

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING,
HELD AT 11.00 a.m. IN TOWN HALL, PARNELL STREET ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST JUNE, 2023**

- Present:** Councillor Pat English, Mayor
Councillor Siobhán Ambrose
Councillor Niall P. Dennehy
Councillor Michael Murphy
Councillor Richie Molloy
Councillor John Fitzgerald
- In Attendance:** Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator
Ms. Emma Ryan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Mary Irwin, A/Staff Officer
Ms. Georgina O'Loughlin, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Also in Attendance:** Mr. Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer, Housing
Mr. Shaun Lonergan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Economic & Development
- Apologies:** Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services

Item 1.1 Zoom Protocol

There were no elected members or members of the media attending the meeting by Zoom.

Item 2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

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

Item 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 17th May, 2023.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 17th May, 2023, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Richie Molloy, seconded by Cllr. Pat English and agreed by all.

Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Item 4.1 Attendance of Representatives from Housing Directorate

The district briefing note circulated to Members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Housing Directorate was taken as read.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Members welcomed the Housing Grant Allocation of €3,408,125 in private grant funding for 2023 and the allocation of €2,110,262 for LA DPG's which is the highest allocation in the country.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the timeframe for the turnaround of the 21 vacant houses and asked whether these repairs will be carried out by Council Staff or an outside Contractor.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the Affordable Housing Scheme.
- Members requested an update on the number of houses being delivered at Prior Park Grove.

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- Councillor English requested an update on the timeframe for the delivery of the houses at Thomas Street.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the reason for the delay on the delivery of the 4 houses at William Street.
- In relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme, Councillor English asked for an update regarding the allocation of funds from the sale of houses under this scheme.
- Councillor English requested an update on the number of landlords who have left the HAP/RAS Schemes and the number of Notices to Quit issued.
- Councillor Molloy acknowledged the response time in relation to the Disabled Persons Grant.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked for clarity on the repairs to the existing housing stock.
- Councillor Murphy asked if it is possible for the Council to partner with business premises in the town centre to accommodate social housing over the premises.
- Councillor Dennehy asked for an update on the policy regarding turnkey properties.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the 21 vacant houses, Shane Grogan informed the meeting that these properties are currently with the district for repair and he will follow up regarding progress on same.
- Mr. Grogan stated that the Housing Section is dealing with the developer and negotiations are ongoing to see how many houses will be delivered in Prior Park Grove.
- In relation to William Street, Mr Grogan stated that the Council own the neighbouring property and are currently working with the housing department to progress.
- In relation to the development at Thomas Street, Mr Grogan informed the meeting that contracts are still being finalised and he will follow up regarding delivery of same.
- In relation to the Affordable Housing Scheme, Mr Grogan stated that the Housing Section is currently preparing the application for submission to the Department which will focus on the key towns of Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles. All members welcomed the Affordable Housing Scheme.
- In relation to the funds obtained from the Tenant Purchase Scheme, Mr Grogan stated that he will revert back with the information regarding same.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the RAS and HAP Schemes, Mr Grogan informed the meeting that he will follow up and revert back with the figures.
- In relation to repairs, Shaun Lonergan, EE Housing Section informed the meeting that all houses that are taken over are made as energy efficient as possible and are referred to the District for repair.
- In relation to commercial buildings accommodating social housing, Mr. Lonergan informed the meeting that a working group has been established and are awaiting details of funding to be announced under URDF.
- In relation to turnkey policy, Mr Grogan will revert to Councillor Dennehy with details of the policy.

The Mayor thanked Mr Grogan and Mr Lonergan for their attendance at the meeting and acknowledged the hard work being carried out in the Housing Directorate.

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Item 4.2 Attendance of Representatives from Directorate Community & Economic Development

The district briefing note circulated to members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Community and Economic Directorate was taken as read.

