

Borough District of Drogheda – December 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 4th December, 2017 at Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. P. Smith

Members: Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, D. Saurin, O. Tully

Officials: Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
Martina Sheeran, Acting Senior Engineer
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator

Minute No. 137/17

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2017, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. F. Godfrey and seconded by Cllr. P. Bell.

Minute No. 138/17

Matters arising

- There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 139/17

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following points were addressed:

- Members were informed that the backlog in relation to rent assessments should be addressed by the end of Quarter 1, 2018.
- The method adopted for the recent homeless rough sleeper count was detailed to the members and differing views were expressed in relation to the extent of the problem in Drogheda.
- The members were then given a presentation in relation to the operation of the Housing Assistance Payment scheme.

Minute No. 140/17

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following points were addressed:

- The Operations Department took note of a wide range of traffic calming, parking, road marking and water issues highlighted by the members and agreed to investigate them and revert back to the members with any queries.

Minute No. 141/17

Allocation of Community Grants

The allocation of community grants to 24th October, 2017 was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by Cllr. O. Tully and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 142/17

RAPID Funding Proposals

Drogheda		
Group	Grant	Allocation
Conect Family Resource Centre, Moneymore	Street Scaping, Connect FRC gate, Cable kitchen	€8,236.00
Lifestyle Dev Ballsgrove, Rathmullen & St Finians Pk	ICT equipment	€7,263.35
Boomerang	IT suite	€6,066.90
Total		€21,566.25

John Lawrence, A/Senior Executive Officer outlined the proposals that were being recommended by the LCDC for agreement by the members. The view was expressed that the funding should only go to areas previously designated under the RAPID scheme.

Cllr. P. Bell proposed and Cllr. T. Byrne seconded the adoption of the funding proposals recommended by the LCDC. A roll call vote was called.

For (8): Cllrs. P. Bell, J.Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, P. Smith, D. Saurin

Against (2): Cllrs. R. Culhane, O. Tully

The proposal was adopted.

Minute No. 143/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

“That this Council construct infill housing in Rathmullan Park in the area at the rear of 190-196 on open space where previously homes existed. This motion is aimed at meeting a housing need in the immediate area and would assist preventing the area from being used for illegal dumping and antisocial behaviour.”

REPLY:

The Council will assess this site with regard to it being a potential infill site for potential provision of housing.

In the course of the discussion members expressed the view that the Council should consult with the local residents in relation to the issue. Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 144/17

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane
Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully**

"Will Louth County Council take action or instruct the owner of the property adjacent to the Pines Hamlet Estate to take action in dealing with the serious infestation of Japanese knotweed which will, if left unchecked, have serious repercussions for property and environment in Drogheda."

REPLY:

It is an offence under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to plant, disperse, spread or otherwise cause to grow various specified plants, including Japanese knotweed. A person summarily convicted of such an offence is liable to a Class A fine or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both. A person convicted on indictment is liable to a fine not exceeding €500,000, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or both.

The body responsible for enforcing this law is the National Parks and Wildlife Service, assisted, as necessary, by An Garda Síochána. Louth County Council has no role in relation to enforcing this law, except in reporting alleged incidences to the relevant authorities.

The council also monitors the presence of Japanese knotweed and similar problem species and records sightings with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The council acts to kill Japanese knotweed on its own land and erects warning signs in such areas, to raise awareness and to prevent accidental spread of the plant.

Members expressed the view that the Council should inform the Gardai and the NPWS of the situation. Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 145/17

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith**

"Calling on Louth County Council to continue the footpath from Deep Forde housing estate in Meath Co Co area to The Five Oaks housing estate on the Dublin Rd Drogheda. In the interest of serious safety concerns it is imperative that this footpath be completed as children and adults alike must cross the road to access both Drogheda Town Centre and likewise South Gate shopping centre. Residents in both Five Oaks and Deep Forde cannot access either estates without crossing a very busy road at enormous risk to their personal safety."

REPLY:

The estimate cost of the proposed works is €63,255 + VAT. There is no provision in the Road Works Programme 2017 for the design and construction of a footpath at this location. The delivery of such an initiative might best be delivered as a joint programme between Louth and Meath County Councils. A number of the Meath elected members have enquired about such infrastructure provision.

Members emphasised the importance of this proposal and the need to condition planning permissions to complete footpaths to adjacent estates was highlighted. Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 146/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

"As Louth County Council is now the shareholder in The Drogheda Port Company, the Borough District of Drogheda will make a joint submission to the forthcoming public consultation process."

REPLY:

The Chief Executive is meeting with the CEO and Chairman of the Port Company in the near future.

The need to engage fully with the forthcoming public consultation as a Borough District was emphasised. *Members agreed the motion.*

Minute No. 147/17

Condolences

Sympathies were extended to the family & friends of:

Eamonn Campbell
Ally Farrell
Cyril Jolly

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____