

**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, 21ST NOVEMBER, 2018.**

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

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

Also in attendance: Mr. Jim Dillon, Administrative Officer, Housing Section
Mr. Sean Lonergan, Administrative Officer, Housing Section

Item 1.1 – Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 17th October 2018 were proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Micháel Anglim and agreed.

Item 2.1 – Attendance of Representative from Housing Directorate

Mr. Jim Dillon, Administrative Officer, and Mr. Sean Lonergan, Administrative Officer, circulated a district briefing note to members detailing key issues relating to the Housing Directorate under the following headings:-

Housing Services:

- Housing Construction
- Housing Allocations 2018
- House Purchases 2018
- RAS and Leasing 2018
- HAP 2018
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses
- Approved Housing Applicants

The following queries and issues were raised by Members:

- What is the plan for social and affordable houses next year?
- There is concern for people who are finding it difficult to find accommodation under the HAP scheme; can anything be done for people finding it difficult to source accommodation?
- Can rent increases be reversed that were increased recently?
- How are rent arrears in 2018 versus rent arrears last year?
- How many vacant homes will be returned and available for letting?

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- Some people are over the limit for social and affordable housing and are still finding it difficult to get a mortgage - what can be done in these circumstances?
- What impact is the Social Housing Investment Programme having on the private market; are the council inflating the market as we have more resources than private individuals when bidding on properties.
- What is the update on windows and doors scheme as there are a lot of older houses?
- Where the council does have land can it be put out to developers to develop for social housing stock and housing developments for older people?
- Members were glad to see an increase in housing adaptation grants and hope that this will be continued next year.
- How many people have applied for the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan in Clonmel Borough District and how many refusals have there been since inception of the scheme?
- Can the criteria for the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans be changed or modified, if necessary?
- What criteria are needed before you can hand over the keys?
- 2 houses in Elm Park are boarded up over 2 years - what can be done about this?

Members' queries and issues were responded to as follows:

- If people are experiencing hardship there is a hardship scheme which includes as part of the process being referred to MABS for professional help and advice.
- The Differential Rent Scheme is rent based on income; rents go up when income goes up and goes down when income goes down and is a very fair system unlike any other in the private sector.
- On average 17.5 % of local authority tenants' income goes on rent which is significantly lower than the private sector and there has been no increase in bandwidths in the district.
- There have been 35 hardship cases to date and for these cases the council make things more manageable for them based on their individual circumstances.
- There are 253 vacant houses and the average turnaround is 11 weeks.
- Windows and Doors Scheme planned for next year.
- Tenant Purchase Scheme had 236 applications with 129 approved and 14 in hand.
- Approximately 102 applicants have applied for the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan since scheme commenced in February 2018. 26 were approved to date with 74 not necessarily refused but require further information to process applications further.
- For anybody that has been refused a loan under the Rebuilding Ireland Scheme this was due to insufficient savings pattern and insufficient income to service loan.
- The Council are obliged to return houses to high standard and can't give over houses to new tenants until that standard is met. An example given of one house where €4,000 worth of rubbish was removed from a vacant house before works on the house could commence.
- The derelict sites in Elm Park that are boarded up are privately owned this is an ongoing issue and the matter is currently been dealt with by the Environment Section, under the Derelict Sites Act.
- A housing scheme for the elderly such as a retirement village comes down to economic feasibility. The council would be willing to engage with developers and discuss any proposals that are feasible.
- This council currently has the highest number on HAP tenancies in the country, outside of the main urban authorities. The targets set for HAP are being exceeded by the council.
- With regards to hardship cases the council has a discretionary payment increase of up to 20% with the approval of the HAP Hub.

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- As part of the Housing Acquisition Programme there are 3 main processes involved. When Council is competing on the open market for housing it doesn't interfere and if anybody else is bidding the Council withdraw; this information is provided by the estate agent.
- The Council also needs to take in to account the social mix in an estate and this is a factor when allocating houses.
- Repair and Leasing Scheme – with regards to the vacant homes, the council has now applied a Vacant Homes Officer.
- 45% of housing applicants are on HAP scheme. Every person on list is taken into account on housing list regardless of being HAP applicants.
- Department of HP&LG asked for submissions in relation to the Affordable Housing Scheme. Housing Section is currently working on a submission.
- Repair and Leasing Scheme details – 53 applications, 12 approved and 28 require further information.
- All schemes for housing will shortly be re-advertised by the Council Housing Department.

