

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 15th of September 2025

In Attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan (Chairman)
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Ms Samantha Maguire, Traveller Representative
Ms Julie Maguire, Traveller Representative

Officials: Mr Ger Murphy, Director of Services
Ms. Danielle McMahon, Social Worker
Ms. Arja Cullen, Social Worker
Ms. Ramona Somerville, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Ms Colette Joyce, Traveller Representative
Mr Kieran McDonagh, Traveller Representative
Mr. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer

1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th of April 2025 were proposed by Chairperson Kevin Meenan and seconded by Director of Services Ger Murphy.

2. Matters Arising

Dumping at the Community Room area of Woodland Park Halting Site in Dundalk has been addressed. The shed and the existing rubbish have been removed, the area was subsequently filled and levelled. It has been confirmed that there was no further dumping of rubbish since and there are signs of grass growing back.

Other issues at Woodland Park Halting site to be reviewed, depending on funding and available budget options.

A further site visit to Woodland Park Halting site was proposed by Chairperson Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Director of Services Ger Murphy and Cllr. Sean Kelly, to be completed before the end of the year.

The issue of the Council paying a substantial electricity bill for halting site residents and the proposal to install prepay meters at the site continues to be under review, whilst awaiting updates from the services provider.

Samantha Maguire requested a spending breakdown from Louth County Council. Chairperson Kevin Meenan agreed to provide a summary of the figures in line with the budget in November 2025 for the next LTACC meeting.

3. Update on the implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

A total of 13 standard social housing allocations to Traveller households since the 1st of January 2025.

- 5 of these were Council property allocations (4 relets and 1 acquisition under tenant in situ scheme) and 8 were newly built Approved Housing Body (AHB) unit allocations.
- 1 loan application was approved and granted under the Caravan Loan Scheme.
- The total target for allocations in 2025 is 10; and with 13 allocations, we have already exceeded the target for the year.
- Dormant Account Funding: Approval was granted by the Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department for training delivery of Traveller Cultural Awareness for LTACC members, Customer Service and Library staff. This training was also extended to homelessness staff and estate management and rents staff. It was facilitated by Laura and Ellen McDonagh (daughter and mother) of Meath Travellers Workshop Ltd. in June 2025 in both County Hall and Civic Offices, Fair Street.
- Two Traveller Group Housing Schemes are progressing:
 - Clontygora, Dundalk (2x 4 bed houses) – ongoing consultations with end users – estimated allocation before end of year 2025
 - Derryveigh House, Dundalk (1x 3 bed house and 1x 4 bed house) – acceptance of provisional formal offer – estimated allocation in October 2025

4. Fire Safety

- Chief Fire Officer returned his findings to the Department regarding fire safety. Louth County Council fire officers have responsibility in this area for Traveller specific accommodation sites.

5. A.O.B

- There is 1 open place available on the committee for Traveller Representatives for the Drogheda area and Samantha Maguire will reach out to the local Traveller community for possible nominations.
- Ms Samantha Maguire highlighted issue with hedges at entry to Naughton Close, Dundalk having been maintained by a resident over the past number of years and asked about a possible caretaker for the site. Director of Service Ger Murphy informed that similarly to other housing estates, this is a collective responsibility of the community residents.
 - Chairperson Kevin Meenan proposed a site visit to encourage residents to form their own committee and apply for possible funding.
 - Ms Samantha Maguire to contact the Louth Traveller Movement and the Dundalk Tidy Towns for assistance with the before mentioned.

- Vacant bays at Woodland Park halting site were discussed. Director of Service Ger Murphy advised that the Council is currently reviewing and assessing the tenure of the bays.
- Ms Samantha Maguire advised of the upcoming Traveller Mental Health event in the Lisdoon in Dundalk on the 10th of October 2025.

Signed: 
Chairman Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Date: 24 / 11 / 2025