

## **Borough District of Drogheda – 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at 6.00 p.m. Barlow House, Drogheda.

### **In attendance:**

**Mayor:** Cllr. Frank Godfrey

**Members:** Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, K. Callan, R Culhane, D. Saurin, O. Tully

**Officials:** Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer  
Vincent Toner, Senior Executive Engineer  
Terry Hamilton, Public Realm Designer  
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
Brona O'Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Frank Pentony, Director of Services

**Apologies:** Cllr. K. Flood  
Cllr. P. Smith

### **Minute No. 47/19**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. J. Byrne

### **Minute No. 48/19**

### **Matters Arising**

- The Mayor thanked the members and paid tribute to Cllr. Tommy Byrne for his service to the people of Drogheda.

### **Minute No. 49/19**

### **Part 8 – ‘Conservation, restoration, repair and upgrade works at The Tholsel, West Street, Drogheda, County Louth’**

This was proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey and seconded by Cllr. K. Callan and agreed by the members.

## **Minute No. 50/19**

### **Housing Progress Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following points were addressed:

- It was pointed out that 200 houses were in the process of being developed in the Drogheda area at present and the view being expressed by some that there was no development taking place in Drogheda was untrue.
- It was confirmed that the rough sleeper count had not taken place yet..

## **Minute No. 51/19**

### **Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants**

This was proposed by Cllr. O. Tully, seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey and agreed by the members.

## **Minute No. 52/19**

### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. K. Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. R. Culhane

"Calling on Louth County Council to liaise with all schools along the Ballymakenny Road, and Drogheda Gardaí to explore the current traffic congestion on weekday mornings with a view to preparing a report with proposed solutions to assist including but not limited to policed set down areas at schools and point duty at key junctions including Crosslanes & Beechgrove, Bothar Brughá and Sundays Gate."

### **Reply:**

Road Safety Officer for Louth County Council will raise at the next CPP meeting with the Gardaí for discussion.

**The Members noted the reply**

**Minute No. 53/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. R. Culhane  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. K. Callan

"Calling on Louth County Council to provide yellow boxes on the north bound carriage way Dublin Rd outside Stameen and Roschoill and Castlewood/Boyne valley Hotel. These two boxes would facilitate safe exits from the three estates and promote proper flow of northbound traffic."

**Reply:**

**Stameen's Junction** – The road surface at this location and along the road is on the Roads Work Program for 2019 for resurfacing. A Yellow Box along the North bound carriageway will be considered following monitoring of area.

Additionally, Meath CC are being approached to consider installing Traffic Calming measures at the County's boundary.

**Roschoil/Castlewood/Boyne Valley Hotel's Junction** – This junction has a Traffic lights with yellow boxes to south of same located along the north bound carriageway at Five Oaks Residential Housing estate's junction, and, at the junction leading to the lane to Boyne Rugby Club's training grounds – these two boxes will be checked and refreshed if necessary.

**The Members noted the reply**

**Minute No. 54/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Saurin

"The District Borough of Drogheda to take out the dangerous bend out of the Newtown Road and provide a footpath all the way from Greenhill School to the Boyne Business Park, and if necessary put a compulsory order on any piece land to provide a footpath for the safety of the pedestrians who walk to the business park."

**Reply:**

Louth County Council will investigate this matter and will revert to the Council on completion.

**The Members agreed the motion**

**Minute No. 55/19**

**Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith**

"Asking that this Borough District conduct a study to determine if cycle lanes with protected kerbing can be established along the Dublin Road into the town and if cycle kerbing can be installed along the cycle lanes located on the Ballymakenny Road."

**As the proposer of the motion was not present this motion was deferred**

**Minute No. 56/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith**

"Calling on the Local Authority to establish a Town Team for Drogheda. The Town Team will be set up along the guidelines indicated in the document "A Framework for Town Centre Renewal" and will be tasked with developing a strategic and collaborative town centre renewal plan. The Town Team will report to the Drogheda Borough Municipal District."

**As the proposer of the motion was not present this motion was deferred**

**Minute No. 57/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell**  
**Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin**

"That the residents of Rathmullan Park be supported in their determined fight against antisocial and criminal behaviour and that in this regard Council action the closing off of pedestrian alleyways in the estate located between homes 177 and 178. And that Council also close off alleyway between homes 185 and 186."

