



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, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 4:15pm

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Deputy Mayor Cllr Kevin Callan

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

**Apologies:** Councillor(s) Eileen Tully

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Rachel Hamilton, Senior Executive Architect  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer

### **Minute No. 12/24**

### **Standing order no. 45 - Deputation from Drogheda Tidy Towns**

In line with Standing Order no. 45, Members voted to receive a Deputation from Drogheda Tidy Towns as follows:

<b>Councillor Voting</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

And as the requirement was met that half the members present voted in favour, it was so resolved.

#### **Minute No. 13/24**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were confirmed on the

**Proposal of** Cllr Joanna Byrne

**Seconded by** Cllr James Byrne

And approved.

#### **Minute No. 14/24**

#### **Matters Arising**

Minute no. 4/24 referred to Merriman but should read 'Merrimount' School  
Updates were requested and given on other items in Minute no. 4/24

#### **Minute No. 15/24**

#### **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 James Byrne

**Seconded by:** Cllr Paddy McQuillan

And agreed by Members.

#### **Minute No. 16/24**

#### **Proposed Development for Social Housing at Greenhills, Drogheda - 179A Planning Route**

Declan Grimes Senior Engineer and Rachel Hamilton, Senior Executive Architect presented Members with proposed plans for a Social Housing Developments on Legacy Loan Lands, at Greenhills, Drogheda. Members were advised that this was one out of five sites where the Department had agreed to fund legacy loans in exchange for building of social units to commence before the end of 2024. Members were informed that the proposals were before them for noting only as S179 is not a reserved function.

Members widely welcomed the proposal with some concerns raised around public transport and pedestrian crossings given the location and speed of adjoining road. Questions were raised on density levels, unit type and UD standard of units, all of which were responded to by Declan and Rachel.

#### **Minute No. 17/24**

#### **Louth County Council Drogheda Borough Municipal District (Casual Trading Act 1995) Bye-Laws 2024**

Joe McGuinness, Director of Services advised Members of an error in previously approved Bye-Laws which had included Port Beach in the Drogheda area instead of the Ardee area, and for which

rectification was required. Draft Bye-Laws had since been amended to include this area and had gone back out on Public Display where no submissions were received during the statutory period. Approval of the Bye-Laws as set out before Members was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Pio Smith

**Seconded by:** Cllr Emma Cutlip

And resolved.

### **Minute No. 18/24**

#### **Deputation from Drogheda Tidy Towns**

Eamon Clinton, Tony Conaghy and Gerry Leydon from Drogheda Tidy Towns were welcomed to the Chamber and gave Members a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted many works done by the Team themselves, and by the Team in conjunction with Louth County Council, Louth PPN, Drogheda Chamber, Love Drogheda, Meath County Council and Louth Local Development.

A presentation was given to Members on biodiversity in the Old Cement Quarry which was described as an area 25% the size of Central Park in New York, comprising lands between the Rosehall Roundabout, Hill of Rath Roundabout, Mell and North Road.

Members were advised of vast biodiverse rich habitats, plants, animals, and birds within the area following natural rewilding of an old landfill in the ownership of Louth County Council and two other privately owned quarries in an adjoining area.

The Tidy Town group recommended that

- The Quarry in its entirety is preserved, developed, and supported as a biodiversity sanctuary and nature reserve, enabling the important rewilding process happening there to continue.
- Short term actions are explored such as tree planting based on government available supports.

The Team spoke of the opportunity to turn the area into a park and nature reserve for future generations and presented a professional photographic book of all the plants, flora and fauna in the area.

Members widely praised the group and fully supported the proposals.

### **Minute No. 19/24**

#### **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:

- The Homeless Team actively engages with rough sleepers
- A proposal that alternative accommodation is sourced to prevent homeless people who do not wish to go into shelters as this might expose them to drugs will be brought back to the team
- Expressions of Interest are welcomed for turnkey units that might be offered for Affordable Accommodation
- Response to Housing Maintenance Calls and communication with tenants is being examined

- The Housing Team encourages the use of the Household Budget Scheme for tenants to manage rent payments. An increase in warning letters on rent arrears was noted. Concern was raised about the significant increase in rent arrears recorded
- Confirmation of funding for Retrofitting from the Department is eagerly awaited

### **Minute No. 20/24**

#### **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:

- The LIS application forms could not be found on the Louth County Council Website by Members
- Members were advised that residents applying for LIS funding will be required to part pay for road works
- Jetting of drains in the Drogheda Area is ongoing
- A revamp funding application has gone into the Department from Louth County Council for valve repair for North Quay; Baltray will be examined to see if similar issues with valves and hinges
- Several members raised dissatisfaction with the R166, ongoing works by utility companies and standard of resurfacing works. Members were advised of temporary fix in first instance to allow for settling which will be subject to permanent fix on completion of all works by Uisce Eireann circa April with Louth County Council addressing other issues on road in June/July time. The timeframe for works was mentioned as constantly changing causing frustration
- While the NTA has allowed for 10 Bus Shelters in the Drogheda area, Bus shelters will not be considered in areas that will be subject to later Active Travel measures
- A small ramp is planned to assist entry for Bin Lorries to back of Anneville Crescent / Scarlet Crescent
- Installation of QR codes on bins would need IT input to instigate
- There is no easy win to address tidal flooding on the Marsh Road
- A discussion around 'No Mow May' prior to May was requested. A response was given that a tender is being drafted for grass cutting and both mulching and collecting

### **Minute No. 21/24**

#### **Placemaking Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Olivia McCormack Senior Executive Officer addressed matters raised.

