



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Ceantar Buirge Dhroichead Átha - Borough District of Drogheda Meeting – February 2023**

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Minutes of the Borough District of Drogheda Meeting held at The Conference Room, Fair Street, Drogheda - Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 4:15pm

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** **Mayor** Cllr Michelle Hall

**Members:** **Councillor(s)** James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pío Smith, Eileen Tully

**Apologies:** **Councillor(s)** Fiachra MacRaghnaill

**Officials:** Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services (DOS)  
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer (SE)  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer(SEO)

### **Minute No. 10/23**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were confirmed on the

**Proposal of Cllr Pío Smith**

**Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne**

And approved.

### **Minute No. 11/23**

#### **Matters Arising**

None

### **Minute No. 12/23**

#### **Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001**

Members considered the Community Grants and approval of same was

**Proposal of Cllr Pio Smith**  
**Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne**  
And resolved.

### **Minute No. 13/23**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. Director of Services, Paddy Donnelly addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- There is no evidence of large scale numbers of rough sleepers in Drogheda as alleged in social media. The Homeless Team is very active and have at the outset a next day response time. They also collaborate with HSE where persons do not want to engage and choose to sleep rough. Most presenters are due to family disputes or where notice is being given by Landlords, and often false claims are made
- Targets met in the retrofitting scheme by Louth Housing Section last year were praised by Members
- A Senior Executive Engineer, Michael McGrath has been appointed to the Housing Capital programme and along with an Architect and other staff will be aiming to meet the Housing for All targets set on 5 sites by the Dept., following funding of legacy loans
- A Section 85 agreement is before the Council at next plenary Meeting to allow Dublin City Council to lead on provision of social unit builds for Louth

### **Minute No. 14/23**

#### **Roads and Local Services Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with requests to tackle illegal parking in bus stops and disabled bays, road resurfacing, road safety and new signage requests, road lines painting, litter removal, numerous potholes, signage for disabled bays to be erected on walls, painting of disabled bays, abandoned vehicles, road erosion repair, overgrowth on footpaths impeding use, footpath repair and installation, traffic calming, the following items were highlighted:

- The council only carries out tree lopping/pruning on public lands and then only on a priority basis following assessment as funding is limited
- Preference when painting Disabled Bays is to use thick white lines and a wheelchair symbol as this is significantly more economical than painting them blue. This has been agreed with advocate groups as acceptable
- New estates will have road access and traffic volume mitigations considered as part of planning conditions
- Reports of leaning Eir Poles will be referred to Eir
- Removal of trip hazard wire and wall at Clogherhead is hastening erosion of carpark
- Where school wardens are due to retire and other road safety mitigations/interventions have been put in place, a replacement warden will not be provided on retirement of existing staff

- Traffic counts will commence in March
- The volume of illegal dumping incidents was discussed at length, with Members and Officials noting a linkage between dumping and anti-social behaviour incidents. The volume of work carried out by both Louth County Council and Community Groups to keep Drogheda clean was highlighted with Members being advised that the Council spends €2m on street cleaning annually. Possible solutions to counteract against dumping were discussed including school programmes, greater volume of household bins inspections under the Presentation of Waste Byelaws, and increased enforcement overall
- Active travel measures at Dominic's Bridge require a ramp for entry to the shared cycle pedestrian lane
- A section of the boundary wall at Millmount which has collapsed and concerns around a drop within the mound should be referred to Brendan McSherry to apply for funding for audit and conservation works
- The Mayor received an email from Captain Lawrence Kirwin asking the Municipal District to write to the Marine Survey Office on behalf of the owners of the Hebble Sand to respond to their correspondence. The Meeting Administrator was requested to send the letter, the email to the Mayor was requested for wording of the letter and background

The following miscellaneous items were raised:

- Buses entering estates purely to turn will be referred to the bus companies
- Ring buoys misplaced or missing to be reported to Water Safety Officer Mark Kimmins

### **Minute No. 15/23**

#### **Placemaking Report**

Members discussed the report as issued and Olivia McCormack Senior Executive Officer, advised on all items raised. The following items were highlighted:

St Peters Place – Some Members expressed reservations about the design of St. Peter's Place and suggested that it varied significantly from the original concept of a viewing point down Peter Street and up to Millmount. The height, material and location of the wall was called into question. A suggestion that the design creates a wind tunnel which attracts litter was also made. Members were advised that on construction the wall was required to be higher than the original plan for Health & Safety reasons due to an incline at the location, more planting and seating is due to be installed as well as a sculpture which is being made in the UK. Paddy Donnelly DOS asked Members to wait until the development is complete, weathered and settled in, that it will be welcomed overall, and he noted that people are starting to use the area, which will be a positive catalyst to the Westgate Vision.

Westgate Vision – the drawing pack of a proposed design has been received from Turley Consultants and sent out to all sections for comment before the 20<sup>th</sup> February, after which Environmental Assessment will be required before being put before the Bord. Funding to date is for design phase to planning. Members were advised that once planning is in place this leaves us in a stronger position to apply for URDF grant.