Item 3.1 – Reports of Officers

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

The following queries were raised by Members –

- The news of the Clonmel Arms Hotel site was welcomed by the members and they noted that the drawings were very impressive and supported the proposed development.
- There are 3 Clonmel positions in the Community Employment Scheme - did many apply for these positions?
- Is there a timeframe for the overall development of Kickham Barracks and is there a time frame for anchor tenants to occupy?
- Will electric point parking that is currently in Mary Street Car Park be the same in the Kickham Street Car Park?
- Can anything be done about the new speed limits at Redmondstown; as this area is currently a potential hazard for road users at this junction?
- Can anything be done at the Glenconnor junctions especially with new houses planned for the area as it will lead to more traffic using this junction?
- Will the footpaths at the post office in Clonmel be done this year?
- Can the pedestrian crossing at the Old Bridge be looked at as this is an ongoing issued?
- There are a lot of accidents occurring at Darcy's Cross and can anything be done to widen the entrance at this section of the road to reduce such incidents?
- Has there been any information back regarding the Heywood Road Junction, Clonmel by-pass?
- All members welcomed the introduction of free parking in the town car parks for every Saturday in December.
- It was noted by Members that significant work in preparing applications for funding under Project Ireland 2040 had been undertaken by council staff.
- What is the likely timeframe for delivery of proposal for Gladstone Street/O'Connell Streets?
- The Members also welcomed the Suir Blueway funding that was announced during the week
- Will the council be changing the car park in Irishtown from short term to long term and will it affect bye-laws?
- Is there any way of fast tracking An Garda Síochána going into Kickham Barracks site?
- Footpaths in cemetery between graves are very small and slippery for people to walk on.

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- There has been a serious accident near the Crescent Store, Dillon Street can anything be done in that area to prevent such an incident occurring again
- Why was there concrete instead of shrubs at the Dungarvan & Convent Road roundabout?
- The issue of the new entrance for the Davis Road Car Park caused concern regarding the issues of traffic management and members asked why they were not shown drawings before Part 8 planning documents were published.
- Did the OPW get back to council regarding the two plaques being removed; where are they now and can they be returned?
- Sweeping is carried out in Cahir town on Saturday morning but by evening the litter is notably bad, is there anybody from the council sweeping in the evening?
- A lot of outages in water plant when large amount of leaves build up. Have the council caretakers in the water plant that are checking this problem at the moment?
- How many electric points are going into Suir Island Car Park?
- Can the surface water in the new cemetery car park be addressed?

Members' queries were responded to and agreed as follows:

- At least 2 new charge points to be installed in Suir Island by council using same criteria as national policy; if demand increases infrastructure will facilitate additional charge points.
- Council are not changing bye-laws for car parks, only amending pricing schedule for one car park to re-designate it as long-term car park.
- Kickham Barracks Phase 1 will progress as part of the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund proposal, if approved, and further phases will be progressed with OPW, LIT and ETB.
- Insurance policy doesn't seem to cover the Quaker Cemetery wall and Council will need to look at capital budget provisions for same.
- Acknowledgement will be given to people who sent in their submissions, if not already sent, for O'Connell Street/Gladstone Street design proposals.
- Council have put extensive pressure on OPW and Department of Justice in relation to transfer of An Garda Síochána site. It is a very slow process and the Chief Executive is now involved in progressing this matter. A delegation can be brought to bring further pressure.
- Water lodging in cemetery car park already been dealt with by council staff.
- The new treatment plant in Marlfield will be a soft water plant.
- Town Engineer will revert to Water Services Section regarding water issues and recent breakage. Heavy rainfall and leaves causing blockages and combined with poor weather conditions are issues for the storm water system.
- There are no details on how many applied for the CES scheme as this is currently being dealt with by the Human Resources Section.
- Due to time restraints the Part 8 for Davis Road Car Park had to be fast tracked to comply with deadlines under the URDF programme.
- Council can arrange to meet TII earlier than scheduled to discuss the Redmondstown Junction speed limit.
- The junction at Glenconnor – there are only 35 new houses to be built in the area which will not add an excessive amount of additional traffic at junction and should not cause any further issues. Due to houses near junction Council cannot put in traffic lights and a roundabout will not work so these issues are causing a problem for the Roads Design Team.
- The footpath programme is graded by priority 1 to 5. It is categories 1 to 2 which get priority. District is currently finalising 5-year programme.
- Footpaths in Marlfield will be carried out by the end of this year.

