



'ClonmanyResidents' Origins

The 'ClonmanyResidents' online presence evolved as a result of a planning application in March 2024 from Clonmany Enterprise Development Ltd by Guarantee (CEDLtd) to construct public toilets in the Parochial Field, submitted without any consultation with the local community.

Initially, in an endeavor in trying to protect the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of an elderly resident, my mother, whose kitchen is 14 metres from the proposed Public Toilets, I researched the development. I discovered a Riverside Embankment at the bottom of the Parochial Field which instantly raised serious flooding and environmental concerns. Due to the lack of engagement and response from CEDLtd regarding the development, I lodged a planning objection. In addition to Public Toilets concerns, my planning objection also highlighted serious concerns about flooding and environmental issues; the building of a Riverside Embankment, the removal of a Flood Plain and concerns about the set-back location and line of sight issues of the proposed Kids Play Park beside Public Toilets.

Prior to all of this, specific concerns were raised, including the Public Toilets with the CEDLtd Chairperson in Aug 2023, at the Clonmany Festival. Requests that my mother and I be informed of the planning application details pre-submission and for a public consultation did not happen. I had been told about the proposed Parochial Field Development whilst doing some volunteer work with the Clonmany Tidy Towns.

Prior to lodging my planning objection, I met one of the CEDLtd Trustees (19th March 2024), had a constructive and detailed conversation which led to a detailed discussion with the Parochial Field development architect the following day. The architect passed on my concerns to CEDLtd. There was no acknowledgement, no engagement nor response to these issues and concerns from the CEDLtd Executive Management Team. Hence leaving the planning objection as the only route to be heard.

This planning objection acted as a catalyst. I was subsequently approached by multiple people from the village and parish; raising additional issues and concerns. As a direct result of the multiple approaches, interactions and issues raised during the 2024 Clonmany Festival, I registered the domain name <http://www.ClonmanyResidents.com> on Festival Saturday.

During this 2024 Festival Saturday, I was informed that an elderly resident's house was attacked the previous night, the perpetrators chased off by Volunteer Stewards. I visited this elderly resident that night after discovering I had a missed call from them. Understandably, they were still shaken from the previous nights attack. I assured them that I would be in the vicinity, a phone call away, if needed. On returning home, I requested from a CEDLtd Trustee that Security or Volunteer Stewards be posted in the vicinity of the same resident's location. I was told that it would be looked after. On returning 30-45 minutes later, no Security or Volunteer Stewards were present. I informed an on-street Garda of the situation and again asked if Security could be posted to the requested location.

They were not in a position to do so. This demonstrates clearly one of the many reasons why it is imperative that there is dialogue and Event Officers details are supplied to the Village Residents. Having access to the Clonmany Festival Event Controller, Health & Safety Officer, Security Liaison Officer and the Garda Event Liaison Officer being highly relevant in this situation. Keeping this incident in mind and the learnings from it, all of these Event Officer details were requested in written format prior to the 2025 Clonmany Festival, so they could be made available to the Village Residents and all. The request resulted in no acknowledgement, no engagement and no response.

The following day, on the 2024 Closing Sunday, I was informed by a different elderly resident of 'another' attack on their property, an attempt to break in their front door at the 2024 festival. At the 2022 festival, at their same front door, a prolonged and repeated attack in the wee hours of the morning resulted in a 999 call, the perpetrator long gone by the time the Gardaí arrived. A door reinforcement security device was subsequently fitted by concerned family members after the 2022 attack, the elderly resident expressed gratitude to their family for installing it and its effectiveness in the 2024 attack.

I have been interacting with Clonmany Festival Committee members for decades on behalf of my mother, as she lives in the centre of the village, surrounded by the festival; directly opposite the gig rig and beside the Parochial Field with the fairground rides at the back of her house. Over the years, annually at the festival, individually Hugo "Mr Festival" and Lucy Boyce would proactively engage with the community, check on my mother, see how things are going and enquire if there were any issues festival wise. Hugo and Lucy, the hands-on, empathetic approach, and that strong sense of duty of care are deeply missed.

