

**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, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2019.**

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

Apologies: Ms. Sinead Carr, District Manager

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

Also in attendance: Ms. Cora Morrissey, Administrative Officer
Ms. Colette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist

With the permission of the Mayor, Cllr. Pat English raised the recent water outages that occurred in Clonmel during August, in particular over the Busking Festival weekend. Shops, businesses and residents were directly affected by the outages and people who came to the town for the Busking Festival had to go home. It was a huge disappointment and major problem in the town and it had a negative impact. Cllr. Pat English asked that the District write to management of Irish Water in relation to these ongoing issues. This was agreed by the other Members.

Cllr. Niall P Dennehy stated that there was a lack of maintenance at the water plant.

Cllr. Michael Murphy agreed that there were a lot of businesses affected and there was a lack of communication. He thanked Denis Holland, Senior Engineer, Water Section and his team, as when they got the go ahead from Irish Water they acted straight away.

Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose added that no lessons had been learned from previous similar problems that have occurred in the town. If heavy rain comes again a high proportion of the town will be without water again. Communication and service with Irish Water is not good enough.

Cllr. Garret Ahearn agreed that it was unacceptable what happened at any time, but with the addition of the Busking Festival made the impact much more significant. There was no reassurance for businesses from Irish Water that this wouldn't happen again.

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Cllr. Richie Molloy agreed that a lot of businesses had been affected and that this wasn't good enough.

Mr. Sean Keating, Director of Services confirmed that he would pass the concerns that the members had on to Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, Water Section. He agreed with the issues that were raised by the members. He encouraged all members to attend the upcoming clinic with Irish Water which would allow them to question Irish Water representatives.

Item 1.1 – Minutes of July monthly meeting

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 17th July, 2019, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy and agreed by all. Comments in relation to the minutes made by Cllr. Niall P Dennehy were noted by the Mayor.

Item 2.1 – Attendance of Rep from Environment and Climate Change Directorate

Ms Cora Morrissey, Administrative Officer and Ms Colette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members at the meeting detailing key issues relating to the Environment Directorate.

Key issues included:

Burial Grounds: Extension of Shanrahan BG/Quaker BG rebuilding wall/Clearance of overgrowth at Shanavine and Powerstown

Civic Amenity: Carrigeen

Community Services: Tidy Schools, Community Environment Action Fund 2019, SPC Meetings

Control of Dogs: Dog licences

Control of Horses: Complaints/Pickups

Derelict Sites: 2019 register is now published

Litter Enforcement: Number of fines

Waste Management: Household inspections were carried out to determine compliance for bin and recycling services

Environment Protection: Agriculture Pollution/EPA river samples/Septic tank inspections

Public Awareness: Public awareness trailer/Tour of Recycling Centre/Summer anti-dog fouling initiatives/Early morning – late evening patrol by dog wardens/TEA event held in library/WEE collection initiatives.

Climate & Energy: Public invited to make submissions to draft Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Complaints: All Complaints made to the Environment section.

The following queries were raised by members:-

- What type of works will be carried out at the Quaker Burial Ground?
- When will the resurfacing of footpaths begin at St. Patrick's Cemetery?
- It was noted by all members that the clean-up operation at both Shanavine BG and Powerstown BG was successful.
- When horses are lifted from unauthorised sites, is there a history of owners coming forward to claim them?

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- News on local radio today confirmed that a dead horse was found in Clonmel, can the details of this be confirmed. Will the Environment section clarify their role when a horse is on public and private lands? What are the procedures involved?
- Was Clonmel included in the early morning/late evening patrol for dog licences?
- The members were delighted to hear that funding had been received for the purchase of drones to be used in fight against dumping. The issue of illegal dumping is significant around Clonmel and the drones will play an effective role as evident by other local authorities that currently use them.
- Is it possible for Clonmel to install a blue plastic bottle recycling bank (reference was made to one in Cashel)?
- Why have dog foul bins not been installed along the Blueway to date?
- What are the procedures involved when somebody believes that they have high levels of iron or bacteria in their water?
- Members wished to complement the Environment Section on the management of the Carrigeen Recycling Site and noted that it was being run very efficiently and that the facility was spotless.
- The issue of sulkies on the Blueway was raised and the Environment Section was asked how they were dealing with this issue.
- Littering in the laneways around the town?
- Is there any research into how effective signage is when it comes to dog fouling – is there a case for more signage to go up around the town?

