



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – March 2024**

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting - Town Hall, Dundalk - Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
at 5:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Seán Kelly

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

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

**Officials:** Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Finbar Getthins, Senior Executive Officer  
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Claire Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer

### **Minute No. 24/24**

#### **Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were confirmed on the

**Proposal of:** Cllr Antóin Watters

**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

**And approved.**

### **Minute No. 25/24**

#### **Matters Arising**

None

### **Minute No. 26/24**

#### **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 Andrea McKeivitt  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**And resolved**

#### **Minute No. 27/24**

### **Allocation of Dundalk Tidy Town Project Scheme Grants as provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001**

Members considered the proposed allocation of funding for Tidy Town Grants as set out before them. Following some discussion in which queries were raised; Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer advised Members that all Tidy Town groups who had applied were being allocated full funding, and training was given and available for any other group that wished to apply. Approval of same was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Antóin Watters  
**And resolved**

#### **Minute No. 28/24**

### **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:

- While Louth was highly successful in having 205 units retrofitted in 2023, this went way above the initial approved no. of units in 2023 with Louth taking advantage of available funding that other counties did not use. 240 units were planned for 2024 but funding approval has not yet been confirmed and more counties are now seeking funding for the scheme
- Plans to address Anti-Social Behaviour, as again noted in communal areas, of Patrick Tierney Crescent include CCTV and stronger security doors. It was noted that it is not the residents of the area engaging in ASB
- Service Level Agreement details are a matter for the Executive, but the basics of the agreements can be shared with Members.
- Private dwellings without planning permission are a matter for the Planning Section
- The Affordable Housing Scheme at Cois Ferraige application date was extended as few of the 26 applicants were deemed eligible. Discussions on criteria are taking place with the Housing Agency
- The cost effectiveness of Improvement Works in Lieu to enable persons to downsize from properties was discussed.
- It was agreed that the communication around maintenance completion could be improved

#### **Minute No. 29/24**

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

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised. As some Environmental issue were raised during this segment Claire Hughes Senior Executive Engineer also responded to same.

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:

- Enforcement against Dog fouling is difficult. Louth County Council employs 6 wardens who commence work throughout the county at 8am. Targeted patrols can be directed where there are specific areas of concern.
- Illegal dumping blackspots in various locations including Muirhevnamor were noted
- Presentation of Waste Byelaws can be used for enforcement where private bins are being left out causing nuisance, however a difficulty was noted for those in terraced houses with 3 bins and little yard storage
- Guidance is awaited from the Department on CCTV usage for Anti Litter and Waste measures. A policy will be required to be drafted thereafter
- It was suggested that while Clothes banks may attract litter they also contribute to the Circular economy and assist with the Reduce Reuse Recycle ethos. Some Members suggested that there were enough charity shops to counteract the need for Clothes Banks
- Works are ongoing to replace Pedestrian lights at the Avenue Road Roundabout
- No funding is available for road works at Greenore port access road
- Speed survey results which issued to Members in October will be reissued
- Exact Locations of various works requested were asked to be sent in via sugar
- No further litter bins are planned
- Conditioning of reinstatement works and enforcement where Road Opening Licences are granted to Utility Companies and Developers was again raised by Members
- A request was made that all political parties use specific cable ties and ensure these are removed with the poster post-election in June
- It was noted that National Tree Week commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and is being heavily promoted over social media by the Council and Tidy Town Groups
- A request to contact the ESB and Eircom to remove poles from the footpath on the Rock Road was made
- Coordination of gully/drain jetting through the PPN was suggested to ensure vehicles did not park on and prevent works

### **Minute no. 30/24**

#### **Physical Development Report**

Members discussed the report as issued and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer, advised on all items raised. As well as updates being given on planned works to Narrow Water Bridge and the Greenway, the following items were highlighted/discussed:

- Narrow Water Bridge consultation process was recently advertised on the Northern Ireland side, this sets a 28-day period for submissions. Once complete it is hoped that a tender letter of intent can issue this side
- The Safe Routes to School project design process is expected to complete in 2024 with construction to commence in 2025
- Lighting on Motorway is not a matter that Louth County Council can influence
- Water Mains connections are not a matter that Louth County Council has a role in
- There are 3 Part 8 Active Travel pathfinder projects in Dundalk, who plan to spend €100m in Louth alone. Funding cuts have been announced nationally so it would be unlikely to receive full funding for all plans
- Praise was given to the communications from council staff to residents on LIHAF at Mount Avenue
- An Bord Pleanála have raised a query on planned Coastal Protection Works at Drummullagh
- There were no tenders received for a recently advertised Bikeshare Scheme
- Mount Avenue works are on budget and on time

Members asked that well wishes were extended to Frank Magee Senior Executive Engineer on his retirement and were advised that calls could be logged to Vicky Rooney until his replacement is

determined.

