

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

**Also in attendance:** Mr. Shane O'Dwyer, Administrative Officer  
Mrs. Marie McMahon, Museum Curator  
Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian

Cllr. Garret Ahearn, Mayor of Clonmel addressed the news that had been received that the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government had approved an increased allocation of €5.3 million funding under the terms of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) for the proposed Regional Sports Hub in Clonmel. This would now allow the development to proceed in one single phase. He acknowledged that Clonmel had received one of the biggest amounts of funding under the URDF programme.

All members of Clonmel Borough District welcomed this news. Members requested that the issues identified during the planning process by residents in the area regarding access, etc. and addressed at that stage, be attended to during the construction phase.

Mr. Michael Moroney, District Administrator briefed the members on the following:

- Design team appointed earlier in 2019;
- The Sports Hub will include a full international-level athletics track, with walking/cycling track on the perimeter, skateboard area, bike trail area, playground and multi-use building;
- He acknowledged the roles played by Clonmel Athletics Club, Clonmel Cycling Club, Clonmel Triathlon Club and financial commitments given by local industry (Abbot, Boston Scientific, Camida, SEPAM) which have allowed the project get to this stage.

Ms. Sinéad Carr, District Manager confirmed that the timeline for the project will be that the tender for construction phase will happen in Q1, 2020. This will then allow works to commence in Q2, 2020 with the project substantially complete by end Q4, 2020.

**Item 1.1 – Minutes of October monthly meeting**

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Niall P. Dennehy, and agreed by all.

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**Matters Arising:** Cllr. Niall P. Dennehy sought an update on his notice of motions (no. 1761 and no. 1762). Mr. Michael Moroney, District Administrator confirmed that motion no. 1761 had been forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, that no response had been received and that a reminder would now issue. Regarding motion no. 1762, Ms. Sinéad Carr, District Manager advised that she would ask the Head of Finance to arrange a meeting with Cllr. Dennehy to provide any further information he is seeking on this matter.

Members raised the issue of homeless persons still sleeping rough at the Main Guard in Clonmel. Ms. Sinéad Carr, District Manager explained that the Council had a robust homeless strategy and that a structure of assessment was in place to give support to the homeless and people sleeping rough. Issues arise when people present homeless with no documentation. The Council engage with appropriate agencies in these instances to help progress the cases.

**Item 2.1 – Attendance of Rep from Community/Economic Development Directorate**

Mr. Shane O’Dwyer, Administrative Officer referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Community/Economic Development Directorate.

**Key issues included:**

- LECP Community
- Local Development Strategy/LEADER
- SICAP
- LCDC Team led Funding Schemes
- Healthy Ireland
- Tipperary PNN
- Joint Policing Committee
- Children’s and Young Person’s Services Committee
- Jigsaw
- Age Friendly Tipperary
- Play
- Comhairle na nÓg
- Sign of The Times
- What’s on in Tipperary
- Strategic Projects Unit EU part-funded Projects
- Tipperary Sports Partnership
- FAI
- LECP – Economic
- Tourism
- Local Enterprise Office
- Digital Strategy, National Broadband Plan & Commercial Investment

**The following queries were raised by members:**

- Members acknowledged the great work that has been carried out in the Community & Economic Development section to date.
- With reference to Brexit and the huge threat that the Irish Economic Landscape is facing. Would it be possible for a type of Roadshow/Information Event(s) to be held for local businesses as the

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withdrawal agreement is likely to go ahead? Members requested an event be held in the Clonmel area.

- Concerns about the timeframe for rolling out the establishing of the Jigsaw headquarters in Thurles and the consequential knock-on impact on the timeframe for the outreach service in Clonmel given the lack of current supports in Clonmel and the huge need for supports like this in the area.
- It was acknowledged that the huge work undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce have been very supportive to LEO (Local Enterprise Office). Retailers locally have received support and benefiting from the LEO and this is working well.
- Members agreed that it was great to see the Age Friendly initiative coming to the forefront as it had been in the pipeline for so long.

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

- The LEO has undertaken work relating to Brexit but concerns and issues raised by the members will be referred to Mr. Anthony Fitzgerald, Senior Executive Officer, LEO.
- Initially there are 3 physical locations envisaged for Jigsaw and going forward this will be assessed based on the need in the county. Concerns about roll-out timeframe would be referred on.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Shane O'Dwyer, Administrative Officer from the Community & Economic Development Directorate for his attendance and report.

