

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 28th of April 2025

In Attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan (Chairman)

Ms Colette Joyce, Traveller Representative

Ms Julie Maguire, Traveller Representative

Officials:

Mr Ger Murphy, Director of Services

Mr. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer

Ms. Danielle McMahon, Social Worker

Ms. Ramona Somerville, Clerical Officer

Apologies:

Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Cllr. Sean Kelly

Mr Kieran McDonagh, Traveller Representative

Ms Samantha Maguire, Traveller Representative

Ms. Arja Cullen, Social Worker

1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th of January 2025 were proposed by Chairperson Kevin Meenan and seconded by Director of Services Ger Murphy.

2. Matters Arising

A new member was acknowledged and welcomed i.e. Julie Maguire. Julie is to receive the Traveller Accommodation Programme in County Louth by post/email .

Julie Maguire reported issues at the Woodland Park Halting Site in Dundalk including: a possible need for eco drains to replace open sewage line; wiring issues at Bay no. 5 with fuses having turned brown in fuse box; street floodlights turning off at 12:30am; a need for speed ramps; and dumping on site.

Director of Services Ger Murphy will consider reviewing budget options with Chairperson Kevin Meenan regarding speed ramps; and will consider removing the gated area next to the shed and filling the area in order to combat dumping at the site.

A further site visit with the elected members will also be considered by Chairperson Kevin Meenan.

The issue of the Council paying a substantial electricity bill for the halting site residents was discussed and Director of Services Ger Murphy advised of a plan to install prepay meters this year.

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

A total of 5 standard social housing allocations to Traveller households since the 1st of January 2025.


- 1 of those was a Council property re-let and 4 were new Approved Housing Body (AHB) units.
- The total target for allocations in 2025 is 10; with 4 more allocations in progress, we are on track to meeting the target for the year.
- Dormant Account Funding: Approval has been granted for training delivery for Traveller Cultural Awareness training from Meath Travellers Workshop Ltd. during the week commencing the 9th of June. Social Worker Danielle McMahon to check availability of LTACC members and arrange suitable date.
- Two Traveller Group Housing Schemes are progressing:
 - Clontygora, Dundalk – ongoing consultations with end users – estimated delivery 2025
 - Derryveigh House, Dundalk – ongoing consultations with end users – estimated delivery 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

- Traveller Representative Colette Joyce advised of the upcoming Traveller Pride on the 30.05.2025 and the Summer Camp in July, both at the Redeemer Centre in Dundalk.
- With 1 place available on the committee for Traveller Representatives, Social Worker Danielle McMahon has reached out to Teresa Comiskey from Louth Local Development Committee for nominations of Traveller Representatives in the Drogheda area.

Signed: 
Chairman Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Date: 15 / 09 / 2025