

Borough District of Drogheda – 1st July 2019

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 1st July 2019 at 4.15 p.m. Barlow House, Drogheda.

In attendance:

- Mayor:** Cllr. Paul Bell
- Members:** Cllrs: James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Tom Cunningham, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Oliver Tully
- Officials:** Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Aoife Lawler, A/Director of Services
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Christine Mullen, Administrative Officer
- Apologies:** Cllrs: Kevin Callan, Michelle Hall, Pio Smith

Minute No. 72/19

The Members agreed to a minutes silence to mark the sad passing of Jill Aimante, who died tragically in a drowning accident at the weekend.

Minute No. 73/19

The Mayor welcomed Cllr. Declan Power to his first Borough District of Drogheda meeting.

Minute No. 74/19

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 13th May, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Joanna Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Oliver Tully.

The minutes of the Annual and Inaugural Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on 10th June, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Joanna Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Paddy McQuillan.

Minute No. 75/19

Matters Arising

Minute No. 59/19 (Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report). A query was raised if contact had been made with the supermarkets and an update requested. Members were informed that this would be followed up.

Minute No. 76/19

Housing Progress Report

Members conferred on the Housing Progress Report and the following points were noted:-

- It was requested that the report on the rough sleeper count be included again and members were advised that the rough sleeper count is being done.
- Members discussed the lack of funding for carrying out re-let works to vacant properties and were informed that in some cases, part-funding can be obtained from insurance on a match funding basis but otherwise there is no funding available for these works.

Minute No. 77/19

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

The members discussed the report as circulated and the following were raised:-

- Concerns were raised about the recent repair works to Millmount, namely stone work and lighting and was informed that the Council had to take into consideration heritage walls when carrying out work. An update will be provided.
- A discussion on road safety issues took place including Murray's Cross, Cockle Road and Ballymakenny. Members were informed that the 20 projects were submitted to the Department for the 2019 Safety Improvement Works Programme, 12 of which were approved. Councillors will be informed which 8 did not qualify.
- An update on the 'Children at Play' sign for the Old Abbey will be made available.

Minute No. 78/19

Taking in Charge Report

Members were informed that an official will be in attendance at the next Borough District of Drogheda meeting and in the meantime, any queries can be emailed to the Assistant Engineer. The taking in charge of Riverbank was raised and members were informed that this information will be provided to them.

It was noted that the issue of re-alignment of the road at Rathmullen Road junction was a planning condition and the developer would be contacted and if possible a timeframe provided.

Minute No. 79/19

Election of Chairperson Louth JPC

The meetings administrator facilitated the election of the Chairperson of the Louth Local Policing Forum of the Louth JPC Structure by the members by seeking nominations.

Cllr. James Byrne was proposed by Cllr. Oliver Tully and seconded by Cllr. Paul Bell.

It was agreed by the members that Cllr. James Byrne be Chairperson of the Louth Local Policing Forum of the Louth JPC Structure.

Minute No. 80/19

Election of Vice-Chairperson of the Louth JPC

The meetings administrator facilitated the election of the Vice Chairperson of the Louth Local Policing Forum of the Louth JPC Structure by the members by seeking nominations. Cllr. Paul Bell was proposed by Cllr. Oliver Tully and seconded by Cllr. James Byrne.

It was agreed by the Members that Cllr. Paul Bell be Vice Chairperson of the Louth Local Policing Forum of the Louth JPC Structure.

Minute No. 81/19

Nomination of three (3) proposed members to the Newry and Mourne District Council

Cllr. Tom Cunningham was proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Tom Cunningham and agreed by the members

Cllr. James Byrne was proposed by Cllr. Oliver Tully, seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne and agreed by the members

Cllr. Declan Power was proposed by Cllr. Oliver Tully, seconded by Cllr. Paul Bell and agreed by the members

The nominations will be brought to the next County Council meeting for ratification by the Members.

Minute No. 82/19

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

This was proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Paddy McQuillan and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 83/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. James Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

"That Drogheda Borough Council would immediately seek to initiate formal meetings with Meath County Council members and officials of the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District as one step to help Drogheda reach its full potential and that there would be immediate interaction in relation to those estates divided by, and running along, the county boundary."

