



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Ceantar Buirge Dhroichead Átha - Borough District of Drogheda Meeting

Minutes of the Borough District of Drogheda Meeting held at Fair Street, Drogheda –
Monday, 6th July 2026 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Declan Power

Members: Councillor(s) James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Eric Donovan Anne-Marie Ford,
Michelle Hall, Debbie McCole, Pío Smith, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton

Apologies: Councillor Paddy McQuillan

Officials:

David Jones, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Ben Holland, Assistant Engineer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Michelle Curran, Administrative Officer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Eugenia Thompson, Senior Executive Planner
Áine Roddy, Assistant Communications Officer

Minute No. 75/26

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 8th June 2026

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th June 2026 were confirmed on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Pío Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
And Approved.

Minute No. 76/26

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 8th June 2026

The minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting held on 8th June 2026 were confirmed on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith
And Approved.

Minute No. 77/26

Matters Arising

It was noted that two issues raised under Matters Arising would be addressed under the Taking in Charge and Roads and Local Services Reports.

Minute No. 78/26

Taking in Charge Report

Members welcomed the report but expressed concern regarding the length of time a number of estates have remained in the Taking in Charge process.

Issues raised by Members included:

- Balfeddock Manor, including the status of proposed playground and green area works.
- Townley Manor and progress following the plebiscite process.
- Riverbank and other long-standing estates where infrastructure issues remain unresolved.
- Rivercourt and the historical return of bond monies before the estate was taken in charge.
- The need for clearer timelines and measurable progress on older cases.

In response, Assistant Engineer, Mr. Ben Holland advised that:

- Engagement is ongoing with developers and their agents on a number of estates.
- Additional landscaping, playground and snagging works remain outstanding in certain developments.
- Several estates are dependent on Uisce Éireann processes and infrastructure upgrades before they can advance.
- Some estates continue to be impacted by historical bond and funding issues.

Members requested that future reports provide clearer progress updates and details of works being undertaken.

Minute No. 79/26

Housing Progress Report

Senior Engineer, Mr. Declan Grimes, presented the Housing Progress Report.

Members discussed anti-social behaviour and intimidation being experienced by tenants in some housing estates. Councillor Power raised concerns on behalf of residents who feel unable to make formal complaints due to fear of retaliation. Particular concern was expressed regarding the impact on families and vulnerable tenants.

Mr. Grimes acknowledged the difficulties involved and advised that:

- Complaints are investigated when received.
- The Council continues to work through estate management procedures and the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

- Residents are encouraged to report incidents.
- Staff will continue to engage with affected tenants where issues are identified.

An update was also requested regarding housing units at Newtown Wood. Members were advised that the units were originally constructed as a private development and were not built for Louth County Council. Departmental approval is required before the units can be taken into the social housing stock and, at present, the development remains private and may be sold on the open market.

Minute No. 80/26

Roads & Local Services Report

Senior Engineer, Mr. Mark Johnston, presented the Roads and Local Services Report and responded to matters raised by the Elected Members.

- Members raised concerns regarding the delayed installation of hanging baskets and flower displays throughout Drogheda town centre noting that: Flower displays are important for tourism and the appearance of the town; The absence of flowers on West Street and other prominent locations had generated public comment; Greater emphasis should be placed on presentation of the town during the summer season. Mr. Johnston advised that approximately 300 baskets were being installed and that delays had occurred. It was highlighted that The Bridge of Peace remains one of the most difficult and costly locations for installation and maintenance.
- Members raised matters of town cleanliness including: Street cleaning; Waste presentation by businesses; Overflowing bins; The appearance of West Street and surrounding areas. Mr. Johnston confirmed that enforcement action and fixed-payment notices had been issued where required and that cleaning operations continue on a daily basis.
- Members raised numerous road safety issues including: Seven Winds development and the need for improved pedestrian connectivity; Requests for additional pedestrian crossings; Speeding concerns in residential areas; Drainage and road maintenance issues; Traffic lights at various locations. Mr. Johnston outlined the process used to prioritise traffic calming projects and advised that applications for funding are submitted annually to the Department of Transport.
- Members expressed concern regarding: Overgrown vegetation; Tree maintenance; Encroachment onto footpaths; Vegetation affecting visibility and infrastructure. Mr. Johnston advised that maintenance programmes are ongoing but resources are limited and works are prioritised on a risk basis.
- Discussion took place regarding: Lifebuoys and beach infrastructure; Public showers; Parking and road markings; Harbour pollution concerns and Members welcomed the installation of the new changing shelter at Termonfeckin Beach.
- Members reiterated requests for additional bus shelters and seating throughout the district, particularly for older residents and those dependent on public transport. Mr. Johnston advised that delivery of shelters remains dependent on NTA approvals and supplier availability.

Minute No. 81/26

Provision of Assistance for the promotion of interests of local community groups or projects, provided under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them and approval was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Eric Donovan
And Resolved.

Minute No. 82/26

Part 8 – Boyne Valley Cluster Signage

Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Olivia McCormack presented the Part 8 Boyne Valley Drive Cluster Orientation Infrastructure proposal.

Members welcomed the project and raised questions regarding:

- Wayfinding and visitor orientation throughout Drogheda and the wider Boyne Valley cluster.
- Heritage interpretation and opportunities to direct visitors to key heritage assets.
- Walking and cycling connectivity, including links between transport hubs, tourism attractions and local amenities.
- The extent of public consultation undertaken.
- The location, scale and design of the proposed signage.
- Opportunities to encourage sustainable tourism and increase visitor dwell time within the Borough District.

Ms. McCormack advised that:

- The project forms part of the wider Boyne Valley Drive tourism initiative.
- The proposal includes gateway signs, arrival signs, interpretation panels, visitor information points and associated public realm improvements.
- Improvements are proposed at a number of locations including Drogheda Bus Station, Drogheda Rail Station, Baltray Promenade and King William's Glen.
- The objective is to improve orientation for visitors arriving by rail and bus and to better connect visitors with tourism attractions throughout the Boyne Valley.
- Detailed technical design, signage specifications and site-specific layouts will be progressed following approval of the Part 8 process and in consultation with relevant agencies.
- No submissions or observations were received during the public consultation period.

The recommendation that the proposal be approved as per the plans and particulars as put on display was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Declan Power
And Resolved.

Minute No. 83/26

Any Other Business

Cllr Hall requested that an update on the Linear Park project be presented to Members at the September Borough District meeting. By means of update, Director of Services, D. Jones noted that the meetings have taken place with the relevant developers with a view to agreeing a design for Linear Park and delivery thereafter. It was further noted that this process is currently ongoing and a further update will issue to members upon progress.

Minute No. 84/26

Congratulations

- Cllr. Power extended congratulations to Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton on her retirement from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and presented a token of appreciation.
- Congratulations were also extended to local golfer Stuart Grehan on his recent success at the 131st Amateur Championship at Royal Liverpool.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date:

7th SEPT 26

Mayor:

John Power

Meeting Administrator:

Sinead Dooley