### **Minute No. 31/24**

#### **Dundalk Municipal District Litter Management Plan 2024 - 2026**

Claire Hughes Senior Executive Engineer presented Members with an overview of the 'Dundalk Municipal District Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026' as set out before Members on the agenda.

The following items were highlighted and discussed among others:

- Entry cost to the Recycling center has increased to €4
- Bottle banks and mapping of alternative banks where full suggested
- Dog fouling, fixed penalty notices, dog foul bins and education around using public bins for dog foul
- Enforcement of the Presentation of Waste Bye-laws
- Use of CCTV for enforcement on littering

The following items were agreed to be addressed in the plan:

- Updated Maps were agreed to be added as the Maps presented were reportedly out of date
- A correct schedule of street sweeping will be added to the list as the given list was reportedly not correct

Approval of the Plan subject to Maps being updated was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Marianne Butler

**Seconded by:** Cllr Antóin Watters

**And resolved.**

### **Minute No. 32/24**

#### **Road Works Programme 2024**

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

Items highlighted included:

- While application was made for €1.6m to reinstate severe weather damaged roads/bridges/culverts, €1m funding was granted.
- The normal resurfacing works tender is hoped to be issued at the end of March. Not all roads requiring works can be resurfaced.
- Blackrock is on the list for gully cleaning.

Approval of the Programme was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Antóin Watters

**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKevitt

**And agreed by Members.**

## Minute No. 33/24

### Deputation from Dundalk Tidy Town Group

Helen Byrne, Chairperson of Dundalk Tidy Town Group was welcomed to the meeting, and she gave a briefing to the Members, the highlights of which were noted as follows:

- IBAL responsibilities sit with Louth County Council and not the Tidy Towns
- TUS Scheme doing good works on Castletown Road
- 17 Clothes Banks in Dundalk is considered excessive particularly for those who also have charity shops in place
- Domestic Waste is being dumped in public bins
- Landlords should take responsibility for tenant bins and include in rental agreement
- 12 new 'Adopt a Patch' Volunteers are in place – open for other volunteers
- CCTV for enforcement is needed
- 1 Litter Task Force Meeting has been held since October and Members were invited to join
- An open invite was issued for all schools, businesses, and premises to register for a Spring Clean and including to pick old rubbish from hedges.
- A reminder was issued to remove cable ties when removing election posters
- Dog fouling is problematic in areas, education is required. Dundalk FM campaign is to commence
- A suggestion that a bin for cardboard recycling be placed beside bottle banks to reduce dumping of receptacles
- Fast Gas is prevalent in the area being used by children to get high and being dumped
- The Cigarette campaign and bins was praised
- A suggestion that sieves be installed on drains to capture rubbish was made

Members thanked Helen for her time and her team for their ongoing efforts. Cllr Keelan said he would happily volunteer for the litter task force.

## Minute No. 34/24

### Standing Order no. 69 – Suspension of Standing Order no. 5

At 7.15pm, the Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wanted to suspend standing orders for 15 minutes to allow further discussion of items. There was some discussion as to whether 15 minutes would be enough and it was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr Conor Keelan

**To extend the time by 30 minutes to 7.45pm** and a roll call vote was held as follows:

Name	In Favour	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Emma Coffey				1
Edel Corrigan				1
Conor Keelan	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Andrea McKevitt	1			
Kevin Meenan				1
Robert Nash	1			

John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly				1
Tomás Sharkey				1
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
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And the extension of the time to 7.45pm was agreed.

#### **Minute No. 35/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr Conor Keelan

**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

*"That the engineers remove the right-hand turn from McEntee Avenue/Harp Lager Hill with immediate effect in the interest of road safety and better traffic flow in the area and encourage relevant traffic to migrate left to the Crescent roundabout and then take the turn if required."*

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

*Further to this request for a junction realignment on the Carrickmacross Road, (Regional Road, R178), please note Louth County Council Active Travel Section has received funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA) to advance a Scheme which will provide cycle paths and upgraded footpaths along this section of the R178. This Scheme will also include junction upgrades and provision of traffic calming to provide a safer environment for both pedestrian and cyclist movements. Part 8 Planning approval will be required to deliver the Scheme and this process is likely to commence later in 2024. The Part 8 Planning process includes a Public Consultation Process where members of the public can make submissions outlining their comments on the proposals.*

Cllr Keelan questioned the response as given and stated that he failed to see how waiting for Active Travel can help and asked if there was any come back. Director of Services Thomas McEvoy advised Cllr Keelan that Director of Services David Jones had issued response.

