

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 APRIL, 2026

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

In Attendance: Mr. Jonathan Cooney, Director of Services
Ms. Marie O'Donnell, 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: Mr. Shane Grogan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Planning
Ms. Ann Marie Devaney, Senior Planner
Ms. Caroline Conway, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Fergal O'Donnell, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Ciaran O'Shea, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Teresa Kiely, Administrative Officer, Planning

The Mayor welcomed Marie O'Donnell to the meeting and wished her every success in her role as District Administrator as did all the members present.

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor welcomed Mr. Frank Poyntz, Town Sergeant who will retire in May to the Chamber. The Mayor noted that Frank served as Town Sergeant with pride, dignity and was a constant and reassuring presence in his role. He attended numerous events and ceremonies in the Chamber and carried out his duties in a professional manner always representing the Borough Council/District with the upmost integrity. The Mayor wished Frank good health and happiness in his retirement.

All the members extended their best wishes to Frank on his retirement and thanked him for his assistance, flexibility, professionalism and courtesy over the years. Councillor Dennehy presented Frank with a set of gold cuff links.

Jonathan Cooney also expressed his thanks to Frank noting that he had a unique role combining day-to-day responsibilities with ceremonial duties all of which were carried out in a professional and courteous manner.

Frank thanked the Mayor, members and Jonathan Cooney for their kind words. He said it had been an honour to serve in the role, which he thoroughly enjoyed, and he reflected on the various dignitaries he had met during his time in the position.

The Mayor concluded the proceedings by making a presentation to Frank.

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1.1 Zoom Protocol

The Mayor confirmed with Katie O'Donovan and Robert Forrest members of the Media who were joining the meeting by Zoom that they could hear all speakers. The Mayor also welcomed Robert and Rachel Kellaghan, Tipp FM who were attending the meeting for the first time.

2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Ms. Marie O'Donnell, District Administrator confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 25th March, 2026.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 25th March, 2026, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Pat English and agreed by all.

4.1 Fix date for Standing Orders Committee Meeting.

The date for the Standing Orders Committee Meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 6th May, 2026. This was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy and agreed by all.

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

The report as circulated with the Agenda was taken as read. Caroline Conway highlighted the following 2 additional items which had arisen after the report had issued:-

1. Representatives from the Planning Section are currently participating on the Clonmel BD Steering Group to progress 2 Capital Projects under funding announced for URDF Call 4 as part of the New Programme for Government. These projects are:-
 - (a) Public Realm Works in the Town Centre
 - (b) Works to Parke's Chemist and
2. the Chapel at Kickham Barracks has been awarded €63,000 under the Historic Structures Fund.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English asked if the amount of land proposed for residential use has increased following the Draft Variation to the County Development Plan.
- Councillor English asked if the Residential Zoned Land Tax will be collected locally.
- Councillor English referred to Clonmel 2030 – Transformation Regeneration and expressed his disappointment that no further funding has been received to progress the other 2 projects namely Clonmel – Flights of Discovery and Clonmel Public Realm Enhancement.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the “Above the Shop” grant recently announced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with grants up to a maximum of €135,000 available for the refurbishment/conversion of vacant units currently located over business premises into residential use. She requested the contact details of those administering the scheme. Members concurred with Councillor Ambrose in acknowledging this Scheme stating that it will boost footfall in the town and also provide much needed accommodation.

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- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the funding received under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026 noting that Tipperary County Council received the third highest award of funding after Dublin City Council and Cork City Council for 2026
- Referring to URDF Call 3, which focuses on tackling long-term vacancy and dereliction, Councillor Ambrose noted that 22 additional properties have been included on the Clonmel list and asked for an update on the timelines for engagement with property owners. Councillor Ambrose also queried how the scheme applies to vacant properties that are paying commercial rates and have “to let” signage displayed.
- Councillor Acheson raised concerns about the slow pace at which the Department and Government are issuing funding to local authorities with particular reference to the distribution of funding under Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). He said that members of the Fine Gael Party had met with Minister of State, John Cummins and expressed these concerns.
- Councillor Acheson asked for an update on the Dunnes Stores property in O’Connell Street which has been vacant for a considerable length of time.
- Councillor Acheson noted that the Revenue Commissioners will be collecting the Derelict Sites Levy from 2027 and asked whether Revenue will also pursue any outstanding amounts owed for 2026. Members also asked if these monies will be returned to the local authority.
- Councillor Acheson enquired about the minimum criteria required for a property to be removed from the Derelict Sites Register.
- Members referred to the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croí Cónaithe) and asked why the level of uptake is significantly lower in the Borough District compared to the other Municipal Districts.
- Members asked for the timeframe for the taking in charge of the following Estates:- Churchview, Longfield and Gracefield.
- Councillor Molloy asked for an update on the development of Market Place.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked for a timeframe for the completion of the roadworks in Knockeevan noting that the upgrade of public lighting cannot proceed until these works are complete.
- Members welcomed the establishment of the Steering Group to progress the 2 Capital Projects under URDF Call 4.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In reply to the query raised in relation to the draft variation of the County Development Plan, Fergal O’Donnell informed the members that an additional 14 hectares of land has been proposed for residential rezoning in Clonmel Borough District. Consultations and submissions on this Draft are open until 20th April, 2026.
- Regarding the query raised on the Residential Zoned Land Tax, Mr. O’Donnell stated that this tax will be collected by the Revenue Commissioners and will depend on the value of the land.
- In relation to URDF Call 4, Anne Marie Devaney advised members that an application for funding under the new Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund is being prepared. The proposed project involves the renovation of Parke’s Chemist and public realm works on O’Connell Street. The application must be submitted by 1st May, and a speedy decision is anticipated, as projects are required to be shovel-ready by September 2027. The Department has advised that funding for future projects has yet to be decided and Ms.