As documented in the Infographics, a comprehensive paper trail of communications (29 documents/letters) have been sent to CEDLtd. All 29 documents were sent with the request that they be distributed to all board members. The initial document, 'Online Research : Public Toilets' was sent to CEDLtd via WhatsApp. This rudimentary research contained 44 screenshots of Online News of Public Toilet Anti-Social Behaviour reports in a final attempt to get CEDLtd to reconsider their planning application and initiate development discussions with the local community. The total response/engagement by CEDLtd to the 29 correspondences was 3 x WhatsApp Thumb Ups and 1 x 85-word WhatsApp message. The 85-word reply was in regard to a 'Health & Safety and Other Concerns' document sent 10-days prior to the 2024 Clonmany Festival. This document included specific concerns and issues raised by locals.

I would welcome the publication of these documents by CEDLtd with the exception of the Public Toilets document, due to its disturbing content, with potential detrimental effects to Mental Health and Wellbeing. This document highlights 10 areas of very real and disturbing concerns regarding Public Toilets that is widely held by experts, not just in rural Ireland but countrywide.

It was hoped that the document paper trail would lead to dialogue between the Village Residents and CEDLtd. Two years on from the planning application, 29 documents/letters have resulted in a vacuum, no engagement and no response from CEDLtd. The only option left was to make public calls for a meeting between Village Residents and CEDLtd. 6+ weeks since the initial public call, 3 public calls in total, there still has been no acknowledgement, no engagement and no response from CEDLtd.

After the 2025 Clonmany Festival, I was asked by a village resident to help establish a Clonmany Village Residents Association. It was planned that the association would be formally called for during a meeting between CEDLtd and Clonmany Village Residents with the aim of setting up a committee. In the absence of a meeting, then a Clonmany Village Residents Association meeting would be arranged and publicised in due course, with the purpose of forming a committee.

A few more attempts will be made to encourage CEDLtd to arrange such a meeting. The proposed meeting would not be exclusive to festival matters. Other matters to be discussed, include Flooding Concerns (Riverside Embankment and Flood Plain Removal), Public Toilets, Kids Play Park location, Planning Matters and Clonmany Festival Community Defibrillators.

Clonmany Enterprise Development Ltd by Guarantee, a registered charity, is bound by the [Charities Governance Code](https://www.charitiesregulator.ie), pdf available to download on <https://www.charitiesregulator.ie>

Principle 1: Advancing charitable purpose “**benefit to the community**”

Principle 2: Behaving with integrity

Principle 6: Being accountable and transparent

CEDLtd, in fulfilling its charity governance principles needs to communicate with its stakeholders (6.2) and have procedures dealing with queries, comments and complaints (6.4 & 6.8).

CEDLtd’s Constitution mandates that the company:

- **"Provide informed and constructive participation in planning matters"** (Clause 3(d))
- Act **“for the benefit of the community”** (Clauses 3(a), 3(e), 5(a))

CEDLtd, by engaging and meeting the Village Residents will ensure compliance with both charitable obligations and governing constitutional mandates.

CEDLtd meeting with the Village Residents would adhere to the industry standard and best practices for multi-day event organisers.

It is crucial that event organisers actively learn from previous incidents of anti-social behaviour to prevent them from recurring, protect residents, and uphold the integrity of the event. Past problems provide essential lessons about vulnerabilities in security, crowd management, and community impact; failing to address them only increases the risk of harm and undermines trust. By acknowledging what went wrong and implementing stronger safeguards, organisers can ensure that future events are safer, more respectful, and better aligned with the needs and wellbeing of the local community.

