

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 24th of November 2025

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

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

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

1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th of September 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Sean Kelly and seconded by Chairperson Cllr. Kevin Meenan.

2. Matters Arising

Samantha Maguire informed members about various issues at Woodland Park Halting site including access to hot water and lighting at night.

Following the before mentioned, a further site visit to Woodland Park Halting site on the 12th of December 2025 was agreed by Chairperson Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Director of Services Ger Murphy and Cllr. Sean Kelly.

The issue of the payment of a utility bill at Woodland Park Halting site was raised by Director of Service Ger Murphy. The need to manoeuvre to a prepay metered system was noted to free up funding for improvements and maintenance works on the site. A phased move to a prepay meter system for Spring 2026 was outlined.

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

The total target for standard housing allocations in 2025 is 10 and there has been 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.
- Traveller specific accommodation:
 - Derryveigh House, Hoey's Lane, Dundalk: 2 detached houses (1x 3 bed house and 1x 4 bed house) – Two households were accommodated in Traveller specific accommodation in October 2025.
 - Clontygora, Dundalk: 2 detached houses (2x 4 bed houses) – two households will be allocated in January 2026

Chairperson Cllr. Kevin Meenan commended the efforts and success of the local authority staff and contractors in delivering these two new Traveller Group Housing Schemes, accommodating 4 different households.

4. Fire Safety

Samantha Maguire highlighted concerns regarding fire hoses on the Woodland Park halting site. Director of Services Ger Murphy advised that Housing Technical staff will liaise with the Fire Service in relation to the recently completed Fire Safety audit at the site.

5. A.O.B

- Social Worker Danielle McMahon advised that the Annual Estimate of Accommodation of Traveller Families is due to be undertaken on Friday, 28 November 2025 as per the circular from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The latest date to submit the return to the Department is Friday 30th of January 2026. Traveller families refer to the tenant/owners of a family unit: where a family is taken to mean head-of-household/parents, children and other relatives who normally reside with them. Samantha Maguire informed members of a planned Traveller mapping exercise to be completed by Primary Healthcare Project Workers in Louth. Colette Joyce will link with Primary Healthcare and Louth Traveller Movement to confirm names, addresses and ages of Travellers recorded during mapping process, with their consent, to assist in the Annual Estimate.
- There is 1 open place available on the committee for Traveller representatives and Samantha Maguire proposed 2 possible nominees. Chairperson Cllr. Kevin Meenan noted the importance of gender balance and geographical widespread representation on the committee for the purpose of various perspectives for the County Louth Travelling community.

- Following the success of the Traveller Cultural Awareness training through the Meath Traveller Workshop Ltd. staff in June 2025, Cllr. Sean Kelly proposed the rollout of the workshop to all elected members.
- Samantha Maguire suggested for Cena (Culturally Appropriate Homes CLG) to join the next LTACC meeting with their presentation on appropriate housing for Travellers. Colette Joyce agreed to forward contact details for Cena to Social Worker Danielle McMahon, who will arrange the invitation for the first LTACC meeting in 2026.

Signed: 
Chairman Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Date: 23 / 03 / 2026