Present:

Councillor Richie Molloy, Mayor Councillor Siobhán Ambrose Councillor Niall P. Dennehy Councillor Michael Murphy Councillor John FitzGerald

Apologies:

Councillor Pat English

In Attendance:

Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services

Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer by Zoom Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator Mr. Roger Noonan, District Engineer Mr. Eamonn O'Connell, Executive Engineer

Ms. Mary Irwin, A/Staff Officer

Also in Attendance:

Mr. Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment

and Climate Action

Ms. Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer, Environment and

Climate Action

Ms. Ruth Hennessy, Executive Scientific Officer, LAWPRO Ms. Sheevaun Thompson, Funding Lead Officer, LAWPRO

The Mayor opened the Meeting by expressing a Vote of Sympathy to Councillor Pat English on the death of his sister, Margaret O'Dwyer.

The Mayor also expressed a Vote of Sympathy to the Collins Family on the passing of Jimmy Collins former Member of Clonmel Corporation.

A minute silence was observed.

Item 1.1 Zoom Protocol

The Mayor confirmed with all persons joining the meeting by Zoom that they could see and hear all other Speakers.

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 21st June, 2023.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 21st June, 2023, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Cllr. John Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Item 4.1 Amenity Grants Scheme 2023

The Amenity Grants Scheme Allocation for 2023, as circulated to the Members was proposed by Councillor Michael Murphy and Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose and agreed by all.

Item 4.2 Nominee for Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Mayor, Cllr. Richie Molloy was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose and seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy and agreed by all.

It was decided going forward that in the absence of an SPC Chair, that a resolution be done nominating the Mayor to this position.

<u>Item 5.1 Attendance of Representatives from Environment and Climate Action Directorate</u>

Mr. Michael Moroney referred to the district briefing note circulated to Members with the agenda detailing key issues relating to the Environment and Climate Action Directorate.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Murphy raised the issue regarding the reduction in the amount of the Burial Ground Grant allocated and asked if this figure is still under review or if the €600 allocated is set in stone. This query was supported by all the Members.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the presence of an information stand by the Environment and Climate Action Directorate at the Clonmel Show.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update regarding the number of litter fines which had been issued up to the 30th June, 2023 and requested that tougher measures be taken on this issue.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the work being carried out by the Borough District Staff and the Tidy Towns Group on the enhancement of the town.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the appointment of the Climate Action Co-Ordinator.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if a date has been announced in relation to the rolling out of
 the anti-litter campaign and asked that the Councillors be updated in respect of same.
 She also acknowledged the work being carried out by the Directorate in relation to same.
- In relation to septic tanks, Councillor Ambrose enquired if grants are available to all.
- In relation to the 20 farm inspections as detailed in the report, Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in terms of the types of issues encountered.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows;

- In relation to the Burial Ground Grants, Mr. Moroney stated that this is a budgetary issue and relative to the number of applications received. He stated that a review is being undertaken and he will revert to the Members when a decision is reached.
- In relation to work being undertaken by the Tidy Town Group, Mr. Moroney stated that the Directorate is more than happy to support the invaluable work being carried out by the Tidy Towns Group.
- Mr. Moroney stated that the Directorate will be present at other shows during the summer months raising awareness of food waste recycling.
- In relation to the query on litter fines, Mr. Moroney stated that the Section is progressively working on this issue stating that it's not an easy one to resolve as enforcement can be difficult because it is not always possible to identify the

perpetrators. He stated that they are liaising with schools and other voluntary groups to raise awareness around the area of litter control.

- Mr. Moroney highlighted "Tipperary Waste Week" which is an initiative being rolled out by the Directorate during the last week of August where people can dispose of rubbish free of charge at the Civic Amenity Sites within the County. He also stated that a new Litter Roadside Vacuum will be piloted during this week to see if it will be worthwhile extending this out annually at a more opportune time. Mr. Moroney explained that it has to be trialled at this time as it is linked to funding.
- In relation to query on septic tanks, Mr. Moroney stated that the grant is linked to specific areas where there are water quality issues as set out in national legislation.
- In relation to farm inspections, Mr. Moroney stated that inspections are catchment based with priority given to areas where water quality is poor and where there are issues leading to water pollution.
- Councillor Fitzgerald welcomed the piloting of the roadside vacuum targeting rural discarded waste.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Moroney and Ms. Kelly for their attendance at the meeting and acknowledged the great work being carried out by the Directorate.

