

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, 17TH JUNE, 2026

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

In Attendance: Mr. Damien Ginty, 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. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Ms. Ita Horan, Head of Unit, LEO
Ms. Valerie Connolly, Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator
Mr. Thomas Dorney, ESF & Social Innovation in Sport Officer
Mr. Ian Collins, Community Sports Development Officer
Mr. Robert Murphy, Community Sports Development Officer
Mr. Stephen Quinn, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer.
Ms. Ruth Smith, Public Participation Network Co-ordinator

Apology: Ms. Róisín O'Grady, Heritage Officer, Libraries & Cultural Services

1.1 Zoom Protocol

The Mayor confirmed with Katie O'Donovan, member of the media and Councillor Dennehy who were joining the meeting by Zoom that they could hear all speakers.

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 20th May, 2026.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 20th May, 2026, as presented, were proposed by Councillor John Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson and agreed by all.

3.2 Minutes of Standing Orders Meeting held on 5th May, 2026.

The minutes of the Standing Orders Meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 5th May, 2026, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Richie Molloy, seconded by Councillor Tom Acheson and agreed by all.

4.1 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Economic, Community & Rural Development

Ita Horan went through the presentation circulated with the Agenda. She highlighted the services provided by LEO as follows:-

- Mentoring and Business Advisory Services

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- Financial Supports
- Training
- Productivity Supports

She informed the meeting that 7 projects within Clonmel Borough District have received grant funding up to May, 2026. She also spoke about the Student Enterprise Programme 2025/2026 where 24 secondary schools countywide took part. LEO Tipperary supported 14 engineering and manufacturing companies to attend the MACH 26 Exhibition in Birmingham (the UK's leading manufacturing and engineering trade event) which provides participating companies with valuable opportunities to network and strengthen business connections within the sector. She highlighted the Ballina-based travel technology company which has been named as a finalist in this year's National Enterprise Awards and will represent LEO Tipperary at the awards ceremony. I Left You a Note Ltd delivers an AI-powered platform which enables hotels to identify and resolve guest issues during a stay.

- Members expressed their appreciation to the LEO team for the support provided to businesses, including personalised one-to-one mentoring and commended the team for supporting engineering groups to engage with international providers. They also acknowledged the success of the Student Enterprise Programme which saw participation from over 2,411 students.

Valerie Connolly delivered a presentation to the Members on the work of the Tipperary Sports Partnership, which is responsible for coordinating, promoting and developing recreational sport across the County. Tipperary Sports Partnership (TSP) is funded by Sport Ireland for all core costs as well as specific programmes. In 2025 TSP delivered 266 programmes, events and initiatives throughout the County, with over 10,000 people participating including individuals with disabilities, young people and adults.

The members of the Sports Partnership Team present introduced themselves and gave a brief outline of their roles.

- Members thanked Valerie for her presentation and spoke about the success of the Programme promoting health, sociability and inclusivity.

The mayor thanked Ita, Valerie, Thomas, Ian, Robert and Stephen for their attendance at the meeting.

4.2 Attendance of Representative from Directorate Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity.

The report as circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

Damien Dullaghan highlighted the success of the Bealtaine Festival with various events held in libraries throughout May.

In relation to the construction of the new Library, Mr. Dullaghan informed the members that a Part 8 planning application will be submitted to the planning authority within the next few days. He advised the members that due to the scale of the Project, a public consultation day will be held in the library with the design team on site and once a date has been agreed the members will be notified.

Queries raised by the members were as follows:

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- Councillor English expressed his thanks to Damien for all his work in bringing the library project to Part 8 and welcomed the public consultation day to be held with the design team. Members concurred with Councillor English highlighting that the new library will be a huge asset to the Town.
- Councillor English welcomed the Heritage Grant Funding of €40,000 which has been approved for this year's Heritage Plan Programme.
- Councillor Acheson asked if the funding shortfall to deliver the new library has been resolved.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the funding approved for a conservation management plan for DW Parkes Chemist and asked for an update on the works to be carried out.
- Councillor Ambrose acknowledged the work being carried out across the different Agencies in the Library and expressed her thanks to Damien and the Team.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- Responding to the query raised regarding the shortfall in funding, Mr. Dullaghan informed the members that there is a funding gap which is increasing due to construction inflation. However, he advised the members that he is in constant contact with the Department of Rural and Community Development who are acutely aware of the shortfall and are working to find a solution.
- In relation to the query regarding Parke's Chemist, Mr. Dullaghan advised the members that he will follow up with Róisín O'Grady and ask her to forward a reply to them.

The mayor thanked Damien for his attendance at the meeting.

