



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, Drogheda – Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 4:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Deputy Mayor Cllr Pio Smith

**Members:** Councillor(s) James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Eric Donovan, AnneMarie Ford, Michelle Hall, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, Pio Smith

**Apologies:** Paddy McQuillan

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Temporary Chief Executive  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services  
Bryan Coughlan, Meeting Administrator  
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner  
Terry Hamilton, Town Regeneration Officer  
Claire Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer  
Cormac McGee, Vacant Homes Officer  
Rachel Hamilton, Senior Executive Architect  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer  
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer

### **Minute No. 96/24**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024 were confirmed on the

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

### **Minute No. 97/24**

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr. Joanna Byrne queried whether there was an update on Madgelene Tower to which Joe McGuinness stated that the matter was being researched with a view to an update being brought to an upcoming meeting.

## Minute No. 98/24

### **Overview on the process for dealing with Derelict / Dangerous Sites / Vacant Properties Presentation**

A presentation was delivered by Terry Hamilton, Town Regeneration Officer, Cormac McGee, Vacant Homes Officer, Ger Murphy, Director of Services, Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services and Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner.

Specific queries regarding the use of PR and media, Westgate House, the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan and the Derelict Sites Levy were responded to.

Significant debate was had regarding the existing legislation and its limitations. Given how long has passed since the introduction of the Derelict Sites Act (1990) and the Sanitary Services Act (1964), it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage recommending that the legislation is reviewed, on the **proposal of Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford, seconded by Cllr. Pio Smith.**

## Minute No. 99/24

### **Part 8 – Rathmullen Park**

Cllr. Joanna Byrne thanked the staff who have been involved to date. Following discussion, the following resolution was put to the meeting.

*Further to the Part VIII proposal in relation to Rathmullen Park as listed on the agenda of Drogheda Borough District on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 and subsequently the 7<sup>th</sup> October, this Council resolves to modify the development by removing the proposed apartment units and replacing the proposed 3-bed unit on the western end of the terrace with a 4-bed unit. The development would therefore consist of the four terraced house units i.e. 2 x 2 bed, 1 x 3-bed and 1 x 4-bed with the associated works to the car park and ancillary landscaping and site development works as proposed.*

**Proposed by:** Cllr Joanna Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Ejiro O'Hare Stratton  
**And approved**

## Minute No. 100/24

### **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 Michelle Hall  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Joanna Byrne  
**And agreed by Members**

## Minute No. 101/24

### **Nomination of Members to the MOU with Newry and Down District Council**

As part of the MOU between Louth County Council and Newry and Down District Council, there are three nominations sought from the Borough District of Drogheda.

Cllr. Declan Power was nominated on the **proposal of** Cllr. Kevin Callan, **seconded by** Cllr. Pio Smith.

Cllr. Pio Smith was nominated on the **proposal of** Cllr. James Byrne, **seconded by** Cllr. Joanna Byrne.

It was agreed that the third nomination would be deferred until the November meeting.

### **Minute No. 102/24**

#### **Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026 – Drogheda Borough District**

The draft Plan was introduced by Claire Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer and was proposed by Cllr. Kevin Callan. Cllr. Michelle Hall dissented to the Plan which resulted in the Chair calling for a roll-call vote.

	Vote
Byrne, James	For
Byrne, Joanna	For
Callan, Kevin	For
Donovan, Eric	For
Ford, Anne-Marie	For
Hall, Michelle	Against
McQuillan, Paddy	Absent
O'Hare-Stratton, Ejiro	For
Power, Declan	For
Smith, Pio	Against

And the adoption of the Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026 was approved by Members.

### **Minute No. 103/24**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting.

Ger Murphy and Declan Grimes responded to a number of questions from the elected members present. Particular matters of note were:

- 312 Gas and Oil boilers will be serviced in Drogheda in 2024, in addition to 128 heat pumps.
- Dominican church to potentially be used as a flagship library.
- In response to a query from Cllr. Michelle Hall, Ger Murphy clarified that the request for applicants to source their own Occupational Therapist reports has not caused a drop in numbers. Mr. Murphy will revert to clarify payment arrangements for the reports.

### **Minute No. 104/24**

#### **Roads and Local Services Report**

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting.

Mark Johnston attended the meeting and responded to a wide range of questions from the elected members. Matters discussed included road markings, gully cleaning and surface dressing.

- A traffic count will be undertaken at John Kirk Park to measure impact of traffic during school times.
- Some signage remains to be collected which has been displaced during the Road Works Programme.
- The possibility of using Mapalarter to combat the mis-use of disable parking bays will be explored.
- Possibility of installing a “pull-in” at the Sticks, Tullyallen will be examined.

