



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, 9th June 2025 at 4:30pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr Michelle Hall

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

Apologies: None

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Deputy Chief Executive
David Jones, Director of Service
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Irene McGahon, Acting Senior Executive Engineer
Terry Hamilton, Town Regeneration Officer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer
Sharon Keaveney, Assistant Staff Officer

Minute No. 58/25

Minutes of Meeting held on 12th May 2025

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 12th May were confirmed on the 9th June 2025 on the

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

Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Minute No. 59/25

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:

- Cllr Byrne queried if the recent announcement of €700,000 awarded to Louth County Council for Disabled Persons Grants would enable the scheme to be reopened for 2025. Mr Grimes confirmed that the allocation had already been accounted for within the scheduled works for 2025 and that the pause would remain in place.
- Mr Grimes confirmed that a budget of €12m was available in 2025 for the acquisition of second-hand properties. He further advised that the focus would be on achieving value for money as opposed to quantity of acquisitions.
- Cllr Smith requested an update on vacant houses and what were the plans for getting these back into use. He queried if there was any avenue open to getting additional funding to tackle properties that need extensive works, given the recent report which mentioned Louth as having a number of long-term vacancies. Mr Grimes advised that there were 22 voids at present in the Drogheda region and works were underway on these properties.
- Cllr Smith also raised the issue of rent arrears noting that the amount owed for 2025 has increased from 2024 despite the work being done by the Council. He queried if there are any further actions to be taken and if central government should provide further powers to local authorities to tackle this issue. Mr Grimes indicated that the increase in housing stock could be one cause of increased rent arrears and that staff had issued 177 letters regarding rent arrears in the month of May. He also explained that where rent arrears are in place certain maintenance requests are not being carried out – for example planned maintenance will not take place until arrears are dealt with, but any essential heating or plumbing requests would be actioned despite arrears being on the account. There is a planned maintenance programme for boiler replacement and energy works but these are put on hold if arrears are present.
- The increase in housing maintenance requests was noted with Mr Grimes indicating that the last storm had caused significant damage throughout the County and had resulted in many more maintenance calls. Generally, the summer months saw a reduction in maintenance calls as the need for heating reduced.
- In response to questions raised in respect to dereliction and vacant properties over shops in the town centre Mr Grimes advised that there is a section in the council dealing with dereliction and vacant properties. He suggested that the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant may be available to private owners to refurbish these properties indicating that 200 applications had so far been approved under the scheme. He undertook to ask the Communications Officer to promote awareness of the scheme on the Council's social media platforms.
- Cllr Smith queried why No. 4 Boyne Terrace was not on the Derelict Sites register. Mr Grimes committed to raising the matter with relevant colleagues.
- Cllr O'Hare Stratton queried if there is anything the council can do to tackle the trees and plants growing from the roof and chimneys of derelict buildings. Mr Grimes indicated he would contact Operations in relation Cllr O'Hare Stratton's query on the trees growing from properties.
- Cllr Smith, on a point of order, clarified that he understood that Council staff were doing everything in their power to tackle arrears and that he believed it was an issue for Governments. Cllr Hall suggested the issue of rent arrears should be raised at the next CPG meeting.