Reply:

An implementation team has been established consisting of the Senior Management Teams of each county. Regular meetings of the team, jointly chaired by the Chief Executives, are held to monitor and measure progress on joint initiatives. Two cross-county teams, a Strategic Team and an Operations Team, have been established with a remit to advance an agreed programme of mutually beneficial activities.

The Strategic Team has been tasked with a review of the Greater Drogheda Area Planning Strategy to include a joint Local Area Plan and a joint Retail Strategy. It has also progressed a number of economic development issues including joint initiatives of the Local Enterprise Offices and the Boyne Valley Tourism and Food strategies. That team also considers the need for further capital infrastructure works of relevance to the Greater Drogheda Area and has co-operated on a number of cross boundary greenway proposals.

The Operations Team meets regularly to agree and monitor progress on a range of day to day operational issues including transportation, roads and footpaths, Fire Services, Housing, Community matters, Public Participation Networks, Environment, Library Services and public events.

The following are some examples of joint initiatives undertaken and advanced by the teams to date:

Strategic Team:

- Agreement of a framework to advance the review of the Planning Strategy for the Greater Drogheda Area which will inform the preparation of a joint Local Area Plan and

Retail Strategy as required in the recently published draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.

- Inclusion in the forthcoming Draft Meath County Development Plan of objectives to prepare a Joint Vision and Local Area Plan for Drogheda within the life of the CDP.
- Setting up of a Regional Centre Co-Ordination Group consisting of the Senior Planners from Meath, Louth and Westmeath (and potentially Roscommon) to ensure consistency of methodology and approach to the preparation of joint plans.
- Joint actions on the development and implementation of Tourism and Food strategies for the Boyne Valley (Meath & Louth) as part of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative including joint funding of a Tourism Officer, Food Development Officer and strategy implementation including joint marketing.
- Joint initiatives between the Meath and Louth Local Enterprise Offices including the development of academic programmes for food producers and support for retailers, manufacturing, women in business and general business support.
- Co-operation and support for cross boundary greenway proposals and related funding applications.
- Co-operation and funding in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland of the National Samhain Festival to be staged at the end of October each year commencing in October 2019.

Operations Team:

- Co-operation on practical cross boundary operational issues such as road and footpath improvements (e.g. Deep Forde/Five Oaks footpath works), winter gritting etc.
- The preparation of a Joint Migrant Integration Policy (Community)
- Practical co-operation on homeless accommodation and H.A.P. (Housing)
- Review of Fire Services operations, training and billing
- Discussion on the potential for joint PPN initiatives (Community)
- A range of joint Library initiatives including cross boundary extension of the Louth mobile library services into East Meath.

The members noted the reply.

Minute No. 84/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Tom Cunningham
Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

"That LCC install solar powered bins at Clogherhead beach, Seapoint beach and Port Oriel harbour."

Reply:

The installation of Solar powered bins located in Blackrock and Drogheda are being compared to traditional bins. This will include value for money and the service provided. The maintenance and telemetry costs of these bins are high but savings can be made due to the reduced number of times the bins are required to be emptied. Vandalism to bins are not covered and repairs due to vandalism are an additional costs.

With regard to the three locations proposed for installation of bins , two of the locations would not be suitable due to the current vandalism encountered with the bins , the third location will be reviewed as part of the value for money exercise being carried out. However current budgets would not fund additional expenditure in this service at this time.

The members noted the reply.

Minute No. 85/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Tom Cunningham
Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

"That Louth County Council fix the existing speed ramps in Aston Village."

Reply:

The area engineers have inspected and eight speed ramps require replacement at Aston village .The estimated cost to repair is approximately €32,000.00 . There is not currently provided for in 2019 budget however can be put forward for consideration for 2020.

The members noted the reply.

Notice of Question

Proposed by: Cllr. James Byrne

"Can Louth County Council provide details of works underway, and planned, to clean up Drogheda in preparation for Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann and does this include the removal of graffiti across the town?"

Reply:

Louth County Council are in the process of completing the following works in preparation for Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann

- Cleaning all road signs on the approach roads to and in Drogheda,
- Replacing defective litter bins,
- Carrying out weed control operations,
- Cleaning the former DYD centre in Narrow West St.,
- The cleaning off graffiti is carried out on an ongoing basis

The meeting then concluded

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____