

## **Borough District of Drogheda – February 2017**

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Mayor:** Cllr. O. Tully

**Members:** Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane, K. Flood, P. Smith & F. Godfrey.

**Officials:** Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer  
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer  
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
Martina Sheeran, Acting Senior Engineer

### **Minute No. 10/17**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. K. Callan.

### **Minute No. 11/17**

#### **Matters Arising**

- In relation to Minute No. 08/17 the issue of whether or not a roll call vote was called was raised with the proposer of the motion asserting that a roll call vote was taken and should have been reflected in the minutes. The meetings Administrator asserted that no roll call vote had been taken. It was agreed that the minutes should be amended to reflect the unanimous support for the motion. Minute No. 08/17 shall be as follows:  
“In the course of the discussion members affirmed their support for the motion and the motion was agreed unanimously by all members present. While noting the reply members strongly emphasised their desire for action to be taken in relation to the motion”.
- The question of whether or not the residents of Pentony’s Lane had been communicated to by the Council was raised.

### **Minute No. 12/17**

#### **Housing and Communities Progress Report**

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

- Members were informed that HAP tenants were not included in the housing list numbers as per Government policy but were recorded in the housing HAP transfer list numbers if they had expressed a desire to be accommodated in a Council house.
- Members were given a verbal update in relation to any further progress on the housing capital projects detailed in the written report.
- It was explained to the members that priority for repairs to windows and doors was based on the survey of housing stock carried out in 2016.
- It was agreed to give the members an update on the status of Affordable Housing in McArdle Green

### **Minute No. 13/17**

#### **Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report**

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

- It was agreed to review the one way signage and road marking on Simcox Lane.
- Members were informed that the traffic management plan for the area surrounding St. Laurence's Gate would be listed on the agenda of the April meeting.
- Concerns were raised around the odours possibly coming from the Marsh Road waste water treatment plant and the need for the Council to ensure there was no possibility for them to emanate from the plant. It was undertaken to report back to the members in relation to the issue.
- Some members raised concerns about the quality of public lighting in some areas and the urgency with which faulty bulbs were replaced. It was agreed to give the members a briefing on the issue at the next meeting.
- Members were informed that residents of Pentony's Lane would be contacted when there was information to share with them in relation to progress on the necessary works.
- It was agreed to update the members in relation to flood protection measures for Drogheda and Baltray.
- The possible need for traffic calming measures or enhanced road markings was raised in relation to Constitution Hill and Greenhills School.
- The pot holes at Sacred Heart School and the turn for Bryanstown were highlighted for attention.
- It was also pointed out that the gullies on the Dublin Road require cleaning.

### **Minute No. 14/17**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Bell  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Smith

"That this Council take immediate steps to stop illegal dumping on Ballsgrove Green and take the necessary steps to engage those responsible for this illegal act"

**REPLY:**

**Ballsgrove Green is a litter blackspot where household waste is habitually being dumped. All waste complaints are investigated by the Council and as part of these investigations staff examine the waste for any evidence that might help identify the offenders. If evidence is found the Council will initiate enforcement proceedings. The Council will also prosecute offenders in cases where members of the public who witness dumping are willing to give evidence. The Council's Housing Department will also take action against Council tenants found to be in breach of their tenancy agreement by engaging in illegal dumping.**

**Areas where waste collection rates are low suffer, unsurprisingly from high levels of illegal dumping. This creates an unhealthy climate for all residents. The Environment section is in the process of identifying such area in County Louth by analysing data supplied by the waste collectors. The Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Office (EMRWO) are undertaking a research project in 2017 to look at unmanaged household waste and low usage or non usage of waste collection services. The Council has advised EMRWO it will be putting forward areas in County Louth that are identified as having low uptake of waste collection services for inclusion in this survey. It is anticipated that the results of this work will help the Local Authority in the effective targeting of resources in order to deal with this issue.**

*In the course of the discussion the members emphasised the need for technology such as CCTV to be used along with anti-social behaviour legislation in Council housing estates. Members were informed that this was a national problem and the Council was working locally and regionally to tackle the issue. Members agreed the motion.*

**Minute No. 15/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith  
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan**

