

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PARNELL STREET, CLONMEL ON WEDNESDAY, 16th April, 2025

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

In Attendance: Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services
Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator
Ms. Gillian Flynn, District Engineer
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer.
Ms. Mary Irwin, Staff Officer
Ms. Georgina O'Loughlin, Asst. Staff Officer

Also in Attendance: Ms. Caroline Conway, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Noel Buckley, Town Regeneration Team
Ms. Myriam Madigan, Member of the Public

The Mayor opened the meeting by expressing a vote of sympathy to the family and friends of former Fine Gael Councillor Joe Brennan who passed away. Mr. Brennan served on South Tipperary County Council from 2009 to 2014. All the members present joined with the Mayor in expressing their sympathy to the family. They spoke about Joe's great contribution to politics, business and the community.

The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Brennan RIP.

1.1 Zoom Protocol

There was nobody in attendance at the Meeting by Zoom.

2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

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

3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 19th March, 2025.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 19th March, 2025, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Richie Molloy, seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson and agreed by all.

4.1 Fix Date for Special Meeting.

The date for the special meeting was fixed for the 28th April, 2025 and agreed by all the members present.

5.1 Town Team Update

The Clonmel Town Team established in late 2023 is working on the regeneration of the town centre. Mr. Noel Buckley outlined to the members the activities undertaken by the Town Team in collaboration with Clonmel Chamber of Commerce and Tipperary County Council. He spoke about the following initiatives:-

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- **Love Tipperary Card** which was launched at the end of November, 2024 has seen €158,000 spent to date in County Tipperary. The advantage of this card is that it has to be used in local businesses boosting the local economy and communities. Approximately 300 businesses in the County have signed up to the initiative with 101 of these businesses in Clonmel. It has the potential to keep growing and is an example of the circular economy in action.
- **The BID Scheme (Business Improvement District)** :- BIDS process is where a BID levy is decided on and paid by the ratepayers and is used to enhance an area. The purpose of the Scheme is to regenerate and improve the trading performance within specified areas. The BID operates under a 5 year mandate to improve and promote the economic development of the town centre area. This Scheme has proved very successful in Sligo. A meeting was held in Sligo with Clonmel business people, Town Team members and County Council officials to explore its benefits. A representative from Sligo gave a presentation to a sample of 40 business owners in Clonmel and the response to same was very positive. The next step is to put a business plan together and a vote will be held by the ratepayers effected in the BIDs area. If the vote is in favour, then the BIDS process would be up and running by January, 2026.
- **Christmas Markets**. Mr. Buckley spoke about the success of the Christmas Markets on Kickham Plaza for the past 2 years. It has received a very positive response from the public, the schools and the businesses who engaged with it. They are currently putting a team together to support, enhance and grow the Christmas Festival in Clonmel.

He also stated the importance of gathering data for a town. He said that data counters were placed in every street in Sligo to identify the footfall in the area. This also proves very beneficial when applying for funding to be able to show stats. He mentioned the “purple app” system which is a way of recording anti-social behaviour outside business properties. This is being considered in Sligo and it should prove very beneficial for the Community Safety Committee and Gardaí to have the specific facts and data to report on.

Mr. Buckley also spoke about the importance of promoting the town in a positive light and promoting the many festivals and events that take place in the town. He mentioned the camper van site located at Suir Island Car Park which is recognised as one of the best in the country, because of its proximity to the town centre and how easy it is for visitors to access everything the town has to offer. He also spoke about the success of the town bus service which is also a great asset to the people of the town since its arrival.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English asked for details of the groups represented on the Town Team.
- Regarding the BIDS process, Councillor English asked if the funding raised from the increase in rates remains in the town.
- Members agreed that the BIDS process is a good news story. They stated that Clonmel could enjoy the same success as Sligo as it is a vibrant town with a lot happening and that it is encouraging to see businesses ready and willing to engage in the process.
- Members stated that spending on-line is destroying the fabric of towns and praised the Love Tipperary Card initiative asking if the outlets for purchasing these cards will be expanded.
- Members agreed that there is alot happening in the town and that there is a need to utilise the location of Clonmel and market the activities taking place.

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Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Mr. Buckley informed the members that the Town Team had representation from the following sectors:-
Arts & Culture, Education, Business and Community, Tipperary County Council, Disability Sector, Chamber of Commerce & Hospitality.
He stated that they will hold another meeting in the Autumn with builders and the owners of vacant properties with a view to finding ways to bring these properties back into use in the town and advising property owners of the grants available to them.
- Mr. Buckley stated that the BIDS is not a Council rate. There is an amount collected and ringfenced for the business community for them to spend as they see fit. It is collected however, by the Council on behalf of the BIDs group.

