



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Louth County Council Monthly Meeting**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024, at 10:00a.m.

### **In Attendance:**

**Presiding:** Councillor, Kevin Callan – Cathaoirleach

**Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Bernie Conlon, Emma Coffey, Eric Donovan, Ciaran Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Sean Kelly, Sionainn McCann, Andrea McKevitt, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Pio Smith, Antóin Watters (remote), Maeve Yore

### **Apologies:**

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Temporary Chief Executive  
Ger Murphy, Director of Services  
David Jones, Director of Services  
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services  
Bernie Woods, Director of Finance  
David Hanratty, A/Director of Services  
Yvonne O'Brien, A/Director of Services  
Bryan Coughlan, Meeting Administrator  
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner  
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer

### **Minute No. 202/24**

### **Minutes from meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Proposed by:** Cllr John Sheridan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Michelle Hall  
**And Approved**

## Minute No. 203/24

### Matters Arising

Cllr. Michelle Hall sought clarification regarding Standing Orders and specifically how many matters Members could propose and/or second in an individual meeting. Ms. Hall was informed that the only relevant Standing Order is SO 17 which limits the number of notices that a Member can place on the Agenda of any one meeting.

Cllr. Joanna Byrne sought an update on the erosion at the Beach Hut at Clogherhead.

## Minute No. 204/24

### Minutes of District Meetings - Noted

- Borough District of Drogheda 2nd September 2024
- Municipal District of Ardee 5th September 2024
- Municipal District of Dundalk 10th September 2024

## Minute No. 205/24

### Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

A report was delivered, by the Chairperson of the Corporate Policy Group Cllr. Kevin Callan, on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

## Minute No. 206/24

### Proposed Bids Scheme for Drogheda 2025 -2029

An overview of the scheme was provided by Thomas McEvoy and also the relevant legislation – Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act, 2006. The scheme was **proposed by** Cllr. Joanna Byrne and **seconded by** Cllr. Pio Smith.

In accordance with the Act, it was a requirement that a resolution would be passed with at least one third of the Council's total membership voting in favour. Therefore, a rollcall vote was called with Members voting for the adoption of the BIDS Scheme for Drogheda 2025 – 2029:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly	1			
James Byrne				1
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Bernie Conlon	1			
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciaran Fisher	1			
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Sean Kelly				1
Sionnan McCann	1			

Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue				1
Robert Nash	1			
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			
John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty	1			
Antoin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	26	0	0	3

**And Resolved.**

**Minute No. 207/24**

**Approval of Attendance at Conferences**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Joanna Byrne  
**And Resolved**

**Minute No. 208/24**

**Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended**

Following a query from Cllr. Maeve Yore, the Members Community Grants were:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue  
**And Resolved**

**Minute No. 209/24**

**SPC Scheme 2024 - 2029**

Joe McGuinness informed the Members that the matter of youth representation had been reviewed with Wicklow County Council following the September monthly meeting and that both Comhairle nan Óg and Macra na Feirme would have seats on the Climate Change and Sustainability SPC.

The SPC Scheme 2024 – 2029 was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Marianne Butler  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Paula Butterly  
**And Resolved**

## **Minute No. 210/24**

### **To convene a Special Meeting to consider the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan.**

In line with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan must be adopted or amended by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024. In order to consider the Draft, it was agreed that a Special Meeting would be convened at 7pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Sean Kelly  
**And Resolved**

## **Minute No. 211/24**

### **Consideration of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2029**

Following discussion regarding home ownership rates in the traveller community, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029, prepared in line with Section 7 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, was adopted on the:

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Kevin Meenan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Sean Kelly  
**And Resolved**

## **Minute No. 212/24**

### **Draft Special Speed Limit Bye Laws 2024**

David Jones presented the submissions made, and the responses issued, with regard to the Draft Special Speed Limit Bye Laws. In total six submissions were made. It was further noted that no objection was made by An Garda Síochana.

In debating the draft Speed Limit Bye Laws, it was noted by a number of Members that an awareness campaign as to the changes would be beneficial.

