

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING,
AT 11.00 a.m. IN TOWN HALL, PARNELL STREET ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH JUNE, 2022**

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

In Attendance: Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services
Mr. Carol Creighton, District Administrator
Ms. Eoin Powell, District Engineer
Ms. Marie O'Donnell, Staff Officer
Ms. Emma Ryan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Georgina O'Loughlin, Assist. Staff Officer

Also in Attendance: Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer
Mr. Daniel Roche, Executive Engineer
Ms. Louise Ryan, Housing Assessment Officer
Ms. Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer

Apologies: Councillor Michael Murphy, Mayor

From the outset the Deputy Mayor of Clonmel welcomed Ms. Carol Creighton who was recently appointed as District Administrator. Well wishes and congratulations were echoed by all members of the Clonmel Borough District. All members also wished Mr. Jim Dillon former outgoing District Administrator all the best in his new role going forward.

Item 1.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

Item 2.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th May, 2022

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 18th May, 2022, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Cllr. Pat English and agreed by all.

Matters Arising:

- Cllr. Pat English asked if a letter requesting to meet with senior management had issue to the IDA as agreed by all members at the last district meeting?
- Cllr. Pat English asked if there was an update on the town bus service?
- Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose asked if the matter of upgrading parking meters to provide a facility to pay by credit card could be looked at further and to look at using Clonmel as a pilot?
- Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose asked if there was an update on Market Place?

Response made as follows;

- The District Administrator confirmed that a letter had issued to the IDA with no response to date.

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- We are currently in consultation with the bus service company and further discussions are being prepared. The District Administrator agreed to have more information for the next district meeting.
- In relation to the dual payment machines the District Administrator explained that she had been in touch with finance and roads section of the Council and they have explained that they have invested heavily on eParking. The response is that they are currently pushing to get the eParking developed. Future machines will be bought with the facility to use credit card for when an investment opportunity arises at a later stage. Ms. Sinead Carr, confirmed that any changes to policy would need to go through the SPC and the Roads Directorate.
- The District Administrator confirmed that she would give Members an update on Market Place shortly.

Item 3.1 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Housing

Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer, Ms. Louise Ryan, Housing Assessment Officer and Mr. Daniel Roche, Executive Engineer referred to a district briefing note circulated to Members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Housing Directorate.

Key issues in the briefing note included:

- Housing Construction
- Capital Assistance Scheme Voluntary Housing
- Housing Grant Allocation
- Energy Efficiency Works
- Housing Loan Applicants
- Tenant Purchase Scheme
- RAS, HAP and Leasing
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses
- Approved Housing Applicants

The following queries were raised to the briefing note by members:

- Cllr. Richie Molloy raised the issue of homelessness and asked the Housing Directorate in relation to cases of families getting served a notice to quit, can engagement with the families be made sooner in order to prevent families turning up to the Housing Section with nowhere to go and declaring themselves homeless.
- Cllr. Niall Dennehy stated that Clonmel is not getting its fair share of funding from NAMA funds and that would make a difference in relation to the current housing crisis.
- Cllr. Niall Dennehy asked what the take up on the choice based letting in Clonmel?
- Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose agreed with all members that the Housing Section are carrying out great work in relation to the funds available to them. She stated that in response to shortage of housing, long term solutions, not short-term solutions needed to be sought but acknowledged that this was a national issue and not a stand-alone issue in County Tipperary.
- Cllr. Pat English asked if the council were on track with the delivery of the houses that are currently being built?
- Cllr. Pat English asked how many houses have been identified for Energy sufficient upgrade works this year in the Clonmel?

Members' queries were addressed as follows:

- Ms. Sinead Carr, Director of Service confirmed that a note has gone around to all members looking for their suggestions to be brought forward to a special SPC meeting to be held. She confirmed that the staff of the housing directorate were maxing out every opportunity that they have in relation to the area of homelessness and the current housing issues of concern.
- Ms. Sinead Carr stated that sometimes there is the expectation that people in emergency accommodation can stay in the emergency accommodation and choose the accommodation that they want and refuse to move in to properties being offered. People are going to have to open up to looking at other opportunities outside of Clonmel such as Cahir, Cashel etc.
- Mr. Shane Grogan confirmed to numbers who are using the choice based letting system is increasing to over 60%.
- It was confirmed that the housing section were on track for delivery of houses currently under construction.
- It was confirmed that there were 15 houses identified for energy efficiency upgrades.

Ms. Louise Ryan, Tennant Liaison Officer gave a presentation to all members of the Clonmel Borough District in relation to the procedure for the assessment of applications and the allocations of supports.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Cora Morrissey, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer, Mr. Daniel Roche, Executive Engineer and Ms. Louise Ryan, Housing Assessment Officer for their attendance and report.

Item 3.2 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Community & Economic Development

Ms. Margo Hayes, 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 in the briefing note included:

- Community/LCDC
- Initiatives – healthy Ireland, Age Friendly, Healthy Communities
- Syrian Resettlement Supports
- Sports
- Tourism
- Broadband
- Economic Development

The following queries were raised to the briefing note by members:

- All members of the Clonmel Borough District complimented the vast amount of initiatives and work being carried out and that was reflective in the comprehensive report received.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer for her attendance and report.

Item 4.1 Clonmel Projects

Presentation by Ms. Sinead Carr, Director of Services on Clonmel Projects.

