



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 July 2025 at 4:30pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr Michelle Hall

Members: Councillor(s) Kevin Callan, Eric Donovan, Anne-Marie Ford, Debbie McCole, Paddy McQuillan, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton, Declan Power, Pío Smith

Apologies: James Byrne *

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive
David Jones, Director of Service
Susan Deery, A/Meeting Administrator
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Michelle Curran, Administrative Officer
Paula Keenan, Administrative Officer
Michelle Murray, Senior Staff Officer
Linda McHugh, Senior Staff Officer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer
Sharon Keaveney, Assistant Staff Officer

Minute No. 66/25

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 9th June 2025

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of Cllr. Kevin Callan
Seconded by Cllr. Pío Smith
And approved

** Cllr James Byrne had requested to attend remotely, however, due to technical difficulties on the day this could not be facilitated*

Minute No. 67/25

Minutes of Meeting held on 9th June 2025

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of Cllr. Paddy McQuillan
Seconded by Cllr. Debbie McCole
And approved

Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Minute No. 68/25

Taking in Charge

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

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer responded to questions from the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- A further plebiscite will be held at Oriel Cove, with additional details to issue to members in due course.
- Updates were requested regarding taking in charge of The Stables, Termonfeckin. A response will issue at a later date.
- It was confirmed that funding has been secured to carry out the taking-in-charge works at Bishops Court.
- Confirmation was received that the tender process for the CCTV works at Riverbank, Drogheda has been completed.

Minute No. 69/25

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:

- The Household Budget scheme was proposed as a potential approach to addressing rent arrears. Cllr Smith requested data on the number of accounts using the scheme that are not currently in arrears.
- It was confirmed that Social Workers and Occupational Therapists are available to work with applicants and prospective tenants on completing application forms for adaptations etc.

Minute No. 70/25

Roads and Local Services Report

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

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

- Concerns were raised in relation to the proposed data centre at the Premier Periclase as to how the non-hazardous dust will be disposed of and it was queried if the council had any role in ensuring the safe removal of same.
- Cllr Smith requested that the council identify portions of green space in the Rathmullen & Ballsgrove Estates which could be repurposed to accommodate extra car parking spaces to alleviate parking issues and congestion in the area.
- An update was sought on the erection of agreed 'Welcome to Drogheda' signage promoting the resting place of Saint Oliver Plunkett. Mr Johnston agreed to follow-up on the progress of this signage.
- Members queried when the 2025 Road Works Programme would be commencing. Mr Johnston advised that it had already commenced in the Ardee area and that the contractor would be continuing to South Louth area when the works in Mid Louth were complete. The contractor would focus on school zones during the summer holidays.
- An inspection of the road surface on Francis Street was agreed and will taken place in the coming weeks.
- Discussion on the excessive levels of seaweed on beaches took place with a request to relocate it further up on the sand dunes. Mr Johnston advised this was a difficult issue to deal with as the sand dunes are special areas of conservation and that he would seek specialist advice.
- An update on removable bollards for Ganderstown Beach was requested. Mr Johnston agreed to follow-up.
- Recent repairs by Uisce Éireann on Strand Street, Clogherhead have left the road surface uneven and is a traffic hazard. Mr Johnston will follow-up on the Road Opening Licence conditions for these works.
- A digital solar sign on Termonfeckin to Baltray Road was highlighted as not active which will be referred to the contractor for repair.
- Confirmation was received that the gully cleaning programme was complete.
- Tree growth on the Collon Road was discussed with Mr. Johnston agreeing to write to the landowners for the issue to be addressed.
- Inconsistent road signage at Cackle Road will be examined.
- Speed signage is required for Thunder Hill, Strand Road and Baltray Road and a reduction of speed signage to 60km is required for Cartown Road. Commitment was provided to examine these issues.

Minute No. 71/25

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, with the addition of four further payments as requested by Cllr Paddy McQuillan and approval was:

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan
 And resolved.

Minute No. 72/25

Notice of Motion Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton
Seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan
 And approved

"That this Council takes immediate and urgent action to remove trees and large vegetation growing from the rooftops of derelict and vacant buildings in Drogheda, particularly along Narrow West Street and in the town centre. These overgrowths pose serious public safety risks and contribute significantly to the perception of neglect in our town. Action must be taken without delay to ensure these buildings are made structurally safe, visually maintained, and no longer present a threat to

the public or the town's image. A designated council official be appointed to oversee and report on the progress of this issue, with visible improvements expected before the end of the year in the interest of public safety and community mental wellbeing.

Justification: The presence of trees and dense vegetation on rooftops of derelict buildings in Drogheda's central areas is not only unsightly but dangerous. These structures are deteriorating, pose risks to pedestrians, and negatively affect the mental health and quality of life of residents. The visual decay damages civic pride and undermines Drogheda's reputation. The Council has both a responsibility and the legal authority under the Derelict Sites Act to act. A coordinated response, with clear accountability and visible results before year-end, is now urgently required."

Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Economic Delivery

While there is strong agreement towards the goal of having a presentable streetscape, the maintenance of private property is the responsibility of the owner, and it is important to emphasise that the Council is not responsible for carrying out works on other people's property. To remove invasive plants from others' property, without clear consent, would be acting ultra vires. Notwithstanding this, the Compliance and Land Activation Unit routinely inspect properties in Drogheda on foot of complaints received and when observed during routine inspections. In instances where derelict or dangerous issues are found, Derelict Sites Notices and/or Dangerous Structures Notices are subsequently issued as appropriate, bringing the matter to the owner's attention. There are 34 structures in Drogheda on the Derelict Sites Register. In addition, approximately 70 Dangerous Structures Notices have been issued from 2024 to date in Drogheda.

Minute No. 73/25

Notice of Motion Cllr. James Byrne

"That Louth County Council provides additional parking facilities in St Dominic's Park for those wishing to access the Boyne Greenway, separate to the planned upgrade to the existing playground and parking".

This Notice of Motion from Cllr Byrne was postponed and will be included on the September Meeting Agenda.

Minute No. 74/25

Any Other Business

- The Chief Executive extended his best wishes to the Mayor for a successful term in office.
- The Chief Executive commended the recent Saint Oliver Plunkett 400 Commemoration and supported the proposal to feature this National Saint in the upcoming Tourism Strategy.
- It was suggested that consideration should be given to the relocation of the Mace and Sword from its current location due to direct sunlight.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

01-09-2025

Mayor:

Michelle Hall.

Meeting Administrator:

Joe Dooney