

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – June 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in the Chamber of Dundalk Town Hall, on Tuesday 7th June at 5.45 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Kevin Meenan,

Members: Councillors Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Maria Doyle, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Andrea McKevitt, Liam Reilly, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, Antóin Watters.

Apologies: Councillor Maeve Yore

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, A/Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute no. 50/22

Daigniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 were confirmed on the:

Proposal of : Councillor Marianne Butler,

Seconded by: Councillor Emma Coffey

And approved.

Minute No. 51/22

Housing Progress Report

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

The following items were highlighted:

- €3.3m received for Retrofit Scheme, currently out to tender but increased costs of labour and materials is proving challenging.

- While the overall homeless figure remains stable at around 83 for Louth, family homelessness figures have increased from 4 families to 14 in last year. Pathfinder helps identify properties.

Minute No. 52/22

Taking an item for consideration out of sequence in accordance with Standing Order No. 13

The Cathaoirleach having established that there were no objectors to taking an item out of sequence of listing on the Agenda, agreed to move the item on Amenity Grants forward.

Minute No. 53/22

Amenity Grants 2022

Members were advised that 205 applications had been made this year for Amenity Grants, with 100 of those made through the online portal. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services advised Members that if they knew of any groups who normally availed of Amenity Grants but who had not got their application in on time, to get them to contact the Community Section immediately.

A request was made for a list of Louth County Council and Community Employment Scheme (CE Scheme) maintained green areas and estates. Members cited previous difficulties on obtaining a CE Scheme list of locations. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services while advising Members that the council had no role in CE schemes said he would seek to get a contact.

Responsibility of maintenance of gated areas of lands owned by Louth County Council was raised, as well as a suggestion that open spaces in estates should be handed over to tenants due to transient residential population in some areas.

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of the Amenity Grants 2022 as presented to Members at this meeting were then:

Proposed by: Councillor Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Councillor Antóin Watters

And approved.

Minute No. 54/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

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

Traffic counters, road safety measures, footpath repair and maintenance, hedge and overgrowth cutting, were requested at various areas and the following items were highlighted:

- Members welcomed wildflowers and planting at roundabouts, with a suggestion made of a mow strip around the perimeter to show that this was planned. A suggestion that primary schools could assist with collecting seeds and replanting as an educational tool was made
- Members were advised of an estimated 10% increase in costs to the planned Road Works Programme which would result in a project of circa €175k to be chosen to be removed for priority in 2023
- Dowdallshill Graveyard Committee is in place. Angel Plot requested and further new angel plot in Dundalk
- Templetown beach road parking congestion issues are difficult to resolve due to small road width
- An Agenda item to get an update of Dowdallshill Work schedule at next meeting, was **proposed by:** Councillor Sean Kelly and **seconded by:** Councillor Edel Corrigan
- Public Toilet works at Blackrock are substantially complete, expected to open soon

Minute No. 55/22

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as issued and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer advised on all items raised.

The following were highlighted:-

- LIHAF works will address public lighting at Mount Avenue on completion of road to Castleblayney Road
- NTA bus shelter works in Dundalk – Letter of intent has gone to contractor
- Request to move Bus Stop at Fatima is a matter for NTA but Infrastructure will discuss with NTA
- Narrow Water Bridge – a Prior Information Notice (PIN) notice has issued to flag potential bidders of intended tender

- Greenway – Omeath to Newry – Compulsory Purchase Orders with An Bord Pleanála
- Greenway - Templetown to Carlingford – public consultation is on 23rd July 2022 at Carlingford Heritage Centre
- Active Travel works from Crowne Plaza to Hill Street Bridge expected to go to Part 8 before the end of the month, subject to NTA approval

Minute No. 56/22

Nomination of Members to the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board

The following Elected Members were nominated to sit on the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board:

Councillor Tomás Sharkey was:

Proposed by: Councillor Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Councillor Edel Corrigan

And resolved.

Councillor John Reilly was:

Proposed by: Councillor Maria Doyle

Seconded by: Councillor Emma Coffey

And resolved.

Minute No. 57/22

Member's Community Grants May 2022

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of the Member's Community Grants May 2022 as presented by Members were:

Proposed by: Councillor Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Councillor Emma Coffey

And approved.

Minute No. 58/22

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Councillor John Reilly
Seconded by: Councillor Maria Doyle

"Calling on LCC to make the Dungooley Crossroads a four way stop in the interest of road safety."

Response from Catherine Duff, Director of Services:-

"Dungooley Crossroads (L3113/L7105): Four-way stop arrangements are rare in Ireland and there is no national standard/guidance in relation to them. Recorded accident statistics for this junction show 5 No. Minor Injury and 2 No. Material Damage accidents for this junction over the 15 year period 2002-2017. We would not recommend implementing a four-way stop at this junction."

There is advance warning signage and stop signage in place as appropriate on the L3113 at Dungooley Cross and we can arrange for existing line markings to be refreshed if necessary. We have also added the L3113/L7105 to the queue for placement of traffic counter so that we can collect traffic volume and speed data in order to obtain a fuller picture of the traffic using these roads.

We have also recommended that this location is referred to Adrian O'Sullivan (Road Safety Officer), to raise with An Garda Siochana. An Garda Siochana opinion and any information that they may have regarding collisions, near misses and driver behavior at this junction would be helpful to make best informed decision."

Speaking on this motion Councillor John Reilly considered that precedent has been set in Louth for four stop crossroads, an example of which was in the vicinity of the proposed stop, at Marmion Cross, Kilcurry, with several more in the mid- Louth area. Councillor John Reilly said he had been in contact with the Sergeant of Hackballscross Garda Station who was in favour of a four stop cross at this location and Councillor John Reilly considers this a simple low-cost solution.

Minute No. 59/22

Chomhfhreagras / Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence as presented to them.

- Office of An Taoiseach 15th March 2022

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 7th June 2022

Cathaoirleach: Ken Meen

Meeting Administrator: Celia Spence