



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,
10th February 2025 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Mayor Paddy McQuillan

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

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Noel Treanor, Senior Executive Engineer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Rachel Hamilton, Senior Executive Architect
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Irene McGahon, Executive Engineer
Sinéad Dooley, Meeting Administrator

Minute No. 5/25

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 13th January were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr. Michelle Hall
Seconded by Cllr. Pio Smith
And approved

Minute No. 6/25

Matters Arising

Matters arising were addressed under the corresponding Agenda item.

Minute No. 7/25

The minutes of the Special meeting held on Monday 16th December 2024 were confirmed on the

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

Minute No. 8/25

Part 8 - Active Travel Project Planning Report – Rathmullan Road/Marlays Lane

The Chief Executive's Report arising from the Part 8 public consultation process regarding the proposed Active Travel Project at Rathmullan Road and Marlays Lane Drogheda was presented by Noel Treanor, Senior Executive Engineer, and Shane Fanning of RPS. It was noted that:

- The plans, sections and particulars of the proposed development were made available for public inspection from 22nd October 2024 to 19th November 2024 at County Hall, Dundalk and Fair Street Civic Offices, Drogheda. Submissions or observations were to be lodged by 3rd December.
- A total of 5 submissions were received, one of which was lodged by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage while the remaining four were submitted by residents. All submissions were in favour of the proposed development.
- Members raised concerns in respect of the steepness of hills and traffic calming measures for cyclists. Officials advised that a Road Safety Audit had been conducted which raised no concerns, but further audits would be conducted in Stage 2. Safety features and hill gradients will also be teased out further in the detailed design.

Members approved the CE's recommendation that the proposal should proceed as per the plans and particulars that went on display 22nd October 2024.

Proposed by Cllr. Michelle Hall
Seconded by Cllr. James Byrne
And approved

Minute No. 9/25

Part 8 – Public Private Partnership (PPP) Ballymakenny East Drogheda

The Chief Executive's Report arising from the Part 8 public consultation process regarding the proposed Public Private Partnership (PPP) development at Ballymakenny East Drogheda was presented by Ger Murphy, Director of Services, Rachel Hamilton, Senior Executive Architect and Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer. It was noted that:

- The proposed development includes 130 social housing units comprising of 26 one bed duplex units, 2 two bed duplex units, 52 two bed houses, 45 three bed houses, 4 four bed houses, 1 five bed community dwelling and 1 creche facility.
- Landscaping works include provision of open space and kick about areas and playground.
- Associated site and infrastructural works include provision for direct road access onto the Ballymakenny Road, 3 ESB substations and switch rooms, car and bicycle parking, public lighting, bin storage, temporary construction signage, estate signage, and varied site boundary treatment comprising walls and fencing.
- While recognising that Local Authorities are statutorily obliged to deliver on housing, concerns were raised in respect of the knock-on impact of continuous residential development on vital services. It was suggested that submissions could be made to respective Party Members in Government to highlight such issues.
- Overall, the project was welcomed by Members and the work of the Team commended.

Members confirmed the CE's recommendation to proceed with the development as proposed.

Proposed by Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by Cllr. James Byrne
And approved

Minute No. 10/25

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 as presented to them and approval was

Proposed by Cllr. James Byrne
Seconded by Cllr. Pio Smith

Minute No. 11/25

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:

- Progress update on ERDF programme for Derelict Buildings to be provided at next month's meeting.
- The application portal for the affordable housing scheme at Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda went live 10th February and will remain open for 3 weeks. Members were asked to promote awareness of the scheme via their social media platforms, etc.

Minute No. 12/25

Roads and Local Services Report

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

Irene McGahon, Executive Engineer, and newly assigned to Roads and Local Services within the Borough District of Drogheda attended the meeting. Members raised a wide range of issues including, but not limited to: Traffic Light sequence at Scotch Hall car park; Placement of advertising on bus shelter panels causing blind spots; Persistent flooding at Termonfeckin Hill; More prominent signage for HGVs along N51 Slane to Drogheda; Traffic calming measures at Clogherhead Community Hall and Church; Potholes at Milltown Lane, Termonfeckin; Illegal dumping; Road markings at Windmill Road; Low hanging branches close to power lines along L2299.

