

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING,  
HELD AT 11.00 a.m. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, CLONMEL ON WEDNESDAY,  
18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Richie Molloy, Mayor  
Councillor Siobhán Ambrose  
Councillor Pat English  
Councillor Michael Murphy (ZOOM)  
Councillor John Fitzgerald  
Councillor Niall P. Dennehy

**In Attendance:** Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services  
Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator  
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer  
Ms. Mary Irwin, A/Staff Officer

**Also in Attendance:** Mr. Mark Connolly, Director of Services, Finance  
Mr. Paddy Brennan, Financial Management Accountant  
Ms. Gillian Flynn, A/Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer

**Item 1.1 Zoom Protocol**

The Mayor confirmed with Cllr. Murphy joining the meeting by Zoom that he 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 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.**

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Cllr. Pat English and agreed by all.

**Arising from Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 4.1 Clonmel Borough District – Draft Budgetary Plan 2024.**

Mr. Mark Connolly, Head of Finance and Mr. Paddy Brennan, Financial Management Accountant referred to the draft budgetary plan 2024 circulated to Members.

General Municipal Allocation	€ 142,023
Gross Revenue Expenditure	€ 142,023
Housing	€1,278,433
Road Transport & Safety	€3,859,798
Environmental Services	€ 686,418
Recreational and Amenity	€ 730,515
<b>Relevant Directorate Expenditure</b>	<b>€6,555,164</b>

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**The following queries were raised by members:**

- Councillor English asked if Central Government was going to allocate extra funding to account for the increase in inflation.
- Councillor Dennehy stated that the Budget for Clonmel Borough Council was miniscule in comparison to the Clonmel Borough Council Budget prior to the merger and queried the discretionary fund stating that prior to the merger this discretionary spend was €20m.

**Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:**

- Mark Conway stated that Central Government allocated extra funding in 2023 to help with inflationary increases but that this would not be allocated in 2024.
- Ms. Sinéad Carr, Town Manager stated that the spend now matches the spend prior to the merger with a lot of central funds being allocated to housing, roads, amenity etc and that there has been a lot of capital development in the last number of years.

The draft budget was proposed by Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose and seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy.

**Item 4.2 Chief Executives Report Part 8 Improved Cycle Lanes, Cashel Road, Clonmel.**

The report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda.

These works were proposed by Councillor Pat English and seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose.

**Item 4.3 Chief Executives Report Part 8 Gaelscoil Safe Routes to School.**

The report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda.

These works were proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose and seconded by Councillor Pat English.

The Mayor and Members thanked Gillian Flynn for her attendance at the Meeting and for presenting the Part 8 Works for adoption.

**4.4 Tipperary LECP Framework**

The report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda.

It was proposed by Councillor Pat English and seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose.

The Mayor and Members thanks Margo Hayes for her attendance at the Meeting and presenting the Report for adoption.

**Item 5.1 Report of District Administrator**

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

**Questions raised by the Members were as follows:**

- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the meeting held with the owners of the Clonmel Arms Hotel.
- In relation to the Market Place Development, Councillor Ambrose asked that it be highlighted to the general public that these properties are not in council ownership and that the council can only engage with the owners. Members spoke of their disappointment in relation to the lack of progress at this site.

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- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the provision of signage and refuse bins at the Sports Hub and stated that the signage should outline the facilities provided.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the completion date for works at the Town Hall at the end of October stating that the relocation of the Motor Tax Office to the Town Hall will create more footfall in Parnell Street.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the reply received from Eir regarding the removal of the old telephone kiosks.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the CCTV installation.
- In relation to the works at Abbey Street, Councillor Ambrose requested a timeframe regarding the design stage.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the installation of the new playground equipment and queried the reason for the delay of same.
- Councillor Ambrose highlighted the issues in relation to the lack of train services in Clonmel as the Capital Town and requested that Irish Rail be contacted again in relation to same.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked Adam Coffey, Executive Engineer and the team for providing the 80 additional burial ground plots at St. Patrick's Cemetery and requested that additional funding be followed up on for the entrance works.
- Members requested an update on the Town Bus Service.
- Councillor Dennehy asked that Marlfield be included on the route for the Bus Service.
- Councillor Dennehy asked for an update on the number of hackney licences operating in the Town.
- Councillor Murphy requested that the repair of the chimes in the sensory playground be prioritised.
- Councillor Murphy welcomed the formation of the Town Team and queried the process for updating the Members on the work being carried out by the team. He suggested that Mr. Noel Buckley, Chairperson attend the Borough District Meetings on a quarterly basis to provide an update.
- Councillor Fitzgerald stated that progression of the Clonmel Arms Hotel was at an advanced stage with some complexities still to be ironed out but that the redevelopment will create jobs and footfall in the town.
- Councillor English asked for an update regarding the funding allocated under URDF for tackling vacancy/dereliction and asked if a workshop will be held to inform the members in relation to same.
- Councillor English welcomed the appointment of the bus operator for the town service and requested an update on the civil works.
- Councillor English welcomed the progress on the works at Abbey Street stating that this facility will be a great asset for festivals.
- Councillor English asked for a date for the relocation of the Borough District Meetings to the Town Hall.
- Councillor English expressed his disappointment in delays with CCTV.
- Councillor English requested update on the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Works.
- Councillor English asked if a reply was received from the Environment Section regarding the replacement of the dog pound in Kilsheelan.
- The Mayor discussed the meeting held with himself and the District Administrator with owners of Market Place. He stated that the Council has a civic responsibility as this area is dragging down the town centre. However, he stated that it should be highlighted

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to the people of the town that the Council is doing everything it can but that these properties remain in private ownership.

