

DROGHEDA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS



Fianna Fáil
Tommy Murphy



Fine Gael
Michael O'Dowd



Sinn Féin
Dom Wilton



Labour
Gerald Nash



Non Party
Malachy Godfrey



Fianna Fáil
Jimmy Mulroy



Fine Gael
Anthony Donohoe



Non Party
Tommy Byrne



Labour
Paul Bell



Sinn Féin
Mathew Coogan



Fianna Fáil
Frank Maher



Non Party
Ken O'Heiligh

STAFF DROGHEDA BOROUGH COUNCIL

M. Moloney
D. Foley
D. Agnew

County Manager
Town Clerk
Borough Engineer

HOUSING

A total of 48 new houses were allocated during 2004 including 40 houses at St. Laurence's Drive and 8 old person dwellings in St. Finian's Park, Drogheda. The council also re-let 33 houses to waiting list applicants during 2004.

Construction is presently underway on 22 houses in St. Laurence's Drive (Phase 8). These houses will be allocated in August 2005.

Remedial Works Scheme at St. Finian's Park, Drogheda (Phase 1)

The pilot project under the RWS for 37 No. houses in Cul-de-sac 3 was completed in May 2004.

The contract included the replacement of the cladding to the front and rear of the houses on the first floor and its replacement with solid block construction, the installation of doubled glazed windows and doors and gas fired central heating. The contract also included environmental works incorporating new boundary walls, footpaths, new public lighting and new carriageway.

Remedial Works Scheme at St. Finian's Park (Phase 2)

Phase 2 of this project commenced in June 2004 and involves the complete refurbishment of 43 houses in Cul-de-sac 4. This project is a continuation of the contract for the refurbishment of these houses with a similar specification as used in the Pilot Scheme. This phase of the contract is due to be completed in September 2005.



Remedial Works Scheme at St. Finians Park, Drogheda

€524,543, these monies were spent on a range of road and footpath projects including the following:-

- Platin Road Reconstruction and Resurfacing Works
- Cement Road Reconstruction and Resurfacing Works
- The Twenties Reconstruction and Resurfacing Works
- Marian Park Reconstruction and Resurfacing Works
- Bredin Street Resurfacing and Gullies
- Rope Walk Reconstruction, Resurfacing, introduction of one-way traffic flow along Rope Walk and Greenlanes
- Signal Controlled Pedestrian Crossing Hardman's Gardens
- Ballypark and Newfield Footpath Repairs
- Westgate Junction Upgrade Traffic Signals and Pedestrian Crossing

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

Housing development at Tredagh View, Drogheda (Phase 2)

The Council has entered into an agreement with Respond Housing Association to undertake this development. The development will consist of 125 houses and a community facility with the following tenure types:

74 Council houses, 16 Affordable houses and 35 voluntary houses. It is anticipated that the planning permission for this development will be completed by June 2005.

The Council has also received a planning application from Foscadh Housing Association for a Scheme of 65 houses and a community facility on a site at St. Laurence's Park, Drogheda.

The Council is making this site available to the Association to facilitate the development.

Discussions are also taking place with other voluntary groups in relation to the provision of voluntary housing at a number of other locations in the Borough.

HOMELESSNESS

The Council is involved in the direct provision of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless persons since 2001. In addition the Council is working closely with the Drogheda Homeless Aid Association and the Drogheda Womens Refuge in relation to the provision of Council housing for families.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department of Environment, Heritage And Local Government made a grant payment to Drogheda Borough Council in the amount

ROADWORKS

- Provision for disabled access at various locations and footpath repairs carried-out at Ballypark, Newfield, Yellowbatter, Byranstown, Marian Park, Oaklawns, Georgian Close, Meadowview, Narrow West Street, Ballsgrove, Broadmeadows, Patrick Street, St.Peter's Cemetery, The Twenties.
- Road repairs were carried-out at Bog Lane, Ballsgrove, Crushrod Avenue, Moneymore, Newtown-Stabalan, Stameen, Millmount, North Strand and College Rise.
- Reconstruction, upgrading and provision of services were carried-out on the R132, old N1, (Dublin Road), extending from the train station entrance to the railway bridge, including surface water drainage, gullies, ducting, etc.
- Roadworks were completed on the R132, Bridge of Peace, including resurfacing and remedial works to bridge expansion joints.
- Road reconstruction works were completed on the R132, (old N1, Drogheda), the extent of the works was from Georges Street /Trinity Street/Westgate Junction to Crosslane Junction. The works were financed by the NRA in the amount €740,000. Works included road reconstruction, upgrading existing and provision of new services, including ducting, surface water drainage, etc.
- Roadworks were carried-out on the R166, Crosslanes, including road reconstruction, drainage, footpaths, services, road markings, etc., and were part financed from a grant payment made under the EU-Co-Financed Scheme of Grants for Improvement Works on Non-National Roads, a total of €150,000 was allocated under the scheme for the R166 Crosslanes Improvement Works.
- Reconstruction and remedial works were carried-out to a section of

the supporting embankment along the R167, Baltray Road, to remedy coastal erosion.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

- Public lighting operation and maintenance was ongoing in 2004.