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- It is not necessary to raise the pedestrian crossing at the Showgrounds Shopping Centre and council will not be carrying out any work at this time.
- Post office footpaths will be carried out by end of year, subject to weather conditions.
- Old Bridge pedestrian crossing – because of location none of the various designs will work there as in all cases they result in the locals and/or the shop loosing car parking, neither of which is satisfactory or acceptable. Therefore, the status quo remains.
- Roundabout at Heywood Road still at design stage and will write to TII to progress same.
- The issue at Darcy's Cross can be examined.
- The accident that happened near the Crescent Store happened due to somebody being distracted and not an issue with the junction. However, it is the Council's intention to widen the road on the west side by reducing the width of the footpath from the Crescent towards the High School.
- Roundabout scheme will be discussed with Senior Engineer.
- Concrete was put on roundabout at Dungarvan Road/Convent Road due to issues in maintaining shrubs and traffic safety & control. A tree will be planted in the centre of Pollards Roundabout.
- The sweeper issue in Cahir will be addressed.
- District will write to TII regarding the issues at Redmondstown.

The District Administrator referred to the review of Clonmel Parking Strategy and Clonmel Parking and Traffic / Car Parks Bye-Laws. They were fully implemented over a year ago and involved the introduction and roll out of pay and display to new areas including Upper Irishtown, Old Waterford Road and Davis Road and the implementation is operating well in these areas.

Having reviewed usage of the car park adjacent to St Mary's Church in Irishtown it is recommended that the designation be changed from short-term to long-term with a limited number of permits allocated to ensure turnover of spaces.

The resolution that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, the Pricing Schedule (copy circulated) of the Clonmel Parking/Traffic and Carpark Bye Laws 2013, be and is hereby amended, was proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy and seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

Item 3.2 – Approval of Tidy Towns Grants 2018

The details of the Tidy Towns grants were distributed to the members.
Proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy and seconded by Cllr. Andy Moloney.

Item 4.1 – Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The Chief Executive Orders for the period up to the 15th November, 2018 were noted.

Item 5.1 – Consideration of the following notices of Motion

Motion 1484 was proposed by Councillor Andy Moloney

That safety works be carried out Kilcommon Road, Cahir, and bends be included for safety works.

Reply: A Low Cost Safety Scheme application for improvement works on the R668 at Scartana, Cahir, on each approach to the existing permitted playschool has been submitted to the Roads Department, Nenagh, for consideration as part of the countywide for funding from the Department. The above scheme does not include the bends at Kilcommon. Traffic speeds do not appear to

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be a problem here due to 'self regulating' nature of the existing horizontal alignment/bends of the public road. Road widening to facilitate the improved movement of articulated and agricultural could be considered but this section of roadway is bounded on each side with masonry walls. The cost of road widening this section of roadway would be outside the funding limits of the Low Cost Safety scheme. The R668 from the Clogheen side of AIPB to Scartana Cross is included in the Road Works Programme 2019-2021 for re-surfacing works, with a double surface dressing finish. Approximately 1.4km of road resurfacing works is to be carried for each year of Road Works Programme.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1485 was proposed by Councillor Andy Moloney

That this Council provide safety measures on the Loughkent Road in New Inn, as it is now a built up environment and street lighting needs to be extended.

Reply: This location was inspected by the District and Area Engineer following receipt of a letter from local residents in recent weeks. The letter relates to the request for the following:-

To be incorporated into the speed limits: No issue in principle with extending the speed limit signs to the east of the houses. This would need to be included as part of the next countywide Speed Limit review. Installation of Public lighting: The provision of street lighting outside of speed limit zones is not in accordance with Tipperary County Council's public lighting policy. The distance from the closest existing street light to the houses is approximately 300m. There would be a significant cost associated with same and at present the District does not have a budget source for such works. It should be noted that even if the speed limit was extended to incorporate the houses in question that the budgetary situation remains the same and thus the Council could not give a commitment to have street lights installed.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Anglim.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1492 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That the laneway to the rear of No. 1 – No. 28 Saint Oliver Plunkett Terrace be tarred and chipped, as it is in poor condition.

