



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 Civic Offices, Fair Street, Drogheda
Monday, 6th November 2023 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Mayor Cllr Eileen Tully

Members: **Councillor(s)** James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Declan Power, Pio Smith.

Apologies: **Councillor(s)** Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Declan McMahon, Senior Engineer
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Brona O'Reilly, Administrative Officer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 96/23

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Joanna Byrne

Seconded by Cllr Pio Smith

And approved.

Minute No. 97/23

Minutes of Budget Meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Joanna Byrne

Seconded by Cllr Pio Smith

And approved.

Minute No. 98/23

Suspension of Standing Order No. 7 – Agenda Item Amendment to allow insertion of extra allocations to list of Members Community Grants

Members present unanimously agreed to allow extra allocations as presented to them at the meeting to be added to the list of the Community Grants before them.

Minute No. 99/23

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 including the additional items, and approval was

Proposed by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr Emma Cutlip

And agreed by Members

Minute No. 100/23

Consideration of the draft Louth Local Economic & Community Plan

Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer briefed Members on the draft Louth Local Economic & Community Plan responded to queries raised and agreed to consider some proposed minor amendments to text. Members were requested to consider the draft Louth Local Economic & Community Plan as set before them in relation to:

- Consistency with the Core Strategy and objectives of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027
- Consistency with the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Eastern & Midland Region
- Consistency between the economic and community elements of the draft Local Economic & Community Plan.

Following consideration, approval of the draft was

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

And Agreed by Members, who were advised that the draft Plan would now go before the Regional Assembly before submission to the Plenary Meeting of Louth County Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 66C (2)(b) and 66C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Minute No. 101/23

Borough District Municipal Allocation

It was agreed to defer discussion and consideration of the Borough District Municipal Allocation until the December meeting.

Minute No. 102/23

Casual Trading Bye-laws 2023

Members were advised that the Casual Trading Bye-laws were back before them due to a mapping error and hence would go back to public consultation before returning to Members for adoption in 2024.

Minute No. 103/23

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. Ger Murphy, Senior Executive Officer and Brona Reilly, Administrative Officer addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- The 2024 Retrofit Unit Program is a planned programme based on the condition of and Energy Ratings of Units
- Grant works must be completed prior to draw down of funding from the Department
- A new application form has issued for Housing Grants with a checklist. Everything on the checklist must be completed for a valid application
- Refusal of Choice Based Letting offers result in a 12 month suspension
- A Boiler Maintenance Programme is planned for 2024

Minute No. 104/23

Roads and Local Services Report

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

Along with potholes, footpath repair, traffic calming, traffic light resequencing, vegetation cut back on roadside, road signage requests, and yellow box requests, the following items were highlighted:

- Low Cost Safety Works are planned based on accident data. Department approval is awaited for the 2024 list
- Utility companies carrying out road opening must resurface and then maintain roads for a 2 year period
- Dangerous structures on roadside in various locations were highlighted
- Repair and replacement of various road signage including historic road signage in old Irish font will be actioned
- Signage and line painting is planned for Beaulieu Bridge

Minute No. 105/23

Physical Development Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. John O'Hagan, Senior Executive Officer responded to all queries raised by Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- Fair Street new office works are progressing with expected completion at end of Quarter 1, 2024

- Works carried out by the outdoor crews in the Drogheda area during recent floods were praised
- The Boyne Enterprise Link Road is not progressing as well as had hoped, updates will issue in the next CE Report to Members
- Works to the Obelisk Bridge are progressing as planned
- No interest was received to a recent Bike Share Tender

Minute No. 106/23

Placemaking Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer responded to all queries raised by Members.

Minute No. 107/23

Notice of Motion Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan and Cllr. Declan Power
Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

Will this Council conduct a review of the junction of Mell, The Old Slane Road and the Cement Road to examine any future opportunities to seek to upgrade the junction with respect to pedestrian safety, cyclist visibility and junction safety. We note works done in recent times around Road markings and speed ramps, however we are asking for consideration to be given to a full review of the junction taking into account all types of Road and pedestrian users on what is a busy loop walk and cycle way factoring into Active Travel Initiatives.

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

The Active Travel team is currently designing Active Travel Infrastructure for the R168 (Collon Rd), namely Waterunder Rd at Mell, Drogheda. The proposed Active Travel Infrastructure will include the provision of new footpaths and segregated cycle paths on both sides of the road over a distance of circa 2.25km from the Cement Road to the Hill of Rath Roundabout, and the R166 Northern Cross route from the Hill of Rath roundabout to the Rosehall roundabout. The scheme will include the provision of a new 50 km/hr speed limit, street lighting, pedestrian crossing points and associated road signage and markings. The proposed infrastructure is dependent on NTA approvals, consent process and future funding.

Following a brief discussion on this motion Members were advised that Active Travel were considering works at the Cement Road Junction.

Minute No. 108/23

Notice of Motion Proposed by Cllr Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

That the local authority conduct a speed analysis test on the Rathmullen Road with a focus on vehicles travelling from St Oliver's School to Riverbank Housing Estate

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

The list for the 2024 Low Cost Safety Scheme has already been finalised. The location stated will be referred to the Low Cost Safety Scheme for consideration as a candidate for the 2025 Low Cost Safety Scheme.

Speaking on the Motion Cllr Smith highlighted an issue with speeding in the school area.

Minute No. 109/23

Notice of Motion Proposed by Cllr Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

That the local authority resurface the road running through Trinity Gardens in Drogheda

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

The Road Works Programme 2024 will be produced on evidence-based data including usage and traffic loading, and engineering surveys utilising Pavement Survey Conditions Index (PSCI) ranked surfaces, (scored from 1 to 10 by Roads Technical Team) and in the context of available budget. Trinity Gardens will be inspected to determine whether it should be considered for inclusion in the Road Works Programme 2024 within the context outlined above.

Speaking on the response to the motion, Cllr Smith advised of no cohesive road markings in Trinity Gardens and was told this would be inspected.

Minute No. 110/23

Notice of Motion Proposed by: Cllrs Kevin Callan and Declan Power
Seconded by: Cllr Eileen Tully

Will Louth County Council conduct a review of the traffic junction between Yellowbatter, Flaxmill Lane and The Ballymakenny Road. Such a review could consider amendments and possible alterations to the junction to help ease traffic congestion and also incorporate safer pedestrian and cyclist options. The junction is surrounded by space which is in the control of the Council and could be used to enlarge the capacity of the junction.

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

This complex meeting of five roads in advance of the junction of Ascal A Tri with Ballymackenny road will require detailed consideration by LCC engineers and may require extensive infrastructural work with significant funding requirement to make meaningful improvement to traffic flows.

Cllr Callan thanked the Director for the response and for giving consideration to the motion before him.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 4 Dec 2023
Mayor: Eileen Tully
Meeting Administrator: Alan Quoney