TRAFFIC

- Operation and maintenance of traffic signals was ongoing as was the provision of road markings and signage.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

- Drogheda Borough Council advertised Part 8 documentation for the West St. /Narrow West St. /Old Abbey Lane /Patrickswell Lane, Drogheda - Environmental Improvement Project and works are due to commence in 2005.
- Drogheda Borough Council advertised Part 8 documentation for the R132 Rehabilitation Scheme (M1 Link to Crosslane Et Rosehall Junction). Works are due to commence in 2005.
- Termonfeekin to Newtown Link Road - tender documents being prepared.

PARKING

- Pay and Display Parking - On-street pay and display machines installed and operational. Road markings and signs completed.
- Extension of Mell car park was completed in November, 2004 and the car park re-opened to the public. Works commenced for construction of a new car park at Donore Road on 22nd November, 2004. Due for completion early 2005.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- With regard to Traffic Management, Drogheda Borough Council felt that a more comprehensive review and updating of the Drogheda Town Centre traffic model was necessary to properly deal with the complex traffic management requirements for the town centre and the Borough and as a result of ongoing development within the Borough. It was decided therefore to commission a Traffic Management Study. WSP Ireland Ltd was selected to carry out the study and where appointed in September 2004, a comprehensive study is due for completion by mid 2005.

SANITARY SERVICES

SANITARY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2004

Water Quality

Drogheda Borough Council continues to monitor and test the quality of the public drinking water supply. In this regard the EPA report published in 2004 states that 'overall compliance with the drinking water standards (for the Drogheda public water supply) was above average at 99.0% compliance'.

Water Improvement Scheme

Meath County Council spearheaded a project on behalf of Meath, Louth and Drogheda regarding the water supply to the whole area. This report is called the 'East Meath, South Louth and Drogheda Water Supply Improvement Scheme' and was published in September 2004. The

report deals with the abstraction, storage and distribution of potable water to the region to cater for current and future demands. It also investigates the possibilities for the development of new sources, such as groundwater, to meet the future demands of the scheme. Immediate measures to accommodate the water demand in the short term are to be identified and implemented.

Water Conservation

€4m has been allocated to Louth Local Authorities under the Water Services Investment Programme for a countywide Water Conservation Scheme. Tendering for the appointment of consultants for the Water Conservation project was completed in 2004. The project is to commence in 2005.

Metering of Non-Domestic water users

In conjunction with Government Policy Drogheda Borough Council is currently implementing a programme to install universal metering of non-domestic uses by 2006.

Water Network Maintenance

Drogheda Borough Council continues to carry out water repairs, minor improvements and connections to public mains throughout the water distribution network as required.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

A new 20-year Operation & Maintenance Contract commenced in January 2004 for the Drogheda Waste Water Treatment Plant. Contract documentation was submitted to the DoEHLG regarding the extension of the Drogheda Waste Water Treatment Plant. This extension will increase the capacity of the Drogheda plant from 67,000pe to its EIS certified capacity of 101,000 pe. Expansion of capacity is essential to facilitate growth in the Drogheda area. Tendering for the proposed extension works commenced in 2004 with a view to appointing a contractor to site in 2005.

Sewers Network Maintenance

In 2004 Drogheda Borough Council purchased a van and jetter to assist in the cleaning and the removal of blockages in the public sewer network. Regular inspections and maintenance is also carried out of the main drainage interceptor sewers.

PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The review of the Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan was ongoing in 2004. When adopted in 2005 it will outline the services which the Council intends to provide and policies which will act as guidance for developers.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Under Section 48 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000 (as amended) the Drogheda Borough Council Contribution Scheme was adopted on 16th February 2004. This will guide developers by outlining exactly what contributions they can expect to pay and also indicate the basis for levying the contribution.

PLANNING STRATEGY FOR THE GREATER DROGHEDA AREA

Drogheda Borough Council, in partnership with Louth County Council and Meath County Council has commissioned a Planning Strategy for the Greater Drogheda Area. This strategy commenced with a Start Up Meeting on the 23rd September, 2004, and its aim is to be a cohesive and interlinked strategy for the period 2004-2024 for the Greater Drogheda Area, emphasising:

- the location strengths of the study area by reference to the Dublin-Belfast Corridor
- the proximity to Dublin
- accessibility to rail and road infrastructure and to points of national access

Start up meetings with a steering committee and working group were held in 2004, with initial stakeholder consultation.

