

Borough District of Drogheda – January 2018

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 8th January 2018 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: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Catherine Duff, Senior Engineer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator

Minute No. 1/18

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane.

Minute No. 2/18

Matters arising

- There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 3/18

Housing and Communities Progress Report

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

- The inclusion of information in relation to inspections carried out on private emergency accommodation along with the assistance provided to a long term homeless man was welcomed.

Minute No. 4/18

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 number of issues including several road marking & repair concerns, the wall at Tredagh View, flooding at the Well Public House, C FRAM funding allocations, anti-social behaviour at the open space in Rathmullen Park and the need for a set down area outside the

Barbican theatre and agreed to investigate them and revert back to the members with any queries.

- Several members expressed concern at fly tipping in certain parts of the town and expressed the need for action to be taken.

Minute No. 5/18

Discretionary Municipal Budget

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by Cllr. K. Callan and agreed by the members that the annual discretionary municipal budget of €60,000 for 2018 be divided equally between the members for allocation to projects and organisations nominated by them and approved by the municipal district.

Minute No. 6/18

Tullyallen Access the Glen Committee presentation

The Tullyallen Access the Glen Committee gave a presentation detailing their progress to date and their plans, and the members commended them for their activities with several committing to allocate funding to the project.

Minute No. 7/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Saurin

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood

"That this Council install a zebra crossing on the Beamore Road/ Meadow View junction to facilitate safe crossing of this road for residents from Rosevale and all the estates along this stretch of road, particularly for children attending the local schools at morning and evening rush hours."

REPLY:

Rosevale estate is situated in both Meath and Louth County Council areas. A meeting took place in October 2017 between Louth and Meath Council officials regarding proposals to improve the safety for pedestrians/school pupils crossing at the Beamore Road/Bryanstown Cross route junction at Meadowview, Drogheda. It was agreed that a signalized pedestrian crossing, in Meath County Council's area along with footpath improvements was appropriate at the location. Funding for these works is to be applied for by Meath County Council as a Safety improvement scheme for 2018.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 8/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin

"That Louth County Council provide Traffic Calming Measures along the Gaulstown Road from Mullary Cross to the Grangebellew/ Drogheda Road, to include proper road markings and signage strategically placed, in the interest of Public Safety."

REPLY:

The location identified by the member will be inspected in accordance with policy and traffic management guidelines. Subject to the findings of such an inspection and survey the works may be included in the Road Works programme for 2018 but will be dependent on the necessary resources been available.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 9/18

Notice of Motion

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

"That this Borough District establish an Implementation Group to promote, guide and initiate projects arising from the Urban Design Framework Plan. This Group may co-opt external members to assist in implementation and will identify partners and resources."

REPLY:

As the West Gate Vision is nearing completion, it is anticipated that some of the recommendations from the Urban Design Framework Plan for the Heritage Quarter of Drogheda will be incorporated into the Vision document. However, the establishing of an Implementation Group to implement any policy adopted by the Council is an Executive Function.

In the course of the discussion it was proposed by Cllr. T. Bell, seconded by Cllr. K. Flood and agreed by the members to amend the motion to "That this Borough District requests that the Chief Executive establishes an Implementation Group to promote, guide and initiate projects arising from the Urban Design Framework Plan. This group may co-opt external members to assist in implementation and will identify partners and resources and report back to the Borough District on progress."

The amended motion was agreed by the members.

Minute No. 10/18

Notice of Motion

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

"That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to take the lead in making Drogheda Borough Municipal District a Disability Friendly District, to promote a campaign to make the public and the business community aware of the dangers caused by obstacles, such as cars parked on footpaths, bicycles chained to railings, and other thoughtlessly placed items that impede the use of our footpaths for wheelchair users or people suffering from visual impairment. To consider the roll out of a Dublin City Council "My Way" campaign and to consult with all major stakeholders, including Disability Federation of Ireland and the Irish Council of the Blind regarding the possibility of holding an annual "Make Way Day" in Drogheda."

REPLY:

Council staff will look at the Dublin model with Dublin City officials and will report to Council in the new year.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 11/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin

"Following numerous swan collisions with the bridges over The Boyne in Drogheda, this council will fit selective game guards on all council controlled bridges in Drogheda and liaise with management of Scotch Hall who control de Lacy Bridge to ensure game guards are fitted there."

REPLY:

This matter was previous raised and Staff did engage with Bird Watch Ireland who commented that they had not had such an observation in the past. Usually with swans the issues relate to power lines, and on these occasions the deflectors are extremely effective. They noted that the issue probably relates to Mute Swans which are resident as the migratory swans. The issue might have come about in relation to dispersing juvenile swans. To fully understand the issue a study would be required to evaluate the impact. Some regular observations during different times of the year looking under the bridge for damaged birds. Area staff will bring the matter to the attention of the management of Scotch Hall Shopping centre.

The members noted the reply.

Minute No. 12/18

Notice of Motion

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

"That the District Borough of Drogheda councillors, planners and engineers take to the streets of Drogheda to get a close up view of the conditions of derelict buildings and abandoned properties in the town, and meet with concerned traders and local residents."

REPLY:

Traders and local residents are advised to refer any complaint or concern they may have with regard to derelict buildings to the Planning Enforcement Section of Louth County Council. The Council will take all reasonable steps including the exercise of any appropriate statutory powers in dealing with such sites. Council officials also facilitate meetings with public representatives and members of the public on specific issues of concern. However there are no plans for officials to participate in a public meeting with councillors as envisaged in this motion.

The members noted the reply.

Minute No. 13/18

Correspondence

Letter from Minister Eoghan Murphy from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the request to reinstate Drogheda Borough Council.

The members noted the letter.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____