



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk -
Tuesday, 11th March 2025 at 5:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Séan Kelly

Members: Councillor(s) Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Ciarán Fisher, Sionnain McCann, Shane McGuinness, Andrea McKevitt, Fiona MhicConchoille, Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, John Reilly, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies:

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Rachel Hamilton, Senior Executive Architect
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute No. 13/25

Minutes of monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025

Proposal of: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And resolved

Minute No. 14/25

Matters arising

None

Minute No. 15/25

Provision of Assistance for the promotion of interests of local community groups or projects provided under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them and approval was

Proposed by: Cllr. Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey

Minute No. 16/25

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting and Ger Murphy, Director of Services, and Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, addressed matters raised at the meeting. Declan Grimes also provided Members with a presentation on the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme as part of the Housing Report.

Under the Housing Progress Report the following items were highlighted:

- Details are still awaited from the Department in respect of the Tenant in-situ Scheme.
- In reference to a backlog in the processing of HOPs and the suggestion to put an embargo on accepting applications, Ger Murphy advised that a submission had been made to the Department seeking an increased budget to address HOPs. He indicated that rather than imposing an embargo that there were other avenues to pursue should the Department not increase the budget.

The presentation of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme highlighted:

- The focus is on retrofitting older housing stock and homes with the most to gain i.e. houses with BER of D2 or lower.
- BER rating to be improved to a minimum of B2.
- Priority is given to bungalows which are typically occupied by older persons and people with physical and intellectual disabilities.
- Focus is also on houses with no central heating and rely on open fires and back boilers for heating.
- Economies of scale a consideration i.e. multiple Units in Estates preferable.
- The Programme only provides funding for Windows, Doors, Heating Systems and control upgrades, External Wall Insulation, Attic Insulation.
- It does not cover electrical upgrades, damp proofing, removal of suspended timber floors, structural work.
- Decisions in respect of addressing items not covered by the Programme depends on the budget potentially available from elsewhere.

Minute No. 17/25

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer, responded to issues raised by Elected Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- Issues raised in respect of public lighting, including a suggestion to provide a report outlining progress and plans in respect of same, to be brought to the attention of relevant LCC personnel.
- Paddy Connolly indicated that there is no specific work plan or funding programme in respect of footpath maintenance. Footpaths most in need of repair are prioritised. However, he undertook to look at those footpaths mentioned by Members as needing repair.
- Several locations identified by Members as requiring renewal of road markings to be looked at while noting that as it is the 'dirtiest time of year', the markings may not be worn out.
- Paddy Connolly indicated that there are currently 30 requests on hand in respect of traffic calming measures. He also advised that a Traffic Calming Policy was under development.
- Members raised the issue of scramblers/quad bikes on mountains, on Council lands and on roads. It was queried, with reference to the An Garda Síochána communications campaign concerning dogs on mountains and it being lambing season, if similar could be done re the scramblers on mountains and safety concerns for sheep. It was considered that this was a matter for An Garda Síochána in the first instance but it was also noted that the Guards had previously advised that the Council was responsible for securing access to its lands.
- Additional matters raised, including traffic lights, recruitment of Caretaker in Omeath, removal of redundant speed limit signs, litter pick-up and dumping, playground inspections, and pothole patching to be brought to the attention of relevant personnel for appropriate attention.

Minute No. 18/25

Tidy Town Project Scheme 2025

Members considered the Tidy Town Project Scheme 2025 as circulated in advance of the meeting.

In accordance with Section 66(1) & (9) of the Local Government Act 2001 the Schedule was approved on the

Proposal of: Cllr. Antóin Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And Resolved.

Minute No. 19/25

Road Works Programme 2025

Members considered the Road Works Programme 2025 as circulated in advance of the meeting.

Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer and Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer, responded to questions from the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- The programme has yet to go out to tender and therefore could potentially change. Mark Johnston indicated that should tenders come in at higher-than-expected costs the list will be cut but if lower than anticipated more could be added.
- Roads that had been dropped from the 2024 Work Programme have been captured in the 2025 Programme.
- Funding provided by the Department of Transport for specific purposes can't be used for anything other than those identified works, including allocations towards required training.

