



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 –
Drogheda, Monday 3rd November 2025 at 4:15 pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Michelle Hall

Members: Councillor(s), Kevin Callan (online), Anne-Marie Ford, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton

Apologies: James Byrne, Eric Donovan, Debbie McCole

Officials: David Jones, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meeting Administrator
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Irene McGahon, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Moya Hodggers, Arts Officer
Sharon Keaveney, Assistant Staff Officer

Minute No. 104/25

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 6th October 2025

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford
And approved.

Matters arising:

Councillor Smith requested an update on Minute No. 90/25 – Taking in Charge. Due to staff changes in this department an update will be sought for the December meeting.

Minute No. 105/25

Minutes of Special Meeting held on the 14th October 2025

Minutes adopted on the:

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

Minute No. 106/25

Nomination of Member to Public Art Advisory Group

At the Council Meeting on Monday, 20 October 2025, the New Public Art Policy for Louth was noted. Arts Officer, Moya Hodgers, advised that, in line with the policy, one nomination is to be sought from each Municipal and Borough District for an elected representative to sit on the Public Art Advisory Group. Members were requested to consider the nomination of one representative from the Drogheda Borough District. As some members were absent, it was agreed to defer the nomination at this time.

Minute No. 107/25

Housing Progress Report

Senior Executive Officer, Declan Grimes, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. It was noted that:

- Houses insulated to A1/A2 standard should retain heating in the event of power outages.
- Concerns regarding the receivership of the Linenfield developer should be submitted through the Sugar CRM for the attention of Planning Compliance (in relation to both compliance matters and Taking-in-charge).
- 10 affordable housing units in Ushers Mill are scheduled to become available by year-end.
- 46 age-friendly units remain on track for completion by Q2 2026.

Minute No. 108/25

Roads and Local Services Report

A/Senior Executive Engineer, Irene McGahon, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. It was noted that:

- Teams were on the ground since Saturday clearing debris from Halloween bonfires across the county, including at Rathmullen and Clogherhead beach.
- While acknowledging that the biodiversity planting on the roundabouts approaching the town, though colourful in full bloom, was not welcoming at the end of the season, Cllr Smith queried whether the matter could be reviewed for the next season. Ms McGahon undertook to refer the issue to the Parks Section for consideration.
- The yellow box at Railway Terrace, will be addressed following the completion of the current Roadworks Programme.
- The issue of dangerous steps linking Mary Street to the Marsh Road will be referred to the Environment Team and the matter of running water on Watery Hill near the bus depot will be investigated by the Operations Team.
- The matter of the parking of vehicles on the hard shoulder at the Hill of Rath to M1 interchange will be forwarded to the Infrastructure Team for consideration.
- Works at Mell Carpark and Trinity Street and will begin works shortly.
- Potholes and additional road repairs identified by Cllrs Ford and Hall will be investigated by Operation and scheduled for repair as appropriate.

- Operations are in the process of hiring a second sweeper which will be rotated around the various housing estates.
- The positioning of bus stops and signage is a matter for Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- The junction at Constitution Hill remains under consideration, and road designers have been consulted for potential solutions to address the issue.

Minute No. 109/25

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

With the addition of one further allocation made by Cllr Hall to Drogheda Civic Trust, Members' Community Grants were approved.

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

Members were advised that, going forward, the monthly deadlines for the notification of expenditure under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 will be strictly applied, and no late submissions will be accepted at the monthly meetings.

Minute No. 110/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Declan Power

Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith

"That this Council supports the introduction of a 'Chatty Bench' initiative across Drogheda's public spaces, aimed at reducing loneliness, fostering community connection, and promoting mental wellbeing. These benches will be clearly marked with inviting signage, encouraging residents, visitors and the elderly to sit and engage in friendly conversation. The initiative can be piloting in high-footfall areas such as our parks, and riversides."

- Tackles social isolation in a low-cost, high-impact way.
- Aligns with national wellbeing strategies and age-friendly goals.
- Offers a visible and inclusive solution for dealing with loneliness.
- Chatty Benches have been installed in other local authorities such as Fingal County Council

Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environment Delivery

We will consider the experience of Fingal in relation to this and consider whether there are suitable locations in Drogheda for the piloting of such a facility, subject to the availability of funding and suitable shared space being found.

Minute No. 111/ 25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Cllr. Pio Smith and Cllr Paddy McQuillan

Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

"The LECP2024/2029 recognizes the lack of sporting facilities in the county and the need to encourage more citizens of the county to lead an active life.