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

- The wall at the Quaker BG will be rebuilt to a certain height to mark the boundary. The Environment Section wrote to the Quaker Association to see if there was funding available under any national schemes and also the Council's Heritage Officer was contacted to see if there was any streams of funding that could be sourced.
- It was confirmed that the dead horse was found on a property at Knocklofty and that the Council's vet was involved. They are currently organising its removal.
- Household inspections were carried out across housing estates in the Municipal Districts; 200 in total and it found 25% non compliant. These would be followed up with fixed penalties.
- Early morning/late evening dog licence patrols did happen in Clonmel in June over a 2 week period as part of the initiative to target hot spot areas.
- The cost of bins will be looked in to for the Blueway but the issue of how the bins would be collected would also need to be addressed.
- The Environment section will look in to the blue plastic recycle bank.
- The issue of Horses is that if they are on public roads they are lifted as soon as possible. If they are on public lands there is a 5 day notice served and if no response made the horse is lifted. If a horse is on private lands it is the owner's issue and the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture on welfare issues.
- The water quality in Clonmel is subject to a monitoring programme and this is done very regularly. The Lab technicians contact HSE if anything is amiss. Anybody can call Irish Water if they feel there is an issue with their

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water quality. The Water Section of the Council then goes and takes samples in order to test. Actions and procedures carried out after the sampling depend on the standard of the water.

- 12 dog fouling signs have gone up recently in Clonmel.
- Environment Section is currently working with the Borough District and the Gardai to address the issue of sulkies on the Blueway.
- Litter picking in the laneways around Clonmel Town are the responsibility of the Borough and the sweepers do go down the laneways as part of their normal duties.

The Mayor thanked Ms Cora Morrissey, Administrative Officer and Ms. Colette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist from the Environment Directorate for their attendance and report.

Item 3.1 – Reports of Officers

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

- The Garda Station at the Kickham Barracks site is very slow between OPW and Department of Justice, it is paramount that we push this as it will be a few more years again before planning goes through.
- Is there any update regarding Market Place and former Supervalu store? Was a letter issued to Aldi?
- What is the current status of the sale of the former Museum and are there any guarantees about what will go in to the premises?
- Any update from developers of the Clonmel Arms site? What are their proposals now that planning has been secured? Will they develop the site themselves or will they sell on?
- It was noted by all members that the Clonmel Arms development is a catalyst for the entire town and has the potential to be transformative for the town.
- The members expressed their appreciation for the fantastic good news story that is the Blueway and the current maintenance is a credit to those involved. Lots of positive feedback from those who use the amenity. Can existing benches on the Blueway be reviewed as to their position and the views that they provide? Some brambles etc need to be cut down.
- When will the laneway in King Street be complete?
- There is a lack of bins in the new carpark area of St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Is there any update on the Glenconnor Junction regarding safety and traffic?
- Can stone at Gordon Place Car Park be reused on site and put in to the old town wall?
- Why does the vacant houses turnaround time appear slow?
- What can be done to retain funding from the CIS scheme that is unused as applications were low?
- Is there a possibility of putting up signage on Blueway for cyclists to ring bell on approach to pedestrians?
- The Druids Art Feature that is on the M8 motorway is now covered up by overgrowth; can we do anything as a District?

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- Works that are being carried out in Ballypatrick were complemented and all staff involved had carrying out a great job.

Cllr. Michael Murphy confirmed that he wrote to the CEO of Musgraves regarding the former Supervalu store site in his capacity as Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council and that the company assured him that they are making great efforts to sell the site and they felt that there was no need to meet with the members currently as there would be nothing further to report.

Cllr Garret Ahearn confirmed that he would bring up the issue of the Druids Art Feature at the upcoming meeting with the TII.

Members' queries were responded to as follows:

- Representatives for the developers for the Clonmel Arms proposal had been contacted and they had confirmed that they have the project with their QS team to price.
- District Administrator said he wasn't aware of a letter to Aldi and that he will look into the matter.
- Information obtained from the Corporate Services Section regarding the former Museum premises is that the sale has been finalised. The matter of the usage of the building will be enquired.
- Contact is ongoing with representatives for the owners of the Market Place area and they have confirmed that advertising of the units at a local and national level is ongoing with little success. They state there is currently a depressed market nationwide for primary and secondary retail locations.
- The Department of Justice will be contacted regarding their element of the Kickham Barracks site.
- The proposal for new benches along Blueway would be looked at. Each bench would cost approx €1,000 so the funds would have to be made available for this to happen.
- Work would be carried out on the overgrowth that is blocking the views at some vantage points on Blueway.
- There is a possibility of unspent money within the District under the CIS Scheme. The District cannot transfer and use this funding for LIS Scheme projects.
- The time frame for works to be complete at King Street is 4 weeks.
- New bins can be installed at St Patrick's Cemetery to alleviate the problem of over flowing bins and rubbish being left on trolleys.
- If Environment Section provided a budget to the District to resurface the footpaths in St. Patrick's Cemetery this can be carried out, but until then there is currently no funding to do this work.
- There have been traffic flow surveys carried out at Glenconnor Junction and this has shown that there are no capacity issues. Due to the planning developments to go in to the area this should not be an issue until such developments take place.
- The Council will salvage stone from the Gordon Place car park. However, this will not be put towards the wall as it would entail losing car park spaces, which would defeat the purpose of the project.
- The District Engineer went through his report on housing vacants in detail for the members.

