

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

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2017 at Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda.

### **In attendance:**

**Mayor:** Cllr. P. Smith

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs. K. Callan, K. Flood

### **Minute No. 78/17**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane.

### **Minute No. 79/17**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. O. Tully.

### **Minute No. 80/17**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

- Members expressed the view that while they welcomed the number of housing units being developed or purchased more were needed.
- Information was sought in relation to the number of social housing units that have been purchased in private housing estates, the number of privately owned former Council houses and the associated cost
- Members were informed that other CPOs for housing stock were progressing but would not appear in the report until they were confirmed.
- It was undertaken to clarify if tenants receive a copy of the PRTB report when a property they are a tenant of is inspected.

## Minute No. 81/17

### Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

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

- Concern was expressed at the possibility of the new waste collection charges regime resulting in increased fly tipping.
- It was agreed to examine areas highlighted in relation to the efficiency of the grass cutting.
- It was pointed out that maintenance of the railings on Grove Hill was necessary.
- It was agreed to report back to the members in relation to funding sought by the Council in relation to the revision of the National Capital Programme.

## Minute No. 82/17

### Notice of Motion

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

"Calling on this Borough District to apply the necessary protocol to ensure that the Chord Road becomes a 30KM zone and that an investigation is carried out to determine the need for traffic calming measures at the junctions of Scarlet Street/Oulster Lane and Scarlet Street/Sandyford Tce."

### **REPLY:**

**The closure of St Laurence's Gate to vehicular traffic will impact on traffic flows in the adjoining streets of Chord Road, Oulsters Lane and Sandyford Terrace. The Council will in conjunction with the closure of the Gate review speed limits and implement any measures considered necessary to regulate traffic speed in this residential area.**

*Members noted the reply.*

## Minute No. 83/17

### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. K. Flood  
**Deferred**

" This Municipal District will submit a report on how the Port Access Northern Cross Route can be delivered through expected developer contributions/levies based on the planning permissions granted for developments along the Port Access Northern Cross Route".

**REPLY:**

**As the members are aware in approving the revised Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021, the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme created to fund the PANCR was dissolved. The Council has purchased the land required, over the past number of years, for the PANCR, which is a long term capital project and an objective of the development plan. However, many of the 10 year permissions granted in the area, which initially would have funded the PANCR through the Supplementary Contribution Scheme, are about to expire, and are now subject to the revised Contribution Scheme. This will affect the timely delivery of the project. Any future development contributions received may be used to fund the PANCR.**

**Minute No. 84/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan  
Deferred.**

"That this Council undertake the necessary works and processes to allow for the Butter Gate to be cleared of vegetation and made accessible as a visitor attraction via the Joe Stanley 1916 Garden. That this effort will form part of the town and councils approach to cherishing and protecting and utilising our town gates and walls".

**REPLY:**

**The lands in question are not in the ownership of Louth County Council. There are no plans and or resources at present to secure ownership and or access to the lands as set out in the attached maps. The lands in the control of Louth County Council surrounding the Joe Stanley 1916 Garden are maintained to a high standard.**

**Minute No. 85/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood  
Deferred**

" This council will install a mini roundabout on the Termonfeckin Road at the entrance to Termon Abbey, Aston Village and new Beaulieu Manor estate".

**REPLY:**

To establish whether additional traffic management is necessary at the junction, whether that be a mini-roundabout or other appropriate intervention, would require a full and detailed analysis of traffic flows and traffic management at the junction. There is no funding available at this time to undertake a traffic study of the junction or to carry out any improvement works.

#### Minute No. 86/17

##### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. D. Saurin  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. J. Byrne

"This Council will install street lights in Burton Hall, Tullyallen"

##### **REPLY:**

**Infrastructure Section has a limited budget to operate and maintain existing street lights. Unfortunately, funding is not available to provide the additional lighting requested.**

*It was agreed to revert back to the members with the cost of installing the public lighting. The members agreed the motion.*

#### Minute No. 87/17

##### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. D. Saurin  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Bell

"This Council will install double yellow lines and anti parking bollards at the entrance to Silk Park, to ensure accessibility for residents and emergency services."

##### **REPLY:**

**The issue of access and sightlines at Silk park has been examined and following consultation with An Garda Síochána we propose to install a yellow box on Platin Road to assist access/egress at the estate entrance. Further inspection will be carried out to consider if additional parking restrictions at the entrance road are warranted, any works are subject to availability of funding.**

*In the course of the discussion members expressed their support for double yellow lines or bollards to address the issue of illegal parking. The motion was agreed.*

#### Minute No. 88/17

##### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. O. Tully  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Smith

"That Louth County Council install a pedestrian crossing outside Scoil Nausinta Naomh Fechin, Termonfeckin, on the R167."