5.1 Public Participation Network – Presentation by Ruth Smith.

Ms. Smith addressed the meeting providing background information on the Public Participation Network (PPN). The PPN was established under the Local Government Act 2014. There is a PPN in every local authority area, 31 in total. The PPN supports 3 key pillars - Community, Social Inclusion and Environmental Groups to have their say around decision making on policies that affect them. This is done by offering training and enabling participation on different boards e.g. Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), Local Community Safety Partnership etc. This representation enables community groups to engage in policy development from an early stage. Ms. Smith informed the members that registration with the PPN is mandatory for all community groups seeking funding.

The Mayor thanked Ruth for her attendance at the Meeting and assured her of the support of the members going forward.

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 Molloy spoke about the great success of the Live 'n' Loud music Festival which took place on Saturday, 23rd May and thanked the Clonmel Borough District Staff both indoor and outdoor for organising such a magnificent event bringing both young and old onto the streets. Members concurred with Councillor Molloy stating that it is great to see the Council sponsoring so many events and festivals.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the progression of the Garda Station with a completion date scheduled for 2028.

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- Councillor Acheson spoke about the Walking Tours of Clonmel which is a pilot programme commencing the 1st week of July. It is intended to have one tour per weekday and 1 on a Saturday morning.
- Councillor English expressed his appreciation to the Clonmel Borough District staff, both indoor and outdoor, for their work in organising the Freedom of the Borough Ceremony held on Friday, 22nd May, at which President Catherine Connolly was conferred with the Freedom of the Borough of Clonmel.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the 2 applications submitted for URDF Funding.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the vacant properties on O'Connell Street namely Heatons and Dunnes Stores.
- Councillor English asked for the timeframe involved for the completion of the civil works in relation to the installation of the CCTV.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for a timeframe for the installation of the CCTV and when it will be operational by Gardai.
- Councillor English welcomed the launch of the Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) which will be used to support Community Groups who are registered with the PPN to carry out climate actions within their own community to a maximum value of €5,000. Approved projects will receive 100% funding.
- Councillor Fitzgerald welcomed the €20m investment announced for Clonmel as part of the Government's new Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund. This funding will connect Longfield Road to Fethard Road and the Fethard Road to the Carrigeen Business Park. It will also free up land with the potential to build up to 1,200 homes. Members concurred with Councillor Fitzgerald noting that this investment will improve connectivity and provide land for much-needed housing development.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- The District Administrator stated that the Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) provides €100,000 funding to Tipperary County Council with €20,000 allocated to the 5 borough/municipal districts. The closing date for receipt of applications is 1st July, 2026.
- In response to the query raised regarding Dunnes Stores and Heatons, the District Administrator informed the members that the Borough District is working closely with Shane Grogan, Town Regeneration Officer and the vacancy and dereliction team to engage with the property owners.
- Gillian Flynn advised the members that the 2 URDF applications were submitted on the 1st May and a decision is not expected until late summer.
- The District Engineer informed the members that Al Reade have been appointed to carry out the Civil Works which are due to commence in the next few weeks. Gillian will follow up and revert to the members with the timeline for the installation and operation of the cameras

6.2 Placemaking Report

The report as circulated to the members was noted.

6.3 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:

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- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the timeframe for the installation of the 2 drinking water stations on the Blueway.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if the Contractor has been appointed to repair the panels on the Glass Bridge.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the drainage works on Glenconnor Road.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if the access pathways from the car park at St. Patrick's Cemetery can be upgraded when works are being carried out to the entrance.
- Councillor Molloy thanked the District Engineer for the planting carried out in Elm Park.
- Councillor Molloy requested that the hedge along the Cashel Road be cut back from the entrance to Sonus Nursing Home to the traffic lights at Queen Street.
- Councillor Fitzgerald noted that the Church View Estate in Clerihan has not been taken in charge and expressed concerns regarding the waste water issue in the Estate. He asked if Uisce Eireann can be contacted to assess the situation as an emergency. Members concurred with Councillor Fitzgerald and asked the reasons for the delay in taking the estate in charge.
- Councillor Fitzgerald expressed his thanks to the District Engineer in relation to the grass cutting being carried out in the Borough District and asked if the grass at Heywood Heights can be cut.
- 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 asked if an update has been received from Gateway to progress to detailed design phase regarding the Suir Island Interlinks Project.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the Marfield Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the drainage works at Western Road.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the extension of the wall at St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Councillor Acheson acknowledged the resurfacing works carried out on the Fethard Road and thanked the District Engineer for arranging same.
- Members expressed their support for the Business Improvement District (BID) and wished the Group every success.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Regarding the query about the repair of the panels on the glass bridge, the District Engineer advised the members that the tender submission deadline is later this week.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the drainage works on the Glenconnor Road, the District Engineer informed the members that the contractor will be on site this week.
- The District Engineer informed the members that the drinking water stations will be installed on the Blueway at the end of July and the proposed locations are Gas House Bridge and Sir Thomas Bridge.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the upgrade of the access pathways to St. Patrick's Cemetery, the District Engineer informed the members that she will submit the request to the Environment Section. However, progression of the works will be subject to the availability of funding from the Environment Section, which is reviewed on an annual basis.
- In reply to the query raised regarding the hedge on the Cashel Road, the District Engineer advised the members that this hedging is on private property and the property owners have been contacted.