The LECP 2024/2029 SCOT Analysis identified the following Constraint: Lack of sports facilities in certain areas (incl. in rural areas and new estates) as well as a lack of alternative sporting options

(i.e. other than GAA, soccer, etc.)

LECP 6.2.4 Community and Quality of Life: states that 'The county is highly successful in sports considering its small size (including two League of Ireland clubs). However, there is still a need for sports amenities and facilities, as well as alternative recreational options'

Also, LECP 2024/2029 Goal 3: Objective 3.4: Increase the rate of participation in physical activity. Based on the above, we are asking that the Local Authority consider developing the publicly owned green space (adjacent to the Boyne River) at Mell, into a community sports facility that will allow a number of soccer clubs from the town, as well as schools in Mell to share the ground. Also, that the facility will cater for alternative recreational options, and that a portion of the building levies from the significant number of houses being built in the area will be allocated to the project."

Reply from Joanna Kelly, HR, Corporate & Community Delivery

The Council is currently in the process of developing a Local Sport Plan, which will address the need for sporting facilities and alternative recreational options across the county.

This plan will guide future decisions on projects such as the proposed development at Mell.

Minute No. 112/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Michelle Hall

Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith

That this Council recognises the importance of creating an attractive, accessible, and pedestrian-friendly public realm within Drogheda town centre and calls for a review and rationalisation of existing street furniture and infrastructure, including but not limited to bollards, signage poles, bins, guardrails, and redundant utility equipment. The Council further resolves that: A coordinated audit be undertaken of all street furniture and related infrastructure within Drogheda town centre to identify items that are unnecessary, redundant, visually intrusive, or obstructive to pedestrians and people with disabilities; The findings of the audit inform a phased programme of removal, relocation, or consolidation of such items, with the goal of improving accessibility, sightlines, and overall visual coherence of the public realm; Future installations of public infrastructure, including signage and street furniture, be guided by a "clutter-free streets" policy, prioritising high-quality design, multifunctionality, and consistency of style and placement; and be coordinated with regeneration plans.

Background / rationale:

Excess and poorly coordinated street furniture contribute to visual clutter, hinder accessibility, and diminish the overall appearance of Drogheda's historic town centre. A strategic and design-led approach to public infrastructure will enhance the experience for residents, visitors, and businesses, reinforcing Drogheda's identity as a vibrant and welcoming urban centre.

Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environment Delivery

Louth County Council acknowledges the intent of this motion and confirms that all street furniture installations are already subject to strict evaluation criteria to ensure accessibility, safety, and visual coherence. Non-council utilities must obtain a Section 254 licence under the Planning and Development Act 2000 prior to any installation in public spaces.

Following the lifting of Covid-related restrictions, several temporary installations have already been removed. The Council is satisfied that current procedures strike an appropriate balance between maintaining a citizen-friendly public realm and enabling beneficial infrastructure.

In light of this motion, Louth County Council will review its installation criteria and undertake a survey of Drogheda town centre to identify obsolete or redundant street furniture for potential removal.

Minute No. 113/25

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Michelle Hall – Withdrawn by Cllr Hall

“That this Council recognises the benefits of adopting a holistic, evidence-based approach to improving health and wellbeing through urban planning and community development, and calls for the implementation of a Healthy Cities Framework for Drogheda. The Council further resolves that: A Healthy Cities Framework—in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) model—be developed for Drogheda to embed health, wellbeing, and equity considerations across all local policy areas including housing, transport, environment, public realm, and community services; The Council undertake the collection of baseline data on key health determinants (including air quality, active travel, access to green space, housing conditions, social participation, and public safety) to inform and guide the framework; Based on this evidence, the Council prepare a Healthy Drogheda Action Plan setting out measurable objectives, targets, and timelines to improve population health and reduce inequalities; and The process be developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the HSE, local community and voluntary groups, educational institutions, and local businesses, ensuring broad participation and alignment with regional and national health and wellbeing strategies”.

Any other Business

- Councillor Hall referred to the incident in Drogheda on the evening of Friday, 31 October, during which a facility accommodating international protection applicants was subjected to an arson attack. She commended the prompt and professional response of frontline service personnel and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Fire Service, An Garda Síochána, and hospital staff.
- Councillor Hall congratulated Louth County Council, Love Drogheda, Failte Ireland, An Garda Síochána and the volunteers on the success of the Lú Festival of Light held over the weekend.

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date:

1st Dec 2025

Cathaoirleach:

Michelle Hall

Meeting Administrator:

Genevieve Dooley