



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – September 2023

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -
Tuesday, 5th September 2023 at 5:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Seán Kelly

Members: Councillor(s) Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Andrea McKeivitt, Robert Nash, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillor(s) Kevin Meenan

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Terry Hamilton, A/Senior Executive Officer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 65/23

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Maeve Yore
Seconded by Cllr Antóin Watters
And approved.

Minute No. 66/23

Matters Arising

None raised

Minute No. 67/23

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 Andrea McKevitt

Seconded by: Cllr John Reilly

And resolved

Minute No. 68/23

Municipal District of Dundalk Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2023

Willie Walsh Senior Executive Officer responded to Members queries on the draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws as presented to them. Members were advised of two submissions having been received on the Bye-Laws from the Dundalk area. Following some discussion, Approval of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws was

Proposed by: Cllr Andrea McKevitt

Seconded by: Cllr Maeve Yore

And agreed by Members

Minute No. 69/23

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting and John Lawrence A/Director of Services addressed all matters raised by the Members. Declan Grimes Senior Engineer who had recently commenced with Louth County Council Housing team working on Housing for All, was introduced to and welcomed by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- Disparity on the reported anti-social behaviour figures will be checked and amended. Each figure accounts for one unit or individual against whom several complaints may have been made.
- Housing previously could not meet their requirement on HAP and private rental inspections but now have a full team and inspection figures are expected to improve. Tenants who raise a complaint are prioritised.
- Difficulties in registering the charge on Croí Conaithe properties are causing delays.
- Louth County Council Housing Team have been engaging with Simon AHB on anti-social behaviour of one unit although the responsibility for AHB units lies with the AHB.
- A high number of Home Loan applicants have been declined, this can be for a number of reason because they are outside the lending criteria, or the mortgage requested is deemed too high for their income
- Housing and working with the Executive to consider how to reopen Grant schemes. The onus will be put on the applicant to have realistic contractor quotes and an OT assessment submitted with their application in order to be considered for funding.

Minute No. 70/23

Roads and Local Services Report

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

- It was noted that the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee announced funding for additional speed cameras. A request that Louth apply will be passed to the Road Safety Officer
- A request was made that the Road Safety Officer present at the October meeting.
- Dangerous trees and Structures on roadside on private lands are the responsibility of the land/property owner but should be reported to the Council who can issue enforcement notices.
- There are no additional solar bins proposed for the Dundalk Municipal area.
- The Traffic Survey Register will be circulated to Members.
- Speeding at McSwiney street was highlighted.
- Pay parking meters not taking cash will be referred to Finance.
- A query was raised as to how traffic calming measures went from a reserved function to an executive function specifically around the change of ramps and ramp types to insertion of traffic islands without notice.

A proposal was made that Dundalk MD write to Junior Minister Jack Chambers on road safety issues including with the R173, this was.

Proposed by Cllr McKevitt

Seconded by Cllr Watters, who requested that Minister Ryan be written to as well.

The Cathaoirleach agreed that the wording would be discussed by Members and forwarded to the Meeting Administrator to issue.

Various other items were queried including low cost safety works, storm erosion of surfaces, the road works programme, pothole and road repairs, weeds/overgrowth and hedge cutting, sightlines at junctions, road safety concerns, resurfacing, etc all of which were responded to by Paddy Connolly.

The following sections had queries raised:

- Environment – Queries on Clothes banks and Mattress Amnesty number
- Parks – Queries on Tree Cutting, Park Maintenance, Weed pulling machine possible loan out to community groups

Minute No. 71/23

Physical Development Report

John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer, welcomed queries on the report as presented to Members. The following items were highlighted:

- The Appropriate Assessment on ORIS plans for accessibility access at Templetown, Clogherhead and Port Beaches showed that we are sub-threshold for a Part 8 requirement. Contract Documents have been prepared and the team are assessing whether application can be made for funding
- A request for a pedestrian crossing on the Castletown Road will fall under LIHAF as part of the Mount Avenue works
- Consultation no. 3 with selected contractors on Narrow Water Bridge will commence on the 18th September.