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Devaney noted that funding applications will be prepared in collaboration with Clonmel Borough District.

- In response to the query regarding the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Shane Grogan advised members that Clonmel faces greater challenges than other Municipal Districts, as many of its properties are located in the town centre and include over-the-shop accommodation. He noted that workshops will be organised countywide with business owners to raise awareness of the over-the-shop grant and its availability.
- Regarding the timelines for engagement with property owners under URDF Call 3, Mr. Grogan advised that there is a four-week period to respond in writing to the initial Section 82 notice once it has issued. Failure by the property owner to engage will result in the property being entered on the Derelict Sites Register, at which point levies will apply. Any unpaid levies will be registered as a charge against the property folio.
- In reply to the query raised in relation to the minimum requirements to remove a property from the Derelict Sites Register, Mr. Grogan informed the members that this depends on the works to be carried out. The aim of the Derelict Sites Legislation is to improve the visual amenity and safety of local areas.
- Mr. Grogan informed the members that the Town Regeneration Team are engaging with the owners of the Dunnes Stores property.
- Replying to the query raised in relation to the collection of the Derelict Sites Levy, Mr. Grogan informed the members that the details of the Scheme still have to be finalised.
- In reply to the queries raised regarding the taking in charge of estates, Ciaran O'Shea informed the members that the Planning Section is engaging with the Developers in relation to the taking in charge of the Estates mentioned.
- Gillian Flynn, District Engineer advised the members that it is difficult to give a timeframe for completion of the works at Knockeevan as Uisce Eireann need to complete works before resurfacing and new footpaths can proceed

It was proposed by Councillor Tom Acheson, seconded by Councillor Pat English and agreed by all that it be raised at the Plenary Meeting to explore whether a submission can be made to ensure that derelict levies collected by the Revenue Commissioners are returned to the local authority.

The Mayor thanked Shane, Ann Marie, Caroline, Fergal, Ciaran and Teresa for their attendance at the meeting.

6.1 Burial Ground Grants 2026

The grants were proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

6.2 Tidy Towns Grants 2026

The grants were proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose, seconded by Councillor Pat English and agreed by all.

7.1 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 Dennehy raised the issue of BIDs and proposed that the Mayor, the Town Manager and himself participate in a Tipp FM discussion on the upcoming BIDs plebiscite. Members stated that a proponent of the BIDs proposal should also take part in the radio

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discussion. This was agreed. The Mayor and Mr. Cooney confirmed their availability to attend, with Mr. Cooney stating that he would address the policy aspects of the BIDs proposal.

- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the progress of works on Suir Island Gardens.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the works progressing on the new Garda Station at Kickham Barracks and the completion of the piling works.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked Gillian Flynn, District Engineer for progressing the works at Kickham Barracks Chapel acknowledging the completion of the window repairs and installation of toilet facilities.
- Councillor Ambrose noted that a heritage grant of €32,000 has been granted for Parke's Chemist and asked for an update on the works proposed under this funding.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the upgrade of the Clonmel Heritage Trail display boards highlighting the added QR codes and the development of new maps featuring more accurate and up-to-date information which is all very positive to promote the town.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the allocation of funding for the 2026 Enhancement and Painting Scheme, highlighting its success in previous years in supporting business owners to improve and enhance their premises.
- Councillor Molloy noted that the top window in Parke's Chemist is broken, leaving the building exposed to the elements and asked if the building can be secured until works are carried out.
- In relation to Parke's Chemist, Councillor Acheson asked if the hoarding will be removed prior to internal works commencing. Councillor Dennehy suggested that a visual be added to the hoarding to improve its appearance.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the installation of the CCTV.
- Councillor English asked if a reply had been received from the NTA in relation to the timeframe for the roll-out of phase 2 of the Town Bus Service.
- Councillor English asked for a completion date for the Suir Island Gardens Project.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Responding to the query raised in relation to the heritage grant funding received for Parke's Chemist, Gillian Flynn informed the members that this funding will be used to prepare the building for future works.
- In response to the query regarding the hoarding at Parke's Chemist, Jonathan Cooney informed members that as Parke's Chemist is one of two capital projects being advanced under URDF Call 4, the removal of the hoarding will be considered once a decision has issued on the funding application. Mr. Cooney advised that a visual will be considered for placement on the hoarding if it is to remain in place.
- Marie O'Donnell informed the members that a letter has been sent to the NTA and a response is still awaited.
- In relation to the CCTV project, Marie O'Donnell confirmed that the contractor AI Read has been given the go-ahead to start works, there will be a 4 week lead in time to start civils works (the wiring and the posts only). When completed the local authority will tender for the camera installation, J&N Consultants will prepare the tender.
- The District Administrator informed members that the closing date for receipt of applications under the Enhancement and Painting Scheme is 22nd May 2026, and highlighted the Scheme's benefits in assisting business owners to improve their properties.

