



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, 8th April 2024 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Deputy Mayor Cllr Kevin Callan

Members: Councillor(s) James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith

Apologies: Councillor(s) Emma Cutlip, Eileen Tully (Mayor)

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

Minute No. 39/24

Standing order no. 20 - Motion for Purpose of Dealing with Urgent Business

In line with Standing Order no. 20, as a request was made by Cllr Michelle Hall to have an urgent motion heard, Members voted to establish if they could hear a Motion for the purpose of dealing with urgent business as follows:

Councillor Voting	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
James Byrne	1			
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Tom Cunningham	1			
Emma Cutlip				1
Michelle Hall	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Declan Power	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Eileen Tully				1
Totals	8	0	0	2

And as the requirement was met that half the members voted in favour, it was so resolved. The Deputy Mayor advised that this could be heard following other Notices of Motions on the agenda.

Minute No. 40/24

Minutes of Online Meeting held on Monday 4th March 2024

The minutes of the monthly meeting held online on Monday 4th March 2024 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Pio Smith
Seconded by Cllr Paddy McQuillan
And approved.

Minute No. 41/24

Matters Arising

None

Minute No. 42/24

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 Paddy McQuillan
And agreed by Members.

Minute No. 43/24

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:

- Lack of response to Maintenance Queries raised
- Funding and resource restraints limit remediation works where houses are subject to criminal behaviour such as petrol bombing and illegal dumping
- Resolution is approaching on the set up of a Community House in Rathmullen
- There is a budget of €150,000 for windows and doors, this will not replace all in need

Minute No. 44/24

Roads and Local Services Report

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

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

- In response to a volume of potholes and damaged roads reported, Members were reminded of recent inclement weather causing damage to roads and that March was the wettest on record.
- The Roads Work Programme (RWP) is tender ready with a deadline of 15th May for tender receipt.
- The RWP provides for resurfacing of 90km of roads
- A budget of €18m is set out for road works. It would cost circa €130m to do all Louth Roads
- An extra €100,000 was set aside for road markings in South Louth
- Members noted the installation of flexi bollards at a school in Termonfeckin and requested updates on bollards at other schools
- Road Safety concerns at schools will be referred to the Road Safety Officer
- Damaged green space at Ballsgrove will be repaired when weather conditions allow
- It is not envisioned that lane cleaning of council housing estates will be carried out
- An annual list of roads requiring traffic calming goes to the Department, who fund and advise of which roads to address based on collision data
- Large stones are to go in front of the Big Strand, Clogherhead to mitigate against further coastal erosion
- With over 204 bins in the town there are no plans for further bins in the Drogheda area
- Double sets of road stop signs are not always provided or required
- Cedarfield bus stop will not be moved but line markings will be changed
- Where Active Travel works are planned no major work will be carried out in interim
- Dog bins where damaged or no longer fit for purpose will be removed and not replaced, ordinary bins can be used for dog foul
- 16/17 staff are assigned to road cleansing in Drogheda, with 5/6 machines in use daily at a cost of €1.3m annually
- Sinking road reported under ramp at Hardman's Gardens will be checked
- Licences for Scaffolding and Hoarding reportedly up for an extended period will be checked

The following items which were raised under this section which do not fall to the section

- Dereliction and potential collapse risk of historic thatched cottage known as Harty's Cottage
- Underuse of Boxing Club while no changing facilities for other sporting clubs in vicinity
- Stones falling from a Chapel in Mayne Graveyard are the responsibility of the diocese to secure and make safe
- Property and yard being used for drug dealing and anti-social behaviour on Duke Street will be looked at to establish property owner

Minute No. 45/24

Taking in Charge

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Keith McArdle, Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

Matters discussed included:

- Riverbank and Rivercourt will be worked on over the following couple of weeks
- Ministerial Direction issued to Uisce Éireann in January. Update will be given to Members when received
- Updates were given on Bishops Court, Castle Park, Townley Manor, and Rosehall