- The linked aspirations of the three local authorities will include:-
- Prosperous and vibrant town centre
- The provision of services and infrastructure capacity
- Creation of benefits from access to high frequency transport corridors (rail and road) linking the study area to Dublin (and also Belfast)
- improvements to the capability of movement within the study area
- Delivery of economic investment Issues Paper to be published in early 2005 and stakeholder meetings set up.

DROGHEDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP ACTION PLAN

The Drogheda Economic Development Action Plan was launched in November, 2004 by Mr. Dermot Ahern, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Dr. T. K. Whitaker.

The Plan builds on the valuable work presented on the Economic and Spatial Development Study of Drogheda and its Environs which was completed by Peter Bacon & Associates in 2001, following an initiative which was led by Drogheda Chamber of Commerce.

In order to advance the implementation of the recommendations in the Bacon Report, the Drogheda Economic Development Group was



Launch of Drogheda Economic Development Action Plan

formed in March, 2004 to prepare the Economic Development Action Plan. The group, which is chaired by Ms. Martina Moloney, Louth County Manager, consists of representatives of Louth County Council, Drogheda Borough Council, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Drogheda Chamber of Commerce, Drogheda Chamber of Trade, Louth County Enterprise Board, Fas and Drogheda Council of Trade Unions.

The key economic challenge which Drogheda faces over the coming years is to cater for the anticipated growth of the town in a sustainable way with the range of employment, accommodation and services which meets the needs of the local population. The Action Plan has been prepared to ensure that Drogheda fulfils this aim.

ENVIRONMENT

AMENITY GRANTS

Drogheda Borough Council allocated €27,500 in the form of Amenity Grants to 53 Residents/Voluntary organisations in the Drogheda Borough Council Administrative Area in 2004. These monies were used by these groups to carry out environmental, amenity conversation, recreational works/activities in their respective areas and greatly enhanced their respective estates throughout the town.

TIDY TOWNS 2004

Drogheda Borough Council continued to improve their position in the Super-Value National Tidy Towns Competition 2004. A lot of good work was carried out in this regard, in preparation for the competition which has seen the Town jump a massive 17 points in 2 years.

I.B.A.L. LITTER LEAGUE

Drogheda jumped 15 places in the annual Irish Business against Litter, Litter League in 2004 to finish in 12th position, and just outside the "Clean to European Norms" Category in the "Moderately Littered" Category.

This competition is run by I.B.A.L. (Irish Business against Litter and the judging of the event is carried on their behalf by An Taisce. This was a marvellous achievement particularly when you consider that Drogheda is the largest provincial town in Ireland and is a credit to all concerned in the Environment Section and particularly the Cleansing Section.

LOUTH LOCAL AUTHORITIES LITTER LEAGUE

Drogheda Borough Council continued to shine in the Louth Local Authorities "Litter League" for 2004. This is an internal "Litter League" organised and run by Louth County Council and involves a "head to head" competition between Drogheda Borough Council and Dundalk Town Council each year.

NEW CIVIC AMENITY

In 2004 "Expressions of Interest" were sought from suitability qualified Consulting Engineer's for the "Design and Supervision of Construction" of the new Civic Amenity/ Recycling Facility on the Collon Rd. Following the short-listing of these Final Design and Tender Documents were issued to 6 selected Contractor's for pricing which had to returned by 17th December 2004.

LITTER CONTROL

Drogheda Borough Council now has 2 full time Litter Warden's to help combat the litter Problem in the Town. The new Litter Patrol Van which was purchased in 2003 has proved to be a very worthwhile investment as it is a constant reminder to people not to litter and it has proved to be a very useful vehicle to gather and take away large items of discarded litter and rubbish after these has been investigated for evidence, and is also a very useful tool in the event of there being a need for "Rapid Response" due to reported, discarding of rubbish taking place.

The programme of upgrading the litter bins with cigarette butt provision continued in 2004.

In 2004 the "National Pollution Monitoring System (Litter GIS) was successfully completed in Drogheda and the corresponding survey results were forwarded to the National Consultants for inclusion in the National Surveys.

Plans and specifications were drawn up for a new "Litter Bin Van" and after tendering for the vehicle one has been chosen and it is due for delivery in early 2005. This van will be used to empty all the public litter bins throughout the town and also to keep the "Bring Bank" sites cleaned and well presented.

STREET CLEANSING

The successful work continued in this area continued in 2004 with the identification of the "hot spots" for constant cleaning on a regular basis. The street cleaning arrangements to include the road sweepers, green machines, and litter pickers are reviewed regularly and we are continuing the programme of areas being cleaned before normal starting time in the morning during weekdays and early in the mornings at the weekends.

