



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Ceantar Buirge Dhroichead Átha - Borough District of Drogheda Meeting

Minutes of the Borough District of Drogheda Meeting held at Fair Street Conference Room, Drogheda - Monday, 3rd July 2023 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Deputy Mayor Cllr Kevin Callan

Members: Councillor(s) James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Paddy McQuillan, Pio Smith.

Apologies: Councillor(s) Eileen Tully (Mayor), Michelle Hall, Declan Power.

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
John Lawrence, A/Director of Services
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer

Minute No. 62/23

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Tom Cunningham

Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne

And approved

Minute No. 63/23

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne

And approved

Minute No. 64/23

Matters Arising

Queries raised on items in Minutes numbered 58/23 and 59/23 were responded to by Mark Johnson and John Lawrence.

Minute No. 65/23

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

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them, and approval was

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

And agreed by Members

Minute No. 66/23

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. A/Director of Services, John Lawrence addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- Voids – An update on Voids will be prepared for the next monthly report.
- Homelessness figures are increasing, and efforts are being made to secure emergency family accommodation.
- Until a planned maintenance programme is in place, not all social units will be suitable for solar panels.
- Increased funding was secured for Housing Adaptation Grants, however grants remain closed to new applicants

Minute No. 67/23

Roads and Local Services Report

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

Along with potholes, illegal dumping, overgrowth in various areas, footpath repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests, sign installation, road resurfacing, road lines and yellow box repair & painting, painting of parking and disabled bays, fire damage to wall, collapsed drains the following items were highlighted:

- Members again reported repeated dissatisfaction with quality of Grass cutting. Biodiversity versus play area balance was discussed.
- Insufficient Residential parking was cited at Windmill Road
- Planned works at the Old Abbey are on hold pending agreement with the National Park Service
- Dead Sure App is the correct way to log issues with public street lighting and overgrowth or other issues around same. However, if no response is received the Road section will try to intervene.
- Items being submitted for future Road Works Programme will be subject to PSCI checks. Tenders for this year's planned works were circa €1m over estimate and works will be cut as a result, mainly in the Dublin Road area; it is hoped future Active Travel plans will incorporate these works.
- Overgrowth on Buttergate was requested to be removed as it is reportedly damaging the structure.

- Coordinated efforts of Louth County Council staff, community and tidy town groups were applauded following the noted increase in the latest IBAL report rating which saw Drogheda rise from 'heavily littered' to 'clean to European norms'.
- Louth County Council has increased inspections on Utility companies carrying out works on roads by 20%
- A contractor with mobile elevation platform equipment is to remove weeds at height at Ballsgrove Gate – other high sites in the area will be assessed for addition to works.
- The source of pollutant to waters in the stream of the Glen area is being investigated.
- Items related to dumping will be referred to the litter wardens.

Minute No. 68/23

Taking in Charge Report

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer invited questions from Members on the report as presented to them on Taking in Charge measures. No queries were raised.

Minute No. 69/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr Pio Smith

Asking this Council to make contact through our litter and environment sections with businesses who operate a trolley service across the town to alert them to the high levels of trollies being recovered from the River Boyne with over 30 such trollies being removed in May all of which presented a risk to the environment, to divers in recovery operations and to rescue craft in rescues at low tides.

Reply from J McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

The Council are reviewing this specific matter and will be focusing on these businesses and look forward to their co-operation.

Noting the response as issued, Cllr Callan advised that the trollies were causing issues for passage of the Boyne River Rescue boats at times of low tide. It appears that trollies are having the money box broken off before being pushed off St. Dominic's Bridge and drifting down stream.

Minute No. 70/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Paddy McQuillan

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

“Requesting that the council engage with Bus Eireann to explore the possibility of increasing the frequency of the 173 town buses to Ballsgrove and Moneymore. At present both buses run every hour, unlike the D4 and D5 which has a frequency of every twenty minutes. Also can the council engage with Bus Eireann to explore the possibility of running the 173 town buses to Ballsgrove and Moneymore on Sunday.”

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Place Making and Physical Development

The operation of bus services and frequency is the responsibility of the NTA. The Council has no statutory role in providing same. The NTA should be contacted directly.

Speaking on the motion Cllr McQuillan accepted the response as issued and advised a question had been forwarded to the Joint Oireachtas Committee for consideration.

Minute No. 71/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Paddy McQuillan

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

“Requesting that this council meet with the executive of Drogheda Wolves Basketball to explore the possibility of securing land for a Basketball Stadium for the club.”

Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

The Council will always meet Sporting Groups to assist their needs, but currently have no available lands.

Cllr McQuillan noted and was happy with the response as issued.

Minute No. 72/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

“Asking that this Borough District write to Dart and Coastal North Project and request that consideration be given to widening the railway bridge on the Dublin Road so that proposed smarter travel infrastructure that incorporates walking and cycling can be accommodated.”

Reply from Catherine Duff, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

This is a matter for the members.

However, for the members information Louth County Council's (LCC) Active Travel Section are liaising with the National Transport Authority and the DART+ Coastal North Project Team on the proposed extension of Dart Services between Drogheda MacBride Train Station and Dublin City Centre.

The DART+ Coastal North Public Consultation 2 began on the 9th May 2023 and concludes on Friday 23rd June 2023 and as part of this consultation period, LCC will be submitting a written response on Transport, Active Travel, Planning, Heritage matters and in particular a request that the Project Team have regard to the provision of pedestrian and cycle facilities in proximity of the Dublin Rd, Railway Bridge on the R132, as part of an overall strategy to promote Active Travel along this main arterial route in Drogheda.

Cllr Smith, noting the consultation and liaison with the Active Travel team with various bodies thought that it was important to extend this from the Bridge of Peace to the Dublin Road. Cllr James Byrne thought that significant work was required to the Bridge itself.

Minute No. 73/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

"Asking that this Borough District examine the possibility of erecting a statue in remembrance of famine victims who died in Drogheda and those that emigrated through Drogheda Port because of the famine."

Reply from Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

The Council will review options for an appropriate famine memorial.

Cllr Smith advised that Drogheda had been the second largest port during the famine and thought this should be marked both as a memorial to all those who had left and never returned and that it would be a focal point from a tourism viewpoint.

Minute No. 74/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr James Byrne

Asking this council to examine ways to manage the volume of seagulls in the Drogheda Town Centre area. This issue which is a direct result of human dumping, overfilling of bins and leaving black bag and food waste on the streets causes increase in the bird population. This motion acknowledges the considerable effort of Louth County Council staff and the litter wardens in trying to combat illegal dumping but gull volumes are now contributing to dirt on structures, cars, streets and outdoor spaces of local businesses.

Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

While Louth County Council has no statutory obligation or responsibility in this matter, we will include 'don't feed the gull' messages in our promotions of anti-littering campaigns. Littering and feeding birds are the main attraction for gulls (which are a protected species) into town centre areas.

Cllr Callan welcomed the response as issued and he and other Members commended that highlighting of gulls as a protected species and wanted it clarified that the Municipal District Members as a collective were against promoting a cull of gulls. However, it was clear that a solution had to be found to lure gulls away from the town center and several suggestions were put forward on how to do this. It was agreed to look at this further.

Minute No. 75/23

Condolences

Expressions of sympathy were extended to the family and friends of:
Derek Kierans, who died suddenly. Derek was very well known in GAA and Soccer Group circles throughout the area.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 4 Sept 2023
Mayor: Eileen Kelly Cllr
Meeting Administrator: Cllr Suomeny