



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

### **Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – April 2023**

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -  
Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 5:15pm

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Kevin Meenan

**Members:** Councillor(s) Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

**Apologies:** Councillor(s) Edel Corrigan, Andrea McKeivitt, Liam Reilly.

**Officials:** Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Declan Conlon, Executive Planner  
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer  
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer  
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer  
Terry Hamilton, Senior Executive Architect

#### **Minute No. 29/23**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were confirmed on the

**Proposal of - Cllr Maeve Yore**

**Seconded by - Cllr Seán Kelly**

**And approved.**

#### **Minute No. 30/23**

#### **Matters Arising**

Updates were requested and given on the following items.

Minutes Numbered:

Minute No. 22/23 – Clarification was sought on the request to purchase Railway Road Dromiskin, and Members were advised Louth County Council were requested to Take it in Charge not buy it.

Minute No. 19/23 - Cllr Kelly advised that Irish Water have given an undertaking to provide a contact staff member for queries.

Minute No. 24/23 – Members wished to extend thanks to the Active Travel team for an open and engaging presentation received.

Minute No. 24/23 – Clarity was sought on whether all plot owners were written to and requested to remove items from graves.

### Minute No. 31/23

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

Members considered the Community Grants as approval of same was

Proposed by: Cllr Marianne Butler

Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly

And resolved.

### Minute No. 32/23

#### **Part 8 Clontygora Infill Housing Scheme**

In accordance with Section 179(4) (b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, approval of the proposed development as set out before Members and as recommended in the Chief Executive Report, was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr Seán Kelly

and confirmed by resolution.

### Minute No. 33/23

#### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting and Paddy Donnelly Director of Services addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

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The following items were highlighted:

- While Louth County Council had engaged with the Land Development Agency (LDA) to identify sites and suitability, the council have no further role in the 4 sites identified by the LDA for the Dundalk Area at this time.
- Over 70 Vacant Property Owners have been written to with circa 10% response received. The Housing section will examine outstanding units to see if the Compulsory Purchase Order scheme is suitable.
- Maintenance type trends are not easily extracted from the system.
- Referring to the number of proposed Housing Units in the LDA report, and citing figures on tenants on rent arrears and arrears of €2m, on homeless and waiting lists, Cllr Sharkey suggested that information was not going to members and **Proposed** that Dundalk District Members were provided with a Special Housing Meeting to go through all stages from the proposal to occupation. This was **Seconded by** Cllr Keelan. Director of Services Paddy Donnelly suggested that he bring the request back to the CPG for consideration and responding to various items raised by Cllr Sharkey, advised members that the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022 – 2027 on the website sets out targets and actions for housing,

that in excess of 3000 individuals/families were on the HAP scheme, with 120 recent properties coming on stream, and cited an increase in social housing properties to 4,200, and that payment plans are sought to combat arrears where possible. Cllr Sharkey stated that it was now over 18mths since minutes of a Housing Strategic Policy Committee had been brought to the County Council meeting for noting. The Director advised that these are published on our website on approval. Cllr Yore complimented staff on bringing rent arrears down from €5.9 million to €2 million. Cllr John Reilly suggested that if a special housing meeting was arranged that members of the Construction Industry be invited to attend to advise on different housing model options.

- Cllr Coffey cautioned of amendments to planning legislation currently before Oireachtas and Paddy Donnelly advised upcoming changes will see Part 8 being brought before Members for informative rather than consultative purposes.

### **Minute No. 34/23**

#### **Roads and Local Services Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with potholes, footpath repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests, traffic light sequencing and traffic light repair, road resurfacing, road lines painting, painting of parking bays, road subsidence, lighting of bus shelters, the following items were highlighted:

- Where traffic counts determine that over 85% of vehicles exceed speed limits, this is passed to placemaking to consider funding safety measures, the funding application opens each October.
- The JCB Pro Pothole machine is currently in North Louth, and is due to return to South Louth next week, it works full time 5 days a week.
- Construction traffic from housing and other developments would have planning conditions imposed to prevent damage to roads.
- A working group of the 4 resident groups around Mount Avenue along with a rep from Council Staff and Contractors along with Councillors was suggested for Mount Ave. Development works. This will be passed on to the team.
- Little can be done to counteract traffic backlogs from development works.
- Upgrades are required on some traffic light systems within the town.
- An update on consideration of change to volume of the accessibility buzzer at traffic lights was requested.

### **Minute No. 35/23**

#### **Taking in Charge**

Keith McArdle Assistant Engineer, welcomed queries on the report as issued and gave updates on timelines and schemes within the report.

The following items were highlighted/discussed:

- 51%, or over half of residents, must request a plebiscite before it can be considered.
- Where no bond exists Louth County Council would have to fund if a plebiscite is requested, funding was recently made available by the Chief Executive for such works.

### **Minute No. 36/23**

## Carlingford Project Update

An Cathaoirleach Cllr Meenan welcomed Olivia McCormack and Terry Hamilton Senior Executive Officers, and RPS consultants to the meeting. Mark Finnegan and Ray Holbeach RPS provided Members with an overview of the proposed design for the 'Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford' project, which was well received.

A Q&A session followed with questions asked around accessibility, parking, funding, loading bays for businesses, casual trading etc which were responded to. A request that Louth County Council issue a press release to notify the public of proposed design was made.

Members were advised that the design was ready to bring to planning, which would then if granted allow for future funding to be applied for. No cost estimates for completion of scheme could be given at this stage and all stakeholders would be liaised with.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded

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

**Date:**

18/5/23

**Cathaoirleach:**

Ken Meenan

**Meeting Administrator:**

[Signature]