Irene McGahon committed to reverting to Members as she got embedded into her role and had opportunity to investigate the issues raised.

It was noted that Public Lighting repairs remain behind schedule. A backlog, which developed over a three-month period in which no contractor was in place, will now be addressed by a newly appointed contractor.

Minute No. 13/25

Placemaking Report

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

Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer, responded to questions from the elected members. The following matters were noted:

- Compilation of drawings in respect of Part 8 – The Glen is on track and due to be completed by end February.
- An update on THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme and Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub will be sought from Terry Hamilton.
- Cllr Byrne identified areas on Narrow West Street which would benefit from enhancement which Olivia McCormack undertook to examine.
- Concerns raised in respect of the Port Access Route will be directed to relevant Officials involved in the infrastructure project.

Minute No. 14/25

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Paddy McQuillan

Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

“I request that this Council, as a matter of urgency, begin the process of the installation of public toilets in Drogheda.”

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

“The existing public toilet block located within George’s Square was closed circa 2019 due to safety, repeated antisocial behaviour and maintenance issues.

In the context of Westgate Vision, the Design Team reviewed the potential to retain the toilet block, however, this was not possible noting the difficult topography levels within George’s Square, the large footprint of the toilet block, the requirement to deliver a high-quality arrival/gateway area within George’s Square, the requirement to provide universal (Part M) access within George’s Square and the requirement to enhance functionality of the areas located adjacent to the existing businesses/building line.

However, the Council will monitor public convenience options within the wider Drogheda town area, in terms of more modern, safe and accessible public convenience solutions with smaller footprints, that could be installed at a suitable location in the future, subject to funding.

Cllr McQuillan expressed disappointment in the Executive’s response. Members conveyed their support for the Motion and further highlighted the need for public toilets referencing dignity of persons, particularly the elderly, disabled, and pregnant women, in addition to demand because of increased likely funding for festivals which will generate footfall.

Minute No. 15/25

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Paddy McQuillan

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

“That this Council explore the possibility of installing a Dog Park Community Facility on Council land.”

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

The Council acknowledges the benefits a Dog Park facility can provide in terms of additionality to existing outdoor recreational amenities. Such a facility would be dependent on an available suitable location, funding and consideration of operational issues.

While there are no immediate plans at present by the Council to install a Dog Park, an examination will take place of examples of existing Dog Parks already installed by other Local Authority areas by means of informing of any future plans.

Minute No. 16/25

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Eric Donovan

Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

“Traffic Lights at Listoke/Ballymakenny Road: in relation to the traffic light sensors, I’m requesting that the council adjust the lights and install sensors because in their current system they’re an inconvenience.”

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

The Council has been in contact with the contractor regarding the traffic lights at Listoke/Ballymakenny Road and understand that the outstanding works have now been completed at said junction, and that the traffic lights are now fully operational.

Minute No. 17/25

Notice of Question: Cllr. Eric Donovan

“Closed Road to Boyne Business Park, Newtown Meadows:

Is to get an update on why a perfectly good road is lying idle and closed off when it can be a great benefit to the surrounding community and also a safe route for walkers to several facilities in the Boyne Business Park. “

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

Phase 1 of the Boyne Enterprise Link Road was completed in 2024, funded through the National Transport Authority and the Department of Transport.

The Council has not been in a position to complete the entire project (Phase 2), as the Council is not in control of the required lands.

However, following the initiation of a Compulsory Purchase Order process for the lands in question in late 2024, voluntary agreement has now been reached between the Council and the landowner regarding the acquisition of the lands.

It is intended, following successful completion of the necessary land conveyancing process, to commence Phase 2 works during 2025, which on completion, will allow this link road to be opened to public access”.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

3/3/25


Mayor:

Meeting Administrator:

Sinead Doolan