#### **Minute No. 105/24**

#### **Physical Development Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. John O’Hagan, Senior Engineer, addressed matters raised.

The following were matters of particular note:

- Part 8 display for Drogheda Pathfinder in October
- Second public consultation for Bridge of Peace commencing on
- National Transport Authority’s *Cycleconnects* project is on public display
- CPO process to commence before end October to purchase remainder of road to Boyne Business Park which will allow it to open to the public.

#### **Minute No. 106/24**

#### **Taking-in-Charge Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Keith McArdle committed to reverting regarding Beaulieu View.

#### **Minute No. 107/24**

#### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the **proposal of** Cllr. James Byrne, **seconded by** Cllr. Michelle Hall, Standing Orders were suspended to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

#### **Minute No. 108/24**

#### **Placemaking Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Olivia McCormack responded to the queries of members.

#### **Minute No. 109/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Michelle Hall  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

*That this council will provide a footpath to Termonfeckin Celtic FC and extend it to Termonfeckin Graveyard on the Sheetland Road, Termonfeckin to ensure safe pedestrianisation for young people and the elderly especially. This measure is also in keeping with Healthy Louth and Active Ageing goals, reducing our reliance on motorised vehicles and ensuring independence for all ages. SDGs 3, 10, 11,13..*

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

*Footpath infrastructure delivered to date by the Council in Termonfeckin, include the footpath to Seapoint carpark and more recently on the R166 approach road to Termonfeckin, with further footpath extensions to the Strand road currently being progressed.*

*The Sheetland road out to Graveyard and GFC will be assessed in terms of viability in the context of road width, and thereafter subject to the exploration of possible funding sources that may be available to support any future delivery.*

Councillors James Byrne, Ann-Marie Ford and Declan Power spoke in support of the motion.

**Minute No. 110/24**

**Notice of Motion: Cllr. Michelle Hall**

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

*That this council will install quality seating areas in Drogheda MD. Increasing quality seating for all ages may be measured across economic and social parameters.*

*Well-designed free places for people to sit, wait, drink, eat, meet, talk, and pause can, for example:encourage human connection, if only through observation – this can prevent loneliness and strengthen trust within communities. Seating can create opportunities for people to reside outside and unlock the health benefits of spending time in nature and increase economic benefits by attracting more tourism. SDGs 3, 5, 10, 11, 13*

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

*The Council has made considerable efforts in recent years to enhance outdoor seating capacity across the Drogheda Borough District, with the provision of multiple parklets, picnic tables, bench seating, park benches, including some recent additions at Port beach.*

*The Council is open to evaluating further opportunities to install additional quality seating across the District, subject to identified need and the availability of potential funding sources that could support the expansion of these public amenities.*

**Minute No. 111/24**

**Notice of Motion: Cllr. James Byrne**

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Michelle Hall

*"That Louth County Council takes responsibility for the historical graveyard known as Bully's Acre from the HSE either through the taking-in-charge process or by way of an inter-State transfer of said land."*

**Reply from David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services Organisational Development**

*The Executive will consult with the HSE and other stakeholders in order to investigate this proposal further.*

**Minute No. 112/24**

**Notice of Motion: Cllr. Pio Smith**  
**Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall**

*"Asking that the Louth County Council seek legal opinion to clarify if the Local Authority has powers to implement Compulsory Sales Orders under the various pieces of legislation that underpin the functioning of Louth County Council"*

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

*If adopted, Louth County Council will seek legal clarification on whether a Local Authority has powers to implement Compulsory Sales Orders.*

**Minute No. 113/24**

**Emergency Business**

**Notice of Motion: Cllr. Pio Smith**  
**Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall**

*The Lu Festival Of Lights is the premier festival of the year in Drogheda. It runs for 8 days over two weeks. Approximately 75,000 people attend the festival annual. Over 25% of people who attended the festival were infrequent visitors to Drogheda. This is an important segment of the visitor population as it shows that the festival is attracting out of town visitors to the town and this helps to enhance the image of Drogheda across the north east, Dublin and beyond. There is also a significant economic benefit to Drogheda and the local businesses in the town centre.*

*Can Louth County Council confirm that Failte Ireland will continue to fund the Lu Festival Of Lights for the next five years and can the council provide details of the cost involved in running the festival along with the financial contribution from Failte Ireland*

**Minute No.114/24**

**Any Other Business**

The absence of responses and/or follow-ups on Elected Representations was raised by the Members present.

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

**Date:**

6/11/24

**Mayor:**



**Meeting Administrator:**

