



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, 2nd October 2023 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: **Mayor** Cllr Eileen Tully

Members: **Councillor(s)** James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan, Pio Smith.

Apologies: **Councillor(s)** Declan Power

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
David Jones, Director of Services
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer
Noel Treanor, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute No. 84/23

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Kevin Callan
Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne
And approved.

Minute No. 85/23

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 Michelle Hall
Seconded by: Cllr Pio Smith
And agreed by Members

Minute No. 86/23

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. Declan Grimes Senior Engineer addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- Drogheda currently has 37 Vacant Units some of which are long term voids due to the cost to bring them back to use.
- A high number of refusals for Housing in the Drogheda Area was noted.
- Tenant Liaison Officers work with tenants to try to tackle rent arrears

Minute No. 87/23

Roads and Local Services Report

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

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

- The contract for grass cutting includes mulching, collection of grass would double the costs to council
- Hospital staff parking in nearby residential estates is not enforceable by the council
- Glyphosates are no longer used to kill weeds
- Millmount is a council owned property and the wall collapse is being treated as quite urgent with structural engineers and conservation architects appointed to assess damage. The Museum at Drogheda is not accredited and no funding is available externally as a result
- The council have a policy of encouraging people to take their rubbish home and do not provide new bins on request
- Broken playground equipment will be examined

Minute No. 88/23

Placemaking Report

Joe McGuinness Director of Services advised that staff due to present on the Placemaking Report were unable to attend. It was

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

And agreed that the Report be delivered at the November meeting.

Minute No. 89/23

Taking in Charge Report

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer invited questions from Members on the report as presented to them on Taking in Charge measures. Members thanked Keith for progress on the list and suggested additions.

Minute no. 90/23

Active Travel Presentation

Noel Treanor, Senior Engineer, gave members a presentation on approved Active Travel Projects for Safe Routes to School in Louth, which was well received.
A Q&A session followed.

Minute No. 91/23

Notice of Motion Cllr Michelle Hall (Deferred from September)
Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

"That this council will consider installing traffic calming measures at Waterunder, Mell (R168) including dip warning signs; 2 x zebra crossings at tactile paving; 4 x yellow boxes at residents' homes (3) and Barrack Lane; flashing feedback signs; and cushion ramps. This stretch of road from the M1 Retail Park roundabout has a very high volume of traffic, no speed limit signs, a hidden dip in the road and pedestrians having to walk on the road or cross the footpath with no traffic calming measures. Residents have excessively long delays in exiting their driveways/lane and experienced dangerous overtaking near their properties."

Reply from W. Walsh, Acting Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

The council, funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA), is preparing an active travel scheme along the R168 from the Roundabout at Waterunder to the Recycling facility, to include a new 50 kph speed limit, new segregated cycling track and footpaths on the sides of the road, street lighting, and pedestrian crossing points, with associated road signs, line markings etc. Project delivery is subject to ongoing NTA funding approval, and to potential delays resulting from the need for planning approval and required land acquisition. Note also that yellow junction boxes are not provided at private residences.

Minute No. 92/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Michelle Hall (Deferred from September)
Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

"Louth County Council will install traffic calming measures at the junction of Ballymakenny Road and Cockle Road on approach towards Termonfeckin. This will include additional high visible signage on approach, cushion ramps, line markings and barriers near adjacent properties. There have been several serious road traffic accidents at this location and a bad bend on the Ballymakenny Road."

Reply from W. Walsh, Acting Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

Speed cushions and ramps are only permitted in areas within a 60kmph speed limit. The east and west approaches to the Cockle Road /Ballymakenny Road junction will be upgraded with new advance signage and line markings and also new STOP markings under a Low Cost Safety scheme which will be carried out later this year.

The response was welcomed by Members.

Minute No. 93/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr James Byrne

"Requesting that the Local Authority consider creating a tree lined boulevard in Bryanstown running from the junction with the Dublin Road to the junction with Meadowview. This would help enhance the beauty of the area, create greater biodiversity and help mitigate the effects of climate change"

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

There are already circa thirty mature trees along this road on the southern side, which is 1km long. The replanting in a boulevard fashion would need specific funding, of which there is no identifiable funding source at present, and moreover, allow for any active travel routes that may be identified on this road in the future.

Speaking on the response to the motion, Cllr Smith expressed disappointment, suggesting that the area had the widest footpaths in town which led to the inclusion of trees. Cllr James Byrne supported this.

Minute No. 94/23

Notice of Motion: 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 Council held on:

Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mayor: Eileen Tully
Meeting Administrator: Aileen