Officials were asked if a back up plan was in place should future funding not be granted similar to the PANCR and this should be considered.

Wayfinding – a Contractor has been appointed.

St. Lawrences Gate – a structural report has been requested to determine any future actions around opening to the public.

## Minute No. 16/23

### Notice of Motion - Cllr. Declan Power

**Seconded by** - Cllr Kevin Callan

*"Louth County Council write and invite Michael Cunniffe, Asset Operations Lead (Water) East Region from Uisce Éireann and to give this Council an update and answer questions on the ongoing problems that continue to persist at Castlecoo Hill reservoir in Clogherhead that frequently leaves either low pressure or no water for long periods of time, in particular for residents at Castlecoo Hill and Strand Hill"*

### Reply

*This is a matter for the members.*

All Members present spoke in favour of this motion, expressing frustration and disappointment with the communication from Irish Water/Uisce Éireann to Members requests to meet to date, and to communication with the public during outages, and particularly lack of response over the Christmas period. It was noted that a request for dates for workshops had been raised at the CPG, and that the Members are happy to go to meet with IW/UE if they name a time and place. A fear over future capacity of provision of water was expressed.

## Minute No. 17/23

### Notice of Motion - Cllr. Michelle Hall

**Seconded by** = Cllr Joanna Byrne

*That this council will apply for funding for new lighting under Active Travel Measures to improve visibility in Drogheda BD including but not exclusive to Newfoundwell Rd, Drogheda; Strand Road, Termonfeckin; and Burton Hall, Tullyallen.*

### Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

*Louth County Council Active Travel Section have a number of proposed Active Travel Schemes in Drogheda. A summary of the proposed routes are tabulated in the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report to councillors. For each of the proposed new Active Travel routes, public lighting will be evaluated and designed to ensure that lighting levels conform with the relevant Public Lighting design standards. The Newfoundwell Road forms part of the "Drogheda: R166 Termonfeckin Rd, Active Travel Scheme which will be from Newtown Cross to the entrance at St. Josephs Secondary School.*

*NTA funding does not include funding for standalone public lighting upgrades. Public lighting will be changed to LED under the PLEEP project and Strand road is included, and this is estimated to be completed late 2024*

*Burton Hall –To install lights would be approx. €25K. As the works are not a retrofit of LED it does not qualify to be included in PLEEP project.*

Speaking on the motion, the Mayor Michelle Hall welcomed lighting provision under Active Travel but opined that the Strand Road should be better lit, advising that Ukrainians refugees live at Seapoint and are mainly pedestrian traffic with no lighting. She advised that Burton Hall has no lighting, is taken in charge and is alongside a river – it was suggested that she raise this at next meeting that Keith McArdle who is over taking in charge attends.

## **Minute No. 18/23**

### **Notice of Motion - Cllr. Michelle Hall**

**Seconded by** - Cllr Kevin Callan

*That this council will upgrade and maintain on a regular basis the R166 and R167's surface and road markings to a good standard reflecting that this is a regional road with a high volume of daily traffic.*

### **Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development**

*All regional roads are maintained based on the funding resources available in the annual budget. Funding is prioritized based on road condition surveys. Funding for regional roads for 2023 will be confirmed when grant allocations are announced usually during the month of February*

Speaking on this motion Cllr Michelle Hall advised every year she asked for works on this road, she considered that it should have been resurfaced years ago and that regional roads should have line markings and proper surfacing.

Director of Services Paddy Donnelly advised that it was all down to funding and that the Road Works Programme will come before Members when funding allocation is advised from the Dept.

## **Minute No. 19/23**

### **Suspension of Standing Order 5 to allow for extension of time in Meeting**

In accordance with Standing Order 69, a suspension of standing order no. 5 to allow an extension of time was called for to allow tributes to Cllr Fiachra Mac Raghnaill on his resignation. Gráinne Tuomey Meeting Administrator established that there were no objections to the Suspension and it was deemed unanimous and so resolved.

The Mayor led tributes to Cllr Mac Raghnaill's time serving as a Councillor and noted his commitment to attendance and to constituents. Members spoke of Cllr Mac Raghnaill's wealth of knowledge, moral compass, and his genuineness, describing him as a fantastic colleague and a down to earth guy who it was a pleasure to work with and thanked him for his contribution. Paddy Donnelly DOS thanked Cllr Mac Raghnaill on behalf of the Chief Executive, Executive and staff of Louth County Council, noting his professionalism and advised that he was well regarded and fondly thought of by staff who had dealt with his queries particularly in the Housing Department.

## **Minute No. 20/23**

### **Condolences**

Condolences were offered to the people of Turkey and Syria following recent earthquakes resulting in multiple casualties and destruction of properties. The Mayor advised Members she would go to the Turkish Embassy to sign the book of condolences on behalf of Borough District Members as Drogheda was linked with Turkey.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:** 6 March 2023

**Mayor:** Michelle Hall.

**Meeting Administrator:** Alo Jomay