WASTE DUMPING

Drogheda Borough Council constantly monitor, report and investigate all incidences of illegal dumping that occur in the town. These incidences, when observed or reported are investigated by the Borough Council's litter warden's who take details of the offenders which are the sent to Louth County Council for relevant action under the Waste Management Act 1996.

BRING BANKS

2 new "Bring Bank" sites were constructed in Drogheda in 2004 at Old Hill and at Moneymore. This brings to 10 the number on "Bring Bank" sites currently in Drogheda and these sites are strategically placed throughout the town and all of them are being very well used.

LANDSCAPING AND PARKS

2004 was a particularly busy year for the landscaping and parks department of Drogheda Borough Council.

13,000 bedding plants were brought in and nurtured and grown in the glasshouse here in the Borough Council yard. Cuttings were also brought in, in early March and potted using the "Rosey Lee" compost and nurtured until May. They were then transferred to the hanging baskets/flower pots and beds.



Summer Planting, Drogheda



Boyne Regatta, Drogheda

BOYNE RIVER

In 2004 Drogheda Borough Council continued its clean up of the historic river Boyne that flows majestically through the centre of town. In conjunction with this saw Drogheda Borough Council introducing the "Boyne River Watch Scheme" that continually monitors the river from various aspects, to include pollution control, general cleaning/clearing and overall enhancement of the river.

Also in 2004 saw the successful introduction of 150 wild mallard to the river, in the centre of the town from St. Dominic's Bridge upstream to the river walk at Mell. The people of Drogheda took these birds to their hearts and into their care, and throngs of people can now be seen feeding these ducks from early morning through to evening, 7 days a week.

LANDFILL RE-INSTATEMENT

The old landfill site on the Collon Rd. in Drogheda is an EPA licensed ex-landfill, with waste covered over with soil. In 2004 plans and specifications were drawn up for Gas extraction works (collection/ flaring) which have to be carried out in the site and after a tendering process which has been undertaken, work will commence on this in May/June 2005.

ARTS, RECREATION & AMENITY

ARTS & CULTURE

May 1st saw Drogheda officially welcoming Latvia into the European Union as part of the nationwide Day of Welcomes. The town became one large outdoor arts venue with new theatre productions, rock

EU Day of Welcomes



Drogheda welcomes Latvia

concerts, choral performances, and exhibitions, with the celebrations extending late into the night.

Also in Drogheda, St. Peter's Church of Ireland was the venue for a series of concerts featuring the RTE Vanbrugh Quartet, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, and Micheál O'Suilleabháin, amongst others. St. Peter's is also home to the Steinway Grand Piano, which was purchased by Drogheda Borough Council with assistance from the Arts Council, Louth Local Authorities, and the local business and community sector.



Caption

DROGHEDA SWIMMING POOL

Following completion, in April 2003, of Part 8 procedures in accordance with the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Drogheda Borough Council in association with the architects Newenham Mulligan & Associates prepared contract documentation and went to tender for the development of a new swimming pool and leisure complex at Marley's Lane, Rathmullen, Drogheda, Co. Louth. A contractor was successfully appointed namely, O'Hare McGovern Ltd., the contract is valued at approximately €9m and works commenced on site in October 2004.

The development will consist of a new swimming pool and leisure complex of total floor area approximately 2350m² including the following, pool hall with 25m 5 lane main pool, learner pool and toddler pool. The pool hall also includes spectator seating. The entrance area and reception includes a small vending seating area. A communal

changing area with associated showers, toilets and lockers. A health spa with sauna, steam room and spa pool. Fitness suite with gym and aerobics studio. Dedicated "dry" changing area to fitness suite. Administration includes staff supervision, ticket desk, staff facilities, and manager's office. Associated plant, storage and ancillary spaces.

External works and landscaping includes coach drop off area, car parking, disabled parking, planting and new perimeter fencing.

PLAYGROUND

Drogheda Borough Council's first public playground in the area since the early 1970's was opened on Saturday, 3rd April 2004 at St. Dominic's Park, Rathmullen Road. The playground was funded by Louth County Council led Peace II Task Force, Urban & Village Renewal Programme and sponsorship of the playground equipment by Drogheda Concentrates. The members of the Child Friendly Committee



Drogheda Playground

commissioned a report from Richard Webb & Associates on the lack of recreational facilities in Drogheda and submitted same to Drogheda Borough Council for consideration. In response to this report St. Dominic's Park was earmarked as a possible location. Drogheda Borough Council then commissioned Richard Webb & Associates to prepare a brief for the supply and installation of playground equipment and surfacing. Drogheda Concentrates were very enthusiastic about the project and were in a position to fund the supply of the playground equipment. The park caters for children of three age groups, the 1-5 year old group, the 6-10 year olds and 10+ age group. The new playground has been specifically designed to develop children through play, is accessible to all abilities and uses recycled materials, where practical.