Item 5.2 Attendance of Representatives from Directorate LAWPRO.

Ms. Ruth Hennessy gave a brief presentation on the work carried out by LAWPRO and the issues encountered. Ms. Hennessy stated that the water quality in Tipperary has declined more than anywhere else in the Country at 33% compared to the national average of 53%. Ms. Hennessy stated that agriculture has the most significant impact on water quality in Tipperary.

Questions raised by the Members were as follows

- Members expressed their surprise at the level of deterioration in the water quality and queried how the agricultural industry is to blame.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked for an update on the operation of the treatment plants and how well they are working.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the appointment of the Community Engagement Officer and acknowledged the level of work carried out in communities.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to the water quality in Clonmel compared to the other Districts within the County.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the Grangemockler Planting Initiative and asked that engagement take place with all Gardening Sections in the Districts to ensure that all are working from the same Environmental Perspective.
- In relation to the €50m being allocated over the next 5 years under the European Initiatives Partnership regarding Irelands Rural Development Programme, Councillor Ambrose queried whether this amount is being allocated for the county or nationally.
- Councillor Murphy asked for clarity on the science behind the testing for water quality querying how poor water quality can be linked back to agriculture and the method used to determine the type of agriculture.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

• Ms. Hennessy informed the meeting that agriculture is generally the largest land use and the information is based on the load and activities that exist within the catchment area. She stated that the reason for the decline is not yet known but that work is ongoing to see what activities have changed.

- In relation to the water treatment plants, Ms. Hennessy stated that these plants are monitored by the County Council and Irish Water.
- Ms. Hennessy stated that the Community Water Officer will link in with the Tidy Towns Groups to ensure compliance in relation to LAWPRO.
- In relation to the €50m grant funding, Ms. Hennessy informed the meeting that this is National Funding.
- Ms. Hennessy informed the Meeting that the water monitoring of the rivers is carried out by the Water Protection Agency who operate a 6-week monitoring programme. She also stated that ecological and biological quality of the rivers and fish status monitoring is carried out by the Fisheries Board on an average every 3 years.

Councillor Molloy thanked Ms. Hennessy and Ms. Thompson for their presentation and attendance at the meeting. Members acknowledged the great work being undertaken by LAWPRO.

Item 6.1 Report of District Administrator

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

Questions raised by the Members were as follows:

- Members asked for an update on the use of the running track at the Sports Hub by outside groups and raised the issue of toilets at the site requesting that a mobile toilet like the one at Mulcahy Park be installed.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the signage at the entrance to the Sports Hub and asked for an update on the provision of rubbish bins at the facility.
- In relation to the old telephone kiosks, Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the timeframe for their removal.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the CCTV installation.
- In relation to the performance space at Abbey Street, Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the next step to progress this venture.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to the signage for the Camper Van Site at Suir Island.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the Urban Realm Funding.
- Members welcomed the fact that the Kickham Barracks Plaza was being utilised and queried whether the Casual Trading Bye-laws will be extended to Kickham Plaza.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the removal of the hoarding at Lukeman's Chemist.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the timeframe for the college of the future at the Kickham Barracks Site.
- Councillor Fitzgerald requested that there be more cohesion around the erection of posters prior to an event in the town and he was supported by Councillor Richie Molloy on this.
- Councillor Molloy complimented the organisers of the Clonmel Show on its success and complimented Cliona Maher and her team on the success of the recent Junction Arts Festival.
- Councillor Molloy requested that a mobile toilet be placed at the Kickham Plaza.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to signage, litter bins, mobile toilet and use of the running track by outside groups at the Sports Hub, the District Administrator informed the meeting that it will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.
- The District Administrator stated that she will follow up with Eir to remove the old telephone kiosks.
- In relation to CCTV installation, the District Administrator stated that she was informed that the timeframe for signoff was September and that she will follow up to ensure that this is still the case.
- In relation to the performance space at Abbey Street, the District Administrator stated that she will would follow up and report back.
- The District Administrator stated that signage is being arranged for the camper van site at Suir Island.
- The District Administrator informed the meeting that the hoarding will remain in place at Lukeman's Chemist as it is necessary to manage the site until works are progressed.
- In relation to Casual Trading at the Plaza, the District Administrator stated that for the moment it will only extend to Event Licences being granted.
- In relation to posters being erected to advertise local events, the District Administrator stated that there is an application form and terms and conditions in place for this activity.
- In relation to the college of the future at the Kickham Barracks Site, Sinéad Carr, Town Manager stated that a meeting was held with TUS and ETB and that a submission for conceptual design will be submitted in mid-September and a further meeting has been arranged for the end of September for an update.
- In relation to the toilet facilities at Kickham Plaza, Sinéad Carr informed the meeting that the Chapel at Kickham Barracks will be included for upgrading in the next URDF call.
- Sinéad Carr stated that preliminary designs have been drawn up for the use of the "old gaol" at the Kickham Barracks Site and various options will be explored.
- In relation to the Clonmel Public Realm, Sinéad Carr stated that there is potential to access funding under the Climate Action Fund and RPS Consultants have been engaged to prepare a business case to meet the business criteria to obtain funding from this stream. She stated that if funding can be obtained faster under this stream, that this funding will be applied for.

Item 6.2 Report of District Engineer – Roads Programme

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

Prior to the District Engineers Report, the Mayor congratulated Roger Noonan on his transfer to Waterford County Council, thanked him for his work in Clonmel and wished him well in his new role. The Members joined with the Mayor in wishing Roger well in his role, thanking him for all his work and support as District Engineer.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Members acknowledged the excellent work carried out by Eric Ryan and the outdoor team on the planting and hanging baskets in the town.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the replacement of the rubbish bins and the painting of the signage in the town centre.
- Councillor Murphy highlighted the issue with the Traffic Lights at Cashel Road Junction and Oakville Junction and requested that it be highlighted that you have to drive up to the white line as you approach the traffic lights for the lights to change.

- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on extending the speed limit approaching Redmonstown Junction.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to the equipment for the playground at Mulcahy Park.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the timeframe regarding the new entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery on the Waterford Road side and also for an update on the extension of the Cemetery.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the works at Ballybeg Junction and Rathronan Bend.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was any update on the provision of toilets and a drinking water station on the Blueway.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the flood alleviation works at Marlfield.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked the Manager and Cllr. Pat English for meeting with her and Minister Jack Chambers to highlight the issues on the N24.
- Councillor Fitzgerald complimented the Borough District Staff for the quick and effective response to a recent oil spillage in Clerihan.
- Councillor Fitzgerald highlighted the low wall at the Gas House Bridge. He noted that it is a protected structure and asked if it can be looked at to identify hazards and whether works can be carried out to improve safety measures.
- Councillor Molloy asked for an update on the laneway at O'Neill Street/Gordon Street Car Park.

