



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, 12<sup>th</sup> May 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, Pío Smith

### **Apologies:**

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
David Conway, Chief Executive  
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Irene McGahon, Acting Senior Executive Engineer

### **Minute No. 42/25**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April were confirmed on the

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

### **Minute No. 43/25**

#### **Matters arising**

- In respect of item two under Minute No. 34/25 Cllr. Smith sought for it to be noted that the programme of works which Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer, indicated would be carried out also included consideration of the installation of HGV signage at Greenmount (link between Ballymakenny and Newtown roads).
- Cllr. McQuillan sought an update on the pedestrian crossing at Marsh Road. Irene McGahon, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, advised that the cost of the required pedestrian heads was in excess of €35k which was not currently available to LCC. Ms McGahon advised that other potential solutions were being considered, and it was noted that an alternative funding source may also be available. Cllr. McQuillan requested that he be kept updated on any developments.

## **Minute No. 44/25**

### **Minutes of Special Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March were confirmed on the

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

## **Minute No. 45/25**

### **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 Smith reiterated previously raised concerns in respect of the level of ongoing rent arrears and again queried if LCC could and/or should be doing anything additional to address same. Declan Grimes reaffirmed that rent arrears are monitored on an ongoing basis with 217 letters issued in the month of March to customers in arrears. He confirmed that in respect of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit and planned maintenance programmes works are not carried out at tenancies in rent arrears. He further stated that LCC was sending a strong message and will continue to follow up on rent arrears.
- At a recent meeting between ESB Networks and LCC it was noted that there are capacity issues Nationally. However, it is understood the ESB is working closely with LCC and with a view to accelerating existing housing schemes with connections points.
- LCC is engaging with Cluid to address the very high energy costs issue which has arisen at Tullybrook Court.
- Cllr McQuillan queried if the cost of waste disposal could be included in rents for all new housing estates and advised that there is a serious issue with illegal dumping throughout Drogheda town.
- Vibrations, generated by works being carried out at a new development site, at Castle Manor are being monitored and engagement with those impacted ongoing.

## **Minute No. 46/25**

### **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:

- Cllr. Smith raised concerns with the lack of road markings, including middle of the road markings and stop lines, at Millmount and queried, considering the dangers, whether bollards should be erected in the middle of the road. Ms McGahon committed to looking at the issue and advised that 120, of a list of 140, stop signs had been rolled out/completed.
- Ms McGahon also committed to looking at the feasibility of signage for Newtown Cemetery to address the issue of dogs running loose and dog fouling.
- In response to the suggestion that bollards be erected to address the issue of speeding motorbikes and quads at The Square, Donore, Ms McGahon advised that she will look at the area but cautioned that the installation of bollards could hinder access for prams/buggies.