**Reply:**

This matter will be explored and cost estimates prepared to carry out the works as soon as is practical. Local agreements will have to in place from all those who are likely to be effected by the closures. Such works if agreed can only be progressed when the necessary funding is available – we do not have access to such funding at this time.

**It was pointed out that a budget had been put in place 2 years ago to carry out some of these works and it was agreed to revert back to the members with a cost for the installation of 4 gates.**

**The Members agreed the motion**

## Minute No. 58/19

### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. F. Godfry  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Bell

"The District Borough of Drogheda close off the unofficial right of way between Castle Manor and Moneymore in the interest of public safety because of the ongoing antisocial behaviour at this location." also close off alleyway between homes 185 and 186."

### Reply:

Not all residents in the area are in favour of such a closure and before proceeding with such works it would have to have the agreement of a majority of residents in the area.

Such works if agreed can only be progressed when the necessary funding is available – we do not have access to such funding at this time.

**Several members expressed concern at the potential negative consequences of this proposal. The Members noted the reply**

## Minute No. 59/19

### Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following points were addressed:

- The need to ensure supermarkets are taking measures to retrieve their shopping trollies to prevent them being dumped was raised.
- A number of road markings needing repainting and pot holes requiring repair were noted.
- The issue of motorists driving on the wrong side of fair Street coming from Magdelane Street was raised as a hazard needing a preventative measure.
- It was pointed out that motorists were parking their cars at the bus stop on Georges Street resulting in the buses blocking traffic when it stops.
- The sinking section of the Donore Road was highlighted for attention.
- A timescale was sought for the repairs in the Lavin Park estate.
- It was again requested that Old School Lane, Tullyallen receive minor repairs prior to the annual confirmation ceremony parade.
- The need to open St. Lawrences Gate to the public throughout the Summer was raised.
- The need for more bus shelters was raised

## **Minute No. 60/19**

### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Bell  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Saurin

"In support of the communities of Moneymore, Rathmullan Park, St Finian's Park and Ballsgrove in their fight against antisocial and criminal activity I call on this Council to revamp the public lighting system through the installation of LED white lights which are proven to be more effective than the existing orange/yellow light system. LED lights are proven to give greater confidence to communities subjected to antisocial and criminal behaviour and are also more effective and efficient in the delivery of public lighting."

### **Reply:**

Louth County Council continue to operate and maintain 14000 lights. Due to increasing energy costs associated with the existing lights, LCC have no funding to retrofit lights to LED on the scale requested.

Louth County Council have signed up to the national lighting efficiency programme. This is a public lighting upgrade programme to replace all of the public lights in the county with LED lights over the coming years. The pace of the programme will depend on available funding and approval of a capital investment loan.

**The need to discuss this issue at the Joint Policing Committee was highlighted.**

**The Members noted the reply**

## **Minute No. 61/19**

### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. T. Byrne

"That Drogheda Borough Council would immediately seek to initiate formal meetings with public representatives and Council officials in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District in Meath to promote greater co-operation between Louth and Meath County Councils in order to develop a sustainable plan for the south Drogheda and East Meath areas with particular emphasis on those estates along the county boundary."

**As the proposer of the motion was not present this motion was deferred**

## **Minute No. 62/19**

### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. R. Culhane

**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Bell

“Will Louth County Council erect/install dog waste collection bins on the Dublin Road Drogheda as a matter of urgency. Preferably in the area between Railway Terrace and Wheaton Hall”.

### **Reply:**

Louth County Council will install general litter bins rather than specialised dog waste bins at locations where demand exists. Louth County Council will evaluate the problem (whether for dog waste or general litter) at this location and will consider installing a bin if it is determined that its provision is justified by demand.

**It was pointed out that dog walkers were throwing their dog waste bags into the garden of a local resident.**

**The Members noted the reply**

## **Minute No. 63/19**

### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. J. Byrne

**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Saurin

“That this Council will commit to seeking an indoor exhibition space for the Merryweather Fire Engine in Drogheda and return it back to the town for display to the townspeople and the use of the Service for events when required.”

### **Reply:**

The vehicle concerned is in storage and if a suitable location becomes available this will be considered.

**The members strongly emphasised the need to have the engine displayed in Drogheda as it was an important part of the history of the town.**

**The Members noted the reply**

**Minute No. 64/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by:** Cllr. K. Flood

Please Catalogue all issues raised in the parking sub committee meetings held in 2017 and 2018, detailing where Louth County Council has progressed or closed each issue and when each issue that can be progressed will be resolved.