- Members stated that they were fully supportive of the Town Team but had concerns that it could be inferred that the public information meeting being held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November for retailers, owners and leaseholders of vacant properties was being driven by the Town Team and not Tipperary County Council.

**Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:**

- The District Administrator informed the meeting that she had met with the new owners of the Clonmel Arms Hotel and stated that Clonmel Borough District will provide assistance to them, where possible, to progress the site.
- In relation to Market Place, the District Administrator stated that she will continue to engage with the owners to engage with the planning section.
- In relation to the signage and refuse bins at the Sports Hub, the District Administrator stated that she is trying to progress these issues with TUS.
- The District Administrator stated that the Motor Tax Office will open on 31<sup>st</sup> October and that the November Borough District Meeting will resume in the Town Hall.
- In relation to the telephone kiosks, the District Administrator stated that she will continue to follow up with EIR regarding their removal.
- In relation to the installation of CCTV, the District Administrator stated that she will follow up with the Commissioner but that a decision is close to issuing.
- In relation to the town bus service, the District Administrator stated that Adam Coffey, Executive Engineer is working with the National Transport Authority in relation to the civil works.
- The District Administrator stated that the design stage will be completed for the Abbey Street works at the end of October.
- In relation to Irish Rail, the District Administrator stated that she will contact Irish Rail with a view to organising a workshop or meeting where the plans for Clonmel can be outlined.
- The District Administrator informed the meeting that Marlfield is not on the Town Bus Service at the moment but that when the service is up and running in the town it can be looked at expanding out to areas not being serviced.
- The Manager stated that it is a good idea for the Chairperson of the Town Team to attend the Monthly Meeting to give feedback to the Members and suggested that twice a year would be sufficient. The Manager also agreed that it would be an invaluable resource for the Mayor to attend the Town Team Meetings.
- In relation to the URDF Funding, the District Administrator informed the meeting that an Interdepartmental Task Force has been set up consisting of the Municipal District, Housing, Planning and Environment to identify vacant/derelict properties.
- In relation to the number of hackney licences in operation in the Town, the District Administrator stated that she will check same with the Roads Section and revert to Cllr. Dennehy.
- The District Administrator stated that she will follow up with the Environment Section in relation to the Dog Pound in Kilsheelan and revert to Cllr. English.
- In relation to the flood alleviation works at Marlfield, James Murray informed the Meeting that he will arrange for the Capital Team to attend at the District Meeting to provide a brief update on the progress being made.

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- In relation to the concerns raised by the Members regarding the public information meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, the Manager stated that all the people providing information on the evening will be Council Staff. The Manager also stated that the Council and the Agencies will work together in collaboration to maximise the values for the town and that concentration should be on the value that each stakeholder can bring.

**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 English asked for an update on the gates at Sheehy Terrace/O'Neill Street.
- Councillor English requested a timeframe for the discretionary improvement works.
- Councillor English asked for a start date for the works on Sir Thomas Bridge.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the timeframe in relation to the Clonmel/Marlfield Greenway.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the cluster housing at Kilsheelan.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the traffic lights sequence at Cashel Road.
- Councillor English welcomed the works at Ballybeg.
- Councillor Murphy asked if signage could be erected at the traffic lights at Oakville and Cashel Roads advising motorists to approach the white line in order to action the traffic lights.
- Councillor Murphy asked if the weeds could be removed from the pathways in the old section of St. Patrick's Cemetery stating that they were overgrown in areas and making it difficult for people to get to their family graves.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the works on the N24 at Moorstown and Derrygrath.
- Councillor Murphy raised a concern regarding the lights on the by-pass between the Poppyfield and Cashel Road stating that trees were overhanging and blocking the light and asked that this issue be looked at.
- Councillor Fitzgerald welcomed the works at Mocklerstown and stated that there was approximately 4m of the roadway not completed and asked if this could be looked at.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked if a sign notifying motorists of the speed ramp at Clerihan National School could be erected.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the skid resistant surface at Ballybeg Bend.
- Councillor Ambrose asked that funding be ringfenced for 2024 to prioritise works at Rathronan Bend.
- Councillor Ambrose asked that funding be made available to fund works on the entrance at St. Patrick's Cemetery as money that had been ringfenced for these works had to be allocated to the extension works.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the filter lights at the Crescent.
- Councillor Molloy asked that the lighting at the Post Office and John Paul Place be looked at as it is very poor especially with the dark evenings approaching for elderly people.