**Item 2.2 – Attendance of Rep from Culture/Library Services, Fire & Emergency Services Directorate**

Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian and Ms. Marie McMahon, Museum Curator referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Culture/Library Services, and Fire & Emergency Services Directorate.

**Key issues included:**

**Library**

- Clonmel Camera Club's annual exhibition of photography
- Dr. Leeann Lane lecture entitled Gender and Democracy
- An evening of traditional music on Culture Night
- Storyteller/Author Liz Weir gave a class on creative writing
- Annual Children's Book Festival was launched by the Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, Cllr Michael Murphy.
- Summer Stars Party
- Workshop entitled Bright Sparks Physics

**Museum**

• Clonmel Flights of Discovery: Phase 1 Museum Development  
The Tipperary Museum of Hidden History was officially opened by Cllr Michael Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council on 24<sup>th</sup> October. The new cultural hub offers visitors an interactive experience, bringing the county's rich history to life through characters and stories.

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**Arts Office**

- Culture Night was a huge success
- The Arts office co-ordinates the Tipperary Festivals & Events Scheme on behalf of Tipperary County Council
- Creative Supports

**The following queries were raised by members:**

- What is the update on the upgrade works for Clonmel Library?
- Members acknowledged the hard work involved in getting the Museum up to the standard that it is now and the successful opening day that was had at the Museum recently. The link between the Museum and the Flights of Discovery with Kickham Barracks and the Sports Hub is a huge advantage and will benefit the town going forward.
- Members acknowledged that the Library was a hive of activity at any time of the day. It was also stated by all members that the digitalisation of the Library is very impressive and welcomed this addition to the service. It is very welcoming to see this development happening at Mick Delahunty Square.

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

- Mr. Damien Dullagan, County Librarian confirmed that the Clonmel Library upgrade project has been progressed to stage 2 by the Department.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian and Ms. Marie McMahon, Museum Curator from the Culture/Library Services, and Fire & Emergency Services Directorate for his 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:

- What is the update on the Clonmel Arms Hotel site?
- What is happening at the former Clonmel Foods site?
- Is there any update on the CCTV scheme for the town of Clonmel?
- What is the update on the old Superquinn Building (Musgraves)?
- Has there been any reply from the Department regarding the request to increase the funding being made available for Council tenants under the Adaptation Grants Scheme?

**Members' queries were responded to as follows:**

- The developer of the Clonmel Arms is continuing to examine costing/pricing for the proposed development, there is no further updates currently on this development. The Council's Planning Section is available to meet with the developer's Design Team to assist in pre-commencement compliance.
- The company who have demolished the former Clonmel Foods building were contacted and they have no information as to what the site will be used for in the future as they were only contracted to carry out the

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demolition. The Council's Planning Section does not have any applications currently regarding the site with reference to future plans.

- An application to extend the Clonmel CCTV Scheme has been submitted to An Garda Síochána National CCTV Advisory Committee for consideration. Meetings of the Committee scheduled for December have not taken place. It is hoped these meetings will take place in early 2020.
- Musgraves have been actively trying to market and promote the site and this is evident through on-line websites.
- No response has been received from the Department of Housing regarding the adaptation grants for council house tenants. The correspondence will be followed up.

**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:

- When will the footpaths in St. Patrick's Cemetery be upgraded?
- What are the plans for the junction at Glenconnor, traffic exiting out on to the Western Road are having difficulty due to the speed of traffic passing.
- On behalf of reps for members of the public can the District Engineer ask the T.I.I. why is the road surface on the newly re-surfaced N24 left uneven? Is there a reason for this?
- The Columbarium that was proposed and agreed for St. Patrick's Cemetery has not happened in 2019 as planned, what are the plans currently for the Columbarium?
- Need to address the water outages at Poulaganogue, they are happening too often and a lot of time without prior warning, can we write to Irish Water with our concerns?

**Members' queries were responded to as follows:**

- Money was not set aside in 2018/19 for footpath works. The District Engineer was not aware of any such commitment for these types of works at St. Patrick's Cemetery and will check the current status of this with Environment section.
- As previously reported by the District Engineer at previous District Meetings, it has been confirmed that there are no plans for works to the junction at Glenconnor as surveys have already been carried out there and no issue with speeding cars was evident and no problems with sightlines was recorded.
- The District Engineer confirmed that contact would be made with the TII to confirm the road surface status on the N24. The District Engineer stated that at the end of these types of contracts a survey is done by to ensure that the road surface is to correct standard before the works are signed off by the Council.
- The District Engineer is waiting on a proposal from the Environment Section for the Columbarium as the District did not set aside a budget for this. Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services advised that she would clarify the status of this project.

