

**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, 15th JANUARY, 2025**

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

In Attendance: Mr. Jonathan Cooney, A/ Director of Services
Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator
Ms. Gillian Flynn, District Engineer
Mr. Adam Coffey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Emma Ryan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Mary Irwin, Staff Officer
Ms. Georgina O’Loughlin, A/Staff Officer.

Also in Attendance: Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer, Environment & Climate Action
Mr. Fergal Condon, Administrative Officer, Env & Climate Action
Mr. Fran Igoe, Regional Co-Ordinator, LAWPRO
Ms. Margaret Morrissey, Snr. Community Water Officer, LAWPRO

Apologies: Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer.

1.1 Zoom Protocol

The Deputy Mayor confirmed with Councillor Fitzgerald who was joining the meeting by Zoom that he could see and hear all other Speakers.

Councillor Pat English, Deputy Mayor welcomed Councillor Tom Acheson to his first meeting of Clonmel Borough District stating that Tom served on South Tipperary Co Council from 2009 to 2014 and had served the people of Clonmel with great distinction during this time. He said that Tom is a great community activist and looked forward to working with him on behalf of the people of Clonmel on both Clonmel Borough District Council and Tipperary County Council. Members joined with Councillor English in welcoming Councillor Acheson to the meeting highlighting his long association with the Town and his work with voluntary groups such as Moyle Rovers and the Clonmel Show.

Mr. Jonathan Cooney also joined with the members in welcoming Councillor Acheson and looked forward to working and supporting him in his role.

In reply, Councillor Acheson thanked the members stating that he is delighted to be elected and work with his fellow Councillors and Borough District Staff for the betterment of Clonmel.

The Friary Clonmel

Following the departure of the Franciscan Friars from Clonmel in January, 2023 an Abbey House of Prayer Group was established and a temporary agreement entered into between the Franciscan Order and this Group to keep the friary church open as a house of prayer. However, it was announced by the Franciscan Order that this agreement would be ended in December with the Abbey to be closed on a permanent basis. Councillor Pat English spoke about the sense of sadness and disappointment in the town at this announcement. He proposed that a letter

**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, 15th JANUARY, 2025**

be sent to Br. Aidan McGrath, Franciscan Provincial Minister to discuss the closure and to see if the Council can help in anyway to ensure that the Friary remains open in some form for the people of Clonmel and surrounding areas. All the members spoke in support of Councillor English's proposal stating that the Friary has a huge affinity with the people of Clonmel forming part of Clonmel's history over the last 750 years. The letter needs to ascertain the Orders intention for the Friary and to determine what has changed from the previous proposal where the Voluntary Committee opened and closed the building. Members also asked that a request be made in the letter to secure the building from deconsecration. Members asked that the position regarding the Friary in Carrick-on-Suir be checked, as they were of the opinion that the Friary there was handed back to the people and, if so, this might be possible in Clonmel.

2.1 Election of Mayor of the Clonmel Borough District

As Councillor Michael Murphy was elected to Dáil Éireann, Cllr. Pat English, Deputy Mayor sought nominations for the position of Mayor.

Cllr. Richie Molloy nominated Cllr. Pat English for the position of Mayor. Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose seconded the proposal. There were no other nominations for the position and Councillor English was elected as the Mayor of Clonmel Borough District.

All the members congratulated Councillor English and wished him well in his role as Mayor. Councillor English thanked Councillor Molloy and Councillor Ambrose and all the members for electing him as Mayor saying that it is a privilege to serve in the role.

2.2 Election of Deputy Mayor of the Clonmel Borough District

Following the election of Councillor English as Mayor, nominations were sought for the election of Deputy Mayor. Councillor John Fitzgerald proposed Councillor Siobhán Ambrose for the position and Councillor Richie Molloy seconded the proposal. As there were no other nominations, Councillor Ambrose was elected as Deputy Mayor of the Clonmel Borough District. All the members congratulated Councillor Ambrose and wished her well in her role. Councillor Ambrose thanked Councillor Fitzgerald and Councillor Molloy and all the members for electing her as Deputy Mayor.

3.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

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

4.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 11th December, 2024.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 11th December, 2024, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Niall Dennehy and agreed by all subject to the following change:-

Notice of Motion No. 2913 was incorrectly recorded as being in the name of Councillor Siobhán Ambrose and should have been recorded in the name of Councillor Pat English. This amendment has been made.