#### **Minute No. 36/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Sean Kelly

**Seconded by:** Cllr Andrea McKevitt

*'That Louth County Council will install a set of traffic lights at the Castletown Cross junction on completion of the ongoing roadworks. This junction is particularly busy with poor sight lines from both Mount Avenue and Mill Road. With increased traffic in area due to the new road layout and presence of two secondary schools nearby, the safety of residents and road users should be priority, and the existing junction layout is not sufficient to ensure that safety.'*

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

*Traffic and Transport Assessments (TTA) are required for developments as part of future planning permissions which intend to utilize this section of road and will determine if upgrade works such as traffic lights are required. Previous planning permission have undertaken these assessments and found that the junction will continue to operate well within capacity in the design year, taking into account background growth.*

*Please note that, as per the description within the Part 8 for the scheme, when the proposed Castleblaney Road to Carrickmacross Road Link road is constructed, with its link to the Mount Avenue Rd Scheme in place, it is the intention to close off this section of the Mount Avenue Rd to the Castleblaney Rd, leaving local access only.*

Speaking on the motion Cllr Kelly reiterated his concern about the junction, stating that it was an accident waiting to happen. Cllrs John Reilly and Maeve Yore spoke in agreement with the motion.

#### **Minute No. 37/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr Sean Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

*'That Louth County Council will amend the current plans in place for the road layout at Mount Avenue and install additional safety measures at two junctions with existing residential areas. That they will consider all options sent to them by concerned residents and carry out the works deemed necessary to improve both road user/pedestrian safety and improve sight lines on both of the following junctions:*

- 1. The Rise/The Paddocks with Mount Avenue*
- 2. Headford with Mount Avenue*

*Furthermore, that Louth County Council will ensure that the road when completed will fully comply with standards set out by TII/DMURS guidelines where they recommend a sightline of 70metres for a 50km speed zone in a built-up area.*

*Finally, that as new residential developments progress on this road in the future that the Council will continue to engage with local residents and install, if necessary, additional safety measures.'*

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

*Vertical deflection measures speed measures shall be introduced in the vicinity of the Rise and the Paddocks.*

*The Scheme will be subject to a Road Safety Audit Stage 3, and any recommendations from same will be implemented.*

*Sights lines distances will be in accordance with Table 4.2 of DMURS.*

Cllr Kelly welcomed the response to the motion. A discussion then evolved regarding sightlines and the possibility of pruning or removal of a tree, possible archaeological findings of lands allegedly owned by the OPW should road works extend, and the lack of tree preservation orders in Dundalk.

#### **Minute No. 38/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr Conor Keelan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Seán Kelly

*"Subject to Section 131A(4) Reserved Functions to be Performed by Municipal District Members that the Dundalk MD establish bye-laws in relation to stands for taxis both at day-time and night-time, as allowed for under legislation, so as to review and update the existing bye-laws enacted by the members of the former Dundalk Town Council, now abolished."*

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

*The designation of areas as appointed stands (“taxi ranks”) falls within the remit of the local authority as stated at Section 25 of the Taxi Regulation Acts 2013 and 2016.*

*Appointed stands in Dundalk are currently governed by the Dundalk Appointed Stands (Street Service Vehicles) Bye Laws 2012 which provide for 10 permanent stands on Crowe Street and a further 29 nighttime stands on Park Street (17) and Francis Street (12).*

*Members may be aware that concerns relating to daytime parking usage at locations designated for nighttime taxi rank usage in Dundalk have been raised previously. Following detailed surveys carried out in 2020 relating to daytime parking along nighttime taxi ranks and nearby street parking locations , no difference between parking usage was identified in the locations compared. Accordingly, no changes to the designated nighttime taxi stand areas were recommended.*

*No specific concerns relating to taxi stands in Dundalk have been brought to our attention that would warrant a review or update of the current Bye Laws at this time.*

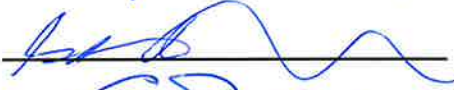
*Any issues that may be highlighted by the Members will be duly evaluated.*

Cllr Keelan noted the response as issued and said that he wanted to form a committee to review Taxi Stand Bye-laws and called for a seconder. Cllr Yore said that she would second this if it was legal to do so. Cllr Keelan said it was a reserved function and he wanted it set up during the month, with 1 rep from each party to meet the Chief Superintendent, Martin McElligott from BIDS and reps from the Taxi Stands.

As the extended time for the meeting of 19.45 hours had passed, the Cathaoirleach advised Cllr Keelan that the discussion would have to be deferred to the next meeting and the meeting then ended.

As there was no other business the meeting was concluded.

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

**Date:** 2 April 2024  
**Cathaoirleach:**   
**Meeting Administrator:** 