

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 11.00 a.m. BY ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 20th OCTOBER, 2021

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

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

Also in attendance: Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance
Ms. Caroline Conway, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Jonathan Flood, District Planner
Mr. Fergal Condon, Staff Officer

Item 1.1 Remote Meeting Protocol

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

Item 2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Niall Dennehy disclosed that he could not engage in any Plenary Council Policy and sought clarification on whether Item 4.1 falls under this category. Mr. Jim Dillon, District Administrator, advised that Item 4.1 would be considered Tipperary County Council Policy and advised Cllr Dennehy that it was noted that he could not participate/vote on same.

Item 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 15th September, 2021

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 15th September, 2021, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Cllr. Niall Dennehy, and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

- Cllr Siobhán Ambrose asked if there was an update on the design for the new entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery?
- Cllr Siobhán Ambrose asked if there was an update on the CCTV for Clonmel?
- Cllr Siobhán Ambrose asked if there was an update on whether a Coppersmith has been secured for the town hall works?
- Cllr Siobhán Ambrose asked if there was an update on when the new Senior Engineer and Executive Engineer will be starting?
- Cllr Siobhán Ambrose with the permission of the Mayor mentioned the advertisement for an Assistant Arts Officer in Nenagh and stated she was very disappointed that the post was specifically for Nenagh and felt the post should be in Clonmel. She requested that Ms. Sinead Carr, District Manager raise this issue within the next 24 to 48 hours.
- Cllr John Fitzgerald supported Cllr Ambrose on calling for the Assistant Arts Officer position to be based in Clonmel.

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proposed 108 parking spaces will not adequately accommodate the proposed 159 dwellings plus a creche.

- Cllr John Fitzgerald welcomed the development and in particular the broad mix of dwellings. He also cited concerns regarding the impact on existing residents of Coleville Road. A Master Plan is required for Co. Waterford Land. He queried where the PRTB Act comes in.
- Cllr Richie Molloy cited the need for a roundabout and welcomed the development once traffic implications were taken into consideration.
- Cllr Michael Murphy feels the Density is too high however noted that An Bord Pleanála are the decision makers in this regard. He has concerns with the intensifying volumes of traffic and states that a roundabout should be a condition if planning is approved. He also requested that a Master Plan for other zoned lands in conjunction with Waterford County Council be put in place. Who looked at the Landscaping/Bio-Diversity? Did Roisin O'Grady who is our bio-diversity expert have any input? What consideration was given to the tree planting which may impact footpaths and adjoining properties in future years. Requested that Clonmel Borough District put in place a Strategy for Tree Planting and. Thinks the Council should have a full-time Landscaping/Bio-Diversity/Sustainability expert for future applications.
- Cllr Pat English agreed with the need for a delegated staff member and policies on Bio-Diversity.
- Cllr Siobhán Ambrose acknowledged the work of Mr. Eric Ryan, Town Gardner in relation to the high volume of tree pruning being carried out.

Members queries were addressed as follows:

- Mr. Jonathan Flood, District Planner noted all the concerns and advised that he would compile a list and circulate it to the Members before they are included in the report for An Bord Pleanála. He also confirmed that when Eoin Powell was preparing his report he consulted Mr. Eric Ryan, Town Gardener and Eoin Powell advised in his report he changed the tree planting on the original plans to ensure they were compliant.
- Ms. Caroline Conway, Senior Executive Planner, advised that she would speak with her colleague Ms. Ann Marie Devaney, in the Forward Planning Section in relation to the submissions made on the review of the Waterford Development Plan and will refer to Members on this matter.
- Ms. Sinéad Carr agreed that a Tree Strategy was necessary for the Town and cited that Clonmel has a designated tree pruning programme however a more strategic approach is required and she will request if there is any funding available from the Heritage/Bio-Diversity Officer. The type of trees will be listed in the Strategy and will be brought forward to the 2022 Programme. She also advised that a Bio-Diversity Plan is being drafted by Roisin O'Grady.
- Mr. Eoin Powell advised that €60,000 is spent annually on tree pruning.