The Speed Limit Bye-Laws were adopted by the Council to become effective from 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 on the:

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**And Resolved**

## **Minute No. 213/24**

### **Section 183 – Proposed disposal of lands adjacent to Drogheda Landfill Site**

It was suggested by the Chief Executive that the Council would go into Committee in order to discuss this item as there was important information which should not be in the public domain at this time. Following a roll call vote on the question of whether to go into Committee, the outcome was:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly	1			
James Byrne				1
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Bernie Conlon	1			
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciaran Fisher	1			
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Sionnan McCann	1			
Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash	1			
Ejro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			
John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith				1
Jim Tenanty	1			
Antoin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	27	0	0	2

When the meeting exited Committee, the disposal in question was approved on the:

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Michelle Hall  
**And Resolved**

#### **Minute No. 214/24**

#### **Section 183 – Proposed disposal of lands at Moneymore, Drogheda to McCaughey Homes Limited**

Approval of the disposal to McCaughey Homes Limited was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. James Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Sean Kelly  
**And resolved**

## **Minute No. 215/24**

### **Section 183 – Proposed disposal of DYD Building, Drogheda, Co. Louth to Culture Connect CLG**

The matter of the disposal of land at Narrow West Street, Drogheda, to Culture Connect CLG by way of 25 year lease was debated by Members. Cllr. Michelle Hall **proposed** that the question be deferred until the next meeting to allow for clarity to be brought to the charity status of Culture Connect CLG or for further governance information to be provided. This was **seconded** by Cllr. Joanna Byrne.

## **Minute No. 216/24**

### **Section 183 – Proposed disposal of An Táin Arts Centre to An Táin Arts Centre Limited**

During the debate on this matter, a conflict of interest was declared by the following Members who then left the meeting:

- Cllr. Ciaran Fisher
- Cllr. Sean Kelly

Following significant discussion which considered the charging structure of the operator, the rent being received, maintenance arrangements and insurance, it was agreed to dispose of the property by way of a 20 year lease.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Emma Coffey  
**And Resolved**

## **Minute No. 217/24**

### **Presentation by Drogheda Port Company**

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that Drogheda Port Company has sent correspondence on the morning of the meeting to cancel their attendance. The Members expressed disappointment at the decision and queried the legal requirements of Drogheda Port Company with regard to attendance at Council Meetings. The Chief Executive stated that he would consult the Harbours Act, 2015 and advise members of same.

Cllr. Michelle Hall also asked for information regarding the income the Port Company is receiving from car parking charges.

## **Minute No. 218/24**

### **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report**

#### **Support Services**

Cllr. Michelle Hall queried Louth County Council's status with regard to the WiFi4EU project. Bernie Woods committed to clarifying same.

## **Strategic Economic Development**

The following was discussed in relation to Strategic Economic Development:

- In response to a query from Cllr. Maeve Yore, it was confirmed that a consultant has been appointed to complete the Louth County Council Tourism Strategy.
- Cllr. John Sheridan queried the role of the Council in the North East Sustainable Tech Business Park. It was confirmed that the Council is not involved.
- Appreciation was expressed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne for the recruitment drive to increase the number of Retained Firefighters.

## **Placemaking & Physical Development**

The following was discussed in relation to Placemaking and Physical Development

- David Jones will revert on a query from Cllr. Maeve Yore regarding the painting of disabled parking bays.
- The Narrow Water Bridge project remains on track to meet project timelines.

## **Organisational Development**

The matters discussed in relation to Organisational Development were:

- Community Recognition Fund applications are with the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- No correspondence has been received from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the appointment of a Deputy Chief Executive for Drogheda.
- LCC is moving to decarbonise its fleet and is also progressing an EV charging strategy with a number of other LAs.
- National guidelines have been issued regarding CCTV and are currently being adapted for Louth.
- Lourdes Stadium, Drogheda, is available on Sundays on an ad-hoc basis as needs may require.
- In response to a query from Cllr. Eric Donovan, it was confirmed that Clár funding is only available in areas of population decline and these areas are designated by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

A discussion was had regarding the lighting up of corporate buildings during which it was confirmed that there is no policy for same but requests are assessed on a case by case basis. Cllr. Fiona Mhic Conchoille requested that buildings could be lit up blue for diabetes awareness. Cllr. Dolores Minogue requested that Ardee Castle would be included when corporate buildings are being lit up.

## **Social Development**

The following was discussed in relation to Social Development:

- Cllr. Pearse McGeough offered compliments to the staff involved in processing housing grants on the progress that is being made.
- Cllr. Paddy McQuillan commended the work that has been undertaken on the Community House in Rathmullen.
- The Infill Scheme at Muirhevnamore is progressing well.

## **Ukraine Humanitarian Response**

The upcoming retirement of Yvonne O'Brien was recognised by the Members. Yvonne was praised by all who spoke, in particular for the improvements that have taken place in Louth Libraries and also in making Louth's response to the Ukraine crisis the national leader.