The Mayor and members thanked Noel for his attendance at the meeting and complimented him on the great work to date being carried out by the Town Team.

6.1 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Planning & Development/Emergency Services

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

Caroline Conway informed the members that there was an amendment to paragraph 3 under the Residential Zoned Land Tax. The report should read “no later than 30th April, 2025, a re-zoning acknowledgement letter will be sent to those landowners who made such a request relating to the final maps for 2025” and not 2026 as in the report. The Members were also advised that Kieran Ladden (SEE) is now working full time on Capital Projects and the SEE role in Taking in Charge (TIC) is currently vacant and will be filled shortly. Caroline Conway agreed to take note of TIC queries and arrange for a response to issue as soon as possible.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Acheson asked how much land will be rezoned. He asked if land is not actively being pursued by Developers, would exemption be a better option than not rezoning.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the funding awarded under the Built Heritage Fund noting that it is the 3rd highest in the Country and complimented the work of the planning section in obtaining this funding.
- In relation to the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Councillor Ambrose commented on the low take up of the grant in Clonmel and asked if there is a reason for this.
- Members asked for an update on the taking in charge of the following estates: Churchview, Cnoc Aoibheann, Aylesbury Court, Crann Ard, Glencarra, Gracefield and Longfield.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the number of properties which have been identified/refurbished under URDF Call 3 by the Vacant Homes/Dereliction Team.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Caroline informed the members that she will revert with an update regarding the Estates being taken in charge.
- The closing date to request rezoning was the 1st April. These requests are currently under consideration with a response to issue by the 30th April.
- In relation to the query on URDF Call 3, Caroline will follow up with Shane Grogan, Town Regeneration Officer and ask him to provide information to the members.

The Mayor thanked Caroline for her attendance at the meeting.

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7.1 Burial Ground Grants 2025

The grants were proposed by Councillor Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Molloy and agreed by all.

7.2 Tidy Towns Grants 2025

The grants were proposed by Councillor Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Molloy and agreed by all.

8.1 Report of District Administrator

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

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Ambrose asked if the design consultant has been appointed for the 3 protected buildings on Kickham Barracks or if there is a timeframe for tendering and completion of same.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for the timeframe for the completion of works at Parkes Chemist.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked the Borough District for appointing a contractor to enhance and tidy up the entrance to the circular amenity space in the Wilderness Estate and welcomed the recent planting/enhancement initiative in Bianconi Drive undertaken by Sláinte Care and Clonmel Borough District.
- Councillor Ambrose spoke about the success of the camper van site on Suir Island and referenced the letter received endorsing the site following the AGM of the Irish Camping & Caravan Club in Stoneyford which covers the 32 counties for campervanning.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update on the following at the Sports Hub:-
 1. upgrade of the surface on the walkway
 2. erection of signage and
 3. the roll out of the funding at the facility that was announced by outgoing Minister Thomas Byrne.
- Councillor Ambrose wished the Powerstown-Lisronagh Comhaltas Group every success with the upcoming County Fleadh Cheoil which is being held in Clonmel from the 10th – 18th May.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked the District Administrator for all her work in progressing the extension of the CCTV Scheme in the town.
- Councillor Molloy mentioned that the skylight at Parkes Chemist is open and asked that this be closed to prevent water damage.
- Councillor Molloy suggested that signs be erected to highlight the location of the Tourist Office.
- Councillor Molloy raised the issue of parking charges in Clonmel and asked if a 2-hour free parking period could be introduced to encourage people to stay in the town.
- Councillor Acheson asked for an update on the Suir Island Bridge Project.
- Councillor Acheson asked for an update on the paving in Mitchel Street.
- In relation to parking charges, Councillor Acheson asked if the parking byelaws for each Municipal District can be revoked and replaced with one single set of byelaws countywide.
- Councillor English welcomed the email from Noel Fanning in relation to the camper van site and acknowledged all the work undertaken by the Borough District in this regard.
- Councillor English asked for a completion date for the Suir Island Garden Project.