- Cllr. Power raised a number of issues including a cluster of large potholes at Elmstown Bridge, and the road subsiding at Harbour Road, Clogherhead, which Ms McGahon undertook to review.
- The condition of verges at the PANCR roundabout to Ballymakenny Road was also raised which Ms McGahon advised was an ongoing issue which would not be addressed immediately.
- Cllr. Power expressed appreciation for the provision of portaloos at Clogherhead Beach and outlined the requirement for works at the existing toilets. Ms McGahon confirmed that while they had been the responsibility of the landlord, LCC would be stepping in with a view to fixing the doors in the first instance in addition to looking at lighting options which may include the installation of skylights.
- Cllr. Byrne advised that the residents of Ballymakenny Road had requested dog fouling bins. Ms McGahon undertook to familiarise herself with the Dog Waste Bin Policy.
- Additional outdoor staff, appointed for the summer months, will commence duties following the June Bank Holiday. Ms McGahon advised that while the recruitment campaign had been extended due to the low interest in the positions, it will be necessary to reorganise existing resources to carry out a summer programme of works.
- Cllr. Ford sought to follow up on a number of representations she had submitted – one concerning a patch of footpath along the Dublin Road opposite Circle K, which is wet and slippery regardless of the weather conditions, which Ms McGahon indicated that she was reviewing today. The other representation concerned the issue of cars spinning/doing doughnuts at Blackhall Road, Termonfeckin which Ms McGahon advised was a matter for An Garda Síochána.
- Ms McGahon to write to the landowner to address the issue of dangerous trees and overgrown ditches along the Collon Road.
- Traffic speed survey to be conducted at Cockle Road and Baltray Road to determine signage required.
- Cllr. Ford reiterated her concerns regarding speeding along the John Kirk Road, and while results of a traffic speed survey recently conducted over a two-day period provided no evidence of great speed, Ms McGahon suggested that a further survey over a longer period of time may be required.
- Cllr. Donovan raised an issue in respect of a flooding issue at a residence at Begrath. Ms. McGahon invited Cllr. Donovan to raise a case on Sugar with the relevant details and she would follow up.
- Cllr. McCole queried if double yellow lines could be placed at Moneymore/Community Garden to ensure access for emergency services.
- Cllr. McQuillan raised the issue of deteriorating concrete slabs at Trinity Street which Ms McGahon confirmed was on the list for addressing.
- Cllr. McQuillan queried if bollards could be erected at St. Joseph's School, Mell. Ms McGahon indicated that the matter had been looked at a number of times and it was difficult to determine what the best solution might be. Cllr. McQuillan expressed some frustration at not receiving updates to issues raised and conveyed how beneficial it is to know that the matter is receiving attention even though a solution may not have been reached.
- Ms McGahon confirmed that Mell Car Park will be completed by the contractor carrying out the Road Works Programme 2025, which, weather dependent, is expected to commence mid-Summer.
- Ms McGahon undertook to look at additional issues raised, including speed cushions at Ballsgrove, traffic calming measures at Greenhills School, cement road at Mell and manhole covers at St Mary's Church.

#### **Minute No.47/25**

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

Standing Orders were suspended to acknowledge the retirement of Director of Services, Joe McGuinness from Louth County Council on 13<sup>th</sup> May following 41 years of service. Members congratulated him on his achievements throughout his tenure with Louth County Council, stating

that he was “a ‘tour de force’” and “would be greatly missed”. Members further expressed their appreciation for all his guidance and assistance over the years and wished him and his family long good health as he embraced retirement.

#### **Minute No. 48/25**

##### **To agree a date for the Annual Meeting of Borough District of Drogheda**

It was agreed to convene the Annual Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June as

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

#### **Minute No. 49/25**

##### **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 three further proposed allocations as outlined by Cllr. Paddy McQuillan, and approval was

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

#### **Minute No. 50/25**

##### **Road Safety Working Together Group – Request for MD Member Nomination**

Councillor Declan Power was nominated to represent the Borough District of Drogheda on the Road Safety Working Together Group.

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

#### **Minute No. 51/25**

##### **Mayoral Awards – Approval of Nominations**

The list of nominees as circulated to Members was approved as

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Michelle Hall  
And resolved.

#### **Minute No. 52/25**

##### **Nomination to Brú na Boinne Forum/Steering Group**

Councillor James Byrne was formally nominated and appointed to participate on the Brú na Boinne Forum/Steering Group as

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Michelle Hall

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
And resolved.

**Minute No. 53/25**

**Notice of Motion – Cllr. Pio Smith**  
**Secunder: Cllr. Kevin Callan**

*“Asking the local authority to carry out repair works to the paving on the open square at Scarlet Crescent, Drogheda.”*

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

The matter will be assessed, subject to identification of an appropriate budget line, given the nature of the works concerned within an estate location, rather than repairs to a public road/public realm space.

**Minute No. 54/25**

**Notice of Question: Cllr. Declan Power**

*“With a huge amount of illegal dumping in Baltray and Termonfeckin recently, can the council provide the following information.*

- 1. How many litter fines have been issued to offenders in Drogheda Urban and Drogheda Rural over the last 12 months?*
- 2. How many offenders have been summoned to court in the last 12 months?*
- 3. How many fines have been paid in the last 12 months?”*

**Reply from Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development**

Louth County Council has issued a total of 44 fines to offenders in the Drogheda Urban and Drogheda Rural areas over the last 12-month period. 12 offenders have been summoned to court in the last 12 months, and a total of 20 fines have been paid to Louth County Council.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:**

9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE '25

**Mayor:**

Michelle Hall

**Meeting Administrator:**

Sinead Dwyer