### **Minute No. 219/24**

## **Suspension of Stading Orders**

On the **proposal of** Cllr. Kevin Callan, **seconded by** Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt, Standing Orders were suspended to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

### **Minute No. 220/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Paula Butterly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue

*I call on this Chamber to pass a motion whereby a review is conducted of all the protected structures on the Record of Protected Structures in County Louth with immediate effect, focusing in equal measure on urban, rural buildings and their curtilages.*

*Said review is to be completed within twelve months of the passing of this motion and a list of protected structures, containing no less than one hundred structures, is to be brought before the Chamber on a quarterly basis for review and approval by the Members.*

## **Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services:**

*There are in excess of 1,400 buildings listed in the Record of Protected Structures set out in the Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027. Given the current commitments of the forward planning section and processes involved in reviewing the Record of Protected Structures, it would not be possible to complete a full review of the Record of Protected Structures within one year.*

*The planning section suggest that an interim review could be facilitated whereby notification is given that the Planning Authority intends to review the Record of Protected Structures and invite submissions from building owners as to whether they consider their building should remain on the register or be removed. The buildings referred to in the submissions received would form the first tranche of buildings to be reviewed.*

*It should be noted that the review of the County Development Plan will commence in November 2025 where the Record of Protected Structures will also be reviewed as part of this process.*

### **Minute No. 221/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Michelle Hall  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. James Byrne

*That this council will reinstate road line markings in Co. Louth that have deteriorated beginning with regional roads. 'Be safe, be seen' in the Vision Zero road safety campaign must also include Louth County Council ensuring motorists can use road markings to improve their ability to play their part in driving safely. SDGs 3, 11*

### **Reply from David Jones, Director of Services:**

*Certain road line markings are refreshed each year throughout the County in the context of our annual Road Works Programme, primarily carried out in prioritised locations through Low-Cost Safety Works/Traffic Calming Measures.*

*It is noted that there is circa 1,500 kilometres of a local/regional road network in the County.*

*An enhanced programme of refreshing road line markings can only be considered should additional funding be allocated to facilitate same.*

Cllr. Antoin Watters requested that the cost of these measures would be brought to the next meeting.

### **Minute No. 222/24**

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the **proposal of** Cllr. Kevin Callan, **seconded by** Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt, Standing Orders were suspended to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

### **Minute No. 223/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan

*"That Louth County Council in conjunction Roughan & O'Donovan Engineers are compelled to reply to each submission made in respect of the Dundalk Bay - Carlingford Greenway project.*

*People took a great deal of time and effort to ensure these submissions were lodged, as to have their voices and opinions heard in relation to this proposed project along with asking some very material and crucial questions.*

*It is necessary that each and every person has the right to receive a reply no matter how long this process takes."*

### **Reply from David Jones, Director of Services:**

*The total number of submissions received as part of the Route Corridor Options consultation stage was 1,657.*

*These submissions are now being reviewed by the project consultants and will inform the process in determining an emerged preferred route corridor, which will be subject to the next public consultation phase.*

*It is likely that it will be early 2025 by the time the project reaches that milestone.*

*The importance of communication is acknowledged in terms of the process involved in the planning and designing of the proposed Greenway.*

*All submissions received on-line or by e-mail have received an acknowledgement, while confirmation receipts were provided to individual hard copy submissions where requested.*

*A consultation findings report will be produced, that will capture responses to the queries and issues raised in the submissions, categorised into groups of issues similar in nature. This report will be made available on completion, which is expected to be by the end of 2024/early 2025.*

*The above represents standard practice in respect to how submissions are dealt with in terms of either statutory, or in this case, non-statutory public consultation processes.*

*In examining the proposed Dundalk to Carlingford Greenway, Louth County Council is following the Code of Best Practice on National and Regional Greenways which sets out a process of developing Greenways in a collaborative way. The views of the public are an important and central element of the planning and design process, and the Code makes extensive provision for public consultation and the dissemination of information to the public during the development of the project, which Louth County Council is committed to.*

*Louth County Council will explore, with the project consultants, the feasibility of individual responses being issued to those that made submissions, by means of providing the thematic replies as captured in the consultation findings report, as relevant to the issues raised in each submission.*

In response to some of the matters raised during the debate on this motion, David Jones clarified the following:

- The project is at a very early stage and it will be the end of 2024 before the current process is complete
- A report will be compiled on the submissions and disseminated as widely as possible
- A dedicated liaison person is in place.

