



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – April 2024

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting - Town Hall, Dundalk - Tuesday, 2nd April 2024 at 5:15pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Seán Kelly

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

Apologies: None

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer

Minute No. 39/24

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 were confirmed on the

Proposal of - Cllr Emma Coffey
Seconded by - Cllr Andrea McKevitt
And approved.

Minute No. 40/24

Matters Arising

Minute No. 35/24 – following a short discussion, an addition to minute which read ‘*Director of Services Thomas McEvoy advised Cllr Keelan that Director of Services David Jones had issued response.*’ was proposed by Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Coffey and agreed as follows:
*‘Director of Services Thomas McEvoy advised Cllr Keelan that Director of Services David Jones had issued response, **but that the proposal warranted merit and could be considered in the context of the LAP.**’*

Minute No. 38/24 – Cllr Keelan again raised a proposal to form a Committee on Taxi Byelaws, Cllr Yore contended that she had not seconded this but rather had indicated support of his motion and thought it more appropriate that this be considered following the local elections in June. Director of Services Thomas McEvoy suggested that in the first instance a meeting could be organised to invite

relevant stakeholders such as An Garda Síochána, BIDs, Taxi Reps to meet with view to getting resolution. This was agreed to by Cllr Keelan.

Updates on some minutes were requested by Cllr Yore who was advised that this might be held for the relevant agenda item.

Minute No. 41/24

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

Members considered the proposed dispersal of Community Grants from Dundalk Municipal District Allocations, and approval of same was

Proposed by: Cllr John Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

And resolved

Minute No. 42/24

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting and John Lawrence Senior Executive Officer responded to all questions raised. The following items were highlighted:

- The Affordable Housing Scheme at Cois Ferraige which hoped to deliver 10 units only saw 5 eligible applicants. The 5 other units will revert to the Developer for own use
- It is unlikely that the success of the 2023 Retrofit Scheme will be matched in 2024; while a tender package was prepared for up to 240 units, funding approval has only been guaranteed for 140 units. Louth hope to apply for more if other counties don't avail of their full funding but alas don't expect to reach the 205 figure of retrofit works carried out in 2023
- A breakdown of Acquisition Scheme Units will be made available to Members, a majority of which will be tenant in-situ units
- Emergency works under HAGs and MAGs (Housing Adaptation and Mobility Aid Grants) are prioritized based on needs
- Applicants for Affordable Housing tend to want to purchase in private estate so a 50/50 mix of affordable/social units is generally not used. Potential impact on Market when considering purchasing of Social Units under any scheme must be considered

Minute No. 43/24

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer addressed matters raised.

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

- Updates on appeals from Members for removal of Clothes banks were requested
- Contractor obligations on bin emptying will be checked to ensure compliance
- Tenders for road repairs will be assessed in May. Works are hoped to start in North Louth in June with works throughout the county expected to continue to October with priority given to

worst roads first

- Repairs to the Brown Bull of Cooley art installation are planned
- Uisce Eireann will be required to inform the Council where works are taking place and resurface roads five metres either side of any repairs carried out from June. An additional 1200 road opening licence applications are expected annually
- Various suggestions were made to counteract the difficulties recruiting and retaining School Wardens which will be forwarded to the Road Safety Officer
- A discussion around Speed Limit process and the local impact of proposed National Legislation took place
- It was suggested that a request that a letter issue on local policing level might be better addressed by a Notice of Motion at next meeting
- Temporary repairs are planned to some roads which await full repair following flooding
- Special funding received for flood damaged roads will be utilized to repair same
- St James' Well will be inspected for cause of flooding
- It was suggested that a nationwide EuroRAP survey be requested to help plot road works
- A request for floodgates will be submitted as a motion to the next meeting

Other items raised under this section that fall to other areas included:

- LCC has no influence on Uisce Eireann Treatment Plant works
- Louth County Council has no funding to assist private landowners, but may assist set up a meeting with inland fisheries
- Ducting is in place for EV chargers in Omeath
- It was agreed to promote the Temporary Development Contribution Waiver Scheme deadline of 26 April 2024 to commence build

The Planned replacement of Pedestrian lights at the Avenue Road Roundabout with zebra crossings was not well received by Members. Mark Johnston advised this was a temporary measure while awaiting Active Travel measures as the pedestrian light system there was obsolete and could not be replaced.

Cllr Liam Reilly suggested that the installation of traffic calming measures was a reserved function of Subsection 3 of paragraph C of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

Much discussion took place with various suggestions made, including that Members prevent the zebra crossing going ahead.

Mark Johnston suggested that Section 38 had not yet been enacted as Ministerial Guidelines had not issued so traffic calming was not therefore a reserved function.

A motion was

Proposed by: Cllr Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr Liam Reilly

And resolved to suspend standing orders to consider the legislation of Subsection 3 of paragraph C of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

A roll call vote was held. All members were present and all voted to suspend to consider.

