



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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 4:15 pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Michelle Hall

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

**Officials:** David Conway, Chief Executive Officer  
David Jones, Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance  
Sinéad Dooley, Meeting Administrator  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer  
Irene McGahon, A/Senior Executive Officer  
Michelle Curran, Administrative Officer  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer  
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer  
Anna Nowacka, Clerical Officer

### **Minute No. 88/25**

#### **Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

Minutes adopted on the:

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Pío Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Paddy McQuillan  
**And approved.**

### **Minute No. 89/25**

#### **Minutes of Special Online Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Minutes adopted on the:

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

## **Minute No. 90/25**

### **Taking in Charge Report**

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. It was noted that:

- Riverbank Estate and Bishop's Court are at a standstill, awaiting 2026 Budget Funding to advance.
- Liscorrie Housing Estate is progressing.
- Arrangements are underway to schedule a meeting with Uisce Éireann.

## **Minute No. 91/25**

### **Placemaking Report.**

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

- Works at St. Laurence's Gate have been paused.
- Breakdown of figures in respect to Vacant Properties is detailed in the Chief Executive's Report. Director of Services, David Jones, reaffirmed the Executive's commitment to reviewing vacant properties and pursuing acquisitions via the CPO process.
- It is anticipated that a draft plan in respect to the Town Centre of Clogherhead could be presented to Members in early November.

## **Minute No. 92/25**

### **Housing Progress Report**

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

- Relet and void properties are processed as promptly as possible, subject to the property's condition and the extent of works required for reletting.
- Not all homeless people wish to be housed and often refuse offers to take up shelter. The Homeless Team engages with all relevant stakeholders, and a rough sleeper count, conducted between 2nd and 3rd September, found a total rough sleeper count of two on each night. Information and goody bags were left at empty tents at the time of inspection.
- Specific incidents of faulty air-to-water heating systems under a Cluid Housing Scheme can be brought to Mr Grimes' attention.

## **Minute No. 93/25**

### **Roads and Local Services Report**

A/Senior Executive Engineer, Irene McGahon, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. Items raised included:

- A proposal as conveyed by Cllr Ford, for a pedestrian footpath to link from Strandhill to Clogherhead Village. Ms McGahon suggested that it may be something that could be considered under Active Travel.

- Cllrs Power and Hall requested assessments and repairs for narrow or overgrown footpaths at Termon Abbey, Aston Village, Greenhills College, and Sea Point Road. Ms McGahon undertook to review or refer on as appropriate.
- Cllrs Smith, O'Hare Stratton, and Hall expressed concerns about graffiti on heritage buildings and public structures, noting the financial burden of removal on both the BIDs and the Council. It was suggested that existing Bye-Laws be reviewed to explore whether access to spray paint could be more tightly regulated and whether penalties for offenders could be increased. Ms McGahon agreed with the assessment and noted that the Environment Team is issuing letters to building owners responsible for maintaining affected walls.
- Cllrs Smith, Donovan and O'Hare Stratton raised traffic and road safety issues at Ballymakenny Road, Tullyallen, Moneymore (near Boxing Club), hazardous junction on Drogheda Street. Ms McGahon noted all for review.
- Drainage & Water Seepage issues at various locations, including Dublin Road, North Strand, Mary Street, Cromwell Lane and Termonfeckin, were raised by Cllrs Byrne, Power, O'Hare Stratton, and Hall. Ms McGahon confirmed investigations, and monitoring would be undertaken in addition to a site visit to Cromwell Lane.
- Additional issues of litter and weed control, repairs to the bridge at Point Road, debris on the Old Slane Road, as raised by Cllrs Byrne, Hall and Donovan, will be reviewed or referred on as appropriate.

#### **Minute No. 94/25**

#### **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 allocations to the Louth Volunteer Centre and St. Oliver Plunkett 400 Community Group, Members' Community Grants were approved.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Declan Power  
 And resolved.

#### **Minutes No. 95/25**

#### **Draft Budgetary Plan for 2026**

Director of Finance, Bernie Woods, presented the draft budgetary plan 2026 for the Borough District of Drogheda, advising that:

- The budget process is still at an early stage, and there is no indication from Central Government on the grant funding for 2026. On that basis, it is proposed to allocate €100,000 to each district for their General Municipal Allocation for 2026.
- As part of the Budgetary Plan, the Borough District of Drogheda has the right to review local charges, which include pay-parking and sports centre charges. Any increase will be ringed fenced for works in the Borough District while any decrease will have to be funded out of the General Municipal Allocation for the district.

The allocation of €100,000 for the Borough District of Drogheda's General Municipal Allocation for 2026 was approved.

**Proposed by:** Cllr James Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
 And Resolved.

Members also agreed that relevant income from pay-parking and sports centre charges continue

to be ringfenced in 2026 for specific works, to be agreed upon at a later stage.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Paddy McQuillan  
And Resolved.

#### **Minute No. 96/25**

#### **Special Meeting to approve the inclusion of additional works under the Road Works Programme 2025**

A Special Meeting to approve the inclusion of additional works under the Road Works Programme 2025 will be convened on Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 5pm, online.

