



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

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

Minutes of the Borough District of Drogheda Meeting held at The Governor's House, Millmount, Drogheda - Monday, 9th January 2023 at 4:15pm

### **In attendance:**

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

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

**Officials:** Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services (DOS)  
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer (SE)  
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer (AE)

### **Minute No. 1/23**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022 were confirmed on the **Proposal of Cllr Pio Smith**  
**Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne**  
And approved.

### **Minute No. 2/23**

#### **Matters Arising**

None

### **Minute No. 3/23**

#### **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:

- Individuals who were removed during the last Housing Needs Assessment due to income can be looked at on appeal due to the revised Income Limit.

- Illegal dumping at vacant social housing properties increases the cost and timeframe to restore. An appeal was made by the Director of Services to the public to cease illegal dumping activities.

### **Minute No. 4/23**

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

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

Along with anti-parking measures near junctions to improve sightlines, overgrowth on footpaths impeding use, sign relocation & sign cleaning, footpath repair and installation, traffic calming, potholes, road safety and new signage requests, road resurfacing, road lines painting, bus shelters blocking visibility, flooding and flooding mitigation actions the following items were highlighted:

- Works are underway to shore and boost at King William's Glen
- Contractors hedge cutting for Louth County Council are obliged under contract to clear underlying rubbish
- Consultants have been appointed for beach boardwalks, environmental assessments to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala
- Inclement weather has delayed some road works such as line painting
- All gullies should have been done in the area, individual gully issues will be examined when reported
- Traffic surveys have not commenced yet, priority was given to the roads programme and low cost safety measures
- The 2 lane area around Trinity St to Fair Green where vehicles were reported as driving onto footpath will be examined to see if any safety measures can be installed
- The recent IBAL results for Drogheda which showed an improved rating from the last report were welcomed by Members, again Paddy Donnelly DOS appealed to individuals not to litter as this undoes all the hard work done by council and community groups which was evident in the few areas which were marked down
- A lengthy discussion took place about recent correspondence to Members advising them of the cessation of the tracker system, with Members expressing concern on same
- A S177AE submission is gone to An Bord Pleanala on Mell Walkway as Environmental Appraisal is required
- Sign reducing speed in estates have been bagged as this cannot be implemented until bye-laws are adopted
- NTA are the responsible body for Bus Stops

The following miscellaneous items were raised:

- A query about Louth County Council entering a Deed of Guardianship with the owners of the Old Town Wall in the Dale will be referred to the Director of Placemaking & Physical Development and the Public Realm Architect who previously examined this
- A Ballsgrove gate vegetation works query was referred to planning as new Heritage Grant schemes are now open
- Queries re the Boys Club in Yellowbatter, the design of Peters Place will be referred back to relevant staff

## Minute No. 5/23

### Taking in Charge Report

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer advised Members of recent updates to the list of estates presented to them on the Taking in Charge report and Members raised queries on some estates within the report as well as on bonds and plebiscites.

## Minute No. 6/23

### Notice of Motion - Cllr. Pio Smith

**Seconded by:** Cllr Kevin Callan

*"Asking that this Borough Municipal District install a pedestrian crossing at Beechgrove (not the roundabout)"*

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

*The area engineer will arrange for an assessment of the location for a crossing.*

*Should the need be established the provision of the crossing would be subject to prioritization and funding being available in the future.*

Speaking on this motion Cllr Smith expressed an increased pedestrian usage of the area including by elderly and disabled persons who he thought should be assisted. This was supported by Cllr Mc Quillan who also cited a massive increase of use by school children and young people. Cllr Hall also wished to support the motion.

## Minute No. 7/23

### Notice of Motion - Cllr. Pio Smith

**Seconded by:** Cllr Joanna Byrne

*"Asking that the DBMD create a wildflower meadow on the slopes of Millmount"*

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

*This area is being managed as a biodiversity area which allows it to regenerate naturally.*

*Natural regeneration is the best way to create an area rich in biodiversity with native meadow wildflowers. The angle of the slope is extremely steep and is not safe to enable a maintenance regime that would be required to regulate species.*

Speaking on this motion Cllr Smith noted the reply on the steepness of the slope, and suggested that the lower part of the slope, 2 to 3 feet in, might be accommodated. Cllr Mac Raghnaill advised that the slope grass was cut off regularly so he thought wildflowers would be less maintenance and suggested the Old Drogheda Society might assist, a suggestion which was welcomed by Cllr Smith.

## Minute No. 8/23

### Notice of Motion - Cllr. Joanna Byrne

**Seconded by:** Cllr Tom Cunningham

*"Considering the plight Drogheda Animal Rescue are facing to secure a new home, that this council will further engage to try assist in securing adequate premises for them to ensure*

*continued delivery of the invaluable service they provide to the town of Drogheda and surrounding areas."*

**Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development.**

*Drogheda Borough Corporation previously offered lands by Section 183 at Marsh Road Drogheda to Drogheda Animal Rescue which was never developed. Louth County Council have no other lands that are suitable to the needs of the organisation.*

Speaking on this motion Cllr Joanna Byrne advised that the centre had been open for 26 years, 365 days a year and run by volunteers, and suggested that previous land offered by LCC was unsuitable as it was on a flood plain. She appealed to all present to come up with ideas to assist the rescue centre stay open as there were concerns about what would happen to the cats onsite if premises could not be found.

Cllr Callan supporting the motion advised that he also had requested premises for the rescue and for O.N.E. He suggested that Louth County Council have acres of land at an old quarry site which might be suitable, a suggestion that Cllr Smith supported. Paddy Donnelly DOS suggested that there might be planning issues at that site.

**Minute No. 9/23**

**TASC workshop**

Gráinne Tuomey Meeting Administrator advised Members of communication with Shana Cohen in TASC who had emailed them on foot of their agreement at last meeting to attend a workshop, but who had no response to email issued. After some discussion it was agreed to hold the meeting online at 3.30pm before the February meeting.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:**

13 Feb 2023

**Mayor:**

Michelle Hall

**Meeting Administrator:**

Caro Quaney