#### **Minute No. 224/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

*That this Council recognizes the need for improved accessibility and inclusivity at all public swimming pools within our jurisdiction, specifically addressing the needs of individuals with mobility impairments. To this end, I propose the following actions:*

##### *1. Installation of Mobile Hoists:*

*The Council commits to installing mobile hoists in all public swimming pools to provide safe access for individuals with disabilities. This will ensure that our facilities comply with national accessibility standards and promote equal access to recreational services.*

##### **Reply from David Hanratty, Acting Director of Services:**

*Louth County Council swimming pools & sports facilities have a number of hoists, ensuring access to the facilities for all.*

*Staff training and maintenance form part of their provision.*

#### **Minute No. 225/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan

*This Council acknowledges the importance of creating a safer and healthier environment in*

*Drogheda, particularly for younger people, by advancing the development of sustainable transportation infrastructure. Therefore, the Council will review the current status of the three Active Travel Schemes to establish a safe, segregated cycling route from the PANCR/M1 Retail Park to the SouthGate Shopping Centre; provide timely updates on the progress of these schemes, including the outcomes of consultations that concluded last year; prioritize their swift implementation for the safety of residents, especially school children and commuters; and develop a connectivity plan to link schools and critical areas to this cycling route, ensuring it serves as a central, accessible pathway for all residents.*

**Reply from David Jones, Director of Services:**

*Louth County Council Active Travel Programme is funded 100% by the National Transport Agency (NTA) on an annual rolling budget basis.*

*As per the Chief Executive Monthly Report the status of the current 27 individual projects, of which 13 are located in Drogheda, are detailed therein, along with the anticipated dates for next stages.*

*As the Drogheda 13 schemes are within an urban setting, there are many complex issues to be considered including matters pertaining to parking, property, space restrictions, environmental and historic fabric. In this regard many non-statutory consultations are carried out as part of the process in order to give people an opportunity to input into the option development of the schemes. Thereafter, the respective Design Consultants take the public's commentary into consideration where possible and amend design proposals accordingly, prior to proceeding to the Part 8 Planning process.*

*As per the NTA Project Management Guidelines, projects must progress through the 7 phases process (from feasibility through to construction and handover). In order for a scheme to progress through to the next phase and obtain funding, Gateway Approvals from the NTA are required. The progression of schemes within the programme are fully reliant on the Gateway Approval process, and the annual funding allocations from the NTA.*

*In the coming weeks, as advised at the October Drogheda Borough District meeting, two of our largest schemes will be brought forward for public consultation, namely:*

- Drogheda Pathfinder (Rathmullan Rd / Marleys) – Part 8 Statutory Consultation*
- R132 (Bridge of Peace to MacBride Train Station, including Marsh Road) – Non-Statutory Consultation on revised Preliminary Design Drawings.*

*Any future projects (outside the current Active Travel programme) that will be considered for funding by the NTA will be dictated by the Cycle Connect Plan being developed by the NTA, which is currently out to public consultation as well as the forthcoming Drogheda Local Transport Plan which will form part of the Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan.*

**Minute No. 226/24**

**Notice of Question:** Cllr. Pio Smith

*Asking that the local authority outline a list of government schemes that required match funding that was applied for in 2023 and 2024.*

**Reply from: Joe McGuinness, Director of Organisation Development and David Jones, Director of Place Making and Physical Development**

The Government schemes that required match funding that was applied for in 2023 and 2024 are as follows:

- Clár
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Tidy Town Project Scheme
- Brexit Adjusted Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI)

**Minute No. 227/24**

**Notice of Question: Cllr. Michelle Hall**

That this council will provide a breakdown of LCC contribution and spending costs on the following tourism initiatives and events: Boyne Valley Flavours, sealouth, Lu Festival of Light, St. Brigids Festival and provide an approximate population participation or turnout for each initiative.

**Reply from: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development**

Tourism Initiatives and Events	LCC Contribution and Spending, in the past year (Sept 2023 to Sept 2024)	Approx. Population Participation or Turnout
Boyne Valley Flavours  (which includes the Boyne Valley Food Series events)	€25,000	Oldbridge Summer Fair Battle of the Boyne, Oldbridge Sat. 8th & Sun. 9th June  2,500 – 3, 000 visitors across both days  Boann Single Pot Irish Whiskey Tasting, Drogheda 29th Aug.  100 visitors  Oldbridge Christmas Fair will take place on 30th Nov. & 1st Dec.  3, 500 visitors projected

Sealouth	€27,678.10	1,670 participants in the sealouth passports scheme.
Lu Festival of Light	Lu Festival 2023: LCC contribution: €85,436.71  Failte Ireland via Urban Animation: €450,156.61	Over 70,000 visitors during the 8 nights of the festival.  82% of festival goers visited Drogheda with the explicit intention of attending the Lú Festival of Light.
St. Brigid's Festival  (including 'Brigid 1500' shopfront grants and community grants)	€159,945.41	48,000 people visited the Northern Lights in its first weekend.  60% attended the event with their families  29% attended more than once  88% of attendees thought the show was either 'excellent' or 'very good'  5000 – 6000 people attended the exhibition over the St Brigid's Holiday weekend

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 18/11/24

Cathaoirleach: Heidi O'Leary

Meeting Administrator: [Signature]