5.1 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Environment & Climate Action.

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

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

**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, 15th JANUARY, 2025**

- Councillor English noted the €40,000 capital funding allocated for the works at St. Patrick's Cemetery and asked whether additional funding will be provided for the project.
- In relation to the Community Climate Action Fund, Councillor English asked for the number of community groups who were successful in obtaining funding in the Borough District and the amount of funding allocated to each of these groups.
- Regarding waste management, Councillor English noted that 25 household waste surveys were undertaken with only 11 households compliant. Councillor English queried what actions are taken to ensure that the other 14 households become compliant.
- Councillor English noted that the number of customers using the Carrigeen Civic Amenity Site is down and asked if there is a reason for this decline.
- In relation to the Tidy Town and Burial Ground Maintenance Grants which will be advertised shortly, Councillor English acknowledged the great work being carried out by the Tidy Town Groups and Burial Ground Committees in the Borough District.
- Councillor Ambrose expressed her thanks to Denis Holland, Environment Section for ensuring that the funding for the works at St. Patrick's Cemetery is ringfenced. She also thanked Jonathan Cooney and Adam Coffey for their work in ensuring that these works are progressed and asked for the timeframe for commencement of the works.
- In relation to litter enforcement, Councillor Ambrose noted that there were 118 reported complaints of littering/dumping in the Clonmel Borough District in 2024 and asked how many were prosecuted. Councillor Ambrose asked if cameras are still being used in litter black spots and also asked if there was an update on the use of drones.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked Marie O'Donnell, Community Climate Action Officer for all her work with the community groups and asked when the 2025 fund will be announced.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Mr. Denis Holland informed the members that capital works are managed by the Borough District but that there is no issue with availability of funding for the upgrade of the car park entrance and extension works at St. Patrick's Cemetery as this funding has been provided for in the Environment & Climate Action Capital Programme.
- In relation to non-compliance under the Household Waste Survey, Denis Holland informed the members that an opportunity is given to households who are not disposing of their refuse in an environmentally correct manner to correct their method of disposal. Enforcement is possible but it is preferred to continue to engage with households in an effort to encourage full compliance.
- Regarding the decline in the use of the Carrigeen Civic Amenity Site, Denis Holland stated that the introduction of the deposit return scheme and the extension of the service being provided by private collectors may be a reason for same. These numbers will continue to be monitored.
- Mr. Holland informed the members that roll out of CCTV coverage in areas of illegal dumping will be looked at but is subject to GDPR regulations. The members were informed that litter enforcement is complex as evidence of the perpetrators carrying out the illegal littering/dumping is needed to prosecute.
- Fergal Condon informed the members that he will revert to them with the exact number of community groups in the Borough District who received funding under the Community Climate Action Fund and the amount of same. He stated that a date hasn't been set by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in

**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, 15th JANUARY, 2025**

relation to the 2025 Grant but that members will be informed as soon as it is announced and it will also be promoted through the Public Participation Network along with other avenues.

The Mayor thanked Denis and Fergal for their attendance at the meeting.

5.2 Attendance of Representative from Directorate LAWPRO

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was taken as read. Mr. Igoe also gave a presentation to the meeting. He updated the meeting on works specific to Clonmel carried out in conjunction with the Council. He briefed the members on the nature-based solutions one of which is Swale on the Cashel Road to “slow the flow” which will help reduce flood risk and reduce pollution impact from motor traffic. He also spoke about the 4 raingardens on Suir Island which will also reduce pollution impact and slow the flow to help protect the River Suir. He thanked Gillian Flynn and the planners for being so proactive in helping to develop these initiatives. He also spoke about the importance of getting the community involved such as the farming community to participate in the Farming for Water EIP Project as well as other community groups.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- In relation to the national picture on water quality, Councillor Ambrose asked for Tipperary’s position on the league table and Clonmel’s position in the context of Tipperary.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if funding is available to community groups to look at individual projects to control hog weed in specific areas.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if maintenance free planting is being used in the raingardens.
- Councillor Acheson asked if consideration would be given to holding local workshops for farmers abutting rivers.
- Members stated that the nature-based solutions, particularly on the Cashel Road, are very impressive and thanked Gillian Flynn for her work on the Active Travel Scheme at this location.
- Councillor English asked if there is a programme planned for Clonmel Borough District to control the growth of hogweed and japanese knotweed.
- Councillor English stated that it is very concerning to see that the rivers in Clonmel Borough District are not making the required standard for clean water noting that the River Moyle is having a significant impact on this and asked the reason for this.