Kathleen Prendergast, highlighted a number of initiatives being undertaken at present

- Local Economic & Community Plan Survey - survey being undertaken to obtain community feedback prior to the preparation of the new Local Economic & Community Plan.
- Tipperary Age Friendly Expo which is being held in TUS College Campus on 22nd June.
- Shop Local Initiatives.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows: -

- Councillor English congratulated the Directorate on the "Paddles Up" events which took place on the Suir Blueway and stated that the river is a huge asset in the centre of town.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the turnaround time regarding the €351,959 Direct Grant Support funding.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for information regarding the Lean for Micro Grant.
- Councillor Murphy congratulated the Directorate on the recent event held in the Horse and Jockey Hotel to commemorate Irelands 50 year membership of the European Union.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Kathleen Prendergast informed the meeting that 2 Summer Camps have been advertised which will be held in June and early July for 12 – 18 year olds which will further utilise the River Suir.
- In relation to the timeframe regarding the Direct Grant Support, Ms Prendergast informed the meeting that applications are adjudicated on by an evaluation committee which meet 4 times a year with the grants being allocated quite sizeable.
- Ms Prendergast informed the meeting that the Lean for Micro Grant is to fund training programmes whereby a mentor is applied to businesses which has had a very positive impact.

The Mayor thanked Ms Prendergast for her attendance at the meeting and for the great work being carried out by the Community and Economic Directorate.

Item 5.1 Report of District Administrator

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

Questions raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English welcomed the future sale of the Clonmel Arms Hotel and thanked everybody involved in progressing to this stage stating that coming after the major refurbishment of the Penney's Store that it highlights the attractiveness of O'Connell Street.
- Councillor English welcomed the commitment by the N.T.A. to Clonmel in providing 4 bus routes in the town.
- Members joined with Councillor English in welcoming the positive news about the Clonmel Arms Hotel stating that it will be a great revitalisation of the town

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centre. Members complimented the District Administrator and Manager for their steadfast work in dealing with anti-social behaviour and safety issues.

- Councillor Murphy welcomed the official opening of the Sports Hub on the 9th June and requested that it be raised with the Board and Facilities Manager whether there will be a framework for smaller clubs to have access to the facilities, in particular, the running track.
- Councillor Murphy asked if there was an update in relation to the granting of the additional €100 burial ground grant.
- Councillor Murphy welcomed the new digital telephone kiosks located at Gladstone Street and Parnell Street.
- Councillor Murphy welcomed the great investment in the shopfront at Lukeman's Chemist in Gladstone Street and enquired what the plans are for the premises going forward.
- Councillor Molloy asked for an update on Morans Shop beside Easons and also for an update on the former Kennys Hardware Store in Upper Gladstone Street.
- Councillor Molloy requested that the Council contact S.T.A.G. with a view to painting the hoarding at Market Place to make it more attractive and prevent graffiti being painted onto it.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the installation of bins at the Sports Hub Facility and asked that signs be erected to indicate the location of the Sports Hub.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if a mobile toilet facility similar to the one at St. Patrick's Cemetery or at the Quay could be installed near the playground at the Sports Hub.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if the old telephone boxes which are not being utilised could be removed as they are an eyesore in the town.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the rollout of the additional equipment at Mulcahy Park.
- Members requested an update on Market Place.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked the Mayor for attending a meeting with Minister Jack Chambers which she felt will be very beneficial in obtaining additional funding for Clonmel Projects.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on the URDF Call 4
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on the works at the old millraces at Suir Island Gardens.
- Councillor English welcomed the works at Marfield.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the CCTV and the signing off on same by the Garda Commissioner.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the Sports Hub, the District Administrator informed the meeting that it is being operated for a trial period initially with the anchor tenants and that additional groups will be introduced following all teething problems resolved.
- In relation to the burial ground grants, the District Administrator stated that an update on same is still awaited from the Environment Section and will notify the councillors once received.
- In relation to the digital phone boxes, the District Administrator stated that she will link in with the providers to ensure that the system is updated accordingly.