Various suggestions were then put forward including submission of a motion at next meeting, and a special meeting to be held the next day. The Meeting Administrator advised a special meeting had specific status and various requirements around signatures and time frames and could not be done the next day. It was requested to hold an unofficial meeting the following day and the meeting moved on.

Minute no. 44/24

Taking in Charge Report

Members discussed the report as issued and Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer, advised on all items raised. The following items were highlighted/discussed:

- Apart from specific additional funding made available by the Chief Executive there is no further known funding for old estates
- Updates were given to queries on Cnoc na Mara, Garry Bawn, Church Park, Seacrest Manor, Waterview, Coulter Place, Lis na Dara, Doylesfort Grove, and Elmore Lawns Housing Estates

Minute No. 45/24

Taking in Charge – Church Park, Blackrock, Co. Louth

Members noted the report as set out before them. The report set out that a plebiscite had been received in accordance with Section 180(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act to take Church Park, Blackrock, a development of 4 units built in 1974, into the charge of the council.

A recommendation was made in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, that the roads in the development be declared Public Roads, and further that in accordance with Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended that that the Council take in charge any public open space, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and water mains within the grounds of the development.

Approval of the Recommendation was:

Proposed by Cllr Emma Coffey
Seconded by Cllr Marianne Butler
And resolved

Minute No. 46/24

Taking in Charge – Harbour Grove, Dundalk, Co Louth

Members noted the report as set out before them. The report set out that Harbour Grove was originally listed as an unfinished estate but that in 2016 planning permission was granted by another developer to finish the estate which is now complete to a taking in charge standard.

A recommendation was made in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, that the roads in the development known as Harbour Grove, be declared Public Roads, and further that in accordance with Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, that that the Council take in charge any public open space, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and water mains within the grounds of the development.

Approval of the Recommendation was:

Proposed by Cllr Kevin Meenan
Seconded by Cllr Marianne Butler
And resolved

Minute No. 47/24

Taking in Charge – Sandymount Drive, Blackrock, Co Louth

Members noted the report as set out before them. The report set out that a plebiscite had been received in accordance with Section 180(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act to take Sandymount Drive, Blackrock, a development of 12 units built in 1970, into the charge of the council.

A recommendation was made in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, that the roads in the development known as Sandymount Drive, be declared Public Roads, and further that in accordance with Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, that that the Council take in charge any public open space, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and water mains within the grounds of the development.

Approval of the Recommendation was:

Proposed by Cllr Emma Coffey
Seconded by Cllr Marianne Butler
And resolved

Minute No. 48/24

Notice of Motion - Cllr Seán Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr Emma Coffey

That Louth County Council carry out immediate works to improve safety at a junction within the Ard Easmuinn estate that has been the site of numerous road accidents over the past number of years. These works should include better signage and road markings and any other measures available to the Council that they believe would improve safety for road users, local residents and pedestrians in the area.

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Placemaking & Physical Development

Signage (both Speed Limit and Stop signage) will be installed at various junctions within Ard Easmuinn, while line markings will also be refreshed. These works have already been issued to the respective contractors, for completion in the short term.

Members noted the response of the Executive, which was welcomed by the proposer of the motion Cllr Kelly.

Minute No. 49/24

Notice of Motion - Cllr Seán Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr Robert Nash

'That Louth County Council will consider including Mill Street for the next round of speed calming measures and include the street in the special 30km speed zone. At present the street is used as a through road and shortcut for motorists and there is excessive speeding for a narrow street which has a strong residential community, a convent, a primary school and a secondary school and the entrance to a business park.'

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Placemaking & Physical Development

Louth County Council's Active Travel Section have received €145K funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA) on the 7th of February 2024 to advance a scheme which will provide a segregated cycle path incorporating upgraded footpaths along the entire length of Mill Street from

its junctions with Quay Street to Castle Road. This proposed scheme will also provide connectivity into Seatown Place, effectively creating a continuous cycle loop around the block of Mill Street, Castle Road, Seatown Place & Quay Street and connecting into another Active Travel Project on the Inner Relief Road. In addition, the design process will be incorporating a number of Safe Routes to School infrastructure at the front of the three schools in this area, namely, Dundalk Rehab, Realt Na Mara National School and St. Vincents Girls Secondary School.

An integral part of the design philosophy is to reduce the speed limit in environments such as this to 30 km/hr, which is more applicable for safe pedestrian and cyclist movements. The national guidelines on speed limits are due to be released in quarter 2 2024 from Department of Transport, which will allow Louth County Council to commence the speed limit review, during which a reduction in the speed limit along this section of road will be recommended.

A non-statutory consultation process for the scheme is anticipated in quarter 2 2024. Progression of the scheme is subject to NTA approval and funding.

Members noted the response of the Executive, which was welcomed by the proposer of the motion Cllr Kelly. It was considered that a suggestion that Mill St be made one way could be raised during the Local Area Plan.

Minute No. 50/24

Condolences:

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- Joe Berrill ex member of Louth County Council Staff

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

07/05/2024

Cathaoirleach:

[Signature]

Meeting Administrator:

[Signature]