- The N53 Dundalk to Castleblayney Road detailed design is progressing while awaiting decision of An Bord Pleanála

Minute No. 72/23

Placemaking Report

Olivia McCormack and Terry Hamilton, Senior Executive Officers, welcomed queries on the report as presented to Members. The following items were highlighted:

- In response to a request for a standing agenda item on St. Nicholas Quarter every 2 months, Members were advised that during the first phase of the project the Placemaking team are engaging with Business Owners and Utility Companies. BDP are appointed contractors and are in process of designing the scheme. Members will be updated when there is a programme
- Street furniture for the Outdoor Dining scheme in Carlingford will be installed by end of month

Minute No. 73/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Conor Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr Maeve Yore

That this Council commits to extending traffic calming to the Carnbeg and Ballynahattin areas of the Doylesfort Road. The entire area is within the Dundalk boundary and there is no footpath. In addition there is a 80km speed limit which is regularly abused by non-local traffic. The entire Doylesfort Road should be submitted for a speed limit review. The neighbouring Newry Road has a speed limit of 50km, for example.

Reply from W. Walsh, Acting Director of Services, Placemaking & Physical Development

There are currently no plans or funding for footpath construction at this location. A reduced speed limit for the road will be considered as part of the 2023/2024 speed limit review about to commence. Traffic and speed analysis will be undertaken to determine whether the road qualifies for traffic calming measures – any proposed measures will be subject to Department funding in 2024.

Minute No. 74/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Conor Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly

That the Road surface from the Laurels extending to the intersection with Oliver Plunkett Park and McSwiney Street be added to next year's roads plan for Dundalk.

Reply from W. Walsh, Acting Director of Services, Placemaking & Physical Development

The 2024 Roads programme will be determined by Louth County Council roads engineers using a combination of PSCI survey results and site inspections, in line with ranked condition and traffic loading. This section of road will be included in this review process to assess its condition and determine whether it will be included in the 2024 Road Works Programme.

Members speaking on this motion and referring back to earlier discussions on road safety around McSwiney Street agreed that the road was dangerous to users.

Minute No. 75/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Seán Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr Andrea McKevitt

'That a working group be set up to discuss the ongoing upkeep of Ice House Hill Park. This working group will include representatives from the following Residents Groups:

- *O'Hanlon Park, Pearse Park, Northend, Demense*

It will also include a representative of the Naughton Family and any Councillors from Dundalk MD who wish to attend. This group will meet on a quarterly basis per annum and forward communication to Louth County Council who they will engage constructively with the group to resolve or rectify any issues that may be of concern.'

Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

Louth County Council manage six parks in the county and many green areas across the county. The Council would agree to a meeting of interested parties in the first instance.

Director of Services Thomas McEvoy advised Members that the Chief Executive would be happy to facilitate the initial meeting which was welcomed by Cllr Kelly.

Minute No. 76/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Andrea McKevitt
Seconded by: Cllr Conor Keelan

"To have the 3 ramps at Rampark school on the Lordship straight fully re-instated to 3 continuous ramps immediately, as was the case prior to the resurfacing works taking place. This is being requested as a matter of safety for all road users"

Reply from W. Walsh, Acting Director of Services, Placemaking & Physical Development

The 'vertical deflections' are still in place at all three locations on newly resurfaced road at Lordship; At two locations there are now non-continuous ramps; the mid location has the same continuous ramp.

In relation to the specification for the use of non-continuous ramps, the road management office (RMO) design paper states that: "Speed cushions" are narrow versions of ramps that wider vehicles can straddle (or partially straddle), thereby reducing some of the potential drawbacks of traffic calming on Ambulances, buses, and fire engines.

These are the widest form of cushion at 1.9m wide and research has shown that the mean speed will be 16mph and the 85percentile speed will be 20mph which is well below the 50km/h posted in Lordship. Therefore, Safety is not being compromised. Bus Eireann confirmed the large number of bus passes using this road through Lordship; speed cushions are appropriate for use on regional roads used by buses.

Enforcement of speed limits is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

Speaking on the motion Cllr McKevitt said it was a very disappointing response and pleaded for a speed count on this road referring to a recent fatality.

Minute No. 77/23

Any Other Business

Approval of a request from SOSAD to attend the October Meeting was

Proposed by: Cllr Seán Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr Marianne Butler
And agreed by Members

Minute No. 78/23

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of the person who died tragically in an accident on an e-scooter on the Armagh Road.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded

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

Date: 3 Oct 2023

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: 