

Municipal District of Dundalk – April 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in the Chamber of Dundalk Town Hall, on Tuesday 5th April at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Maria Doyle

Members: Councillors Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey Edel Corrigan, Conor Keelan, Sean Kelly, Andrea McKeivitt, Kevin Meenan, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Thomas McEvoy, A/Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Martin McCreech, Senior Executive Engineer
Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer
Brendan McSherry, Heritage Officer
Padraig O’Hora, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute No. 25/22

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st March 2022 were confirmed on the:-

Proposal of Cllr. Maeve Yore and
Seconded by Cllr. Seán Kelly.

Minute No. 26/22

Matters Arising

Referring to previous meetings and discussions on St. Brigid and connections to Louth, it was:-

Proposed by Cllr Sean Kelly and
Seconded by Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

that a letter issue to the CPG from all of the Municipal District requesting that a working group be set up to consider St. Brigid’s Day commemorations in Louth. No Member objected to this motion.

- **Minute 18/22** – it was suggested a query on any Pitch & Putt update should be referred through the Sugar CRM system.
- **Minute 20/22** – Requested copies of the three year Road Works Programme would be furnished to Members with the caveat that it was not set in stone.

Minute No. 27/22

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services, advised on all Housing items raised.

- Members were advised a total of 630 HAP / HOP / MAGs grant adaptation applications were rolled over from 2020/2021 into 2022, with 81 new applications received
- Anti-social behaviour damage to new build at Coxes 2B, while disappointing, is a cost to the Developer and not Louth County Council. Units are up on Choice Based Lettings with a closing date in May
- New admin staff have been assigned to Housing and may assist with rent enforcement however onus is on tenant to ensure payments are made
- Where private rented property inspections are carried out, notices must be served on substandard premises and/or for Health & Safety concerns, reasonable time is given for repair
- Louth County Council was requested by the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) to identify accommodation around the county as possible locations to assist with refugees from Ukraine. The Franciscan Friary facilitated 16 refugees last Wednesday on short notice, another 47 arrived on Saturday morning and were accommodated in the Sports Centre in Dundalk. This accommodation is essentially a rest centre which is safe, clean, warm and has shower/toilet facilities. Maximum capacity in Drogheda is 23 and 60 in Dundalk. 70% of users of the Sports Centre are not affected by the provision of accommodation
- No provision has been made for existing unit upgrades at Cox's/Aisling Crescent, it was disputed that existing tenants were being left behind, new units always look fresher
- Start date not set for works on Sports Track – Members might refer to Infrastructure for update

Minute No. 28/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer advised on all Operations items raised.

Along with illegal dumping, road safety measure, traffic counts and traffic calming requests in various locations, the following items were noted:

- Weight restrictions on local roads – protocol being considered by Director/Senior Engineer
- Signage requests e.g. for Child at Play, Dog Control are not generally considered. Decluttering of signage is favourable
- Request for ongoing reports on Dowdallshill works will be forwarded to relevant staff for consideration
- Delay in traffic light repairs in Dundalk due to supply chain, await delivery of parts
- 6 sets of traffic lights are being funded in 2022, at a cost of circa €50k each
- A query on whether individual groups can plant trees in public spaces for commemorative purposes will be checked. A specific request at Fr. Murray Park is on the tracker

- A query was made as to whether a tree replacement scheme could be considered to remove shedding trees on roadside with non-shedding trees
- Hoarding removal at Queens Building is underway
- Town Hall exterior painting timescale to be referred to Corporate
- King John's Castle opening hours are a matter for the Office of Public Works (OPW)
- Water connections and issues should be referred to Irish Water.

A request was made for Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer to attend the meetings more regularly to provide updates on items such as Casual Trading, MyWaste, Parking, Anti-dumping initiatives etc. It was also queried if Infrastructure could attend meetings more frequently as several items being dealt with by Infrastructure are raised every meeting. Members were advised that it was agreed that Infrastructure would attend quarterly.

Following concerns raised again on pedestrian access concerns on roadway for refugees at Carnbeg Hotel. Thomas McEvoy, A/Director of Services advised members that an alternative route off road has been identified by the Executive but the private owner would need to engage. On foot of request for letter to issue to the Health Service Executive (HSE) to extend footpath, Cllr. John Reilly advised he had written to the Department of Justice.

