

Borough District of Drogheda – October 2016

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 3rd October, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. O. Tully

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

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

Minute No. 98/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September, 2016, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. F. Godfrey and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

The minutes of the Special meeting held on 19th September, 2016, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. K. Callan and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

Minute No. 99/16

Matters arising

Members were informed that the public consultation process in relation to the proposed closure of St. Laurence's Gate to vehicular traffic should commence by the end of October.

Minute No. 100/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

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

- It was reported that 1,500 forms had not been returned as part of the housing needs assessment.
- It was reported that there were a number of reasons for tenants to be in arrears with their rent but the Council was engaging with people willing to address the issue and actively encouraging tenants to have their rent deducted at source through An Post.

- It was also pointed out that the Council currently had plans to build 778 housing units over the next 3 years and site costs should not be an impediment to these plans.
- It was clarified that the definition of homelessness included people living in inadequate housing and a second inspector was being appointed to carry out inspections of rented accommodation.
- The Housing Department undertook to provide information to the members in relation to the number of Council-owned and privately-owned vacant housing units in the area

Minute No. 101/16

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

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

- The recent success in the Tidy Towns competition was commended and the efforts of Council staff in supporting the volunteers were acknowledged by the members.
- Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services undertook to have the issue of odours possibly coming from the water treatment plant investigated.

Minute No. 102/16

Appointment of Vice Chairperson for Joint Policing Committee

Proposed: Cllr. J. Byrne by Cllr. A Cassidy

Proposed: Cllr R. Culhane by Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by Cllr. K. Flood

Seconded by Cllr. P. Smith

There followed a roll call vote.

For Cllr. R. Culhane: Cllrs: P. Bell, K. Callan, R. Culhane, F. Godfrey, P. Smith, O. Tully

For Cllr. T. Byrne: Cllr. T. Byrne, A. Cassidy, J. Byrne, K. Flood

Cllr. R. Culhane was deemed Elected as Vice Chairperson.

Minute No. 103/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"Calling on Drogheda Borough Municipal District to apply for Purple Flag accreditation for Drogheda Town"

REPLY:

The standards required for Purple Flag status are fairly onerous and it is unlikely that Drogheda would meet the standard at present. In the circumstances an application would seem premature.

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services undertook to make the management team of Louth County Council aware of the strong support for the motion.

Minute No. 104/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

" That Louth County Council in the interest of public safety provide traffic calming measures in the Rathview Housing estate, Termonfeckin, including ramps, speed limit signs, children at play signs and other flashpoints in the village, such as pedestrian crossing, from the pathway to the shop on the Clogherhead road and ease the plight of motorists, exiting the Orchard Villas estate, by removing the blind corner."

REPLY:

Rathview estate is included in the consideration for the provision of a 30 kph special speed limit in housing estates subject to review of speed limits.

Traffic counts have been undertaken at Termonfeckin village, Co.Louth from 7th September 2015 to 10th September 2015 at Yellow Gap, Termonfeckin Road to determine driving speeds. Results indicate the recorded 85th percentile speed on Termonfeckin Road is 83km/h, the survey showing some spikes in speed mostly occurring after midnight until about 4am.

With reference to the Traffic Calming Policy adopted by the Council in May 2015, in consultation with the members (Municipal Districts) a priority list of schemes will be established and agreed on an **annual basis**, based on the priority assessment. The priority list to be updated in Q4 in order to be available for consideration in the annual road works programme.

A traffic calming scheme may be considered as part of any Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme 2017, (LCSI scheme), subject to funding.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 105/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

"That Louth County Council provide traffic calming measures on Francis Street, Drogheda, close to Sienna/Jim Garry Way entrance, in the interest of public safety."

REPLY:

The request for traffic calming measures at Francis Street will be assessed for compliance with the criteria set down in the Traffic Calming Policy adopted by the Council in May 2015, and in order to be considered further. In consultation with the members (Municipal Districts) a priority list of schemes will be established and agreed on an *annual basis*, based on the priority assessment. The priority list to be updated in Q4 in order to be available for consideration in the annual road works programme.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 106/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

" Calling on Louth Co. Co. to refurbish/reinstate the roadway/ town wall marking caused to the Jim Garry Way in Drogheda following the damage caused predominantly by heavy goods vehicles using the road. The installation of height restriction barriers would ensure that this practice would cease."

REPLY:

Repairs will be undertaken to the road surface and paving at Jim Garry Way as part of our ongoing maintenance programme. Anti-freeze which was splashed onto the wall requires specialist cleaning and we are currently seeking proposals for same. The restriction on heavy goods vehicles using the road is a matter of enforcement for An Garda Síochána.

It was pointed out to members that height restriction barriers could prevent the area being accessed by emergency vehicles.

Minute No. 107/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"Calling on Louth Co. Co. to erect directional signage around Drogheda for the Barbican Centre at Peter St. This facility is an important venue within the town and visitors have difficulty location it."

REPLY:

The Barbican Centre should make an application for directional signage and it will be considered under the terms of the LCC Road Signage Policy.

Members noted the reply

Minute No. 108/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"Calling on this Borough District to investigate if traffic calming measures are required on the entrance road to Fountain Hill Estate in Mell. The road is a shared entrance between Fountain Hill and Mell School off the main road R168. There is a significant increase in traffic along this road at peak school times with motorists using the road entering Fountain Hill as a turning circle in order to exit back out to the R168"

REPLY:

The entrance between Fountain Hill from the R168 and Mell School will be examined and a report prepared in due course.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 109/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"Requesting Louth County Council carry out an inspection of the King William Glen Junction with the Drogheda Slane Road and the Obelisk Bridge Road to include line of sight, vegetation around the junction which may limit same and road surfaces within a 50yard radius of the junction. Currently a severe difference in road surface level exists west of the junction which is causing traffic travelling from Drogheda direction to Slane to travel into the wrong side of the road to avoid this dip."

REPLY:

Following the recent road traffic incidents on the N51 Slane Road, normal protocols will be followed including joint inspection of the incident locations with investigating Garda team member and the Council's Engineering team. Any concerns identified in respect of road safety at the locations will be brought to the attention of the TII Regional Road Safety Engineer.

Members were informed that works in relation to relining of the road and the cutting back of vegetation had been agreed with TII. They were also informed that TII have indicated that funds will be made available to address the dip in the road

Minute No. 110/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Cassidy
Secinded by: Cllr. K. Flood

Calling on this council to introduce a bye-law to reduce the speed on the N51 (slane road) to 60k.m.p.h. from Curly hole to the junction at the old Drybridge road. As a local authority in conjunction with the L.A engineer we have the authority to introduce 'special speed limits' in the form of a bye-law".

REPLY:

The Department of Transport has initiated a review of all Speed Limits to be completed by April 2017.

Local Authorities are to review the speed limits on Regional and Local Roads and TII are to review the Speed limits on the National Roads. The TII have appointed Consultants to carry out the review. The current speed limit on the N51 is 100 km/h which is the default speed limit for national roads.

While it is a function of the LCC members to approve special speed limits to change the existing speed limit we can only bring proposals to the members for changes on National Roads if the TII has approved the change in advance. We need the TII to be on board if we want to change the speed limits on National Roads.

Pat Finn, Senior Engineer assured the members that the consultants acting on behalf of TII had been informed of their views in relation to the speed limit on the N51.

Minute No. 111/16

Notice of Question - Cllr. P. Bell

"Can this Council confirm when the name plate of Ballsgrove Estate will be reinstated on the Donore Road entrance?"

REPLY:

Following a RTA the Ballsgrove entrance stone was damaged. A new stone was ordered and is now ready for collection. Louth County Council is organising the necessary civil works to erect the new stone. This work will be completed by week ending 3rd June.

Minute No. 112/16

Notice of Question - Cllr. P. Bell

"Can Council confirm if any progress has been made regarding the installation of speed ramps on straight stretch of road in Moneymore adjacent to Macardle Green?"

REPLY:

I am not aware of any plans to introduce additional speed ramps in Money more. If this refers to access road to McArdle Green this is a matter for North & East Housing.

The Questions were noted by the Members.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____