**REPLY:**

**The matter will be investigated and the need for a pedestrian crossing examined noting that the provision of such measures is subject to the availability of funding.**

*The members agreed the motion.*

#### **Minute No. 89/17**

#### **Notice of Motion**

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

" That Louth County Council implement Low Cost Safety Measures in the Spires Estate, Termonfeckin, such as a speed limit and children at Play Signs, Road Markings to assist motorists, particularly at the entrance to the estate, in the interest of public safety".

**REPLY:**

**The matter will be investigated in accordance with the Council's Traffic Calming Policy.**

*The members noted the reply.*

#### **Minute No. 90/17**

#### **Notice of Motion**

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

" That Louth County Council carry out a complete resurfacing of the road under Louth's jurisdiction in the Rosevale Estate, Beamore Road, Drogheda, to bring it up to a modern standard, in the interest of public safety and visual appearance and to liaise with Meath County Council for completion of the remaining stretch of road".

**REPLY:**

**Rosevale Estate, Drogheda, is not included in our Roadworks Programme 2017 or in the multi-annual programme for 2018. In order for a road to be considered in the roadworks programme it must be identified as requiring road improvements and/or resurfacing works, depending on the condition of the road. The road will**

**be listed for inspection and may be considered at a future date subject to allocation of funding.**

*Noted.*

### **Minute No. 91/17**

#### **Notice of Motion**

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

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

"Calling on this Borough District to upgrade the road markings and signage on the one way system at Ascal a hAon, Yellowbatter, and include children at play /slow down signage in this area as there are vehicles travelling at speed the wrong way down the avenue"

#### **REPLY:**

**The Area Staff will schedule the road markings for renewal with the contractor. The works will be carried out as soon as is practical. Signage will be reviewed and erected subject to budgetary constraints. In regard t traffic speeding and travelling against the one way traffic flow this matter will be raised by the Road safety Officer at the next Collision Prevention Committee meeting which is attend by members of An Garda Síochána.**

*The members noted the reply.*

### **Minute No. 92/17**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey**

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

" That Louth County Council restores and rebuilds Drogheda's medieval town walls. This would mean a major boost to the town's history, heritage and culture, informing locals and encouraging tourists to visit. This is a matter of urgency and requires immediate attention and major funding. The walls have been subjected to shameful neglect over many years, and have deteriorated, are covered in overgrowth, and are in an appalling and dangerous state".

#### **REPLY:**

**Drogheda's town walls constitute a single National Monument. Louth County Council is considered to be the Guardian of the town walls under the National Monuments Act and the National Town Defences Policy (2008). The only exception is Laurence's Gate which Drogheda Corporation passed on to the OPW in the 1960s.**

**The council recognises the historical and archaeological significance of Drogheda's walled town heritage, which is highlighted in the Conservation Plan**

which was adopted by DBC in 2007. Drogheda was a founding member of the Irish Walled Towns Network in 2005. The town's walls were built in the Middle Ages and were either torn down or abandoned to neglect after they became redundant in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Having lost their military and civic function they were no longer regularly maintained.

The tourism potential of Drogheda's walled town heritage has become more widely recognised recently with the emphasis on 'telling our stories' under Ireland's Ancient East. The council would like to capitalise on this resource and use it to drive tourism in Drogheda, the capital of the Boyne Valley, however, conservation works on town walls are expensive and are competing for funding with public service demands.

The local authority has carried out conservation works at the Buttergate, Featherbed Lane, Mount Saint Oliver and has previously removed vegetation from the town walls in the grounds of Saint Mary's Church of Ireland and at Murdock's Yard, adjacent to the Bridge of Peace. More than €100,000 has also been spent on the Old Abbey, which is adjacent to but not part of the town walls, in the last two years. It is also proposed to carry out conservation works at Featherbed Lane and public realm/landscaping at Laurence's Gate in 2018. All these works depend on funding and on obtaining Ministerial Consent.

Restoring and rebuilding the town walls would be ruinously expensive. It would not receive Ministerial Consent either.

I will ask the Heritage and Conservation Officers to compile a costed schedule of necessary and essential conservation works in relation to the town wall circuit. I will ask them to apply regularly for external funding for these works. Providing council funds for works on the town walls will be decided in the annual budget discussions on which the members have the final say. I am happy to divert funding into works on the town walls if matching savings can be made from other aspects of expenditure.

*The members noted the reply.*

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

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

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