**Queries raised by the Members which Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer responded to were as follows:**

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- In relation to the gates at Sheehy Terrace/O'Neill Street, the District Engineer stated that tenders have been received and will be progressed.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that a Contractor has been appointed to carry out the works on Sir Thomas Bridge and these works will commence in October.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that she will revert back in relation to a timeframe on the Clonmel/Marlfield Greenway.
- The District Engineer stated there is no update on the cluster housing at Kilsheelan.
- In relation to the traffic filter light, the District Engineer stated that she will contact the traffic lights specialists to see if a solution can be found.
- The District Engineer stated that she will arrange to have the weeds removed from the footpaths in the old Section of St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- In relation to the funding for works at St. Patrick's Cemetery, the District Engineer informed the meeting that money has been requested for the entrance and extension.
- The District Engineer stated that she will talk to Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, Roads Section to include Rathronan Bend when applying for funding under the Safety Improvement Scheme.
- The District Engineer stated that she will arrange signage in Clerihan to highlight the speed ramp.
- In relation to works on the N24, the District Engineer stated that she will check if funding is available from the TII for same.
- The District Engineer stated that lighting at the Post Office and John Paul Place will be looked at under the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project but may be a year or two down the road.

**Item 5.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme**

The Report was noted by the Members.

**Item 6.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

These were noted by the Members.

**Items 7.1 to 7.8– Notice of Motion**

**Motion 2692 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy**

That the Council would install a waste collection bin at Clonmel Railway Station having regard to this being a litter blackspot whilst also a key strategic location.

**REPLY:**

I propose to liaise with Irish Rail who are the property owners at the railway station car park to see if they would manage the litter on their property. I also propose to review the bin usage in the Clonmel Borough District in general.

**The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose**

**The reply to the motion was noted.**

**Motion 2693 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy**

That the Council would close the pedestrian entrance between the Regional Sports Hub and the Cashel Court Housing Estate, this entrance being a source of escalating anti social behaviour.

**REPLY:-**

TUS have been contacted and have confirmed that they will put a plan in place to rectify the anti social problem at this gateway

**The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English**

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**The reply to the motion was noted.**

**Motion 2699 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose**

Following a representation from Old St. Mary's Church (Parochial Church) can I ask that staff from the Planning Section of Tipperary County Council engage with representatives from Old St. Mary's Church regarding funding for the continued preservation of the historic old walls of Clonmel that surround this Church.

**REPLY:-**

District Administrator will contact the Planning section in relation to funding for the preservation of the old town walls

**The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English.**

**The reply to the motion was noted.**

**Motion 2700 was proposed by Siobhán Ambrose**

That under the Council's 2024 Roads Programme that consideration is given for the re-surfacing of sections of Church Road in Kilsheelan from the railway crossing up to the crossroads at the Ormonde Stores.

**Reply:**

A section of this road will be considered for the Restoration Maintenance Programme for 2024.

**The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English**

**The reply to the motion was noted.**

**Motion 2701 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose**

That under the Council's 2024 Roads Programme that consideration is given for the re-surfacing of sections of the Coleville Road which are a bad condition.

**Reply:**

A section of this road will be considered for the road works programme 2024

**The motion was seconded by Cllr. Pat English**

**The reply to the motion was noted.**

**Motion 2702 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English**

That Clonmel Borough District provide a Speed Ramp outside No. 57 Ard Na Greine in the interest of Public Safety.

**Reply:**

This matter is being investigated.

**The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose**

**The reply to the motion was noted.**

**Motion 2703 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English**

That Clonmel Borough District request an update from Chief Superintendent, Colm O' Sullivan on the reduction in Garda personnel in Clonmel Garda Station and clarification in relation to the number of Garda in the dedicated Drugs Unit in Clonmel and also request the reinstatement of Community Garda Unit in Clonmel Town.

**Reply:**

District Administrator has contacted An Garda Síochána in relation to providing Elected Members with information on personnel levels in Clonmel

**The motion was seconded by Cllr. Richie Molloy**

**The reply to the motion was noted.**

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**Motion 2704 was proposed by Cllr. Pat English**

That Clonmel Borough District looks for an update on the Rail Service between Waterford and Limerick Junction from Iarnrod Eireann in relation to upgrading the service line and timetable.

**Reply:**

District Administrator has contacted Iarnrod Eireann in relation to arranging a meeting with Elected Members on the overall programme planned for the Clonmel Railway Station

**The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose**

**The reply to the motion was noted.**

**Item 8.1 Correspondence**

No correspondence noted.


**Item 9.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

No votes of Sympathy noted.

The members proposed that a vote of congratulations be sent to each of the Tidy Towns Groups for their success in the National Tidy Towns Competition and a letter be sent to Eric Ryan and his Team for the invaluable work they carry out to enhance the town.

**Item 10.1 Any Other Business**

Members expressed their thanks to Liz McGrath, Senior Staff Officer and the Festival Committee for organising the Halloween Events in Clonmel.

Signed: 

Dated: 15/10/23

**Mayor of Clonmel Borough District**

Signed: 

Dated: 15/11/23

**District Administrator**