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7.2 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 Fitzgerald raised concerns regarding the safety of the right-hand turn on the N24 from Barne to the L305 and asked that the matter be reviewed.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked that the surface of the road at Moorestown near the Apple Farm be examined.
- Councillor English acknowledged the reinstatement works that were carried out on the Heywood Road from the railway line to the N24 and thanked the District Engineer for organising same.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update on the application submitted to the Department seeking emergency funding to repair roads in the town damaged by recent heavy rainfall.
- Councillor English enquired whether an update has been received from the TII regarding the Suir Island Interlinks Project.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the installation of litter bins in Irishtown.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the replacement of the panels on the Glass Bridge.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the work of the outdoor staff in enhancing the town with the beautiful floral displays, power-washing and painting.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update in relation to the upgrading of the junction at Ormonde Stores.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to the repair works on the Toberaheena Well Wall.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the timeframe for the installation of the 2 drinking water stations on the Blueway.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the installation of new covers over the parking machines in the Mary Street Car Park and expressed her thanks to the District Engineer for arranging this.
- Councillor Ambrose queried whether the external wall at St. Patrick's Cemetery could be extended and requested an update on the availability of funding for the installation of a second columbarium.
- Members asked for an update on the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Members asked for an update on the drainage and road strengthening works to be carried out at Glenconnor.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Responding to the query raised concerning safety measures on the N24 at Barne, the District Engineer advised the members that this location will be reviewed.
- The District Engineer advised the members that the surface dressing on the northern section of the road at Moorestown will be reviewed.
- In relation to the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Plan, the District Engineer advised the members that an update on same will be provided at the Plenary Meeting of the Council.
- The District Engineer informed the members that a reply has not been received from the Department in relation to the allocation of additional emergency funding for road repairs.

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- In reply to the query raised on the Suir Island Infrastructure Links Project, the District Engineer informed the members that TII funding is required to progress this project and an allocation of €50,000 was provided in 2026. There is currently no approval to proceed to detailed design.
- The District Engineer informed the members that the contract has been awarded for the drainage works at Glenconnor and works are scheduled to commence in early May.
- In relation to the Glass Bridge, the District Engineer advised the members that an options assessment report has been received and is with the OPW for consideration.
- Responding to the query raised regarding the lack of litter bins in Irishtown, the District Engineer stated that she will arrange to have additional bins installed.
- The District Engineer advised the members that repairs to the wall at the Toberaheena Well will be completed early May.
- In relation to the drinking water stations on the Blueway, the District Engineer informed the members that installation is scheduled for June/July.
- The District Engineer advised members that funding is not available in 2026 to undertake extension works to the external wall at St. Patrick's Cemetery. Following discussions with the Environment Section, the availability of funding in 2027 will depend on other capital works commitments. With regard to the columbarium, the District Engineer will obtain projected inurnment figures for the next three years and review.

7.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

The Report was noted by the Members.

Item 8.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 10th April, 2026.

These were noted.

Items 9.1 to 9.8– Notice of Motion

Motion 3115 was proposed by Councillors Richie Molloy and Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District to consider installing a commemorative plaque at the West Gate in Clonmel to recognise the historic presence of CBC Radio, which operated from the building between Nov 14th 1981 and Dec 31st 1988. CBC Radio holds an important place in the town's social and cultural history. It was the first community radio station in Clonmel and played a vital role in local broadcasting at a formative time for independent media in Ireland.

REPLY:

Clonmel Borough District is currently in the process of procuring a consultant to develop an appropriate layout for the Westgate. As part of this work, we intend to identify a suitable future use for the building. Throughout this process, we will endeavour to acknowledge and incorporate the historic presence of CBC Radio.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 3127 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District look at resurfacing sections of the Heywood Road from the Queen Street Traffic Lights to the junction with the Frank Drohan Road N24.