**REPLY:**

**During the period following the suspension of the Pay Parking Bye-Laws in Drogheda during 2018, members of the Borough District of Drogheda and the executive took the opportunity to consider the various issues impacting on the smooth operations of parking control in Drogheda, consulting with the various stakeholders and addressing the issues arising. Most of these issues were addressed in the CE's report to the members when she presented the Draft Bye-Laws to the members for their consideration at the MDM meetings of 11th and 18th of June 2018. The main issues considered are summarised below:**

	<b>Issues raised</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Renew deteriorated road markings and information signage relating to parking	This was prioritised during 2018 when the road markings in the pay parking areas were renewed. Further works will be carried out as and where needed in a planned way within the available budgets on an ongoing basis
2.	Use slanted parking bays where possible to maximise available parking on West Street	Following measurements of available carriageway and parking space widths, it was concluded that such a change would be ineffective in increasing available parking space.
3.	Pay parking signage on approach roads to Drogheda should be reinstated.	The cost of variable messaging signs could not be accommodated within available financing. However, the provision of a number of fixed signs on the approaches to Drogheda is being considered.
4.	Optimise use of four bus bays in town centre (2 in Dominic Street and 2 in West Street)	Traffic wardens are aware of the need to enforce parking control in these bus bays. Bus arrival and departure times tie in with the timetable connections of the Bus Operators and are not under the control of the Council.

5.	Introduce pay parking zones with fees and maximum parking durations dependent on demand for parking, with maximum control and cost focused on the town centre and the area impacted by demand from the Hospital	As detailed in the CE's report of 6th June 2018, the 'strategic review of parking demand broken down by small area as would be required for the introduction of changes to zoning' was not possible in the lead up to the reintroduction of the Bye Laws last June, nor has such a review been undertaken since. However, the Parking Control (Pay Parking)(Hospital Impact Zone Amendment) Bye-Laws 2019 currently before you for renewed public consultation addresses the parking fee zoning issue that arises in the vicinity of the OLOH hospital
6.	Facilitate a meeting between the members of the Borough District of Drogheda and the facilities management of the OLOH Hospital.	This meeting was organised in 2018 between the members and Mr Ian Brony, OLOH facilities manager and his staff. The issues particularly of the operation and costs of the two areas of parking run by the hospital were discussed and clarified. The ongoing (since completed) national review of hospital car parking charges by the HSE was referenced.
7.	Meet with representatives of the Windmill road and Anneville Crescent residents.	A meeting was held between the CE, the Director, the Senior Engineer and the said representatives and their concerns were addressed, including the Executive's position on such issues as residents' only parking for the area, and the need for parking restrictions at the entrance to Anneville Crescent (LCC proposes to install bollards). The residents indicated that around 20 pay parking spaces were required to meet demand from the residents of the Windmill road
8.	Introduce Residents' Only Parking in part of, or throughout, Windmill road.	The required Parking Control (Pay Parking)(Hospital Impact Zone Amendment) Bye-Laws 2019 needed to address this issue is currently being progressed. The amendment would reserve half the parking spaces (or around 50 spaces) for residents.
9.	Restrict parking duration to one hour in the vicinity of the Windmill Road.	The current proposal to equalise pay parking fees between the Windmill road area and the Hospital Car Park, combined with the introduction of reserved parking for residents, will hopefully address the parking issues at this location adequately.
10.	Expand parking control hours from current levels (to include e.g. Sundays or 24 hours)	As this would have implications for enforcement, It is not proposed to introduce such an expansion in hours.

11.	Adjust or reduce pay parking fine levels.	Such levels are governed by national regulation.
12.	Provide non-compliant parkers with a short grace period to allow for short stops.	Given difficulties with observation and the need for enforcement to be even-handed and transparently fair, it is not possible to ensure that this is provided as a rule.
13.	Provide extra parking spaces in car parks to compensate for loss of spaces at Scarlett Street.	This has been examined, but has not been considered justified in light of the cost and potential environmental impact.
14.	Parking fees – equalise rates with those of Dundalk at €1.00 per hour	This was dealt with at the annual budget meeting of the County Council.

**Members noted the response**

**Minute No. 65/19**

**Sympathies**

Sympathies were extended to families of:

- Firefighter Gray
- Paddy McGovern
- Ollie Watters
- All deceased staff and Councillors

A minutes silence was observed

The meeting then concluded

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Council held on:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_