The Mayor confirmed that Members observations were noted and thanked both Caroline Conway, Jonathan Flood and Fergal Condon for their presentation and discussion.

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- Cllr Siobhán Ambrose queried if the Enhancement & Painting Scheme was still open.
- Cllr Siobhán Ambrose queried when the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme was advertised and why were the Members were not notified.
- Cllr John Fitzgerald welcomed the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Rosegreen which has a very active community.
- Cllr Michael Murphy wished the Killusty & Kilsheelan Tidy Towns groups well in the upcoming awards. He confirmed that he was emailed at National Level advising of the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme.

Members' queries were addressed as follows:

- Mr. Jim Dillon advised that a Copper Smith has now been appointed to carry out works on the Town Hall however he is not in a position to start works until early 2022.
- Mr. Jim Dillon confirmed that Remcoll submitted Concept Drawings for Market Place to the Planning Section 10 days ago and Planning are currently assessing same.
- Mr. Jim Dillon advised that at the Suir Island workshop it was indicated that option 2 was preferred as it was less environmentally intrusive and also less expensive. When the application goes to An Bord Pleanála it will then go to Public Consultation.
- Mr. Jim Dillon confirmed that the Enhancement and Painting Scheme is closed and that there were 27 applications.
- Mr. Jim Dillon advised that the Street Enhancement Scheme was announced by Government in connection with Community & Enterprise and was limited to communities with a population of less than 15,000 people. The Funding available is €16,000. The options were Kilsheelan, Clerihan and Rosegreen and that Rosegreen was the preferred option. 3 businesses in Rosegreen have been approached to see if they can provide 20% towards the Scheme which is part of the terms and conditions. Submissions went to C&E and had to go back to the Department within a very short time period. Departmental Approval was given and the Scheme will proceed.
- Mr. Jim Dillon advised that an updated application for CCTV with the Gardai being Data Controllers was sent in July and he recently met with Superintendent William Leahy and Sergeant Tom O'Dwyer who deals with Data Protection in Clonmel and there are more items that need to be supplied, one of the main ones is a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) this is the first one in the Country and Consultants will need to be engaged. In addition staff that will be looking at the CCTV images need to be Garda Vetted. He asked the members to note that a new legislation at committee stage called the Garda Digital Recording Bill, 2021 which gives Gardai extra powers (Body Cams, Automatic Number Plate Recognition and CCTV) and we need to bare in mind that there may not be any applications processed until this is signed in to Law as it is possible that the CCTV application process may change. Mr. Jim Dillon suggested that a letter should issue to the Minister for Justice requesting that the application for CCTV be progressed as a matter of priority. This was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose and seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald.
- Ms. Sinéad Carr, District Manager confirmed that the Executive Engineer is starting next week and that the Senior Engineer has been appointed and a start date is to be confirmed.

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Item 6.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 15th October, 2021

Cllr Siobhán Ambrose advised that the document was difficult to read. This was noted by all Members.

Items 7.1 to 7.13 – Notices of Motions

Motion 2268 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy.

That the roadways within the Toberaheena Estate in Clonmel would be considered for resurfacing in the 2022 Area Roadworks Programme having regard to their very poor condition.

Reply:

I inspected this estate on 14th October and noted that the following works are required to be carried out:

- Macadam repair works to 4 No. junctions within the estate, and
- Some footpath repairs on the north side of House No. 15.

The works as outlined above will be included for consideration as part of the Discretionary Improvement Works, (DIW), for 2022.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2270 was proposed by Cllr. Niall Dennehy.

That Electronic Road Speed Reduction Signs be located at the many Urban Areas that are now mushrooming and regularly frequented by Speed Camera Vans.

