

**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, 15TH NOVEMBER 2017.**

Present: Councillor Catherine Carey – Mayor
Councillor Martin Lonergan
Councillor Siobhan Ambrose
Councillor Marie Murphy
Councillor Pat English
Councillor Richie Molloy
Councillor Micheál Anglim
Councillor Michael Murphy

In attendance Mr. Sean Keating, Director of Services
Mr. Eamon Lonergan, District Engineer
Mr. Anthony Coleman, District Administrator
Ms. Sharon Scully, A/Staff Officer

Apologies Councillor Andy Moloney

Also in attendance: Mr Paddy Crotty – Executive Engineer, Clonmel Borough District;
Ms. Caroline Conway – Senior Executive Planner, Planning Directorate;
Mr. Jonathan Flood – Executive Planner, Planning Directorate;
Ms. Clare Curley – Director of Services, Housing Directorate;
Mr. Jim Dillon – Administrative Officer, Housing Directorate;
Mr Sean Lonergan – Senior Staff Officer, Housing Directorate;
Mr Tony Egan – Clonmel Town Centre Forum;
Mr Conor Moroney – Clonmel Town Centre Forum;
Ms Eimear King – Clonmel Town Centre Forum
Marketing & Social Media Co-ordinator

Item 1.1 – Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 18th October 2017 were proposed by Councillor Pat English, seconded by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose and agreed.

Item 2.1 – Attendance of the Housing Directorate

Ms Clare Curley, Director of Services, circulated a District Briefing note to Members detailing key issues relating to the Housing Directorate under the following headings-

1. Housing Construction Projects;
2. Housing Allocations 2017;
3. Housing Purchases 2017;
4. RÁS and Leasing 2017;
5. Housing Applications and Vacant Houses;
6. Repair and Leasing Scheme;
7. Vacant Home Strategy;

The following queries were raised by Members:

- Homelessness – how many people are homeless in Clonmel; what initiatives are the Housing Directorate implementing to address the issue;
- Housing Adaption Grant – is funding still available for 2017; why is funding now only available for private houses and not Local Authority houses; should Priority Scheme 3 still be advertised now that the scheme is open all year;

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- Will money allocated under the Vacant Homes Strategy be sufficient to carry out repairs on all houses in need of repair in Clonmel District;
- Tenant Purchase Scheme – has a review of the scheme been carried out;
- Should an option to charge tenants increased rent to cover cost of home maintenance such as servicing boilers, be considered;
- Could tenants be given a paint voucher before they take up their tenancy to paint homes themselves, instead of Council staff painting houses before tenant moves in;

Members queries were responded to and agreed as follows:

- Homeless Action Team (HAT) – multiple agency team that meets bi-annually. To date in 2017, there have been 410 homeless presentations in the county, 256 of these presentations were in the south of the county; 50% of these were repeat presentations; 4 families and 10 individuals are currently in emergency accommodation in the county; there are 3-4 known rough sleepers in Clonmel;
- Tenant Purchase Scheme was due to be reviewed during Quarter 3 of 2017, but no notification has been received from Department to confirm that this has taken place;
- Housing Adaption Grant – additional funding for Local Authority houses was applied for but not approved by the Department;
- Void Houses - €1.2 million allocation from Department. This allocation is supplemented by internal capital receipts; allocation will fund repairs to 102 void houses;
- The matter of houses being painted by Council staff before tenants move in is not an issue that Housing staff have encountered; paint vouchers could slow down the re-letting of houses;

The Mayor Councillor Catherine Carey thanked staff from the Housing Directorate for their attendance and report.

Item 3.1 – Presentation By Clonmel Town Centre Forum Members

Mr Conor Moroney and Mr Tony Egan of the Clonmel Town Centre Forum and Ms Eimear King presented Members with an update on the work being carried out by the Clonmel Town Centre Forum.

Councillor Pat English enquired as to how many retailers were involved with the Forum.

Mr Tony Egan informed the Members that over 100, mostly independent retailers, were associated with the Forum.

The Mayor Councillor Catherine Carey thanked the representatives of the Clonmel Town Centre Forums for their attendance and report.

Item 4.1 – Proposed Suir Island Carpark

The Chief Executive's Report for Part 8 Development for the Proposed Suir Island Carpark, Clonmel was presented to Members by Mr Paddy Crotty, Executive Engineer, Clonmel Borough District.

Mr Crotty informed Members that the Chief Executive's Report recommended that the proposed development of the Suir Island carpark proceed.