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

- The District Engineer stated that he would pass on the compliments of the Members to Eric Ryan and the outdoor staff.
- In relation to the Traffic Lights, the District Engineer stated that he will talk to Robbie Hogan, Town Foreman to see if the lights can be made more effective.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that the speed limit review will be undertaken at the end of this year or early next year and the speed limit at Redmonstown will be looked at as part of the review.
- In relation to the playground equipment at Mulcahy Park, the District Engineer stated that it is scheduled to be installed on the 28th August.
- The District Engineer stated that the work on the new entrance at St. Patrick's Cemetery will commence at the end of August and stated that he will revert back regarding the timeframe for the extension works.
- In relation to works at Rathronan and Ballybeg, the District Engineer informed the meeting that he will arrange for a speed survey to be carried out at Ballybeg and stated that contact has been made with the local landowner in relation to Rathronan Bend. He informed the Members that it is intended to include Rathronan Bend in the Road Safety Works Programme next year.
- The District Engineer informed the Meeting that ORIS Funding has been sought to widen the Blueway and that the toilet and drinking water station may be looked at under these works.
- In relation to the works at Marlfield Lake, the District Engineer to follow up on same.
- The District Engineer stated that as the Gashouse Bridge is a protected structure, it will be very difficult to carry out works but he will have a look at it and see what, if any, works can be carried out.

• In relation to the laneway at O'Neill St/Gordon Place, the District Engineer stated that quotations have been received and will be reviewed with a Contractor appointed as quickly as possible.

The Development Fund Levies Schedule of Works for 2023 was proposed by Councillor Murphy and Seconded by Councillor Ambrose.

Item 6.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme The Report was noted by the Members.

Item 7.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 7th July, 2023 These were noted by the Members.

Items 8.1 to 8.10 - Notice of Motion

Motion 2636 was proposed by Cllr. John Fitzgerald

That this Council, take steps to ensure that this road becomes safe, taking into consideration some specific issues which arise there. There is an open dyke on one side of the road, for a considerable length. Which would need to be piped and covered over to allow traffic to pass in a safe fashion.

Over many years now there is now the road has become used by a large amount of agricultural machinery and the narrowness of the road, and the inability of vehicles to pass each other, have rendered this now a dangerous stretch of road.

The Haypenny Well Bridge has to deal with high levels of traffic as the area is increasingly referred to as a "rat run" for traffic coming from the Cashel Road area, across to the Fethard Road area.

I would like the Council to advise what long and short term works are going to be done, to deal with this dangerous situation.

Reply:

The L-7204 is a narrow country road linking the R689 & the L-3274. The road has an average width of 4.5 metres and is approximately 1.5km long.

3 No acidents are recorded as having occurred on this road since 2008. 2 acceidents resulted in material damage only while one accident was a single vehicle occurance and resulted in a minor injury.

This road, due to its nature and location experiences low level of traffic, we have on record its Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) as being less than 500, as per the latest survey conducted in 2022.

A Pavement Survey Condition Index (PSCI) rating was applied in 2022 to this road. The rating applied was between 5 - 9 (exact location depending). A rating of 5 is classed as "Surface defects may be present" while a rating of 9 is classed as the "road surface is in very good condition" The PSCI rating catagory runs between 1 and 10, with 1 rating as "severe deterioriation" and a 10 rating as "road surface in perfect condition"

With regard to piping the open drain, Clonmel district always prioritises remedial works where there are either obvious flooding issues occuring or where there is a high number of traffic accidents occuring at the locus. Neither situation applies in this regard so unfortunately these works would be a low priority for the district.

With regard to this road being unsafe I would refer Cllr Fitzgerald to the aforementioned accident statistics and the PSCI ratings that indicate that this is a safe road to travel on. It is acknowledged that this is a narrow road, as are all the local roads in the county, and drivers are expected to take due care and attention on them.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

The reply to the motion was noted. Cllr. Fitzgerald, however, was not completely happy with this response and will be asking for the motion to be revisited.

Motion 2637 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

That the Wood Crescent estate in Kilsheelan be included in the Area Roadworks Programme having regard to it's poor condition.

Reply:

This estate will be reviewed later this year when the 2024 RW programme is being prepared and will be considered for inclusion subject to its condition and funding availability.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2639 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

That the section of road within the Willow Park estate, in front of house numbers 1 - 7, is included in the Area Roadworks Programme having regard to it's poor condition.