#### **Minute No. 97/25**

#### **Presentation on Failte Ireland/Re-Imagined Boyne Valley Drive**

Mr Anthony McGuigan from The Paul Hogarth Company delivered a presentation outlining the conceptual and design development of the Boyne Valley Cluster Infrastructure Project.

#### **Minute No. 98/25**

#### **Standing Order No. 89 – Suspension of Standing Order No. 5**

On the **Proposal of** Cllr. Kevin Callan **Seconded by** Cllr. Michelle Hall, Standing Orders were suspended to allow for discussion of remaining Agenda items.

#### **Minute No. 99/25**

#### **Notice of Motion – Cllr. Kevin Callan**

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Declan Power

'This notice of motion is seeking the support of the elected members of the Borough District of Drogheda and the Executive to rededicate the Bridge of Peace as the Saint Oliver Plunkett Bridge of Peace.

This motion is set down in the 400th anniversary year of the birth of Saint Oliver and the 50th anniversary of his being elevated to Sainthood as the patron saint of peace and reconciliation on the Island of Ireland. The symbolism of this rededication on the bridge crossing the River Boyne in the town which holds the honour of being the location of the national shrine to Saint Oliver'.

#### **Reply from David Jones, Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery**

Under Part 18 of the Local Government Act 2001, the changing of name of towns, streets and localities is a reserved function of a Council, subject to the majority agreement of the electors affected.

It is noted that there is an existing local protocol in place governing the naming of infrastructure after people, including streets or locality names, and members should have consideration of same in regard to the suggested rededication of the Bridge of Peace.

In particular, the protocol includes specific reference to renaming, noting that only new structures should be considered for commemorative naming, and renaming should only be considered in exceptional circumstances. The basis for same is that renaming may cause confusion, given an existing structure may already have a name associated with them.

**Discussion:** Members discussed the symbolic significance of the proposed rededication, particularly in light of Drogheda's connection to Saint Oliver Plunkett. Cllr. Hall expressed opposition, noting that the existing name—Bridge of Peace—was inclusive of all communities, whereas the proposed rededication could be perceived as introducing a sectarian dimension by referencing a Catholic saint. Despite this concern, the motion was approved by majority agreement.

### **Minute No. 100/25**

#### **Notice of Motion - Cllr. Pio Smith – Dropped**

'Asking that the Local Authority address the dilapidated state of the Drogheda roundabouts on the link roads leading to the M1. They have become unsightly and create a very negative image of our town. I am asking that a plan be implemented to ensure that this never happens again'.

#### **Reply from David Jones, Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery**

These areas were planted with mixture of spring bulbs approximately five years ago. They offer ecological and aesthetic benefits including early season food sources for pollinators and vibrant season colour. To support bulbs generation and encourage native wildflower colonisation, these areas are left uncut from February to October. This approach allows bulbs to store energy for the following year display and promote biodiversity. The management strategy priorities sustainability and efficiency across the county, using low input methods to maximise environmental benefits such as reducing fossil fuel use and enhancing biodiversity and line with local and national climate action plans and agendas.

**Note:** Cllr Smith's motion was dropped in accordance with Standing Order No. 23, which provides:

*"A motion may either be proposed by the member in whose name it stands or if he or she be absent, by any member authorised by him or her in writing to propose it on his or her behalf, but unless so proposed, and in the absence of a request in writing from the member in whose name it stands to postpone it, the motion shall be dropped and shall not again be set down in the Notice Paper except on fresh notice".*

### **Minute No. 101/25**

#### **Notice Motion - Cllr. Pio Smith - Dropped**

'Asking that the local authority carries out a detailed visual inspection of the Glen, Newfoundwell, Drogheda. This is of high importance in order to determine if there is work required to make the Glen Stream safe, clarify if there is an infestation of rats in the area and if the overgrown areas need to be cut back'.

#### **Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environment Delivery**

The overgrown areas at the Glen are managed as biodiversity areas and are normally cut back once per year around September/October. It is proposed to have this work done during the coming days. Any illegal dumping or other issues will become apparent at this point and will be dealt with. Additionally, as part of our water framework directive sampling regime, we sample and test the water in the stream at this location 4 times per annum. This sampling regime has not shown evidence of polluting discharges, although there is evidence and reports of such discharges on an intermittent basis. We have liaised with Uisce Eireann (and continue to do so) in relation to this but

have been unable to identify a source. We continue to monitor the stream with our ongoing sampling regime, and maintain our liaison on the issue with Uisce Eireann

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#### Minute No. 102/25

**Notice of Motion - Cllr. Eric Donovan**

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Debbie McCole

'I am calling on the council to install a number of double yellow lines outside Pugwash Bay, crèche and afterschool service and Figo Dojo, Martial Arts building in Aston Green, Aston Village. This motion passed will act as a deterrent to the ongoing vehicle pile-up in the mornings causing a lot of issues for local residents. There is plenty of parking around the area and people need to use it'.

#### **Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environment Delivery**

This will be investigated by the Operations section with a view to ascertaining the extent of the issue and any appropriate interventions. In the first instance, business owners will be written to and will be asked to remind their clientele to be mindful of all road users when parking their car.

**Discussion:** The Motion was supported by Members and approved.

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

**The Minutes were confirmed on:**

**Date:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov '25

**Cathaoirleach:**

Michelle Hall

**Meeting Administrator:**

Sinead Dadey