These matters as described are most definitely not a reflection on the area or the local community. A true reflection of the local community is the actions and deeds of the Clonmany First Responders in rolling out their in-situ Defibrillators and their extensive parish wide mobile on-call Defibrillator Equipped Volunteers. It fills me with great pride that they are a role model for all parishes in Ireland and beyond.

The anti-social incidents described do not reflect the people who attend the Clonmany Festival. Both locals and visitors agree it is a genuinely family-friendly event, as shown by consistent positive online feedback each year. Strong friendships are formed, with returning attendees reconnecting with locals.

I hope this post acts as a catalyst for both a meeting between Village Residents and CEDLtd and it ignites a productive discussion on the following topics

- Clonmany Festival Health, Safety & Operations
- Clonmany Festival Security
 - With inclusion for our Elderly Residents
- Clonmany Village Flooding : Riverside Embankment & Flood Plain Removal
 - With an emphasis on previously impacted Resident's homes
 - Multiple Elderly Residents homes flooded (2017)
 - Environmental concerns
- Public Toilets
 - The need for : Toilet facilities currently available in the Market House
 - The lack of community engagement regarding the Public Toilets
 - Potential Anti-Social Behaviour Impact (10 documented areas of concern)
 - Location of Public Toilets 14 metres from an elderly resident's kitchen window
 - Use of local funds to build Public Toilets, a remit of Donegal County Council
 - Use of local funds to manage Public Toilets, a remit of Donegal County Council
 - Expected Running costs €25k – €30k/year (ChatGPT : Rural Ireland)
 - Cleaning, Utilities, Maintenance, Consumables & Admin/Insurance
 - 20 users/day → ~7,300/year : $€27,000 \div 7,300 \approx \mathbf{€3.70 \text{ per use}}$
 - 10 users/day → ~3,650/year : $€27,000 \div 3,650 \approx \mathbf{€7.40 \text{ per use}}$
 - 5 users/day → ~1,825/year : $€27,000 \div 1,825 \approx \mathbf{€14.80 \text{ per use}}$
 - 'per use' cost does not include land and building costs.
- Kids Play Park Location
 - Set back and semi-secluded location behind proposed 2 story building
 - Line of sight issues from Main Street
 - Play Park beside Public Toilets
- Building Social Cohesion

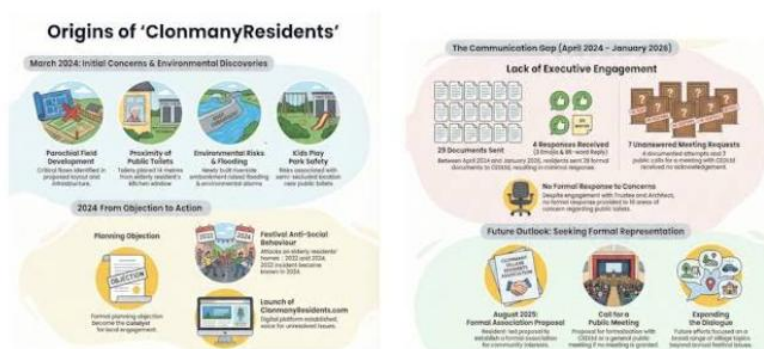
The underlying sentiments from the Village Residents who approached me included

- Want to feel safe and be secure in their homes, streets and community
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
- Want to be heard, their concerns and issues heeded and addressed
- Want Festival related Property Damage addressed, repaired/replaced by CEDLtd
- Sleep Disruption – Noise Pollution – Street Cleaning
- Portaloo’s Placement
- Access – Homes, Emergency Services
- Access to Event Permit and Festival Insurance
- Want to be Informed – Event Officers, Emergency Access Plans, etc.
- Do not want to remain **UNSEEN** and **UNHEARD**.

Informed - Involved - Included

Working together supports both our community and the continued success of the Clonmany Festival.

John Bradley
ClonmanyResidents.com



The Substantive Question

When will

Clonmany Enterprise Development Limited By Guarantee

meet

with the

Clonmany Village Residents?