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- When further signage is going up on the Blueway, information regarding good user behaviours will be included.

Item 4.1 – Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The Chief Executive Orders for the period up to the 13th September, 2019 were noted.

Item 5.1 – Consideration of the following Notices of Motion

With the agreement of the Members, Motions 1725 & 1736 were taken at the same time.

Motion 1725 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

That Clonmel Borough District carries out a review of the Clonmel Parking/Traffic and Car Park Bye Laws 2013 that were adopted and implemented in late 2017. Such a review should have regard to the on-going challenges facing our town centre.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy

Motion 1725 was proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy

That Clonmel Borough Council review its current parking strategy regarding the town centre and consider introducing free parking from 9am to 11am every morning to encourage more people to remain in the town centre after the school drop.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

Reply to both Motions:

The Clonmel Town Parking Strategy 2013-2020 was adopted in July 2013. This went through 3 years of discussion, assessment, research, engagement and eventually decision. Most of the recommendations have been implemented at this stage.

Following the adoption of the Strategy, Clonmel Borough District Parking/Traffic and Car Park Bye-laws 2013 were adopted in January 2014 and became effective in February 2014. With the introduction, as recommended in the Strategy, of the barrier system in Mary Street car-park in 2016 the bye-laws were reviewed and became fully effective in May 2016. These were further amended in June 2017 (to allow for full implementation to areas not previously covered) and again in November 2018 (to address issues arising from a review of the full implementation as promised and to allow for pricing changes which arose as a result). As such the Car Parking Strategy has been kept under constant on-going review and will continue to be kept under review as and when the circumstances require it.

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Clonmel boasts over 2,200 available public parking spaces, between on and off street:

- 167 of these are completely free to park in all day;
- 220 spaces have 30 minute free parking associated with them at any time throughout the day;
- Over 600 spaces within a 2-3 minute walk of the town centre can be parked in any day for a cost between €1 and €3.50 maximum;
- Many of the remaining spaces, either adjacent to or within easy walking distance of the town centre, have 30 minutes free parking with the purchase of 1 hour parking.

At this point in time, there is adequate and accessible parking capacity in Clonmel across all user types – short, medium, all-day/long term (and all of which are price and user sensitive). The barrier facility at Mary Street car-park effectively allows half-hour free parking throughout the entire day in the town centre. An average of 60% of the vehicles using this town centre car-park avail of the free parking option. This is exceptional and is exactly what was envisaged for, and by, traders when it was set up. There is free parking throughout the day available at Suirside car-park, a short walking distance from the town centre. The designated all-day car-parks provide cost-effective options for those requiring parking for longer periods.

The purpose of the car parking strategy is to facilitate and enable the greatest level of access to the town centre as is possible for customers of existing businesses. The regulation of parking in the town centre is critical to facilitate an adequate turnover of customers who are visiting and shopping in the town. Turnover ensures activity, and more importantly spend for businesses, which is what a town needs in order to stay healthy and lively. The pricing structure has ensured that on-street parking is no longer used by employees of businesses and shops in the town but by customers (employees are increasingly availing of the permit parking options in those car-parks designated for that purpose). The current on-street car parking structure is working well and allows a quick turnover of spaces (which is what is required). During the month of December in the lead up to Christmas there is also free parking every Saturday in off-street Council car-parks.

In terms of pricing, the cost of off-street parking is set below that of on-street parking and at a level to be attractive to customers. Parking charges are also below charges in other comparable urban centres around the country. The facility in Mary Street for 30 minutes free also addresses traders requirements to allow customers undertake a quick visit to their premises for everyday essentials and it is well used.

It is considered that a review of the Clonmel Parking/Traffic and Car Park Bye-laws 2013 is not necessary at this point, as it was last reviewed in November 2018. A full review of the Bye-laws is a considerable exercise as can be seen from the 2013 Strategy and it is unlikely that there would be any significant changes given the number of minor amendments already made over the last number of years to make the Bye-laws work more effectively. A review will be

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required when a significant change happens that affects parking patterns, as is likely to be the case when the proposed Town Centre Urban Design Project is implemented or if a significant new user sets up in the town centre area. In any event, the Clonmel Town Parking Strategy runs to 2020, so next year the effectiveness of the Strategy would need to be examined and this will form part of the District's work programme.

The reply to the motions was noted.

A lengthy debate took place, at the end of which, it was agreed that the District Administrator would develop a framework to be agreed by the members to undertake an in-house examination of the effectiveness of the Town Parking Strategy 2013-2020.

