



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú de Cheanta Bardasach Bhaile Átha Fhirdia / Municipal District of Ardee February 2023

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on 2nd February 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paula Butterly

Members: Councillors: Bernie Conlon, Pearse McGeough, Dolores Minogue, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty

Officials: Joe McGuinness Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Keith Matthews, Executive Engineer

Minute No. 11/23

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Thursday 1st December 2022 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Bernie Conlon

Seconded by Cllr Pearse McGeough

And approved.

Minute No. 12/23

Matters Arising

Members received updates following requests on various items including:

Lighting at Mullin's Cross – while lighting will not be provided new road markings and motorway studs are being installed

Newly purchased variable message signs on N2 had solar battery issue, are being repaired and will be in situ soon

Pedestrian crossing lighting will be examined

Footpath at Dromin School will be referred to Active Travel

Overgrowth at various will be referred to relevant staff

Minute No. 13/23

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- Members advised of rumours of up to 400 Ukrainians/Refugees going into a disused garage in Ardee and asked if the council could confirm same. Reference was made to a social media campaign scaremongering residents, and councillors wanted it highlighted that the Irish had travelled all over the world and they hoped Ardee would be a place of welcome for any person fleeing war.

John Lawrence advised that refugee resettlement was run nationally and not by housing and he was not aware of any conversation around Ardee. Joe McGuinness confirmed that Louth County Council have no role in the housing of refugees outside of assisting the Department with Ukrainians and those accommodated by Louth County Council.

- A suggestion was made that HAP landlords are asking tenants for extra rent on top of that paid under HAP
- Landlords must be registered with the RTB (Residential Tenancies Board)
- 13 of the 14 Stoney Lane units have been allocated, a disability unit is outstanding, 2 have not yet been accepted, 1 is being considered and 1 person has not responded to correspondence.
- The seeking of expressions of interest in Affordable Housing netted a lukewarm response to date despite all efforts at engagement including to all the Louth estate agents – the EOI is open to 10th February. Developers will be tested next. The high cost of building affordable housing may mean that applicants still will not qualify for mortgages even with the discount.
- An increase in homelessness presenters is expected due to the upcoming end of the Eviction Moratorium. Those at risk are advised to make themselves known in advance to the housing team.

Minute No. 14/23

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Keith Matthews, Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with queries raised under matters arising which were responded to as follows along with other issues raised:

- Pedestrian crossing lighting concerns will be referred to contractor and further examined
- Estates not taken in charge cannot be considered for traffic calming measures but if undergoing the process may be considered for surveying
- Manhole at Aldi constant issue
- New gritting route requests should be referred to the Director of Services Placemaking for consideration

Minute No. 15/23

Report on Burial Grounds in the Mid Louth Area

Joe McGuinness Director of Services invited questions from Members on the report as presented to them on Graveyards which set out the legal basis for all graveyards in Louth including the vesting history of same. Members were advised that having conferred with both the Archivist and Heritage Officer, the Director was satisfied that only 11 graveyards were vested to Louth County Council, as listed in table C of the document. It is the belief of staff in Louth County Council that any graveyards not listed in the document remain in church ownership.

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

- It was suggested that a policy document is required on burial in closed graveyards and consequence of same
- A reminder was given of the previous motion on a Columbarium Wall and some website detail on burial grounds of Louth County Council
- It was suggested that there were three solutions to the problem of Dromin Graveyard wall which is not vested to Louth County Council, but which is subject to illegal dumping, and the costs of the solutions range from €6,000 to €47,000, with the cheapest requiring the removal of wall and insertion of a simple slope. The landowner is to be contacted.

Minute No. 16/23

AOB

In accordance with Standing Order 69 Members unanimously agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss a recent announcement of Active Travel funding for County Louth

A lively discussion took place where a consensus of Members expressed disappointment that while the county had been granted up to €5.25million on Active Travel measures, the apportionment for Mid-Louth was at €40,000 equivalent to 0.07% which is less than 1% of that granted, while an estimated 90% of the population lived in Mid-Louth.

A request was made for an Active Travel specific meeting with Members.

A further request was made that where Louth County Council projects were being nominated for funding in the area that Members are made aware in advance.

Minute No. 17/23

Congratulations

Members offered Congratulations to the Council for recent efforts to promote St. Brigid as a Louth native.

Minute No. 18/23

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the families and friends of all who had died in the locality recently.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

2nd March 2023

Cathaoirleach:

Paula Sullaby

Meeting Administrator:

Ara Sweeney