**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, 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019.**

- The District will write to Irish Water seeking a meeting for the members of Clonmel Borough District about the ongoing issues with water supply in the town and the proposals both short-term and long-term to deal with same.

**Item 4.1 – Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders**

The Chief Executive Orders for the period up to the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 were noted.

**Item 5.1 - 5.5 – Consideration of the following Notices of Motion**

**Motion 1797 was proposed by Cllr Pat English's Motion**

That Clonmel Borough Council provide a security railing on the existing wall in Fairfields, Clonmel between houses no. 29 to no. 30 to curtail anti-social behaviour in the area.

**Reply:** I have inspected the location of the alleged anti-social behaviour (ASB), and have noted the extent of the works that may require to be done. If any railing is to be installed it will only be over that section of the wall that is in public ownership. In the meantime the Council will endeavour to establish the exact nature and extent of the ASB prior to any works taking place.

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

**Motion 1808 was proposed by Cllr Siobhán Ambrose**

That Clonmel Borough District Council contacts Transport Infrastructure Ireland (T.I.I.) requesting that road signage for Clonmel as the regional town in Tipperary is re-instated on the road signage of all of our neighbouring counties and on the M50. The signage for Clonmel at the access points of our neighboring counties was removed by the T.I.I. when previous roads upgrade works were carried out in recent years and should be re-instated. Clonmel given its regional status in the County should also be included on signage on the M50.

**Reply:** Subject to approval by the members of the Borough District, this motion will be forwarded to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (T.I.I.) for their consideration and response

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

**Motion 1809 was proposed by Cllr Siobhán Ambrose**

That under future Roads Programmes that consideration is given for the re-surfacing of sections of the road in Glenaleamy

**Reply:** I have inspected this cul-de-sac road and have noted that the road surface is in very good condition, well sealed and with very few defects. As a result the Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) rating of this road is at

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Level 9. Therefore, this road only requires routine maintenance and does not require to be re-surfaced at this time. Also, considering the level of traffic on this road and the current minor defects it is unlikely to require re-surfacing for quite a long time.

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

**Motion 1810 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose**

In the interest of safety that Clonmel Borough District Council looks at the insertion of at least one raised platform at the pedestrian crossing in Lisronagh Village as a means of reducing the high speed of traffic passing through the village

**Reply:** There are quite a number of measures already in place in Lisronagh Village, both on the approach roads and within the 50km/hr zone, to address potential traffic speeding.

Prior to any decision being made the Council intend to first establish the level of traffic speeds of the vehicles passing through the village, and this will be carried out in Q1 of 2020.

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

**Motion 1811 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English**

That Clonmel Borough District provide public lighting on the Cashel Road adjacent to Abbott and Boston Scientific factories and the Ard Gaoithe Business Park in the interest of public safety.

**Reply:** I have surveyed this location and noted that about 9 No. 8m high poles would need to be installed in order to provide adequate lighting over the 300m length of the road in question.

An application to the Roads Headquarters in Nenagh will need to be made so that they can include in for consideration as part of their Public Lighting Programme for 2020.

I have already been in contact with Nenagh and informed them of your request, and the appropriate application will be completed submitted to them in early January 2020.

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

**6.1 – Correspondence**

- Letter to Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government

**All correspondence was noted.**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT  
MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 4.30 p.m. IN THE TOWN HALL, PARNELL  
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**Item 7.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of congratulations for Cllr. Garret Ahearn, Mayor of Clonmel and his wife Laura on the recent birth of their son Jamie.

A vote of congratulation for Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Senior Engineer on his promotion to Acting Director of Services of Planning, Water Services and Thurles Municipal District.

A vote of congratulations for Ms. Martina O’Gorman in her move from the Clonmel Borough District to the Machinery Yard, Clonmel.

A vote of congratulations for Mr. Larry Lee, General Services Supervisor on his recent retirement.

A vote of congratulations for Cllr. Michael Murphy on his reappointment as Head of the Irish Delegation to the EU Committee of the Regions.

**Item 8.1 – Any other business**

Members raised concerns they were receiving from members of the public regarding a planning application for the construction of a 20m high telecommunications support structure carrying antennas and transmission dishes, with associated ground level equipment units and security fencing at Clonmel Commercials GAA Club, Western Road, Clonmel. The members were advised that the planning process allows for applications of this nature to be made and that, similar to any other planning application, they and members of the public can submit objections, observations, etc to the planning authority for consideration in their decision making process.

Signed:   
**Mayor of Clonmel Borough District**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:   
**District Administrator**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_