



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, 8th May 2023 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Mayor Cllr Michelle Hall

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

Officials: Bryan Coughlan, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 40/23

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023 were confirmed on the
Proposal of Cllr Tom Cunningham
Seconded by Cllr Pío Smyth
And approved

Minute No. 41/23

Matters Arising

The Mayor informed the meeting that the members were to write to an Tánaiste about Uisce Eireann but as Uisce Eireann were now meeting the County Council on Monday 15th, this letter was not sent.

Minute No. 42/23

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 Joanna Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr James Byrne
And agreed by Members

Minute No. 43/23

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:

- The Tenant-in-situ scheme is being looked at nationally in an attempt to address the anomaly whereby someone on the housing list of a particular local authority is being evicted from a home in a neighbouring local authority area and therefore cannot avail of the scheme. It was noted that Louth County Council currently does not have jurisdiction to purchase a property in Meath.
- The decision to suspend development levies has had no impact on plans for the Port Access Northern Cross Route.
- Significant delays remain for tenants who are seeking gas boiler repairs, despite the Council having previously written to Bord Gáis. It was clarified that the local authority is responsible for same and that a small programme of servicing will be put in place this year. The number of boilers included will be dependant on the tender price.
- The Estate Management section are to meet with An Garda Síochána to discuss issues of antisocial behaviour and drug dealing.

Minute No. 44/23

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with potholes, footpath repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests, graffiti cleaning, sign installation, bollard replacement, road resurfacing, road lines and yellow box repair & painting, painting of parking, the following items were highlighted:

- The Council's outdoor staff were thanked by members for various specific works undertaken recently across the Borough District.
- There are significant pothole problems being caused by utilities companies. Upcoming changes to requirements for Road Opening Licences mean they will now be required for smaller works and this should assist with addressing this problem.
- A call was made by Members to encourage local businesses and the public to decorate the Borough District in County Louth GAA colours ahead of the Leinster final and also the Sam Maguire group stage which Louth will be participating in.
- A discussion was had as to how the dumping of household waste could be addressed in Moneymore and it was noted that this has previously hindered Drogheda's IBAL score.

The following items unrelated to Roads and Local Services Section were raised

- Derelict and Dangerous Buildings are a matter for Planning Enforcement

Minute No. 45/23

Placemaking

Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer, invited questions from members on the report as presented to them on activity undertaken by the Placemaking section. The following items were discussed:

- The opening of Petershill Shared Space was welcomed by members and it was noted that it is a positive development.
- A discussion was had about St. Laurence's Gate and Cllr. James Byrne stated that he had not received any update from the Department on the reopening of St. Laurence's Gate itself.
- The Westgate Vision Plan will be ready in June but visuals will be added to the website in the meantime.
- Assessments are currently being carried out relating to the playground in Termonfeckin. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in the near future and a Part 8 application will follow.

The following items not related to Placemaking were also raised:

- Mell Greenway
- Heritage town signage on M1
- Drogheda Local Area Plan timeline
- The Members also suggested that they would like to receive a presentation from Active Travel staff in due course.
- Audit of road signs in Drogheda

Minute No. 46/23

Notice of Motion - Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by = Cllr Declan Power

"Asking Louth County Council to examine the trialing of a designated dog park in one of our public parks such as St Dominic's Park. Such parks which are compact and low maintenance operate in cities throughout Europe are also low cost and provide a safe area for owners and dogs and add to public spaces.

A particular example would be the dog park at Union Square in Manhattan which would be a good size and possible fit for one of our parks."

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

The Council has no plans to progress a Dog Park/ Dog Run on Council owned land.

Speaking on this motion Cllr Callan expressed that he was dissatisfied with the response issued by management. A number of members spoke of their disappointment that there was not more collaboration on this motion.

Minute No. 47/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Paddy McQuillan

Seconded by = Cllr Joanna Byrne

"Due to the huge public support for my previous motion I respectfully request that the council explore the possibility of installing a Dog Run on public lands."

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

The Council has no plans to progress a Dog Park/ Dog Run on council owned land.

Speaking on this motion Cllr McQuillan highlighted that there is significant support for this, evidenced by the establishment of a working group, the support of the town's largest pet store and also the establishment of a dedicated Facebook page. It was highlighted that as more people live in apartments and residential units with smaller private gardens, off-leash areas for dogs are becoming more important.

Minute No. 48/23

Motion: Cllr. Emma Cutlip

Seconded by = Cllr Kevin Callan

"In order to deter speeding on Marleys Lane, especially in the vicinity of St. Johns JNS and St. Paul's SNS, that Louth County Council will introduce traffic calming measures, including but not limited to, reduced speed limit zones".

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

- *There is already a controlled crossing at St John's School JNS with pedestrian railings on either side providing students safe crossing at the school.*
- *There is also a pull in bus layby*
- *LCC Active Travel (AT) team has a proposed Pathfinder AT scheme that will incorporate segregated cycleways on Marleys lane - which will separate cyclist and pedestrians from live traffic (Subject to NTA funding and Planning approval, planned constructed is 2025).*
- *There is also a central Speed control Traffic-island and pedestrian crossing point with railings at Aura Leisure centre.*
- *The schools should contact the Road Safety officer to explore opportunities to participate in safe routes to schools*

Speaking on this motion Cllr Cutlip stated that existing measures are not sufficient and felt that it should not be a matter for the school itself to contact the Road Safety Officer to explore opportunities.

Minute No. 49/23

Motion: Cllr. Declan Power

Seconded by = Cllr Kevin Callan

"That Louth County Council install double yellow lines off cross lanes at Townleys funeral home to the entrance of Rosehall housing estate"

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

Double yellow lines are already in place on the right hand side of Bog lane from the Crosslanes to Rosehall estate.

Even with occasional parking on the left-hand side there is still sufficient room for two vehicles to pass once the right-hand side is kept clear.

Double yellow lines on both sides may result in vehicles parking further into Rosehall Estate and may actually be counter-productive. Therefore the installation of double yellow lines is not being recommended.

Speaking on this motion Cllr Power stated that he would continue to engage with the Council's executive towards progressing this matter.

Minute No. 50/23

AOB

The Mayor noted that this would be the last meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda which Paddy Donnelly would be attending as Director of Services as he is shortly to retire.

The Mayor and Members wished Paddy well in his retirement, and he thanked the members for their collegiality, both personally and professionally, since he assumed responsibility for the meetings.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

12TH June 2023

Mayor:

C. Duff

Meeting Administrator:

A. Duff