Item 4.2 Report of District Administrator

The District Administrators Report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Queries raised by the members were as follows:

- Cllr. Pat English asked when the tree strategy for Clonmel would be completed?
- Cllr. Pat English asked if a letter issued to Minister Bourke in relation to mental health services in Clonmel requesting a meeting with all members?
- Cllr. Pat English asked if the Council will get reimbursement from the owners of the Clonmel Arms hotel in relation to barriers erected around it recently for health and safety reasons?
- Members congratulated Ms. Carol Creighton and her team on the works currently being undertaken in the lanes in and around Clonmel town.
- Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose raised concerns about the Clonmel Arms and the issue of homeless people who are currently residing there, this should be followed up with An Garda Síochána.
- Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose asked how many applicants applied for the painting and enhancement scheme for 2022?

Queries raised by the Members which Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator responded to were as follows;

- The District Administrator confirmed that the tree strategy would be rolled out by the end of July/August.
- Ms. Carol Creighton will follow up with Mr. Jim Dillon former District Administrator to find out if the letter has issued to Minister Bourke as requested by Members.
- In relation to the Clonmel Arms the District Administrator has been engaging with the District Engineer, correspondence from the Gardai and have made contact with the housing section with the view of engaging with the property owners in relation to the issues at the site.
- Currently there are 7 no. applications for the painting and enhancement scheme for Clonmel Borough District.
- The District Engineer confirmed that the owners of the Clonmel Arms will be served with a dangerous structure notice and will be put on the register for derelict sites.

Item 4.3 Report of District Engineer – Roads Programme

The District Engineer's report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Cllr. Niall Dennehy asked in relation to grass cutting, he was aware of the "no mow May" initiative and that cutting has started back for the month of June, however some areas haven't been cut what is the plan for those areas?
- Cllr. Niall Dennehy welcomed the new speed calming measures at Marfield road, he asked the District Engineer if he could see the impact that it may have had further down near the meat factory and the Marfield junction at abbey road?
- Cllr. Pat English referred to the safety works proposed for Mocklerstown just outside Clerihan, what type of works are to be carried out?

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- Cllr. Pat English and Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose looked for a start date of the new entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Cllr. Pat English asked if it would be possible to put speed cushions on the Ardfinnan side of the Marlfield house entrance?
- Cllr. Pat English enquired on the position of speed cushions for Heywood Heights?
- Cllr. Pat English enquired as to when the Elm Park Playground would be re-opened?
- Cllr. Pat English referred to a previous notice of motion in which he looked for a safe area for pedestrians to cross as the road there is getting extremely busy, and asked is there anything that the Council can do in the area to alleviate the problem?
- Cllr. John Fitzgerald, Deputy Mayor asked the District Engineer what his plans were for reducing speeding at Clerihan National School and complemented the District Engineer on the work done there to date?

Queries raised by the Members which Mr. Eoin Powell, District Engineer responded to were as follows:

- The "no mow may" is in response to the promotion of pollinators. The District Engineer will follow up on the cutting of overgrown grass now that we are in the month of June.
- In relation to the speed issues at the junction for Marlfield at Abbey road, the cars that park there naturally slow down the traffic and there is no intention of putting in speed cushions in that area.
- In relation to Mocklerstown the council will need to carry out some tests to determine the nature of the surface and this will determine what safety measures the Council need to carry out.
- Immediately left of Marlfield house the speed cushion there was re-sprayed.
- In relation to the speed ramps in Heywood Heights, they are included on the roadworks programme.
- A company has been organised to come and fix the defects to the surface in the Elm Park Playground which was caused by anti-social behaviour.
- The District Engineer explained that a lot of investigative work had been carried out in the Old Bridge area in relation to providing a pedestrian crossing but unfortunately due to the nature of the road and the surroundings this is not possible.
- In relation to the start date of the Cemetery entrance works this has been on hold currently as priority has been given to the road works programme
- The District Engineer is currently looking into the issues in relation to speed issues at Clerihan National School.

Item 4.4 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

The District Engineer's report was circulated to Members with agenda.

- No issues were raised.

Item 5.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 10th June, 2022

The item was noted.

Item 6.1 to 6.2 – Notice of Motion

Motion 2429 was proposed by Cllr. Niall Dennehy

That an update be given on what provisions have or are being put in place to facilitate a local plebiscite, at the earliest possible opportunity, on the abolition of Clonmel Borough Council (Corporation), and of South Tipperary County Council, as previously agreed to be held, via my earlier motion on same.

Reply:

Response dated 1st December 2021, from Peter Burke, T.D, Minister for Local Government & Planning states "there is no plan to reintroduce town councils, or to repeal the Local Government Act 2014 but to instead focus on strengthening the existing 95 municipal districts". (Copy attached). In this regard, Clonmel Borough District has limited powers available to change this decision which was made at national level and there is nothing in the legislation to facilitate a plebiscite for that purpose. The Borough/District Councils mainly hold plebiscites for the changing of street names or when establishing a Business Improvement District and that the holding of a plebiscite on the abolition of the town council is not warranted or authorised as it is outside the control of the Borough District. If, however, members are in agreement, the District Administrator will write to the Local Government Policy and Governance Section concerning the legality on this matter.

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

Motion 2435 was proposed by Cllr. John Fitzgerald.

That this Council repair the footpath kerbs on the pedestrian path running outside Abbey Retail in Clerihan Village, that links the Village to the Main Footpath leading to the Community Field. These old Kerbs have become dangerous and are now a hazard along this winding footpath.

Reply: The District Engineer recently surveyed this section of pedestrian pathway and found that some 42m in total of the kerblines, (or 47 No. kerbs), were either damaged and/or out of alignment. It is decided that this item of works will be added to the list of the proposed Development Levy Works in Clerihan for 2022.

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

Item 8.1 Correspondence

All correspondence was noted.

Item 9.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

None.

Item 10.1 Any Other Business

None.

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Signed: 
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Dated: 13/07/2022

Signed: 
District Administrator

Dated: 13/7/2022

