



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, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 4:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Michelle Hall

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

**Apologies:** None

**Officials:** David Jones, Director of Service  
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator  
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer  
Helen Divilly, Head of Information Systems  
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer  
Irene McGahon, Senior Executive Engineer  
Michelle Curran, Administrative Officer

### **Minute No. 13/26**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January were confirmed on the:

**Proposal of** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by** Cllr. Paddy McQuillan  
**And approved**

### **Minute No. 14/26**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

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

Mr. Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, responded to matters raised by Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- Housing grant aid applications are currently being processed, and the Council has a total allocation of €2.4million for this area in 2026.

- The entrance/exit from Boyce Court as set out by the Design Team and approved through the Part 8 process cannot be amended at this stage.
- Heating issues at Tullybrook Court & Ballymakenny Drive were discussed. Mr. Grimes confirmed he will engage with Clúid regarding the ongoing matters.
- A high number of Voids are currently in the Drogheda area, due primarily to recent tenant deaths. Mr. Grimes confirmed that work is underway on all voids.
- The Part 8 proposal for 138 units at Ballymakenny has been appealed to An Coimisiún Pleanála, who have requested a Natura Impact Statement. Mr. Grimes advised that such a Statement was not deemed necessary by the Environmental Consultants during the Part 8 process. The requirement now will delay the project. Mr. Grimes will keep Members updated on further developments.

### **Minute No. 15/26**

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

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

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

- Quality of reinstatement works on Patrick Street will be referred to the Road Opening Licence team for contractor follow-up.
- Street-lighting issues in Drogheda and Liscorrie Estate will be raised with the lighting contractor.
- Collapsed wall at Shamrock Villas and damaged wall at Cemetery Road will be examined.
- Staff continue to proactively survey district roads for necessary repairs.
- Milltown Road, Sandpit will be assessed and discussed with residents (not included in the 2026 RWP).
- Deterioration of works at Pentony's Lane, traffic count and speed checks on Ballymakenny Road, traffic-light sequencing at Georges Street/Bridge of Peace, feasibility of flood-warning signage in flood-prone areas, damaged Camino sign on the Slane Road and additional parking options for Rathmullen residents will all be further investigated.
- Blocked stream at The Glen will be referred for clean-out.
- Landscaping requests at Boyne Road and Meadowview embankment will be examined.
- Gate at Port Oriel, Clogherhead will be followed up for repair.
- Bollard replacement on Drogheda Main Street noted; cost constraints apply.
- Public realm report on West Street will issue in due course.
- Land outside Greenhills School is owned by the Department of Education; engagement through the School Principal will be required for any traffic-calming measures.
- Trinity Street footpath works remain on a multi-site list; no completion date available.

### **Minute No. 16/26**

#### **Presentation on Cyber Security and Meta Compliance Training**

Ms. Helen Divilly, Head of Information Systems, delivered a presentation outlining cybersecurity threats and emphasising the importance of training and vigilance.

### **Minute No. 17/26**

#### **Road Works Programme 2026**

Members considered the Road Works Programme 2026 as circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer responded to questions raised by the Members.

Following some discussion the Road Works Programme 2026 was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Declan Power  
**And resolved.**

#### **Minute No. 18/26**

#### **Tidy Towns Project Scheme**

Members considered the Tidy Towns Project Scheme 2026 as circulated in advance of the meeting.

In accordance with Section 66(1) and 9 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Schedule was approved on the:

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Anne-Marie Ford  
**And Resolved.**

Members noted Ms. Colette Moss' upcoming retirement from the Local Authority and praised her dedication to public service over the past 42 years.

#### **Minute No. 19/26**

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

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them and approval was:

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

#### **Notice of Motions**

#### **Minute No. 20/26**

**Notice of Motion** Cllr. Michelle Hall  
**Seconded by** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**And approved**

*Boyne Valley Camino - That Louth County Council will take in charge the current Boyne Valley Camino National Trail for maintenance, to install additional signs where needed, upgrade the trail and maps to include any new routes and appoint an officer to liaise with the volunteers of Boyne Valley Trails for collaborative purposes, to ensure that this award-winning outdoor recreation amenity be a long-term success for Louth.*

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

Louth County Council recognises the value of the Boyne Valley Camino as an important outdoor recreation amenity and appreciates the work undertaken by Boyne Valley Trails and local volunteers. However, the Council does not currently have the resources required to take this trail in charge. At present, there is no dedicated staffing capacity to manage ongoing maintenance, install additional signage, upgrade mapping, or provide a liaison officer as described. While the Council will continue to support the initiative within existing constraints,

taking the trail in charge would require additional funding and staffing, which are not currently available.

**Discussion:**

Cllr. Hall advised Members that, following discussions with the Chief Executive, Mr. David CConway, it is now proposed that support for the Boyne Valley Camino will be provided through the Tourism Section of Louth County Council. This update was welcomed by the Members, who also expressed their support for the Motion.

**Minute No. 21/26**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

In accordance with Standing Order Number 89, the Standing Orders were suspended to allow for the conclusion of business on the agenda on the:

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

**Minute No. 22/26**

**Notice of Motion** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by** Cllr. James Byrne  
**And approved**

*Calling for the members of the Borough District of Drogheda collectively and on a cross-party basis to communicate with and request to meet with the relevant ministers of government to seek the restoration of Drogheda Borough Council.*

*Such motion is set down in the context of work underway by the Local Democracy Taskforce.*

**Reply from Joanna Kelly, HR, Corporate & Community Delivery**

While this is a matter for the Members it noted that the Local Democracy Taskforce held its first meeting in June 2025. The Taskforce Terms of Reference set out that:

*“A wide stakeholder engagement will be central to the development of the Taskforce’s recommendations and will include key organisations and bodies, employer and employee representative, community and voluntary groups, experts at the discretion of the Taskforce.”*

The consultation process was open from Tuesday 8th July until Friday 22nd August 2025. 78 organisations provided submissions for the Taskforce’s consideration.

On the 20 January 2026, the Minister indicated that the Taskforce is now in the process of preparing recommendations for its final report, in line with the timeline outlined in its Terms of Reference. It is expected that the final report will be submitted to the Minister in quarter 1 of 2026.

**Discussion:**

During the discussion, Cllr. McQuillan stated that Drogheda had regressed since the 2014 Local Government Reform, citing increased dereliction and the stalling of the PANCR project, and asserted that Louth County Council had failed Drogheda. Director of Services, Mr. David Jones, rejected this assertion, advising that significant initiatives and capital projects are underway and

continue to progress through the local government structure. When asked by Cllr. Hall if he wished to withdraw his remark, Cllr. McQuillan declined.

**Minute No. 23/26**

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

*Asking that the Mayor write to An Taisce requesting that a meeting be arranged with the Chair of An Taisce, The Mayor and members of the Drogheda Borough Municipal District to discuss An Taisce's objection to the proposed development at Premier Periclase"*

**Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Economic Delivery**

This is a matter for the members.

**Minute No. 24/26**

**Any Other Business**

The Members agreed to hold an "Special Committee" meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 9.30am to consider the allocation for revenue for the Long-Term Car Park Fund.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:**

21 March 2026

**Mayor:**

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*for Smith*

**Meeting Administrator:**

Joan Deary