A proposal to receive a delegation from Bellurgan Community Group on road safety outside the school was deferred on instruction of Cathaoirleach to the end of the meeting to allow written request to be made to the Meetings Administrator during the meeting.

Minute No. 29/22

Dundalk 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. Emma Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. Seán Kelly and resolved.

Minute No. 30/22

Taking in Charge

Members noted the report received. Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer advised he was available to answer any queries raised. A lively discussion on bonds and taking estates in charge ensued.

Minute No. 31/22

Proposed Taking in Charge of Tudor Grove, Dundalk

In accordance with S180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and with Section 11(1) of the Roads Act, 1993 Members were asked to consider the taking in charge of Tudor Grove, Dundalk, to include any public open spaces, public lighting, unallocated car

parks, sewers, watermains, or drains within the attendant grounds of the development, and the declaration the roads within the development as Public Roads.

Approval of the taking in charge and declaration of Public Roads within the development was:-

Proposed by: Cllr Emma Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr Marianne Butler and resolved.

Minute No. 32/22

Update from the Heritage Officer

Members received an update on items of interest within their Municipal District from Brendan McSherry, Heritage Officer, including a template of tourism signage drafted for the Faughart area.

Minute No. 33/22

Receive Update on Varcities Research Project

Padraig O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer, Corporate Section gave Members an update on the Varcities Project in Dundalk Library Courtyard, which was well received. Members were advised that following two workshops held online which saw good engagement with stakeholders, the project is now about to go out for public consultation and comments and submissions are welcomed.

Minute No. 34/22

Suspension of Standing Orders

As it was approaching the assigned end time of 7.15p.m. it was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Sharkey and seconded by Cllr. Liam Reilly to suspend Standing Order No. 5 in order to hear the full business of the meeting. On questioning by the Meeting Administrator, no Member objected and it was deemed that all had voted in favour of the suspension.

Minute No. 35/22

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. Edel Corrigan

"Call on Louth County Council to establish a new Cross Border Greenway Ranger in conjunction with Newry Mourne & Down District Council. This new position will oversee the upkeep and maintenance of the Newry/Omeath/Carlingford Greenway".

Reply from Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Corporate and Emergency Services:

The Council have no plans to put such a measure in place.

Speaking on the motion, Cllr. Antóin Watters expressed disappointment in both the response and the length of the response.

Proposed by: Cllr. Antóin Watters that funding be sought under the 'Shared Island initiative Grant' which was understood to close for applications on the 13th May 2022.

This was **Seconded by:** Cllr. Edel Corrigan.

Minute No. 36/22

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Maria Doyle

Seconded by: Cllr. Edel Corrigan

"I'm requesting that Louth County Council paint a rainbow crossing at the Market Square in July in honour of Dundalk Pride".

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations.

The Council will not be providing the markings as requested as all crossings are installed utilising solely the standards set out in the Roads Traffic (Signs) Regulations.

Speaking on the motion, Cllr. Maria Doyle expressed dissatisfaction with the response. It was suggested that one-line answers to motions submitted imply that respect is not forthcoming.

Cllr. Maria Doyle advised that other Local Authorities had installed such crossings and that she was aware that Drogheda Borough District had been given an undertaking to consider such at the meeting the previous night.

Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator advised that Drogheda Members had been advised that alternative options could be considered to promote the LGBTQ community, as the council has always supported the community, but that as a roads authority the executive were not in favour of items on public roads.

Members spoke in favour of the crossing, of not supporting the LGBT community and of the length of response issuing to motions.

Minute No. 37/22

Request to receive a deputation in accordance with Standing Order 45

Proposal by: Cllr. Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. Edel Corrigan

'Can I please make a formal request for a delegation of residents from Bellurgan to attend the May monthly meeting of Dundalk MD on the 3rd May. I have been asked by the residents to make this request. The delegation will make a presentation in relation to road safety on the R173 and the need for traffic calming measures. The presentation will be submitted 14 clear days before the MD meeting.'

A roll call vote was held as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Edel Corrigan	1			
Maria Doyle	1			
Conor Keelan	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Andrea McKevitt	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly	1			
Tomás Sharkey				1
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
Vote total	12	0	0	1

And the proposal was agreed

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

3 May 2022

Cathaoirleach:

Maria Doyle

Meeting Administrator:

[Signature]