

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in the Oriel Room on 20th January 2025

In Attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan (Chairman)
Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Ms Samantha Maguire, Traveller representative

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

Apologies: Ms. Bridget Maguire, Traveller representative
Mr Kieran McDonagh, Traveller representative
Ms Colette Joyce, Traveller representative
Ms Mary McDonagh, Traveller representative

1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th of September 2024 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by G Murphy.

2. Matters Arising

New members were acknowledged and welcomed i.e. Samantha Maguire, Kieran McDonagh and Colette Joyce.

An overview of the new Traveller Accommodation Programme was outlined.

The conditions at Woodland Park Halting Site in Dundalk were highlighted and it was agreed that a visit would be conducted by Chairperson Kevin Meenan and Director of Services Ger Murphy before the next meeting. The issue of the Council also paying a substantial electricity bill for the halting site residents was discussed and potential alternative options were considered.

3. Recap on the implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

A Total of 90 allocations to Traveller households from 2019 – 2024.

- 79 of those have been to Standard Social Housing and 11 have been to Traveller-specific accommodation (3 Group Housing Scheme re-lets and 8 Halting Site allocations).
- 5 caravan/mobile home loans were approved during the programme 2019 – 2024.
- 10 shower units were installed at each of the basic service bays at Woodland Park Halting Site.

- 2 Single Instance Purchases under TAP funding – houses acquired for Traveller households with members who have a disability.
- 1 Traveller First-time House Purchase Grant awarded - €3810
- 2 Adaptations under TAP funding for households with members who have a disability
- 12 Group Housing Units underwent the Energy Upgrade Works
- Dormant Account Funding: The council applied for funding for the development of a playground on the green space at the entry to the halting site and approval was granted in June 2024. However, due to significant operational issues at the site, the team could not progress this project and notified the Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department.

4. **Fire Safety**

- Louth County Council fire officers have responsibility in this area for Traveller specific accommodation sites.

5. **Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029**

- Two Traveller Group Housing Schemes are progressing:
Clontygora, Dundalk – estimated delivery 2025
Derryveigh House, Dundalk – estimated delivery 2025
- Several planned allocations to progress for standard social housing

6. **A.O.B**

- Past committee members and Traveller representatives Patrick Ward and Mary Matthews who sadly passed away were acknowledged and commended for their involvement in LTACC.

Signed: 
Chairman Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Date: 28/04 / 2025