



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, 7th April 2025 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr Paddy McQuillan

Members: Councillor(s) James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Eric Donovan, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Debbie McCole, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, Pio Smith

Apologies:

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer
Mark Davies, Night-Time Economy Advisor
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator

Minute No. 31/25

Minutes of Meeting held on the 3rd March 2025

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 3rd March were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by Cllr. James Byrne
And approved

Minute No. 32/25

Provision of Assistance for the promotion of interests of local community groups or projects provided under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the Community Grants and Discretionary Car Park Fund as presented to them and approval was

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by Cllr. Michelle Hall

Minute No. 33/25

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting.

Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, responded to questions from the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- Concerns were raised in respect of the level of ongoing rent arrears, and it was queried if LCC could and/or should be doing anything additional to address same. Declan Grimes advised that rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis with 150 letters issued in the month of March to customers in arrears. He further advised that LCC continues to hold a very strong position in respect of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit and planned maintenance programmes whereby; to motivate engagement and payment, works are not carried out at tenancies in rent arrears. Cllr. Smith expressed an interest in determining if there was any correlation between the measures in place and their impact on decreasing rent arrears in total.
- The 2025 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program for Louth has been confirmed by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, as 140 units. The number of units to be addressed in the Drogheda area will be confirmed when the tendering process has been completed.

Minute No. 34/25

Roads and Local Services Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting.

Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer, responded to matters raised by Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- Provision of portaloos at Clogherhead Beach will be arranged as per previous years.
- Mark Johnston confirmed the rollout of a programme of works which would capture road resurfacing, repair of potholes, enhancement of road markings and replacement of road signs, at various locations as identified by Members.
- Engagement has taken place with the HSE with respect to identifying land to install a bus shelter to facilitate staff and patients attending Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.
- Members were advised that 90% of speed checks conducted do not highlight a requirement for interventions. Nevertheless, Mark Johnston committed to reviewing areas of concern as raised by Members including at Cockle Road, John Kirk Park and Baltray Road, Termonfeckin.
- The traffic light sequencing at Scotch Hall will be checked and the matter of traffic congestion will also be raised with the Guards.
- Mr. Johnston also committed to determining if there is a requirement to install pedestrian lights at St Mary's Bridge.
- Engagement is taking place with relevant landowners to address the issue of flooding impacting areas of the Camino trail.

Minute No. 35/25

Taking in Charge Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer addressed matters arising. The following were noted:

- Having received Uisce Éireann approval the taking in charge of Castle Park, Termonfeckin can advance.
- Keith McArdle committed to determining the situation in respect of Silk Park.

Minute No. 36/25

Night -Time Economy Presentation

Mark Davies, Night-Time Economy Advisor, provided a presentation on *Drogheda By Night*.

The presentation defined 'Night-Time Economy' and described the role of the Night-Time Economy Advisor which in effect is "*aimed at encouraging a vibrant and inclusive night-time economy as part of a 2 year pilot designed to capture key learnings in the Irish context.*" The presentation also provided a high-level description of actions and activity relevant to Drogheda.

Members voiced mixed views on the success and achievements of the pilot thus far but acknowledged that it was a work in progress with huge potential.

Minute No. 37/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Michelle Hall Seconder: Cllr. Pio Smith

"That this council will provide safe pedestrian crossing and traffic calming solutions at the junction of Big St (R166) and Castlecoo Hill Road, Termonfeckin."

Reply from David Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

The location will be assessed to determine the need for traffic calming solutions, and if deemed necessary, will be considered for future Low-Cost Safety Measures/Traffic Calming measures, subject to available budget and competing priority demands on said budget programmes.

Minute No. 38/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Michelle Hall Seconder: Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford

"That this council will provide outdoor showers and swimming infrastructure at Clogherhead and Termonfeckin for sea swimmers. Outdoor swimming provides an opportunity for individuals of all ages and backgrounds to improve their physical and mental health and well-being. These efforts are an important step in our aim of achieving the Healthy Ireland vision of a more active Ireland."

Reply from David Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

Accessibility improvements will shortly be carried out at both Port and Templeton beaches though funding secured by the Council through ORIS.

The Council is committed to further enhancing the beach amenities in the County, and leverage funding from the appropriate funding streams where possible.

In this context, an assessment of possible swimming infrastructure on Louth's blue flag beaches will be implemented, which will form the basis for exploring funding opportunities to improve beach and swimming infrastructure.

Minute No. 39/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford
Seconder: Cllr. Ejiro O’Hare-Stratton

“To call on the Executive, the Cathaoirleach and the Mayor of Drogheda Borough to put arrangements in place to ensure that members of the Council are given early notice, not less than a week, of any invitations to attend national, regional and local civic, community or other events, so that members can make the necessary work arrangements to be in a position to attend such events.”

Reply from Joe McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

The executive will endeavour to achieve that objective, but it should be noted that on some occasions event notifications from outside bodies/agencies are received at short notice.

Minute No. 40/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Declan Power
Seconder: Cllr. Kevin Callan

“That Louth County Council actively engage with hotel chains and developers to facilitate the development of a new hotel and conference centre in North Drogheda, including the strategic release of suitable land banks to support this initiative.”

Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Organisational Development

The County Development plan has land zoned specifically for tourism related uses close to the PANCR. The Economic and Tourism department will link in with Failte Ireland for advice on the requirements of potential investors in the area of accommodation with a view to encouraging such investment in the area

Minute No. 41/25

Notice of Question: Cllr. Eric Donovan

That Louth County Council outline the number of issues, such as flooding, potholes, drainage and erosion, in the Burris area of Tullyallen which it has identified on foot of inspections it has conducted and what plans were put in place to rectify such issues identified. If the council have not conducted such an inspection, will it make a commitment to do so as soon as possible?

Reply from David Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

Louth County Council confirms that the Area engineer has assessed the roads in the Burris area of Tullyallen, including Old School Lane. This local secondary road, which forms a U-shape around the graveyard, received hot asphalt repairs in 2024, with further defect repairs scheduled for 2026. Drainage remains a significant challenge in this area due to the higher surrounding fields, which limit natural water flow.

The Council continues to monitor this issue; however, largescale drainage works would require significant investment which is beyond the current drainage grant allocation received as part of the annual Road Works Programme.

Regarding the Burris section to the southeast corner, this is classified as a Local Tertiary (LT) road and falls outside current maintenance programmes due to budgetary constraints. Residents seeking further improvements are advised to apply for the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS).

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

12th May '25

Mayor:



Meeting Administrator:

Suneed Dadey