- Members were advised of a very positive meeting with the Department on West Gate Vision
- Terry Hamilton is coordinating with owners of Derelict Properties on West Gate
- A tender is back on Part 8 Laurence's Gate Plaza Proposal
- The URDF call for new proposals is awaited.

## Minute No. 22/24

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Michelle Hall

*Calling on Louth County Council to enter into discussions with Drogheda Tidy Towns with respect to the old Quarry Site comprising lands between the Rosehall Roundabout, Hill of Rath Roundabout, Mell and North Road.*

*That such talks include examining obtaining protected habitat status for the area which is rich in biodiversity and is in effect a nature reserve area comprising some 240 acres.*

*Such lands comprise an area one quarter the size of Central Park in New York and will provide a much needed green space as Drogheda develops northbound along the Cross Route.*

### **Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development**

*The site in question comprises some lands in private ownership and also some land which are part of the Old Drogheda Landfill, which Louth County Council actively manage to minimise ongoing environmental impact.*

*The beneficial use of this closed landfill site can be examined in line with the 2017 EPA document "Beneficial Use of Old Landfills as a Parkland Amenity". The document outlines guidance about the possible uses of such sites.*

*Completion of a detailed examination has not been provided for in the 2024 budget.*

Speaking on the Motion Cllr Callan reinforced the desire of Drogheda Tidy Town Group to have the area designated as a Special Area of Conservation. Joe McGuinness advised that the quarry was being managed by Louth County Council in line with the EPA guidelines but there are still some remediation issues outstanding.

## Minute No. 23/24

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr Declan Power  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Kevin Callan

*"Asking this Council to conduct a road safety assessment on the Collon road at Tullyallen with particular focus for pedestrian and cyclist safety at the junction of Watery Lane and Barraroule Lane"*

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

*An inspection of the junction of R168/Watery Lane/Barraroule Lane has been conducted, and an upgrade as follows will be included in the 2024 Road Works Programme:*

- Install new green and white Junction Bollards.*
- Renew the STOP line markings*
- Resurface the last 100m of Watery Lane on approach to the junction.*

*It is noted that the junction is a staggered junction, which is deemed to be the safest layout. Funding for any new footpath works will be referred to our Active Travel Section.*

Noting the response, Cllr Power thanked the Director and also suggested that line markings at M1 need to be addressed

## Minute No. 24/24

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

*'Asking that this Borough District examine the exit/entrance road at Shamrock Villas Housing Estate in order to determine if DYL's are required on the town side as you exit the estate in order to improve safety for residents driving onto the Ballymakenny Road. On occasion motorists park at this point and the sight lines are significantly reduced'*

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

*It is confirmed that double yellow lines will be installed on both sides of the exit from Shamrock Villas Housing Estate onto the Ballymakenny Road in order to improve sight distances and safety for residents.*

Cllr Smith indicated that he was happy with the response given.

## Minute No. 25/24

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

*'Asking that this Borough District designate the parking spaces at the front of Cearnog Brugha facing onto the public road at Bothar Brugha be designated residents only. Cearnog Brugha residents are finding it extremely difficult to park, enter and exit their homes due to non residents using the narrow road in the estate'*

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

*It is the policy of Louth County Council not to restrict parking to "residents only" on public roads. It is noted that an exception was made on one side of Windmill Road due the volume of parking generated from patients and visitors from outside the town attending Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (a regional hospital), and the need in this particular instance to ensure an adequate level of street parking for residents was provided for.*

Cllr Smith advised that he was unhappy with the response as issued from the Director, he had been given legal opinion that private parking could be done, and this was not an exception; Cearnóg Brugha had buses parked haphazardly and he thought the council should look at the problem and address it.

Several Members spoke in support of Cllr Smith's motion, and to the council reassessing the response.

## Minute No. 26/24

### **Notices of Question**

The Members noted responses made to Notices of Question as they appeared on the agenda before them and as raised by  
Cllr Kevin Callan  
Cllr Emma Cutlip X 2  
Cllr James Byrne

## Minute No. 27/24

### Correspondence

Members were advised of a response from Drogheda Port to the email in correspondence which confirmed that they would attend a meeting, but no date had yet been confirmed.

## Minute No. 28/24

### Condolences

Sympathies were extended to the family and friends of:  
John Bruton – Former Taoiseach

## Minute No. 29/24

### Standing Order no. 69, Suspension of Standing Order No. 5 Hour of Meeting

During the meeting as the time was approaching 6.15pm and Standing Order no. 5 states that “The borough district members shall rise not later than 6.15 pm” Members were advised they would have to either rise or suspend standing orders. It was agreed to vote to suspend standing orders for 15 minutes to allow the full agenda to be heard, and a roll call vote was held 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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

And as the requirement was met that two thirds of the members present voted in favour of suspending standing orders it was so resolved.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

4/3/24

Mayor:

Kevin Callan Deputy Mayor

Meeting Administrator:

[Signature]