Reply:

It is noted that over the last 6 months or more that a Speed Check Van has been located within the 50kph speed zones on the Davis Road and the Cashel Road (opposite Clonmel plumbing). I am not exactly sure as to why they are in these locations as in my opinion we do not have a speeding issue at either of these two locations. Also, we have no representations, no notice of motions and no complaints from the public in relation to speeding issues at either of these two locations. As such it is the Council's opinion that there is no necessity to install electronic driver feedback signs at these locations.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted and Cllr. English requested that the District Administrator write to the Superintendent about the locations of the Speed Vans.

Motion 2253 was proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy.

That Clonmel Borough District replace the signs outside Maher Plant Hire on the N24 near Cashel Road Roundabout as they are in a poor state (Signage for Park Hotel etc).

Reply:

These signs have been inspected and the District Engineer will arrange for them to be cleaned up.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald.

The reply to the motion was noted.

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The motion was seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2271 was proposed by Cllr. Niall Dennehy.

That a Referendum/Question be put to the People at the earliest possible opportunity to ascertain Public Support, or more importantly the lack of Public Support, for the 2014 Local Government (Reform) Act, which abolished Clonmel Borough Council (Corporation) and South Tipperary County Council, resulting in the catastrophic collateral Damage to both Authorities.

Reply:

If agreed by all Members. a letter will issue to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Minister Darragh O'Brien for his consideration and reply.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2273 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy.

That sections of the road at Carrigawilliam (between the Monroe GAA Complex and Mullinarinka) be considered for resurfacing under the 2022 Area Roadworks Programme having regard to its very poor condition.

Reply:

The District Engineer has surveyed this road and has noticed a section of road about 2km in length that requires to be surface dressed, and he intends to include same for consideration as part of the Surface Dressing Programme for 2022.

Cllr. Michael Murphy thanked Eoin for his response however advised that the section of road that he is referring to is a different one and it was agreed that Eoin and Cllr. Murphy would arrange to meet on site.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2274 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English.

That Clonmel Borough District inspect the lane ways in our council estates to see what maintenance is required due to weed growth and rubbish dumping.

Reply:

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Motion 2285 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

In welcoming the provision of an upgraded pedestrian crossing for the Heywood Road (between the turnoff for the St. Oliver's School and Bates Shop) that Clonmel Borough District Council also looks at the provision of speed ramps or speed cushions on this road in order to slow down the traffic on this road.

Reply:

Before any speed ramps/cushions can be considered to be installed along this section of road in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossing, the District Engineer will first have to carry out a speed survey over a period of at least seven days. Once this data is available then a decision can be made at that stage if to include for speed cushions, etc., and the Councillor will be made aware of that decision as soon as possible after that data is available.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2286 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

When sections of the Toor Road in Kilcash are being re-surfaced can much needed drainage works be carried out on sections of this road in tandem with these works?

Reply:

As stated by Councillor Ambrose, a section of the Toor road about 800m long is to be resurfaced in 2022, however, this will also include for drainage works along this section of road. I am not sure as to which 'other' sections of the Toor road require drainage works as per her request, however, I can arrange to meet out on site so that she can identify exactly which other sections also require attention.

Item 8.1 – Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

Item 9.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

- A vote of sympathy was issued to the family of the late Donal Wylde, Inisheer, Prior Park Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- A vote of sympathy was issued to the family of the late Ken Hogan, 23 Sheehy Terrace, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- A vote of sympathy was issued to the family of the late Lily Carew, Comeragh View, Heywood Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- A vote of sympathy was issued to the family of the late Frances Bourke, Mount Vista, Ard na Greine, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- A vote of congratulations was issued to Joe Franklin on partaking in the Tipperary County Board Juvenile Matchplay Pitch & Putt in Hillview.
- A vote of congratulations was issued to John Dempsey, Verge Cross Clonmel on the successful International Cycling event held by you recently at Powerstown Park Racecourse.
- A vote of congratulations was issued to Aoife Hanrahan on winning Bronze at European Freestyle Kayak Championships.

Item 10.1 – Any other business