Reply:

Road resurfacing works in Willow Park are included in our proposed Development Fund projects for 2023. The road fronting No's 1 - 7 will be assessed when the proposed works are being carried out and subject to condition will be repaired.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2640 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That under the Council's 2024 Roads Programme that consideration is given for the resurfacing of sections of the road network from the crossroads at Marlfield Lake out to and including sections of the road network in Loughtally.

Reply:

This road will be reviewed later this year when the 2024 RW programme is being prepared and will be considered for inclusion subject to the road condition and funding availability.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2641 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That the Council's Roads Section examines the traffic lights at the C.B.S. High School /Daybreak (formally the Crescent/Kitty O' Keeffe's shop) with a view to inserting a right hand turn filter at the traffic lights on Dillon Street (to turn onto King Street) and a right hand filter at the traffic lights on King Street (to turn onto Thomas Street).

Reply:

The district engineer will examine this proposal and will revert to councillor Ambrose with a response prior to the September district meeting.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2642 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

What is the latest update from the Department of Housing regarding the Council's proposed cluster house development (six sites) in Kilsheelan.

Reply:

Business plan was submitted to the Department in relation to the Cluster housing development. We are currently awaiting a response and will revert to you as soon as same is received.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2643 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

That the Council significantly cut back and prune the trees in Prior Park Green as part of this year's "Winter Programme" having regard to their overgrown state.

Reply:

The trees in Prior Park Green were pruned 2 - 3 years ago. These trees are not under consideration at present for pruning in 2023, as there are other trees within Prior Park that are a higher priority. Further consideration will be given to Prior Park Green in the 2024 pruning programme.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2644 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough Council provide 2 additional speed ramps in Marlfield village, Clonmel. One ramp in the village before the pedestrian crossing and one just after the roundabout on the Ardfinnan side of Marlfield. Motorists are still speeding through the village.

Reply:

The district engineer will examine this proposal and will revert to Councillor English with a response prior to the September district meeting. In the meantime a speed survey will be carried out in the aforementioned locations.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2645 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

Following on from my previous notice of motions on the derelict site at Elm Park formerly known as Jimmy Keatings shop, what is the current situation with regard to anything being carried out at this site, i.e. information, purchasing by the council. The site has been dormant for nearly 20 years and is a constant venue for anti-social behaviour.

Reply:

The Council is currently looking at dereliction throughout the town and a new working group comprising of Housing Section, Environment Section and Clonmel Borough District, has been formed to highlight sites of concern and to look to tackle these vacant/derelict properties. The immediate task is to tackle town centre properties, however, this property will be assessed and should there be a need to take immediate action and if the funding is available, this too will be added to the list of Clonmel properties.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2646 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English

That Clonmel Borough Council look at putting some form of traffic calming measures on the road from Rathronan crossroads to the Cashel road. The road is being used as on outer relief

road and is very dangerous for anyone trying to exit from their houses along the road due to the amount of traffic that travels on it.

Reply:

Traffic calming measures are implemented primarily in residential urban areas, with a view to slowing down traffic where there is a high level of interaction between pedestrians and vehicles

The L-3279 does not fall into this catagory and Clonmel Borough District would not have the budget or the resources to commence implementation of traffic calming measures in county roads such as this.

If there is repeated speeding on this road the matter should be referred to the Gardai.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 9.1 Correspondence

No correspondence was noted.

Item 10.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was issued to Pat Slattery, former Director of Services with Tipperary County Council on the passing of his Mother, Anna.

A vote of sympathy was issued to Councillor Pat English on the passing of his sister, Margaret O'Dwyer, 10 Clairin, Carrick-on-Suir.

A vote of congratulations was extended by the Members to: -

Cliona Maher and her Team on the success of the Junction Festival and to Clonmel Agricultural Society on the success of the Clonmel Show.

Item 11.1 Any Other Business

Sinéad Carr thanked Roger Noonan for his work with Clonmel Borough District and wished him well in his role with Waterford County Council. Carol Creighton joined with Sinéad Carr in wishing Roger well and thanked him for his help and support as District Engineer.

Signed:

Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Signed:

District Administrator

Dated: