

Louth County Council Monthly Meeting 21st November 2022

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday 21st November at 10.00 a.m.

In attendance:

Presiding: Councillor, Conor Keelan - Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillors: James Byrne, Maria Doyle, Fiachra Mac Raghnaill, Liam Reilly, Pio Smith.

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Service
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
Noel Treanor, Senior Engineer
Brian Lynch, Accountant
Roisin McAuley, Accountant

Minute No. 174/22

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday 17th October 2022 were

Proposed by Cllr Joanna Byrne
Seconded by Cllr John Reilly
and adopted.

Minute No. 175/22

Minutes of Municipal District Meetings – Noted

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Municipal District of Dundalk 6th September 2022
- Borough District of Drogheda 3rd October 2022
- Municipal District of Dundalk 4th October 2022
- Municipal District of Ardee 6th October 2022
- Municipal District of Dundalk 2023 Budgetary Plan Meeting
- Borough District of Drogheda 2023 Budgetary Plan Meeting

Minute No. 176/22

Minutes of Committee Meetings – Noted

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Climate Change and Energy SPC Meeting 27th June 2022
- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 5th October 2022
- Audit Committee Meeting 6th October 2022

Minute No. 177/22

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

Cathaoirleach Cllr Conor Keelan advised Members that the November CPG meeting was held in person at 9.00 am on Wednesday 9th November 2022 in the Setanta Room, County Hall.

Members received a briefing on Budget 2023 from the Chief Executive Joan Martin and Bernie Woods Head of Finance.

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda including

- Resolution sought on a replacement for the Regional Health Forum following Cllr John Sheridan's resignation from the board – this is the third time before the Council

- Four no. S183 proposals being brought before Members, including 1 disposal to assist AHB provision of 30 units for independent living, 1 lease disposal in Muirhevna to assist community groups 1 disposal of lands to IDA to assist the promotion of business to Louth, and 1 to facilitate utility provision.
- S85 agreement which allows for Louth County Council to carry out bridge works on behalf of Meath County Council
- Two briefings to be given to the Council on current Active Travel project status, and on an overview on the Residential Zoned Land Tax process and how it affects individual households

Members were advised that books of condolences for Queen Elizabeth and for the victims of Cresslough had been sent out on behalf of those signing.

Membership of the Placenames Committee and the need to have a Drogheda Borough District Member Rep.

Cllr Keelan reminded Members that a Book of Condolence was opened in honour of Vicki Whelan across the County and online.

Minute No. 178/22

Attendances of the Chairperson

Cathaoirleach Cllr Keelan advised Members of the following attendances to represent the Council:

- Louth in Bloom
- World War I Memorial Launch
- Louth PPN Awards in Castlebellingham
- Beyond Borders Shared Ireland Event
- Fire Long Service Awards in Trim, Co. Meath

Minute No. 179/22

Report from Chairperson of Strategic Policy Group

Cllr Joanna Byrne advised Members that the Housing SPC meeting was held in person on 19th November 2022 in County Hall.

Members received a presentation on Homelessness from Sinead Corrigan.

- An increase in the number of younger people presenting was noted.
- The Housing first model is being successfully used in Louth

Members received an update on Housing allocations from John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer with 62 allocations made to Disabled tenants, which is above target.

Other items discussed included

- A Communication and Information Programme to issue from the Housing Agency
- The Work Programme for 2022
- Schedule of Meetings for 2023

Report from Chairperson of Strategic Policy Group

Cllr John Sheridan advised Members that the Community SPC meeting was held in person on 16th November 2022 in Drogheda Library.

Members received a presentation on Healthy Ireland from Paula Keenan, Healthy Ireland Coordinator.

Comhairle na nÓg also presented to Members, and comments were made on how impressive a group they were.

The next meeting is set for March 2023.

Minute No. 180/22

Replacement Nomination to the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East

In accordance with **S42(3)** of the Health Act 2004 and Section 11 (1-3) of Statutory Instrument no. 797 of 2005, it was

Proposed by: Cllr John Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr John Reilly

And resolved that Cllr Conor Keelan be nominated as the representative to replace the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr John Sheridan on the Regional Health Forum – Dublin North East.

Minute No. 181/22

Replacement Nomination to the Board of Louth and Meath Education and Training Board

It was agreed to defer this item to the December meeting.

Minute No. 182/22

Notice under Section 183 - Proposed Disposal of property at 65 & 67 & the old Labour exchange building at Barrack Street, Dundalk for the development of 30 independent living units.

In accordance with S183(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, it was agreed the **disposal of Lands adjacent at 65 & 67 & the old Labour exchange building at Barrack Street, Dundalk** shall be carried out in accordance with terms specified in the resolution;

This was:

Proposed by: Cllr Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr Conor Keelan

And Resolved.

Minute No. 183/22

Notice under Section 183 - Proposed Disposal of 3.1973 Hectares of lands in the Townland of Mell, Drogheda, Co Louth to the IDA Ireland

In accordance with S183(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, it was agreed the **disposal of 3.1973 Hectares of lands in the Townland of Mell, Drogheda, Co Louth to the IDA Ireland** shall be carried out in accordance with terms specified in the resolution;

This was:

Proposed by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr Michelle Hall

And Resolved.

Minute No. 184/22

Notice under Section 183 - Proposed Disposal of land at the junction of Priory Villas and Pearse Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

In accordance with S183(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, it was agreed the **disposal of land at the junction of Priory Villas and Pearse Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth** shall be carried out in accordance with terms specified in the resolution;

This was:

Proposed by: Cllr Marianne Butler

Seconded by: Cllr Eileen Tully

And Resolved.

Minute No. 185/22

Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council on Bridge Works

Catherine Duff Director of Services referred to the documents as presented and advised that in order for Louth County Council to carry out works on behalf of Meath County Council a Section 85 Agreement required the resolution of Members.

Approval of the agreement was

Proposed by: Cllr Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr Dolores Minogue

And resolved.

Minute No. 186/22

Approval of Attendance at Conferences

A change was noted to the location of the AILG conference.

Approval of attendances at Conferences as notified to the Elected Members was

Proposed by: Cllr Marianne Butler

Seconded by: Cllr Maeve Yore

And Resolved.

Minute No. 187/22

Allocation of Members Community Grants

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of Allocation of Members Community Grants as notified to the Elected Members was

Proposed by: Cllr Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr Paula Butterly

And Resolved.

Minute No. 188/22

Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Chomhréitigh ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executive

Monthly Management Report

- Support Services
- Strategic Economic Development
- Placemaking & Physical Development
- Organisational Development
- Social Development

Members discussed the report as issued and the following items were highlighted:

Support Services

- Continuous leak at Termonfeckin Road, Beaulieu will be brought to Irish Water attention

Strategic Economic Development

- An update on Shopfront Improvement Grants was requested
- Louth Fire services provide assistance to Meath under an agreement and a fee is received
- The reference to a child turning on Christmas lights which were later turned on by Amy Broadhurst was correct at time of drafting report
- A site has been identified for Dunleer Fire Station and discussions are ongoing with land owner
- Funding will be sought for a repeat of the Successful Cross Border fireworks event. A query was raised on why Ardee MD were previously prevented from holding a firework event

- Successful LCC/BIDs/Failte Ireland collaborative Festival of Light events in Drogheda and Frostival in Dundalk were noted and praised
- East Border Region Trip to Westminster raised future cross border visa concerns

Placemaking & Physical Development

- Greenway Omeath to Newry projects funding deadline is December 2023
- Ardee Castleblayney Road Work Scheme project team are actively seeking engagement with residents and registered land owners
- External groups portrayed Disappointment to Elected Rep over invitee list to Narrowwater Bridge.
- Port Access Northern Cross Route Masterplan still in place
- Access road to Boyne Business Park progressing
- Members expressed safety concerns about recently installed traffic islands and on accessibility for agricultural and larger vehicles through the islands
- Concerns were raised about the Junction on Rathmullen Road / Bridge of Peace
- Louth County Council does not erect gates on public roads
- Rangers on commonage are a matter for OPW
- Consideration of Solar Public Lights requested

Organisational Development

- Electoral Register changes were highlighted. Reminder was given of individual responsibility to check the register
- The Louth in Bloom event was complimented, and confirmation given that Louth in Bloom is an annual event
- Suggestion made that specific policy should be drafted on how we should engage with under 14s. Confirmation that a Play for Teenagers Policy is being developed
- Migrant Strategy will be put on website, it is due for renewal

Social Development

- No items raised

Minute No. 189/22

Active Travel Presentation

Members received a presentation on Active Travel plans in Louth from Noel Treanor which was well received, and a questions and answer session followed.

Minute No. 190/22

Presentation - Residential Zoned Land Tax RZLT

Members received a presentation on new Residential Zoned Land Tax, who it applies to and how to appeal from Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner, which was well received. A questions and answer session followed.

Minute No. 191/22

Condolences

Members expressed sympathy to the family and friends of:

Vicki Phelan: A motion was proposed by Cllr Dolores Minogue and seconded by Cllr Paula Butterly that every hospital should have Vicki Phelan's photo in it so she is never forgotten.

Siobhan Murphy, who worked in the Highlanes, DIT and the Copper Kettle Drogheda.

Brian Ross, Caretaker at Muirhevnamor Pitch and Putt.

Minute No. 192/22

Congratulations

Congratulations were offered to –

The Nugent Family on winning Irelands Fittest Family and representing Louth Frostival Dundalk on a great family event

Minute No. 193/22

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Conor Keelan

Seconded by Cllr Emma Coffey

"That each Regional Growth Centre in this state should elect its own Mayor and Cabinet of Councillors so as to assist in each Regional Growth Centre's planning and sustainable development.

And that this be sent to all Regional Growth Centres, as designated, Darragh O'Brien, Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage and Peter Burke, Minister of State at the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. "

Reply: Joe McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

There is no provision in the Local Government Acts for this provision

An amendment to the Motion to write to the Minister asking that this is provided for in law was

Proposed by Cllr Emma Coffey

Seconded by Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

And resolved.

Minute No. 194/22

Notice of Question - Cllr. Pio Smith – Noted

"Requesting that this Local Authority outline in tabular form all of the projects that required match funding that in 2022 and the amount that was allocated to each project"

The table of response as issued to Member was noted.

Minute No. 195/22

Notice of Question: Cllr. Antóin Watters – Noted

" Can you provide me with the following information for the last 5 years.

How many one-off rural planning applications were submitted to Louth County Council?

How many one-off rural planning applications were granted by Louth County Council?

How many applications have submitted commencement notices to Louth County Council?"

Reply: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development

The reporting system available on IPLAN is limited therefore we cannot give a figure on the total number of 'one off' rural houses over the past 5 years.

There are however figures on the number of 'Individual Houses' granted and commencement notices received. It should be noted that these figures include 'One off' houses in both urban areas and the open countryside.

Question No.	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (up to 31/10/2022)
No. of Applications	Don't have a figure for the total number of 'one off' rural applications				
No. of dwellings Granted	73	147	121	264	143
No. of Commencement Notices received	180	164	160	183	140

Minute No. 196/22

Correspondence – Noted

Members noted the following Correspondence which issued

- Donegal County Council dated 20th October 2022
- Cork County Council dated 24th October 2022
- Offaly County Council dated 26th October 2022
- Wicklow County Council dated 8th November 2022
- Monaghan County Council dated 9th November 2022
- Monaghan County Council dated 9th November 2022
- Sligo County Council dated 11th November 2022
- Sligo County Council dated 11th November 2022
- Sligo County Council dated 11th November 2022

Minute No. 197/22

Opening of the Draft Budget 2023 for adoption

The Cathaoirleach formerly opened the Budget meeting, prior to adjourning it to break for lunch.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 19/12/22

Cathaoirleach: Conor Keelan

Meeting Administrator: Alice Quoney