Reply: Works are ongoing at Saint Oliver Plunkett Terrace. Resurfacing will be considered as part of the 2019 Town Roads Improvement programme.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Lonergan.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1498 was proposed by Councillor Michael Murphy

That under the 2019 Area Roadworks Programme, consideration is given to re-surfacing the road from Ballypatrick Village to Killurney taking into account it's very poor condition.

Reply: As this Section of road is within the Carrick On Suir Municipal District roads area, the Carrick-On-Suir Area Engineer will need to consider this request.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1509 was proposed by Councilor Micheal Anglim

I call on the Council to carry out traffic calming works on the road approaching Ballylooby School.

Reply: The Area Engineer will arrange speed surveys at this location.

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The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Lonergan.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1510 was proposed by Councillor Micheal Anglim

I call on the Council to provide funds for the replacement of Footpaths in Galty View Housing Estate in Ballyporeen, 150 meters of which are particularly bad, with a large number of elderly residents, it is dangerous for them when out walking.

Reply: This will be inspected by the Area Engineer

The motion was seconded by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1511 was proposed by Councillor Micheal Anglim and Councillor Martin Lonergan

We call on the Council to provide more parking spaces at Ashfield Manor Estate in Ardfinnan. A newly taken-in-charge estate with all young families living there, with both parents working, all households owning 2 cars, more parking spaces are badly needed.

Reply: This will be examined by the Area Engineer. Agreement with residents will be needed and planning consent may also be required. Funding is not available at present.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1512 was proposed by Councillor Michael Murphy

Taking into account the poor and dangerous condition of the paving in the pedestrian street of Mitchell Street, particularly in wet weather, the Council would update members on any plans to replace same.

Reply: This Street is included in the Public Realm proposal for Clonmel. This road is trafficked for deliveries and after 6pm daily, which needs to be examined further. The Council is considering replacing and raising the road surface with a more suitable material. This will be subject to Clonmel Town funding.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Andy Moloney.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1513 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District provides street furniture i.e. seating on the main streets of Clonmel, in the interest of public amenities for the town.

Reply: The provision of street furniture will be considered with the overall plan for enhancement of Clonmel Town Centre.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1514 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District in conjunction with Wilderness Grove / Carrigeen /Oakland Drive Residence Association will look at providing a looped walk through the Wilderness Gorge area of Clonmel.

Reply: Clonmel Borough District staff will engage with the Residents' Association in the Wilderness Grove, Carrigeen and Oakland Drive areas to examine and consider the feasibility of a looped walk through the Wilderness Gorge area of Clonmel.

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The motion was seconded by Councillor Andy Moloney.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1515 was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District Council is given a breakdown of the projected timeframe for the rollout of broadband in each of the areas in the District, in addition to an update regarding the current rollout of the SIRO Broadband project in Clonmel.

Reply: SEE ATTACHED TABLE

The motion was seconded by Councillor Micheal Anglim.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1516 was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District Council seeks funding to re-surface the road intersecting Mylerstown, Rathloose and Powerstown which is in a very bad condition, (ref my previous motions on this issue).

Reply: These roads are included in the 3 Year R.I. Programme for 2019 that was agreed at the September meeting.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Micheal Anglim.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 1517 was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District looks at traffic calming measures for the Silversprings Road / St. Patrick's Road.

Reply: The Town Engineer will arrange speed surveys this year.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 6.1 Correspondence

Minister for Justice correspondence regarding Kickham Barracks;

Minister for Employment Affairs acknowledgement letter;

Department of Health & Office for the Minister acknowledgement regarding St Michael's Unit;

Department of Employment Affairs acknowledgement regarding Community Employment (CE).

All correspondence was noted.

Item 7.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was submitted for Marie Boland for her 42 years service in the library which includes her 32 years service to the Clonmel Library.

Item 9.1 – Any other business

A minutes silence was held for the recently deceased Garda Sergeant Martin Hopkins who was based in Clonmel.

Signed/ _____
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Date/ _____

Signed/ _____
District Administrator

Date/ _____