Minute No. 60/25

Roads and Local Services Report

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

Irene McGahon, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, responded to matters raised by Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- Ms McGahon confirmed that HGV signage would be erected at Ascal a Trí, Yellowbatter when it arrives.
- Concerns were raised in respect to traffic issues on Newfoundwell/ Ballymakenny Road and it was suggested that a traffic count be conducted and a report compiled. Ms McGahon indicated that currently there was no plan for a traffic survey to be carried out at Ballymakenny.
- In response to issues raised concerning the walkway at St Mary's Parish House, Poor House Lane, Pearse Park and North Road, Ms McGahon indicated that she would familiarise herself with these issues. Mr Jones advised that he would follow-up on the issue of Poor House Lane which has been raised previously.
- Cllr Smith queried if there was any bye-laws relating to graffiti and if the council could work with An Garda Síochána to deal with same. Ms McGahon agreed this was an ongoing challenge and advised that operations staff, together with TUS workers were removing graffiti when time allowed.
- Ms McGahon confirmed that a letter of intent was issued to the preferred tenderer to carry out works under the Road Works Programme 2025 and that a letter of acceptance was awaited.
- Cllr Power raised issues in a number of locations including Hacketts Cross, Chapel Road, Beaulieu Bridge, Clogherhead Village, Harbour Road and Almondstown. Ms McGahon indicated that she would review the works were required for these areas.
- Cllr Power also raised concerns that the green area in Gort Buí required grass cutting and wondered whether an agreement can be arranged to assist the residents to cut the grass. Ms McGahon committed to passing on the query to colleagues for appropriate consideration.
- Cllr Hall committed to drafting a letter on behalf of the Members to government to highlight their dissatisfaction with the state of the roads.
- Cllr Forde also mentioned works were required in John Kirk Park and Cockle Road.
- Cllr Donovan raised concerns over flooding in Tullyallen when heavy rain occurs. Ms McGahon advised that the issue would be reviewed after the Blessing of the Graves.
- Cllr Donovan also raised the issue of broken kerbs at Watery Lane, Tullyallen due to vans being parked on the side of the road which is also making this area very dangerous for other road users. The R166 Clogherhead to Dunleer also requires traffic calming measures. Ms McGahon advised that she would have a look at these locations.
- Cllr McCole indicated that there were still issues with parking on Windmill Road advising that the signage erected has not had the desired effect and suggesting that red markings should be installed to ensure non-residents are not parking on the street.
- Cllr McCole also raised the parking issues at the Twenties between the Boxing Club and DIFE indicating that the double yellow lines have only pushed the cars further down, but the problem still persists.
- Cllr McCole requested the need for traffic calming measures to be installed on the Rathmullen Road near the Fire Station.
- Ms McGahon agreed to review the Windmill Road and Twenties parking issues and to consult with the active travel section on the Rathmullen Road.
- Cllr McQuillan asked if the procedure of 'bunching' on a number of drainage and road marking projects was still the case as there were a number which may require action sooner. Ms McGahon said the contract for the drainage/ gullies finished in February and it would be later on in the year before the new one started.

- Cllr McQuillan also raised the road erosion on Trinity Street and Narrow West Street suggesting that patchwork is urgently needed on these roads. Ms McGahon confirmed that this would be looked at over the summer period.
- In expressing frustration with the lack of responses being received to emails and length of time to receive an update on issues, Cllr Hall remarked that the old 'tracker' system worked better for the elected members to receive updates and that responses were slow. She suggested that the reintroduction of the tracker could be discussed at CPG. Mr Jones indicated that a new CRM system was being introduced shortly and that there may be a 'tracking' element in this version.
- Cllr Hall raised a number of issues including blocked drains and requirement for yellow lines at various locations which Ms McGahon undertook to review.

Minute No. 61/25

Physical Development Report

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

John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer addressed matters raised by the members. The following items were noted:

- In response to queries raised in respect to the rolling fund of €7m, Director of Services, David Jones confirmed the funding remained available. He further advised that it was not a fund to retain property but rather to buy and sell on for productive use.
- Mr Jones indicated that 15 submissions had been received in response to the public consultation for the reclassification of protected structures which were currently being reviewed.
- Cllr Hall noted the absence of an update on PANCR in the report.
- Elected members to be given an update on The Glen.
- Works at Rathmullen Road are expected to be completed over the summer

Minute No. 62/25

Part 8 West Gate House

Terry Hamilton, Town Regeneration Officer spoke to the recent Part 8 consultation held on the Westgate Gate House / DYD building and referred to the Chief Executive's and Planning reports which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The Part 8 Consultation was open from 9th April to 21st May 2025. He outlined the four different elements involved in the project.

Approval to proceed as per the plans and particulars placed on public display on Wednesday 9th April was

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall
 And Resolved.

It was noted that Mr Hamilton was moving on from his position at Louth County Council and members wished him well in his new appointment.

Minute No. 63/25

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 one further

addition as requested by Cllr James Byrne and approval was

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

Minute No. 64/25

Taking in Charge – Castlepark, Termonfeckin, Co Louth

Members noted the Taking in Charge report as circulated in advance of the meeting and approved same on the

Proposal of Cllr. Michelle Hall
Seconded by Cllr. Declan Power
And approved

Minute No. 65/25

Taking in Charge – Rosehall, Drogheda, Co Louth

Members noted the Taking in Charge report as circulated in advance of the meeting and approved same on the

Proposal of Cllr. Declan Power
Seconded by Cllr. Paddy McQuillan
And approved

AOB

- The members wished to mention the retirement of Andy Spearman from the Drogheda Life publication and wish him well in the future
- Deputy Chief Executive, Thomas McEvoy extended congratulations to the newly elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Drogheda and affirmed the Executive's support for the 2025-2026 term.

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

7/July/25.

Mayor:

Michelle Hall.

Meeting Administrator:

Jan Deacy