The following queries were raised by Members:

- Councillor Pat English proposed that as the Suir Island carpark is a designated special area of conservation, a decision on Part 8 be deferred until the Suircan environmental group, who had made a submission on the proposed development, meet Council officials;
- If a decision to proceed with the proposal is agreed what are the timeframes for development;
- Can the landscaping plan for the site be enhanced if the proposal is agreed;

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- Will there be unrestricted access to Suir Island when proposed car park development has been completed;
- Can chestnut fencing be considered as an alternative for the car park site;
- Page 11 of the Chief Executives report states that temporary fencing can/will be removed – can clarification be given on whether fencing will be removed, as fears have been raised that temporary fencing will not be removed if remainder of works at Suir Island are not completed due to funding constraints;

Members queries were responded to and agreed as follows:

- Landscaping proposals for Suir Island carpark can be enhanced but alternatives to tarmacadam have been investigated but are not suitable;
- Chestnut fencing is not suitable as it is not secure and will not act as a functioning fence for security;
- 1100 square metres of landscaping/planting have been proposed which is 15% of the entire site;
- Subject to the proposal being approved the project will be advertised for tender in Quarter 1 of 2018;

The Chief Executive's Report for Part 8 Development for the Proposed Suir Island Carpark, Clonmel was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy and agreed.

Item 5.1 – Reports of Officers

Districts Engineers and District Administrators reports were circulated to Members.

The following queries were raised by Members –

- Timeframe to be provided for Gladstone Street Improvement Works;
- Funding for new Sensory Playground;
- Unauthorised access to Clonmel Arms site;
- Completion date for Clonmel CCTV project;
- Update on re-launch of Market Place;
- Tender for new Welcome to Clonmel signage;
- Update on Marfield Village Flood Rejuvenation Plan;
- Extension of N24 cycleway from the Cashel Road to Moongarriff;
- Flood Mitigation Scheme at Ballinahalla;

Members queries were responded to and agreed as follows:

- Pobal are currently considering the funding application for the Sensory Playground;
- Works on the installation of new CCTV poles to be completed within the next week. Cameras are in place at Elm Park. However, works need to be carried out by An Gardaí Síochána on their communication mast before the cameras can go live;
- Mr Anthony Coleman informed Members that his enquiry as to a local estate agent being engaged was not met with a favourable response from the owners of Market Place. Mr Coleman offered a commitment to make a further enquiry with Remcoll in the coming weeks;
- Owners of Clonmel Arms site and the Gardaí have committed to securing the site;
- Public submissions have been received for O'Connell Street and Gladstone Street improvements works and consultants will be appointed in quarter one of 2018;
- Contractor has been appointed to erect new Welcome to Clonmel signage;
- A report on Flood Alleviation Works at Marfield village will be presented to Members at the December monthly meeting;
- Funding for Flood Mitigation works at Ballinahalla has been extended to 2018. The Area Engineer is currently looking at alternatives projects if agreement from landowner is not reached;

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Item 6.1 – Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders

The Chief Executive Orders for the period to the 10th November 2017 were noted.

Item 7 – Consideration of the following notices of Motion

7.1 Councillor Pat English

No. 1200

That Clonmel Borough District would erect a wall or fence at open space between Glenoaks Close, Glenconnor, Clonmel and the Borough District lands adjoining, to stop the ongoing anti-social behaviour in the area.

Reply

This matter has been raised as a Notice of Motion already this year, it was referred to the Council's Housing Section for action/comment as the estate bounds Council owned undeveloped lands. A reminder has been sent to the Housing Section and should be followed up directly with that Section.

This motion was proposed by Councillor Pat English, seconded by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose and agreed.

7.2 Councillor Michael Murphy

No. 1213

That under the 2018 Area Roadwork's Programme for the Clonmel Borough District that consideration is given to creating a small number of public parking spaces in the Fairfields estate within the green area adjacent to house number 38 and others.

Reply

The Town Engineer will examine the road surface condition and the need for traffic calming measures and give consideration to including this area in a future Road Work Programmes/Schedule of Municipal Works, subject to prioritisation, assessment of need, the condition rating and budget availability.

The Town Engineer will examine the proposal on technical and financial grounds. But there would be a need to consult with residents and the Planning Section if the proposal was to proceed.

This motion was proposed by Councillor Michael Murphy, seconded by Councillor Martin Lonergan and agreed.

7.3 Councillor Michael Murphy

No. 1214

Following on from partial resurfacing of the estate in recent years, under the 2018 Area Roadwork's Programme for the Clonmel Borough District that consideration is given to the resurfacing of the remainder of the Ballingarrane Estate, (house numbers 1 - 28), taking into account its very poor condition.

