



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Speisialta de Cheantar Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Special Meeting of Municipal District of Dundalk

Minutes of Special Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting - County Hall Chamber, Dundalk
Monday 15th April 2024 at 09:15am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Seán Kelly

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

Apologies: Councillor(s) Edel Corrigan, Conor Keelan, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey,

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
David Jones, Director of Services
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute No. 51/24

To discuss and resolve the ongoing malfunction of the traffic and pedestrian lights at the roundabout with the Avenue Road and Inner Relief Road

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Kelly, opened the meeting and referred to a guidance note sent out by the Director of Services David Jones to the Members and invited the Director to speak.

David Jones advised that while Section 13 of the Roads Act 1994 sets out measures which if prescribed by the Minister would be reserved functions, as no such measures are prescribed, any activity undertaken under Section 13 remains an executive function.

The Director went on to acknowledge the substantive issue that the pedestrian lights are faulty and advised that the existing model of Controller was obsolete, and repair would not be possible without replacement of ducting, and that civil works would be required. He advised that, while this would normally be considered and budget available for same, there are plans for a restructuring of the roundabout under Active Travel measures and set out the expected timelines and process for completion of said Active Travel works.

The Director set out three possible measures to tackle the faulty lights, including:

- I. Remove faulty lights with no further action
- II. Replace system at a cost of circa €100k which would be removed in circa 18 months (under Active Travel)
- III. Install Zebra Crossings as an interim measure

It was stated that taking all matters into consideration, it was believed that an informed decision was made and the installation of zebra crossings in the interim was deemed to be a reasonable and proportionate measure. The presence of the School Wardens service at this location to assist crossing would continue.

Cllr Butler suggested that there were only a limited number of companies that carry out such traffic light works and requested that said companies be contacted so as to exhaust all solutions to repair what is there. She considered that the interim measure proposed would damage goodwill of the public towards any future Active Travel projects. Failing same, Cllr Butler suggested that the roundabout be flattened to improve visibility and the school warden service be extended.

Cllr Yore suggested that communication and collaboration were the only way and asked if Active Travel could fund the lights, she suggested an overhead walkway and installation of recognition cameras for those breaking lights.

Cllr Coffey suggested that any monies saved by replacing lights with zebra crossings could potentially be more costly in suits against the Council.

Cllr Nash said as an electrician he could see both sides of the argument but in the scheme of things €100k was not a huge amount and suggested that when removed the new panels and heads could be reused in other locations.

Cllr Meenan said that speeding was the issue and zebra crossings would not work and agreed that the lights should be replaced.

Cllr Yore asked if there would be raised tables and flashing lights installed in tandem with any zebra crossings.

Cllr Butler said that spending €100k was the right thing to do and **proposed** to spend the €100k and called for a seconder. Cllr Coffey **seconded the motion**.

Members further expressed that they were not in agreement with the proposed interim measures describing them as a mistake and asking that the executive come back to them.

Paddy Connolly SEE advised that the zebra crossings would be in the same locations as the existing crossings and advance signage will be installed.

Cllr Kelly advised that there was a consensus from the floor and asked if a report could be received from the Executive for the next MD meeting.

The Director advised that the solution is as proposed and agreed that a communication piece is important and reiterated that the Executive and Elected Members are at one in terms of safety concerns.

As the meeting had reached 10am and the Full Council Meeting was to start, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

7 May 2024

Cathaoirleach:

[Signature]

Meeting Administrator:

[Signature]