The Work Programme was approved as presented on the

Proposal of: Cllr. Emma Coffey
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
And Resolved.

Minute No. 20/25

Part 8 – Dundalk's Women's Aid Report

Ger Murphy, Director of Services, introduced the Chief Executive's Report, prepared in accordance with Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of a Part 8 application for permission to carry out the development of Women's Aid Centre on lands at Highfield, Newry Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

- Rachel Hamilton, Senior Executive Architect, provided a presentation indicating that the proposed Part 8 development provides for:
- Demolition of existing rear extension at Highfield House and garage.
- Internal alterations to Highfield House to provide staff offices, kitchen facilities, client activity rooms, night staff bedroom.
- Extension to Highfield House "The Hub" (Block 1) to provide: a family access unit, youth and child support unit, staff offices, meeting rooms and ancillary services.
- The construction of twelve short stay emergency accommodation units including 8 x 2-bed, 3 x 1-bed and 1 x 2-bed (Block 3, apartments)
- New vehicular and pedestrian entrance, internal roadways, 12 car parking spaces, ESB substation, bin storage, open space provision, landscaping and all other associated site works.

Members acknowledged the important work of Women's Aid and commended both Women's Aid and the Team at Louth County Council for advancing this development.

The Part 8 was approved as presented on the

Proposal of: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And Resolved.

Minute No. 21/25

Standing Order No. 89 – Suspension of Standing Order No. 5

On the **Proposal of** Cllr. Séan Kelly **Seconded by** Cllr. Antóin Watters, Standing Orders were suspended to allow for discussion of remaining Agenda items.

Minute No. 22/25

Physical Development Report

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting.

John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer, responded to questions from the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- It is anticipated that communication will issue to Members by end March in respect of a briefing session on the Safe Routes to Schools Project.
- As part of a National Pilot Project to test the effectiveness of mobility hubs, a list of 30 potential locations across Dundalk has been developed in consultation with AECOM Consultants and the Department of Transport.
- Cllr. Watters to write to Cllr. Kelly proposing a meeting be arranged specific to the matter of Greenways.

Minute No. 23/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Antóin Watters Secunder: Cllr. Siannain McCann

Call on Louth County Council to write to the OPW to request urgent repairs to the bridge in the Deerpark, Ravensdale (Google maps co-ordinates 54.036819, -6.345742) which was damaged during the flooding in 2023. The bridge provides access to the Proleek Dolmen and Proleek Wedge Tomb. Both sites of huge tourism importance in North Louth.

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Place Making and Physical Development

This is a matter for members.

Minute No. 24/25

Notice of Question – Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt

1. Could you please provide the following information regarding the Carlingford Lough Greenway -Specifically, I would like to know how many Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) were required for this project, and whether all individuals affected by these CPOs have been compensated accordingly, if not how many are outstanding?
2. To date what is the exact figure spent on the proposed Carlingford - Dundalk Bay Greenway.

Reply from David Jones, Director of Place Making and Physical Development

1. In total, 28 landowners were affected by the Carlingford Lough Greenway and subject to the Compulsory Purchase Order process associated with the project. In terms of compensation for lands acquired, the following is the current situation:
 - Agreement has been reached with 21 landowners in respect of compensation and standard conveyancing is ongoing between the respective law agents regarding completion of sales
 - Negotiations are ongoing with five landowners (one landowner has only recently submitted a claim)
 - Claims are still awaited from two landowners
2. To date, €500,528 has been expended to date in relation to the proposed Carlingford to Dundalk Greenway.


Minute No. 25/25

Any Other Business

- Cllr. Kelly confirmed that a Civic Reception for Eve McCrystal and Kate O'Connor would take place on Thursday 10th April at 7pm, at County Hall.
- Establishment of a committee in relation to the ongoing upkeep, maintenance and future development of Dowdallshill Graveyard to be included on next month's Municipal District Meeting agenda for discussion.

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

Date: 08/06/2025

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: Sinead Dooley