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

- In terms of Tipperary’s position on the league table in relation to national water quality and Clonmel’s position in the context of Tipperary, Fran Igoe stated that he will reply at a later stage to Councillor Ambrose with the information requested.
- In relation to the planting used in the rain gardens, Gillian Flynn informed the members that the soil type dictates the planting used. She noted that maintenance free planting is used as much as possible but that annual maintenance will be needed.
- Fran Igoe informed the members that he will report back to them on the reason for the pollution in the River Moyle.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the control of hogweed and japanese knotweed in the Borough District, Margaret Morrissey informed the meeting that there is funding

**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, 15th JANUARY, 2025**

for managing japanese knotweed and hogweed and if community groups contact LAWPRO, they will check it out and advise people.

- In reply to the query raised regarding the holding of Workshops, Fran Igoe stated that they would be open to this if people interested.

The Mayor thanked Fran and Margaret for their attendance at the Meeting.

6.1 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 for an update on the installation of the signage at the Sports Hub and asked for additional bins to be provided on site.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the construction of the 3 additional raingardens at Suir Island Gardens and asked if there was an update on the planning application for Suir Island Amenity Park.
- In relation to the installation of CCTV in the town, Members asked if there was an update from the Superintendent and expressed their disappointment at the long delay in progressing with same.
- Councillor English asked for the timeframe for completion of the works at Suir Island Gardens.
- Councillor English asked if a letter has been prepared for submission to the Minister for Transport upon formation of the new Government in relation to the N24 highlighting the lack of a by-pass for Clonmel. Members spoke in support of same.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on security issues at the Sports Hub.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the repairs to the stone wall at Gordon Street Car Park.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on the URDF Call 4 Application and asked what can be done to progress the Application. Members spoke in support of same.
- Councillor English asked for the timeframe for completion of the works on the performance space at Abbey Street Car Park.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- Regarding the issues raised in relation to the Sports Hub, the District Administrator informed the members that she is arranging to meet with Representatives from TUS to discuss security, signage and other issues. In relation to the provision of additional bins at the Complex, the District Administrator stated that a belly bin has been installed and that no further bins will be provided at present.
- In relation to the works at Suir Island Gardens, the District Administrator stated that the recent inclement weather conditions had slowed progress but that she will keep the members updated on the works underway.
- The District Administrator informed the members that the planning application for Suir Island Bridge remains with An Bord Pleanala for determination. Further information requested by An Bord Pleanala was submitted by Tipperary County Council. Submissions on this further information closed on the 23rd December. These submissions are now on public display in both the Clonmel and Nenagh Civic Offices.
- In relation to the installation of CCTV, the District Administrator stated she has been in contact with the Superintendent and he is going to contact the Garda Commissioners

**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, 15th JANUARY, 2025**

Office again in relation to same. She also stated that she is arranging to meet with the Superintendent to discuss the matter.

- The District Administrator informed the members that she will follow up with the Roads Section in relation to the submission of a letter regarding the N24 and the lack of a bypass for Clonmel.
- The District Administrator informed the members that there was no further update in relation to URDF Call 4.
- In relation to the query raised regarding completion of the works at Abbey Street Car Park, Emma Ryan informed the members that the Contractors are currently engaged in appointing a specialist contractor to carry out repairs to the wall.

6.2 Snow and Ice Event

Councillor Pat English thanked the staff of Clonmel Borough District, particularly, the outdoor staff who worked above and beyond their duties in the recent weather event. He also expressed his thanks to the Executive of Clonmel Borough District, the Fire Service, Gardai, Civil Defence and the Homeless Services who played a major role in helping the local community. He also thanked the private contractors engaged by the Borough District and the other contractors who assisted local volunteers. He stated that going forward a plan should be put in place to ensure the resources are there to tackle such an event if it arises again.