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- The District Administrator informed the meeting that works are in progress in relation to Parkes Chemist and that funding has been applied for in the hope that the Council could purchase the property.
- In relation to various vacant properties around the town, the District Administrator stated that a survey has been carried out, a report completed and has been forwarded to the Environment Section for follow up.
- The District Administrator informed the meeting that artwork on hoardings was a good idea and that the owners will be approached for funding to do these works.
- The District Administrator stated that Remcoll are engaging in the normal planning process and had been in contact with the planning section in the last week. She also stated that the Council is following up with them regarding outstanding rates.
- In relation to the refuse bins at the Sports Hub, the District Administrator stated that she will follow up with TUS.
- In relation to installing temporary toilets at the Sports Hub, the District Administrator informed the meeting that these works would not be carried out as there are 4 toilets at the facility which will be open to the public while the manager is working on site.
- In relation to the information signs, the District Administrator stated that these are currently being designed.
- The District Administrator informed the meeting that the old telephone boxes in the town will be removed.
- In relation to the installation of the additional equipment at Mulcahy Park, Emma Ryan, Executive Engineer informed the meeting that the contractor has been appointed and we await delivery date for the equipment i.e. mother and baby swing and wheelchair trampoline which is expected to be in August.
- The District Administrator stated that there is no further update on URDF Call 4 at present.
- In relation to Suir Island, the District Administrator informed the meeting that she had spoken to Canoeing Ireland with a view to having the old millraces incorporated into future projects on Suir Island.

The District Administrator highlighted the following to the members:-

- The Clonmel Arts Junction Festival taking place from the 1st – 9th July which will see the Kickham Plaza being used.
- STAC have requested to reuse the wall space opposite the Regal Cinema for new artwork.
- Judging in the Tidy Towns Competition will be taking place in July and August and the District Administrator acknowledged the work being carried out by Tidy Towns and also Eric Ryan and his staff in enhancing the town with hanging baskets, tree planters benches.

Item 5.2 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:

- Councillor Murphy requested an update on the pedestrian crossing along the by-pass from the Moangarriff Roundabout to the Poppyfields Roundabout.

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- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the new entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery from the Silversprings side and also an update on the timeframe for the extension of the Cemetery.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update in relation to the funding for the works at Rathronan Bend.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update regarding improvement of the sightlines at the Ballybeg Junction.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the flashing lights in Rosegreen.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the provision of infrastructure on the blueway i.e. provision of toilet, bins and drinking station.
- Councillor Molloy asked for an update on the gates at O'Neill Street/Gordon Street Car Park.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the commencement dates for resurfacing works at Auburn Park, Cherrymount Cul-de-Sac and Fethard Road/Rathronan Crossroads.
- Councillor English asked for an update regarding the gates at Sheehy Terrace/Comeragh Drive and O'Neill Street/Gordon Street Car Parks.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to the Pedestrian Crossing along the by-pass, Emma Ryan stated that the matter has been referred to T.I.I. and we await a response.
- In relation to the entrance at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ms Ryan informed the meeting that finalised drawings are to be submitted and once received that the works will be going to tender.
- Ms Ryan informed the meeting that some works will take place this year with funding being sought from the Environment Section to complete the larger body of works which is anticipated will be completed next year in relation to the extension of the cemetery.
- In relation to the funding for works at Rathronan Bend, Ms Ryan informed the meeting that a letter has been sought from the landowner in order to try and strengthen the case to prioritise safety measures at this bend.
- In relation to works at the Ballybeg Junction, Ms Ryan stated that this will have to be looked at under the Roads Capital Project but that traffic calming signage will be installed.
- In relation to the flashing lights at Rosegreen, Ms Ryan informed the meeting that these lights have now been fixed.
- Ms Ryan stated that she will look into the query raised regarding the provision of a toilet, bins and drinking station on the blueway and revert with a reply.
- In relation to the gates at O'Neill Street/Gordon Street Car Parks, Ms Ryan stated that she will check on the progress of same and revert with a response.
- Ms Ryan informed the meeting that resurfacing works at Auburn Park, Cherrymount Cul-de-Sac and Fethard Road/Rathronan Crossroads will commence in July.
- In relation to the gates at Sheehy Terrace/Comeragh Drive, Ms Ryan stated that quotes have been received and need to be assessed.

Item 6.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 16th June, 2023

The Orders as circulated with the Agenda were noted.