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- Councillor English asked for an update on URDF Call 4 and stated that the local Oireachtas Members should be asked to raise this at National Level.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the extension of the CCTV in the town.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the redevelopment of Market Place.
- Councillor English acknowledged receipt of the letter received on behalf of Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien, T.D. regarding the N24 Clonmel Inner Relief Road.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update from the Strategic Policy Committee regarding the harmonisation of parking charges in the County and asked James Murray to relay the concerns of the members to the SPC.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- The District Administrator informed the members that Thrive Stream 1 funding has been received for the design of the 3 protected buildings on Kickham Barracks Site and the Council will work on the designs with the Consultants. A funding application has been submitted for the construction works for these buildings (Thrive Stream 2) and it is hoped that this application will be successful.
- The District Administrator will follow up on the issue with Parkes Chemist.
- In relation to the works at Wilderness Grove, the District Administrator stated that it is hoped to secure additional funding from Community and Economic Development to enhance further elements of the project.
- Regarding the walkway at the Sports Hub, the District Administrator informed the members that the surface on the outer walkway has been repaired and the signage is currently being progressed as part of the overall signage for the TUS Campuses.
- The District Administrator said that she will follow up with Tourism Section regarding the erection of tourist office information signage.
- In relation to Suir Island Bridge, the District Administrator informed the members that the planning application remains with An Bord Pleanála for determination.
- The District Administrator stated that there has been no further update in relation to URDF Call 4.
- In relation to the development of Market Place, the District Administrator said that she will follow up with the Planning Section regarding the progress of same.
- James Murray informed the members that the parking charges countywide are being progressed by the SPC. The parking byelaws for the County are currently being reviewed and will be presented to the Districts for approval.

8.2 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 Ambrose welcomed the completion of works at Abbey Street Car Park scheduled for before the summer and thanked all associated with progressing the Project.
- Councillor Ambrose stated that the Suir Island Gardens Project will be a great amenity and welcomed its' June completion date.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for a timeframe for completion of the works at the entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery and members asked if a cattle grid will be installed.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the installation of a drinking water station and toilet facilities on the Blueway.

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- Councillor Ambrose asked if there is a timeframe for the decision to issue by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the Suir Island Bridge.
- Councillor Molloy asked if the installation of speed ramps at Glenconnor Close and Glenconnor Hill can be reviewed.
- Councillor English asked if there was a further update in relation to the works to be carried out by the OPW on the streams and river in the Old Bridge.
- Councillor English requested that the damaged bollards on the N24 at the Heywood Road Junction be removed and replaced.
- Councillor English welcomed the works at the Library and Swimming Pool and requested that a ramp be installed from the Library to the Borstal Car Park.
- Councillor English asked that the public lights at Fethard Road be repaired.
- Councillor English welcomed the works at St. Patrick's Cemetery and asked for the timeframe for completion of these works.
- James Murray informed the members that funding is not being provided by the TII this year to progress the N24 which is a huge issue for the town.
- Councillor Acheson asked if the design of lanes onto the Roundabout at Cashel Road can be looked at which would take traffic off the N24. Members concurred with Councillor Acheson and asked that this be progressed as an interim measure to take traffic off the road. They expressed their disappointment at the lack of a by-pass for Clonmel.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to Mitchel Street, the District Engineer informed the members that she is hoping to secure funding under URDF Call 4 for these works and that she will look at options for some improvements to the paving in the interim.
- The District Engineer stated that the Roads Capital Section have been in contact with an Bord Pleanála regarding the timeframe for a decision on the planning application for Suir Island Bridge and is waiting on a reply.
- The District Engineer confirmed that the works at Abbey Street Car Park are on target for completion in June
- In relation to works at the entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery, the District Engineer stated that these works will be completed in June and that a cattle grid will be installed.
- The District Engineer informed the members that works at Suir Island Gardens are on target for completion in June.
- The District Engineer informed the members that an application for funding has been submitted for the installation of a drinking water station on the Blueway and a response is awaited on same. She stated that there is no plan at present to install toilet facilities on the Blueway.
- The District Engineer stated that she will review the installation of ramps at Glenconnor Close and Glenconnor Hill.
- In relation to the damaged bollards, the District Engineer informed the members that a contractor is being procured to replace same.
- Regarding the works to be carried out by the OPW on the streams, the District Engineer stated that the screenings should be completed by the end of the Summer with the works fully completed by the end of the year.
- The District Engineer informed the members that the installation of a ramp at the Library will be reviewed.
- The District Engineer stated that the public lights at the Fethard Road Roundabout have been repaired and that the pedestrian lights have been logged for repair.

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- James Murray informed the members that there is no funding available to change the design of the lanes and will be looked at as part of the N24 Design. It will be deferred back to the Capital Team who will refer to TII.

8.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

The Report was noted by the Members.

Item 9.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 11th April, 2025.

These were noted by the Members.

Items 10.1 to 10.9– Notice of Motion

Motion 2952 was proposed by Councillor Tom Acheson

That the Council would install speed ramps on O'Neill Street Clonmel to deal with the excessive vehicle speed at this location.

REPLY:

A speed survey was carried out on O'Neill Street from 03rd April to the 10th April 2025. The 85th Percentile speed over the 7 days was 35km/h, the current posted speed limit on this street is 50kph. Therefore, a ramp is not required at this location. The urban speed limits are currently under review and a reduction in the speed limit on O'Neill street will be considered as part of the review.

Seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2954 was proposed by Councillor Richie Molloy

That Clonmel Borough District install a ramp at the entrance to Honeyview Estate as there is a constant issue with speeding and to note that a petition was submitted by local residents in Honeyview regarding this matter.

REPLY:

A commitment was made in 2024 to install this ramp at Honeyview. The ramp will be installed in April/May 2025

Seconded by Councillor Pat English

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2956 was proposed by Councillor John Fitzgerald

That this Council hardcore the Bus Stop at Gambonsfield, Kilsheelan as it is currently unsuitable for bus users.

REPLY:

We have contacted the National Transport Authority to see if there is funding available to develop a design and implement improved bus stop facilities at Ormonde Stores on the N76. Development of bus stop improvements at this location will require consultation and approvals from the NTA and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2959 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District remove the rubbish and vegetation and rubble at the green area to the rear of houses No 43 to No 52, Carrigeen, Clonmel in the interest of public safety.

REPLY:

The Clonmel Borough District will discuss the possibility of removing the rubbish in the green to the rear of houses No 43 to 52, Carrigeen with the Environment section. The volume and extent of

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dumping in this green will cost a considerable amount due to the time required for collection and disposal costs associated with the volume of waste involved.

Seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2960 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District replace or recalibrate the Parking Ticket machines in town. A large number of the machines are very old and no longer working properly.

REPLY:

The maintenance contractor for the Pay & Display machines is carrying out a full survey on all P&D machines in Clonmel on 15th April and will ensure all machines are recalibrated and in full working order

Seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2961 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District request the T.I.I. to properly maintain the N24 (Frank Drohan Inner Relief Road). This section of road is very poorly maintained and a large amount of trees are in need of cutting back and pruning and road surface requires cleaning with traffic island in need of cleaning and new reflective markings on same.

REPLY:

Tipperary County Council will contact TII in relation to specific funding for N24 maintenance, in particular pruning of trees. All maintenance defects on our National Roads are logged, tracked and managed through the TII Geo App/Defects Management system and applications for supplementary maintenance grants made through the DMS. We have applied for funding to prune the trees west of the Cashel road in 2025.

Seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2962 was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

In the interest of safety that consideration is given for the insertion of traffic calming measures on Fr. Mathew Terrace/O'Rahilly Avenue as residents are finding it increasingly difficult to exit/enter their homes due to the high speed of passing traffic.

REPLY:

It is proposed to carry out a speed survey on Fr. Mathew Terrace/O'Rahilly Avenue to ascertain if speeding is a issue, a solution in line with the Councils Traffic Calming Policy will be identified if speeding is a problem at this location.

Seconded by Councillor Pat English.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2963 was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

In the interest of safety that consideration is given for the insertion of traffic calming measures in Árd na Gréine as residents are finding it increasingly difficult to exit/enter their homes due to the high speed of passing traffic.

REPLY:

It is proposed to carry out a speed survey and site visit in Árd na Gréine to ascertain if speeding is a issue, a solution in line with the Councils Traffic Calming Policy will be identified if speeding is a problem at this location.

Seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald.

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The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2964 was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

That Clonmel Borough District contacts the OPW again seeking an update on the information signage that was approved for Kilcash Castle but to date has not been rolled out.

REPLY:

The District have again contacted the OPW about signage replacement in Kilcash indicating the location of Kilcash Castle. The Minister for State at the Office of Public Works had given a commitment to upgrade the existing signage and we have referred to same in our correspondence.

Seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 11.1 Correspondence

Correspondence received from Darragh O'Brien, T.D., Minister for Transports Office in relation to the N24 Clonmel Inner Relief Road was noted.

Item 12.1 Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to:-

The Brunnock Family on the passing of their sister, Eileen. All members present paid tribute to Eileen who had worked in Clonmel Corporation/Clonmel Borough Council for many years.

The Shoer Family on the passing of Kitty Shoer

The Prendergast Family on the passing of Bernard Prendergast.

13.1 Any other Business

The District Administrator spoke about the County Tipperary Fleadh Cheoil which is being hosted by Powerstown/Lisronagh Branch of Comhaltas in Clonmel from the 10th to the 18th May, 2025. She also stated that there will be a gig rig at the Main Guard on the 17th May sponsored by Clonmel Borough District where traditional Irish musicians Ruaile Buaille will play.

Members congratulated Jonathan Cooney on his appointment as Director of Services.

Signed: 
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Dated: 21/05/2025.

Signed: 
District Administrator

Dated: 21/5/2025.