REPLY:

The section of Heywood road from the railway line to the N24 is scheduled for resurfacing on the 13th April 2026.

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Subject to the availability of additional funding in 2026, it is proposed to resurface or patch further sections of the Heywood Road.

Seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 3128 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District replace the display boards for the Clonmel Heritage Trail in town, as the existing display boards are either broken or non-existing.

REPLY:

The Clonmel Heritage Trail display boards throughout the town are currently undergoing an upgrade. New maps are being developed to replace the existing ones, ensuring more accurate and up-to-date information. The heritage trail boards are also being enhanced through the inclusion of QR codes, which will improve accessibility and allow visitors to easily access additional information online. In addition, the boards are being repainted and revitalised to enhance their overall appearance and durability.

Seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 3129 was proposed by Councillor Richie Molloy

That Clonmel Borough District erect a crash barrier for the cycle/ walkway from the Cashel Road Roundabout to the Poppyfields Roundabout on the N24 as a matter of urgency due to the large number of people availing of this facility.

REPLY:-

The length of the crash barrier on the N24 between the Cashel Road Roundabout and the Poppyfields Roundabout was reviewed and extended in 2020-21. We will refer this motion to TII for consideration.

Seconded by Councillor Pat English

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 3131 was proposed by Councillor Richie Molloy

That Clonmel Borough District install a disabled parking bay outside 12 Davis Tee to enable Care Workers and PHN visit an elderly resident and to bring the resident to various appointments as its very difficult to obtain a parking space in this area.

REPLY:-

The Active Travel scheme for Davis Road provides for the installation of a footpath and a dedicated cycle lane along the frontage of No. 12 Davis Terrace. The National Transport Authority has allocated significant funding to this project for 2026 and has indicated its continued support to ensure the delivery of a continuous cycle lane along Davis Road.

In light of the proposed design and the strategic priority to maintain an uninterrupted cycle facility along this corridor, the provision of a disabled parking bay at this location is not feasible.

Seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 3132 was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

Following representations from members of the public can we explore the possibility of extending the footpath on the left hand side of the inner relief road from the Fethard Road roundabout up as far as the Moangariff road roundabout.

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REPLY:

A request for the footpath extension has been sent to our Roads Capital team for consideration.

Seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald
The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 3133 was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

That contact is made with the OPW with a view to asking them for a likely timeframe as to when both the Clonmel Coat of Arms and also the Butler Coat of Arms will be re-instated at the front of the Main Guard. Both of these coats of arms were previously removed in order for construction works to be carried out on the Main Guard but they were never re-instated as is clear from the two empty surrounds at the front of the building. It would be great to have both coats of arms re-instated on this historic building.

REPLY:

Information was sought from the Heritage Services, National Monuments, OPW. The following is the response:

"I note the following for the armorial plaques on the front of the Main Guard:

Historic Plaques Interior Display:

Ministerial Consent has been secured to make exhibition displays of the historic plaques in the Main Guard ground floor Reception. These displays will be manufactured by the District Works Team hopefully for install by close of year.

Facsimile Plaques for Display on the exterior:

It is the intention that Facsimile Plaques will be displayed on the exterior of the Main Guard and a number of Analysis studies have been carried out on the original plaques, including the Discovery Programme making a study of the plaques in 2025. However there are sensitivities surrounding the format of the proposed facsimiles which need to be resolved before going for ministerial consent and manufacture of a final piece. Pending resources it is hoped to progress Ministerial Consent by close of the year, with appropriate manufacture to follow in due course."

Seconded by Councillor Pat English
The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 3134 was proposed by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

That consideration is given under future road programmes for the re-surfacing of the section of road network outside the school in Rathkeevin.

REPLY:

Consideration will be given to the resurfacing of the road outside Rathkeevin National School in future Roadworks programmes.

Seconded by Councillor Richie Molloy
The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 10.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for noting.

Item 11.1 Votes of Sympathy

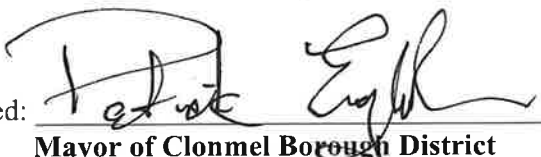
Votes of sympathy were extended to:-

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The O'Dwyer Family, Kilsheelan on the passing of Kitty O'Dwyer.
The Cronin Family, Marlfield, Clonmel on the passing of Jimmy Cronin.

12.1 Any other Business

Councillor English thanked Councillor Richie Molloy who will attend the upcoming Twinning Ceremony in Costa Masnaga to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the twinning between Costa Masnaga and Clonmel.

Signed:  _____
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Dated: 20/5/26

Signed:  _____
P.P District Administrator

Dated: 20/5/26