"That this Borough District agree to invite Deirdre Craven, IDA Ireland and member of the Louth Economic Forum to update members on the IDA's position regarding Drogheda as a location for attracting FDI companies and Also, that we invite Mr Martin Cronin, Chairman of the Louth Economic Forum to outline the measures being taken by the Louth Economic Forum to promote Drogheda as a location for FDI companies"

**REPLY:**

**This is a matter for the Members.**

*Following a discussion, in which members emphasised the need for increased FDI in Drogheda, the members agreed the motion.*

**Minute No. 16/17**

## **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. K. Callan

"Calling on Drogheda Borough Municipal District Roads Department to review the 4 pedestrian crossings located at the Thosel Junction to determine if the design is having a negative impact on traffic movements (i.e, causing congestion) and if locating the crossings at different locations would be beneficial to pedestrians and traffic flow"

### **REPLY:**

**The principles, approaches and standards set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) apply to the design of all urban roads and streets. To encourage more sustainable travel patterns, and safer streets, DMURS requires that pedestrians must be placed at the top of the user hierarchy with private motor vehicles considered last. Indeed examples from Drogheda – West Street- are included in the manual to illustrate the conversion of a street 'from a two-way system to a one way system to facilitate a series of improvements within the town centre that calm traffic, expand the pedestrian domain and strengthen the sense of place.' Pedestrians have little tolerance for delay and they tend to follow desire lines (i.e. take the shortest route), even if this conflicts with the location of formal crossings and pedestrian control measures such as guardrails. For this reason the relocation of the pedestrian crossings at the Tholsel junction is not seen as a solution that would work at this location.**

*Members highlighted the anecdotal evidence of congestion and rat running being caused by the location of the crossings and members noted the reply.*

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

### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. O. Tully  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. T. Byrne

" That the Local Authority install a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Francis Street and the Chord Road Drogheda"

### **REPLY:**

**The Council will consider providing improved pedestrian facilities at this junction. Works will be subject to funding being made available. The matter will be examined in tandem with the proposed traffic measures which would facilitate the closure of St Laurence's Gate to vehicular traffic and was recently put to public consultation.**

*In the discussion it was pointed out that this proposal had been agreed several years ago. The possible need for speed ramps was also raised. Members agreed the motion and emphasised their desire for action to be taken.*

**Minute No. 18/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. T. Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey

" That Louth County Council provide urgently needed safety measures, to include adequate Public Lighting and Road Markings at Newtown Cross, Drogheda, in the interest of public safety".

**REPLY:**

**Realignment works were carried out at this junction in 2012 using NRA Non National Low Cost Safety Measures funding. No public lighting was included in this scheme and there are no plans currently to provide same. Road markings at the location will be renewed as necessary under the operational maintenance programme.**

*In the discussion the proposer emphasised the need for urgent action in relation to this motion. Members noted the reply.*

**Minute No. 19/17**

**Notice of Question – Cllr. P. Bell**

"Can this Council confirm the number of fixed penalty notices issued to citizens in Drogheda and District in 2014, 2015, 2016 for illegal dumping and littering. The number of business and commercial organisations that have received fines over the same period in Drogheda and District"

**REPLY:**

**The following table sets out the details of the fixed penalty notices issued in the respective years for the Borough District of Drogheda**

| <b>YEAR</b>      | <b>2014</b> | <b>(Commercial)</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>(commercial)</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>(commercial)</b> |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| <b>SOUTH LCC</b> | 65          | 6                   | 55          | 11                  | 53          | 12                  |
| <b>DROGHEDA</b>  | 41*         | 16*                 | 75          | 31                  | 85          | 53                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>106</b>  | <b>22</b>           | <b>130</b>  | <b>42</b>           | <b>138</b>  | <b>65</b>           |

**Minute No. 20/17**

**Notice of Question – Cllr. F. Godfrey**

" When can we expect to see the old cement quarry on the North Road / Killineer Road filled in, as it poses a danger to public safety? Who owns this land?"

**REPLY:**

**The filling in of these quarries is not a feasible proposition. The land is in the ownership of Louth County Council and a number of other landowners.**

*The Questions was noted by the Members. (Cllr. Bell said Item No. 2048 on the agenda should be taken as a question.)*

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_