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- The District Engineer informed the members that arrangements will be made to cut the grass at Heywood Heights.
- Regarding the query raised in relation to Chur View Estate, James Murray informed the members that this is a planning issue and that the Developer is responsible for ensuring that the necessary works are completed to allow the Estate to be taken in Charge.
- The District Engineer advised the members that she will request an update on the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme and circulate to the members later in the week.
- The District Engineer informed the members that funding has been allocated to carry out surveys at Western Road.
- The District Engineer advised the members that an update has not been received from the Department in relation to the allocation of additional funding for storm damage.

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 12th June, 2026.

These were noted.

Items 8.1 to 8.3– Notice of Motion

Motion 3158 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District in conjunction with T.I.I. look at resurfacing sections of the N24 from Moangarriff Roundabout to Kilsheelan Village, large sections of this road are in very poor condition and require resurfacing.

REPLY:

The following schemes are on the TII Pavement List:-

- 1) Moangarriff to Twomilebridge
- 2) Kilheffernan to Kilsheelan
- 3) Kilsheelan Village

These will take a number of years to design and get through the design phases from preliminary design to construction. Surveys are complete on all 3 schemes and Moangarriff is being worked on by Tramore House Roads Design Office with the expectation of construction by end of 2027. In the interim, Clonmel Borough District is endeavouring to obtain maintenance funding from TII to keep the surface maintained until the larger schemes are approved. A significant intervention was made in Kilsheelan in 2025 and the District continues to manage patches where TII funding is approved.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 3162 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District look at providing lifeguards at Sandybanks, Marlfield during the summer season, as the area is used by large amounts of the public for bathing over the years.

REPLY:

While Sandybanks may be used by the public for swimming, this location has not been designated as an official bathing area. Tipperary County Council must identify bathing waters to ensure they meet stringent microbiological water quality standards. As Sandybanks has not been designated as an official bathing area the provision of a lifeguard service is premature at this time.

Tipperary County Council currently invites submissions for the Identification of Bathing Waters

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:<https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/environment/environment/environment-latest-news/2026/tipperary-county-council-public-participation>.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Councillor English said he was not happy with this reply. He stated that this is a traditional bathing area used by a lot of families during the summer months. He requested that water testing be restarted to check the water quality.

Damien Ginty advised the members that a number of parameters need to be addressed including location, management of people re safe access/egress. He agreed to review the situation.

Motion 3163 was proposed by Councillor Pat English

That Clonmel Borough District erect tourist information signage in Suir Island car park for the benefit of visitors to Clonmel who use the camper van facility on Suir Island.

REPLY:

Clonmel Borough District will engage with the Tourism Officer to determine the most appropriate approach to delivering clear, comprehensive, and accessible information to visitors.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 9.1 Correspondence

The correspondence, as circulated, with the Agenda was noted. A reply received from Garda Ciarán Ó Ráighne on behalf of Chief Superintendent Smart in relation to the deployment of additional gardaí to Clonmel was circulated at the meeting and noted by the members.

Item 10.1 Votes of Sympathy

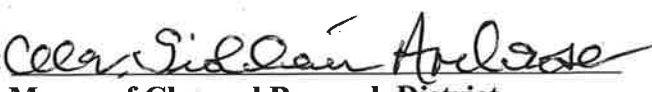
Votes of sympathy were extended to:-

The O'Brien Family, Clogheen on the passing of Philomena O'Brien.

11.1 Any other Business

The Mayor thanked Councillor Richie Molloy for representing Clonmel Borough District in Costa Masnaga to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the twinning between Costa Masnaga and Clonmel.

Councillor Molloy noted that the members were delighted to have Clonmel represented at the event. He informed the members that Monica Cullen Del Bigio's daughter, Paula, will be visiting Clonmel in the coming weeks to establish a Bianconi Scholarship.

Signed:  Dated: 8/7/26
Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Signed:  Dated: 8th July, 2026
District Administrator

