

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

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

### **In attendance:**

**Mayor:** Cllr. P. Smith

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

**Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Director of Services  
Sean O' Reilly, Acting Senior Executive Engineer  
Brona O' Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer  
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator

### **Minute No. 122/17**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. F. Godfrey and seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane.

### **Minute No. 123/17**

#### **Matters arising**

- It was clarified to the members that minute 108/17, which referred to it being agreed to revert back to the members with possible mechanisms for tackling anti-social behaviour in Council housing estates, did not indicate unanimity in relation to possible solutions amongst the members .

### **Minute No. 124/17**

#### **Budget 2018**

Members expressed disappointment at the proposed reduction in the discretionary budget for 2018 to €60,000. Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. K. Flood that the discretionary budget for 2018 should be increased by €15,000 from the 2017 figure.

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

**Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood**

A roll call vote was called

**For:** Cllr. P. Bell, Cllr. J. Byrne, Cllr. T. Byrne, Cllr. K. Callan, Cllr. R. Culhane, Cllr. K. Flood, Cllr. F. Godfrey, Cllr. P. Smith, Cllr. O. Tully, Cllr. D. Saurin

***The proposal was carried unanimously.***

### **Minute No. 125/17**

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

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

- Members expressed their concern at the level of homelessness in Drogheda and the need for the port Access Route to be progressed to facilitate the development of housing.
- A more detailed table of information, as circulated previously in relation to the housing grants, was requested.
- In relation to the Recast rapid Programme, 2017 it was proposed by Cllr. O. Tully, seconded by J. Byrne and agreed by the members that a funding application should be submitted for the upgrade, extension and consolidation of the existing Community CCTV schemes at Rathmullen, Yellowbatter, and Moneymore and additional CCTV in Rathmullen.

### **Minute No. 126/17**

#### **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 and road marking issues highlighted by the members and agreed to investigate them and revert back to the members with any queries.
- The need to retrieve the historical plaques in the fire-damaged Carstown House was raised and a further written report outlining the legal process for a local authority to take over the maintenance of a derelict private property was requested.
- Members strongly expressed their dissatisfaction with the removal of the plastic recycling facilities at bring banks and their desire to see the service restored.

### **Minute No. 127/17**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by K. Callan and agreed by the members to suspend standing orders in order to allow the meeting to continue until 8.10 pm.

**Minute No. 128/17**

**Allocation of Community Grants**

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

**Minute No. 129/17**

**Notice of Motion**

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

**Motion was deferred.**

'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.**

**Minute No. 130/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane**

**Motion was deferred.**

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.**

### **Minute No. 131/17**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane**

**Motion was deferred.**

"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.**

### **Minute No. 132/17**

#### **Notice of Motion**

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

**Motion was deferred.**

" Following numerous swan collisions with the bridges over The Boyne in Drogheda, this council will fit relective 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.

**Minute No. 133/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. D. Saurin**

**Motion was deferred.**

" 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:**

**Section 180 of the Planning Act 2000-2010 (as amended) states**

**Where a development for which permission is granted under *section 34* or under Part IV of the Act of 1963 includes the construction of 2 or more houses and the provision of new roads, open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains or service connections, and the development has been completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in accordance with the permission and any conditions to which the permission is subject, the authority shall, where requested by the person carrying out the development, or, by the majority of the owners of the houses involved, as soon as may be, initiate the procedures under section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.**

**This development was constructed by Cherryfield Homes Ltd who are still trading. I have no TIC file for this development. No application by the developer or request from the residents have been received by LCC. LCC has TIC the street lighting for phase 1 of this estate.**

**Minute No. 134/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. T. Byrne**

**Deferred**

" 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.**

**Minute No. 135/17**

**Notice of Motion**

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

" 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.**

**Minute No. 136/17**

**Correspondence**

Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

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

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