Minute No. 46/24

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

'Asking that the Local Authority outline the location of each Derelict Site in the Drogheda Borough Municipal District, the name and address of each owner, the action undertaken by the Local Authority in regards to each Derelict Site and the current market value as carried out by the Local Authority'

Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, Strategic Economic Development

DERELICT SITE REGISTER 2024								
Ref No.	First Name	Surname	Derelict Site Address	Actions taken under Derelict Sites Act, 1990	Particulars of any development objective for the purpose of reserving the land under Article 3(1)(a) of The Regulations	Particular of any bond entered into under Section 25	Market valuation	Entered Date
DS 482	Arbortree Investments	Limited	Knockshee, Old Golf Links Road, Dundalk	Section 8 Notice served 29/04/2021 Section 11 Notice served on 25/08/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€750,000	26/10/2021
DS 443	J & P	Kieran	64 Seatown, Dundalk	Section 8 Notice served 27/08/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€110,000	10/12/2021
DS 509	T	Conway	34 Quay St. Dundalk (Former Danny Boys	Section 8 notice served 23/07/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€140,000	12/11/2021
DS 540	Arvill Tavems	Limited	Former NV Nilleclub, Carrickcannon, Co. Lo	Section 8 Notice served 28/01/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€450,000	10/08/2022
DS 596	LLK Properties	Limited	74-76 West Street, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 04/10/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€200,000	23/01/2023
DS 578	Unknown	unknown	13 Trinity Street, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 18/08/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	25/01/2023
DS 630	M	Devine	Mullach Alann, Omeath	Section 8 Notice served 18/08/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€450,000	31/01/2023
DS 571	Unknown	unknown	34 Ship Street, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 21/06/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 584	Unknown	unknown	Former Bank, 3 Marsh Road, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 15/09/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 606	Unknown	unknown	7 Mill Lane, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 27/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 604	Unknown	unknown	3 Mill Lane, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 27/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 605	Unknown	unknown	6 Mill Lane, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 27/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 608	Unknown	unknown	9 Mill Lane, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 27/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 609	Unknown	unknown	10 Mill Lane, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 27/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 610	Unknown	unknown	11 Mill Lane, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 27/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 611	Unknown	unknown	Apartment 7 Mill Lane, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 27/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 612	Unknown	unknown	Apartment 7a Mill Lane, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 27/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	03/02/2023
DS 623	Pillardale	Limited	8 St Laurence Street, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 09/09/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€150,000	03/02/2023
DS 624	Pillardale	Limited	9 St Laurence Street, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 09/09/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€250,000	03/02/2023
DS 621	S & K	Brady	4 Stockwell Street, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 09/12/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€80,000	23/02/2023
DS 616	G & J	Morris	43-44 West Street, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 09/12/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€200,000	22/02/2023
DS 477	N	Kelly	52 Narrow West St. Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 19/03/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€ 70,000	06/06/2023
DS 478	N	Kelly	51 Narrow West St. Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 19/03/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€150,000	06/06/2023
DS 479	N	Kelly	50 Narrow West St. Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 19/03/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€100,000	06/06/2023
DS 480	N	Kelly	49 Narrow West St. Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 19/03/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€ 90,000	06/06/2023
DS 481	N	Kelly	48 Narrow West St. Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 19/03/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€ 70,000	06/06/2023
DS 562	Unknown	Unknown	17 Ship St Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 20/06/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	08/08/2023
DS 549	Unknown	Unknown	Former Shop Main St Castlebellingham	Section 8 Notice served 05/05/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	08/08/2023
DS 631	M	Kilrane	7 Palace St Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 23/01/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	€120,000	08/08/2023
DS 485	N	Kelly	14 Trinity St Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 07/04/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€125,000	08/08/2023
DS 514	N	Kelly	15 Trinity St Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 29/07/2021	Not applicable	Not applicable	€150,000	08/08/2023
DS 2023 004	Unknown	Unknown	73 Brookville Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 03/08/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	08/08/2023
DS 615	N	Kelly	72 West St Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 06/12/2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	€175,000	08/08/2023
DS 2023/005	Unknown	unknown	former Medical Clinic, Newfoundwell Rd Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 16/02/2024	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	20/10/2023
DS 2023/048	Unknown	unknown	Hale Street, Ardee	Section 8 Notice served 04/03/2024	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	11/03/2024
DS 2023/010	M	Kilrane	Allwell House/Duke House, Duke St, Drogheda	Section 8 Notice served 05/03/2024	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	11/03/2024
DS 2023/016	Reps A	French	35 Irish Street, Ardee	Section 8 Notice served 06/12/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	11/03/2024
DS 2023/035	Unknown	unknown	Former Murphy's Bar, 6 Church Street, Dundalk	Section 8 Notice served 19/10/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	11/03/2024
DS 2023/001	J	O'Brien	83 Strand Street, Clogherhead	Section 8 Notice served 15/09/2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	tbc	11/03/2024