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Items 7.1 to 7.9 – Notice of Motion

Motion 2603 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

That the laneway in College Avenue behind house numbers 46 to 57 is considered for resurfacing under the 2024 Area Roadworks Programme having regard to it's poor condition.

REPLY:

This laneway will be assessed in due course and will be considered for inclusion in the 2024 roadworks programme subject to its condition and available funding.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Pat English

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2618 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

Calling on the Council to erect a "Concealed Entrance" sign either side of E91 EY60, located at Carrigawilliam, Lisronagh, having regards to the danger at this dangerous junction.

REPLY:

The council engineers will assess the requirement for this sign on the ground and if deemed necessary will arrange for the erection of same. An update will be provided for Cllr Ambrose prior to the July meeting.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2619 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

What is the latest timeframe regarding the rollout of Camper Van/ Motor Home overnight facilities at Suir Island Car Park?

REPLY:

In relation to this Camper Van initiative for the town, a number of works have been carried out to get this location up and running for this summer. The back part of Suir Island Car Park will be used to accommodate 12 camper vans bays. Once signage has been erected in the coming fortnight, the Council will promote and market the location as a destination for Camper Van users.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.

All members supported the motion.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2620 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That this Council tries again to make contact with the owner of the lands around St. Patrick's Well with a view to investigating the possibility of providing vehicular access to the well for older persons or those with a disability.

REPLY:

As part of the future Active Travel plans in the Marlfield area, this site has been chosen to be included as part of the route options and therefore the appropriate procedures can be followed when the time comes, should the scheme be advanced, to contact the owners of this property.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2621 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That this Council writes again to the OPW requesting that they engage with Kilcash Tidy Towns with a view to both improving the directional signage to Kilcash Castle in addition to erecting signage outlining the history of the Castle.

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REPLY:

The Borough District has written to the OPW and requested that information and directional signage be erected to indicate to visitors the location of Kilcash Castle. On receipt of a response from the OPW, the District will link with the Tidy Towns Committee in Kilcash.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2622 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

Following the resurfacing of Anne Street in recent years, that the Council would reinstate the double yellow lines at the corners of the junction between Anne Street and both Grattan Place and O'Neill Street respectively.

REPLY:

The council engineers will assess this junction on the ground and will revert to Cllr Murphy before the next meeting.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2629 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District look at replacing and upgrading some of the old timber play equipment at the play area in Denis Burke Park.

REPLY:

A visual inspection of the play equipment in Denis Burke park is carried out on a regular basis by Council staff, and periodically by suitably qualified third-party contractors. We will arrange for a detailed inspection to be undertaken and any recommendations of this report will be actioned.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2630 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District provides 2 X No. speed ramps/cushions on the road section in Cherrymount from house no. 17 to house no. 31.

REPLY:

The District will conduct a speed survey to establish the extent of any speed violations. Once this data is available then a decision can be made on whether traffic calming measures are required. The Councillor will be made aware of that decision as soon as possible after that data is available.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2631 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

Following on from my previous notice of motions that Clonmel Borough District provide a safe pedestrian crossing in the Old Bridge area between the Emigrants Rest Pub and Ely's Shop, Old Bridge, Clonmel.

REPLY:

The provision of a pedestrian crossing in this location has been previously investigated by the District, the NTA was also consulted on the matter at the time.

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Unfortunately, it was found that the location is not suitable for a pedestrian crossing due to design constraints.

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

Item 8.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for noting.

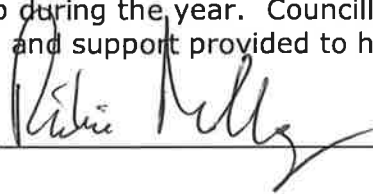
Item 9.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of Sympathy was passed to the wife and family of the late Billy Shoer RIP for whom a special meeting had been held on 11th June, 2023.

Item 10.1 Any Other Business

As this was Councillor Pat English's last Borough District Council Meeting as Mayor, the District Administrator thanked the Mayor for his courtesy and good working relationship during the year. Councillor English also thanked Carol and the Staff for all the help and support provided to him during his year as Mayor.

Signed:



Dated:

12/7/23

Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Signed:



Dated:

12/7/23.

District Administrator