Reply

The Town Engineer will examine the road surface condition and the need for traffic calming measures and give consideration to including this area in a future Road Work Programmes/Schedule of Municipal Works, subject to prioritisation, assessment of need, the condition rating and budget availability.

This motion was proposed by Councillor Michael Murphy, seconded by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose and agreed.

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7.4 Councillor Pat English

No. 1215

That Clonmel Borough District amend its parking by-laws to allow temporary parking permits in Upper Irishtown for the staff of Gaelscoil Cluain Meala, as the school is the only school in Clonmel with no facility for parking on their school site.

Reply

The process of amending or introducing new parking / traffic and carpark bye-laws is a statutory process that is covered under the Road Traffic Act 1994 Sections 4(2) and 36 respectively.

The process takes considerable time and resources and given that the Clonmel Parking / Traffic and Car Park Bye-Laws 2013 are only recently fully implemented it would be premature to re-commence the process of introducing new Bye-Laws.

In the first instance, the provision of parking facilities for employees is a matter for employers to address.

In relation to the request for the provision of temporary parking permits in Upper Irishtown, it would not be equitable to issue such permits in respect of one group/organisation.

In addition, the issue of parking for the staff of Gaelscoil Cluain Meala is a matter that can be resolved entirely by the school and its board of management, given the access available to the school of a large yard at the rear of their property.

Furthermore the introduction of pay parking in Upper Irishtown has improved road safety for parents and children attending the two schools in the area. Traffic congestion at peak times in the vicinity of these schools has been an issue for some time. The availability of additional car parking spaces for drop-off and pick-up has improved road safety, which is also an important consideration.

Facilitating the issuing of temporary parking permits within the vicinity of the school would also impact on the availability of parking spaces for residents and businesses in the area which was the main reason for the introduction of the pay and display in Upper Irishtown.

This motion was deferred for decision to allow the District Administrator to meet with school officials.

7.5 Councillor Pat English

No. 1216

That Clonmel Borough District resurfaces the damaged section of roadway in Ballingarrane, Cahir Road, Clonmel in the 2018 Road Works Programme.

Reply

The Town Engineer will examine the road surface condition and the need for traffic calming measures and give consideration to including this area in a future Road Work Programmes/Schedule of Municipal Works, subject to prioritisation, assessment of need, the condition rating and budget availability.

This motion was proposed by Councillor Pat English, seconded by Councillor Martin Lonergan and agreed.

7.6 Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

No. 1217

That Clonmel Borough District Council renews its efforts to make contact with the owner of the lands beside St. Patrick's Well with a view to examining the possibility of providing a much needed car park for visitors to the well. In particular this proposed car park would enable persons in wheelchairs and other persons with a disability access to St. Patrick's Well which is currently not accessible to them due to the large number of steps at the entrance to the Well- (ref my previous motion on this issue).

That Clonmel Borough District resurfaces the damaged section of roadway in Ballingarrane, Cahir Road, Clonmel in the 2018 Road Works Programme.

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Reply

The Town Engineer will re-examine the proposal and previous correspondence on the history of said proposal. It is understood that land acquisition may be required.

This motion was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Micháel Anglim and agreed.

7.7 Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

No. 1218

In the interest of safety that Clonmel Borough District Council requests Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formally the N.R.A.) to look at inserting an additional pedestrian crossing on the main N24 in Kilsheelan village at the section of the road that divides the Forest View / Ivowen estates (on one side of the road) and the Garden Grove estate (on the other side) in order to make it safer for residents in particular children to cross safely at this section of the road.

Reply

This type of works proposal will need to be funded under a TII Capital Programme. Such applications are progressed by the Councils Road Design Section and not the District offices. The matter has been referred to the Senior Engineer in our Road Design Section.

This motion was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Micháel Anglim and agreed.

7.8 Councillor Siobhan Ambrose

No. 1219

In the interest of safety that Clonmel Borough District Councils looks at improving the surface of sections of the Fr. Mathew Terrace/ O' Rahilly Avenue roadway which should include the insertion of some type of traffic calming measure.

Reply

The Town Engineer will examine the road surface condition and the need for traffic calming measures and give consideration to including this area in a future Road Work Programmes/Schedule of Municipal Works, subject to prioritisation, assessment of need, the condition rating and budget availability.

This motion was proposed by Councillor Siobhan Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Micháel Anglim and agreed.

Item 8 – Correspondence

Correspondence received from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government in connection with grants for the installation of water softener systems was noted.

Item 9.1 – Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was passed to Ballybacon Grange Football Club on their success in this year's County and Munster Finals.

Item 10 – Any other business

There being no further business the meeting then concluded.

Signed/ 
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Date/ 20/12/17

Signed/ 
District Administrator

Date/ 20/12/17