Motion 1727 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy & Cllr. Richie Molloy

That Clonmel Borough District would relocate the tree outside Sean Tierney's on O Connell Street so that it no longer impacts directly on the front façade of this wonderfully kept premises.

Reply:

O'Connell Street forms part of the area for the proposed Clonmel Town Centre Urban Design Project that will improve the public realm in the town centre and will include enhancements to amenity, recreation, leisure and culture spaces. It would be expected that in delivering the project, it will require the removal/relocation of certain existing trees and the installation of more urban-type tree species at appropriate places in the town centre. The tree at this location will be one of the trees to be surveyed as part of this design process. It is anticipated that this project will be going through the Part 8 permission procedure by year end/early next year.

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

Motion 1729 was proposed by Cllr Michael Murphy

That under the 2020 Area Roadworks Programme, consideration is given to resurfacing works at Graigue Clerihan, that section from the old IRA monument back towards the main road

Reply:

This will be put on the list of roads to be assessed as part of the next Roadworks Programme

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

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Motion 1730 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That the very badly potholed roadway serving the houses at Glenconnor 1, Clonmel be inspected and resurfaced as a matter of urgency.

Reply:

The potholes on this roadway were filled last week. Regarding the resurfacing of same, this will be put on the list of roads to be assessed as part of the next Roadworks Programme

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1731 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District resurfaces the cartrack to the rear of houses no. 21 to 40 Bianconi Drive, Clonmel

Reply:

This laneway was resurfaced back in 2016, and on inspection it is in good condition and not in need of resurfacing.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy

The reply to the motion was noted.

With the agreement of the Members, Motions 1735 & 1746 were taken at the same time.

Motion 1735 was proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy

The provision of conveniently located and secure cycle parking will be a key element of increasing cycling activity on the town centre. On street parking in the core retail area of O'Connell Street, Mitchell Street, Gladstone Street and Market Place should be developed in the short term in tandem with the town centre traffic management and contra flow cycle lane improvements. Clusters of prominent cycle parking in clusters of around ten stands per location should be developed and additional parking should be added as demand dictates. Cycle parking should also be provided at the rail and bus station together with an information board containing tourist and way finding information.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garret Ahearn

Motion 1746 was proposed by Cllr. Garret Ahearn

Could Clonmel District give an update of how many cycling parking stands are in the town and if they would agree that more cycle parking is essential around the

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borough of Clonmel to facilitate the extra cyclist following the opening of the Suir Blueway and make a statement on the matter?

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy

Reply to both Motions:

Clonmel Borough District is currently working on urban design proposals to improve the public realm in Clonmel Town centre. The appointed external Design Team is progressing with this project. These proposals, when constructed, will include enhancements and increases in the provision of amenity, recreation, leisure and cultural space. The provision and location of additional bicycle parking facilities is being considered as part of the design proposals being developed

The reply to the motions was noted.

Motion 1741 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose

What is the latest update regarding the provision of a Columbarium for St. Patrick's Cemetery in Clonmel?

Reply:

The Environment & Climate Section is now including Columbarium in new/extensions to burial grounds across the county. It is proposed to provide same in the recently extended St. Patrick's Cemetery in 2020.

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

Motion 1742 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose

In the interest of safety and reducing the speed of the traffic passing through Rosegreen Village that Clonmel Borough District Council explores the possibility of inserting two raised platforms in Rosegreen Village. One raised platform at the pedestrian crossing and the second on the road outside of the church.

Reply:

This will be put on the list of roads to be assessed as part of the next Road works Programme.

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

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Motion 1743 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose

That under Clonmel Borough District Council's future Roads Programmes that consideration is given to the re-surfacing of sections of the Toor Road in Kilcash

Reply:

This will be put on the list of roads to be assessed as part of the next Roadworks Programme.

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

6.1 – Correspondence

- Cllr. Pat English proposed that the District Administrator write to Minister Daly to ask for a meeting and this was seconded by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose and agreed by all.
- It was mentioned by all members that there is a march for Mental Health on the 28th September and they were encouraging as many as possible to take part as Clonmel faces a dreadful situation with lack of local support currently with no core facilities in the town.

Item 7.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

There was a vote of congratulations made to Shorla Pharma, Clonmel who won the overall award at the IBYE Awards recently for best young entrepreneur.

There was also a vote of congratulations to the following All Ireland Winning Tipperary Teams - Senior Hurling, U20 Hurling and Ladies Intermediate Football.

Item 8.1 – Any other business

- Members were informed that the District office had been advised by Roads Capital that the N24 Pavement Improvement Scheme would be commencing next month and that further information will be circulated to Members, Businesses and residents in the affected area by Roads Capital.

Signed: 
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Date: 23-10-2019

Signed: 
District Administrator

Date: 16/10/2019