Members noted the response to the Motion from the Executive.

Cllr Smith commending previous Compulsory Purchase Orders of properties by the Council suggested that consideration be given to same for all properties on the Derelict Sites Register. While he understood that some properties can fall into dereliction through family issues, he considered that a majority of those on the list could be considered hoarding of properties and that they were an insult to the people and abuse of the town, particularly around Narrow West Street.

Other members spoke in support of Cllr Smith's motion and echoed his sentiments.

Minute No. 47/24

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

"Asking that the Local Authority installs pedestrian crossings at the Boyle O Reilly side of the

Beechgrove Roundabout and at a suitable location on the Ballymakenny Road in order to facilitate safe travel for pedestrians in the area”

Reply from David Jones, Director of Services, Place Making and Physical Development

The presence of dropped kerbs at locations along the route referenced, along with a central refuge island on the Ballymakenny Road, may facilitate an upgrade to Zebra crossings at said locations.

Accordingly, subject to an assessment of the appropriate data, the provision of Zebra crossings under Low-Cost Safety Funding 2025 will be considered.

Members noted the response to the Motion from the Executive. Cllr Smith thanked the Director for the reply given.

Some suggestions were made around installation of cats eyes at crossings by Cllr Hall.

Minute No. 48/24

Notice of Motion: Cllr Michelle Hall

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Callan

Cllr Hall read out her ‘Urgent Business Motion’ as follows:

Such is the deterioration of many roads in Drogheda Rural LEA, I call on this Council to immediately carry out a detailed inspection of the roads to examine and plot the potholes, subsidence and loose or submerged manhole covers including those belonging to other utility companies. This Council will then devise a plan of action to remedy these defects in a timely manner which will be communicated to the elected representatives of this council. Utility defects to be communicated to the relevant companies. If necessary, this Council will revert to the Department of Transport for more funding, to add additional roads to the RWP 2024.

As it was put forward as an emergency motion there was no prepared reply from the Director.

Speaking on the motion Cllr Hall suggested that a comment made at the Council Meeting by a member of another district who said she had no problem getting pot holes fixed made her “really angry,” and she just doesn’t “think it’s good enough.” She requested that a regular list of pot holes be made available to elected representatives and an engineer should meet each of them every 2 weeks to go through the lists, suggesting that a local engineer should be made available. Specifying the R166 she claimed that cars are being damaged, and NCTS are being failed due to the state of the road.

Other members spoke in support of the motion highlighting other roads throughout the district and county that needed works advising that it was a significant issue on the campaign trail and difficult point to support the council on.

Mark Johnston responded to queries raised, and reminded Members that the R166 was on the RWP they had adopted at the previous meeting and that works were due to commence in June.

Director of Services Joe McGuinness advised Members that Mark Johnston as Senior Engineer in Roads attends the Drogheda Borough District Meeting as the Senior Engineer in Placemaking, and no other District gets his attendance and that the Executive have full confidence in Mark and the work he is doing.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 13/5/24.
Mayor: Kevin Collier Deputy Mayor.
Meeting Administrator: A. Spence