All the Members joined with Councillor English in expressing their thanks to the Staff and all involved who went above and beyond to help during the event. Members concurred with Councillor English that a contingency plan needs to be put in place for future events. In relation to Housing Estates, members asked if salt dispensers could be left in an area.

Mr. Jonathan Cooney thanked the outdoor staff of the Borough District and all Staff countywide for their tireless work during the recent weather event. He stated that there is 380km of road to be salted in the Borough District with 25 staff looking after this area. He also acknowledged and thanked the Fire Service, Civil Defence and Gardai, the contractors and all involved for their support and assistance. Mr. Cooney also thanked the elected members for their assistance in identifying vulnerable people in the locality and for providing critical local information to the Executive and to the general public during the snow event.

6.3 Report of District Engineer – Roads Programme

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

The Mayor and members welcomed Gillian and wished her well in her role as Borough District Engineer.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Ambrose welcomed that the funding for works at St. Patrick's Cemetery was ringfenced and asked for a start date for works on the new entrance and the extension.
- Councillor Ambrose asked that the installation of toilet facilities on the Blueway be reviewed and requested an update on the installation of the water refill station.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the upcoming attendance of Michael Scully, A/Senior Executive Engineer at the February meeting to provide an update on the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomes the appointment of the new Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and hopes to see URDF Call 4 progressed.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the installation of the raised crossing tables at Dromard.

**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, 15th JANUARY, 2025**

- Councillor Molloy acknowledged the success of the 15 minute drop off in operation at Upper Irishtown and asked if something similar can be implemented in other areas throughout the town.
- Councillor Molloy asked if a tap can be installed in the old section of St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Councillor English asked if vacant/derelict buildings have been identified for works under URDF Call 3.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the works to be carried out by the OPW on the streams and river in the Old Bridge.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the road markings to be relined at Dunnes Stores.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the patching works to be carried out in Kilsheelan.
- Councillor English expressed his disappointment that the Clonmel to Marlfield Greenway is on hold due to TII funding not being available this year to progress the Project.
- Councillor English asked for the timeframe involved for provision of the raised crossings at Ard Fatima, Summerhill and Honeyview Estate.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- The District Engineer informed the members that Tenders for the works at the entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery have been assessed and a Contractor will be appointed shortly to carry out the works.
- The District Engineer stated that an application for ORIS funding will be made for the installation of a drinking water station on the Blueway in 2025 and that she will review the installation of toilet facilities.
- Regarding the installation of the raised crossing table at Dromard, the District Engineer stated that she will review the location.
- In relation to the installation of a tap in the old section of St. Patrick's Cemetery, the District Engineer stated that she will see if this is possible.
- The District Administrator informed the meeting that a list of derelict sites has been prepared in the Borough District. The newly appointed Vacancy/Dereliction Team will be working with the Borough District and will be actively engaging with all property owners identified on this list to determine the best course of action to be taken to bring these properties back into use.
- Regarding the query raised on the works to be carried out on the streams in the Old Bridge, the District Engineer informed the members that a report is still awaited from the OPW.
- Adam Coffey informed the members that the road markings at Dunnes Stores will be refreshed and that there was a delay in same due to the bad weather.
- Emma Ryan informed the members that the patching works in Kilsheelan will commence shortly.
- In relation to the Clonmel to Marlfield Greenway, the District Engineer informed the members that the TII want to review the location of the route and she will discuss to see if this project can be put back on the programme of works.
- The District Engineer informed the members that she will review the installation of the raised crossings at Ard Fatima, Summerhill and Honeyview Estate and come back on it.

**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, 15th JANUARY, 2025**

6.4 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 10th January, 2025.

These were noted by the Members.

Item 8.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to be noted.

Item 9.1 Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to:-

Councillor Niall Dennehy on the passing of his brother-in-law Michael McCarthy.


Patricia Keeley O'Sullivan on the passing of her brother Billy Keeley.

The Hammersley Family on the passing of their mother, Bridget Hammersley

Councillor Roger Kennedy on the passing of his brother, Andrew Kennedy.

10.1 Any other Business

There was no other business discussed.

Signed: 

Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Dated: 19/2/25

Signed: 

PP **District Administrator**

Dated: 19/2/25.