



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – September 2026

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Monthly Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Dundalk -Tuesday, 1st September 2026 at 5:15 pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Andrea McKevitt

Members: **Councillor(s)** Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Ciaran Fisher, Sean Kelly (online), Sionainn McCann, Shane McGuinness, Fiona Mhic Conchoille, Kevin Meenan, John Reilly, Antóin Watters and Maeve Yore

Apologies: **Councillor:** Robert Nash

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Mark Johntson, Senior Engineer
Patrick Callan, Senior Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
David Fallon, Executive Engineer
Noel Treanor, Senior Executive Engineer
Anthony Donoghue, Senior Executive Officer
Colin Matthews, Executive Engineer
Bryan Coughlan, Senior Executive Officer
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Sandra Loughran, Clerical Officer

Minute No. 72/26

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2026

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Antóin Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. John Reilly
And approved.

Minute No. 73/26

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2026

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Shane McGuinness

Seconded by: Cllr. Sionainn McCann
And approved.

Minute No. 74/26

Matters Arising

None.

Minute No. 75/26

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Donoghue responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were noted:

- The local authority is not currently experiencing any issues relating to squatters.
- A boiler maintenance schedule is in place. Mr. Donoghue will follow up regarding maintenance requirements at specific locations.
- Social housing is allocated based on an applicant's position on the housing list and their eligibility for the specific property available.
- Members were encouraged to attend the Tenant Engagement and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Workshop on 9th September 2026 at 6.00 p.m. in the Mercy Hotel, Drogheda.
- Members will be advised when significant housing schemes become available through the Choice Based Letting system. However, members of the public are encouraged to check the system regularly, as properties arising from voids may also become available.
- Solar panels are not currently provided as part of new housing developments. New homes are constructed to a high standard and achieve a high Building Energy Rating (BER).

Minute No. 76/26

Part 8 Active Travel Scheme, Hoey's Lane, Dundalk

Senior Executive Engineer, Noel Treanor, and Senior Engineer, John O'Hagan, presented the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report in respect of the Hoey's Lane, Dundalk scheme. The following points were noted:

- The National Transport Authority (NTA) has updated its project approval process, which is expected to facilitate quicker approvals for smaller projects.
- Plans for the junction at Meehan's Garage, Hoey's Lane, do not include a left-turn lane. The junction will be fully signalised.
- Details relating to the Xerox site are currently under review by the design team, with a view to progressing to tender as soon as possible.
- Proposed bus stop locations identified by the National Transport Authority (NTA) are assessed by the Road Traffic Section to ensure compliance with road safety requirements.

The Part 8 was subsequently approved:

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And approved.

Minute No. 77/26

Roads & Local Services Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Patrick Callan responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were noted:

- The need for resurfacing on the Dublin Road will be raised with the Infrastructure Section in the context of future schemes.
- Issues with online Park and Stride applications will be referred to the relevant section.
- No further update was available on Sexton's Junction, the proposed Seatown one-way system or parking at Dundalk Train Station; the latter will be followed up with Iarnród Éireann.
- Traffic calming requests will be referred to the Road Safety Officer, while queries regarding loading bays and disabled parking spaces will be examined.
- Works at Greer's Quay have been tendered.
- A request for a pedestrian crossing on Park Street between the new doctor's surgery and pharmacy will be considered.
- The availability of replacement pencil bollards outside schools will be examined.
- Information on Japanese knotweed on the Council website will be reviewed, and fire hazard/BBQ signage at Templetown Beach will be considered.
- Graffiti-damaged road signs are due for replacement.
- Overflowing bins on Castletown Road will be referred to the Litter Section.
- Responsibility for hedge maintenance rests with landowners. Overgrowth at Bellew Park and repairs to street furniture and public realm infrastructure at various locations will be examined.
- Issues with some traffic radar units recording data incorrectly were noted.

Minute No. 78/26

Placemaking Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Bryan Coughlan responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were noted:

- An update on the Park Street Regeneration Scheme is awaited.
- It will be confirmed whether a visibility and accessibility audit has been completed for the Carlingford Scheme.

Minute No. 79/26

Physical Development Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Senior Engineer, Mr. John O'Hagan responded to queries raised by Members. The following matters were noted:

- The first section of the Narrow Water Bridge is on a barge and is scheduled to be loaded in mid-September. It is expected to arrive in Warrenpoint Harbour in October, and updates on its progress will be provided.

- Traffic management requirements at the Cornamucklagh Roundabout require the cones to remain in place until the project is completed. A request will be made to have the cones cleaned.
- The Dundalk Bay Greenway Project Report is currently being prepared and will be submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for approval shortly.
- Round 5 of the Safe Routes to School Programme is being managed by An Taisce.
- Tender documentation for the Rock Road Footpath Project has been submitted to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for review. Subject to approval, the project will proceed to tender.

Minute No. 80/26

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. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And approved.

Minute No. 81/26

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Antóin Watters and **Seconded** by Cllr. Maeve Yore, Standing Orders were suspended to facilitate discussion of the remaining items on the Agenda.

Minute No. 82/26

Post Public Consultation with submissions and revised maps for the Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2026

Senior Engineer, Mark Johntson, and Executive Engineer, Colin Matthews, presented the outcome of the public consultation on the Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2026, including the submissions received and revised maps. The following points were noted:

- At this stage, no further amendments to the draft Bye-Laws can be considered.
- Speed van deployment is outside the local authority's control. However, the matter will be raised with An Garda Síochána regarding areas of particular concern.
- The proposed speed limits at a number of specific locations were clarified.

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Fiona Mhic Conchoille
And approved.

Minute No. 83/26

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Marianne Butler and **Seconded** by Cllr. Emma Coffey, Standing Orders were suspended to facilitate discussion of the remaining items on the Agenda.

Minute No. 84/26

To agree a date for the Municipal District Budgetary Plan Meetings

Members agreed that the Municipal District Budgetary Plan would be considered as an agenda item at the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District on 6th October 2026 at 5.15pm

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And approved.

Minute No. 85/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Sean Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey

Ice Hill House Park

That Dundalk Municipal District carry out a programme of improvement and maintenance works at Ice House Hill Park, including the repainting and general upkeep of the perimeter railings, maintenance of the public lighting around the park, the installation of a litter bin at the picnic table area, the replacement of damaged seating, and improved maintenance of the foliage surrounding the pond and the park's pathways.

Background/rationale: Ice House Hill Park is a valuable recreational and amenity space that is well used by local residents and visitors. A number of maintenance issues have become increasingly evident, detracting from the appearance, accessibility and enjoyment of the park. Addressing these matters would enhance the overall environment, improve public safety and comfort, and demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining high-quality public open spaces for the community.

Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environmental Delivery

Icehouse Hill Park is maintained and managed in accordance with industry best practice. Evidence of this is reflected in the Park's achievement of the internationally recognised Green Flag Award, which it has retained for the past eight consecutive years.

The Operations Section manages a total of eight designated public parks throughout the county, with an annual maintenance budget of approximately €200,000.

The painting of railings and associated works forms part of this year's work programme. The Council is currently in the process of appointing an approved contractor and developing a programme for the delivery of these works.

General maintenance will continue as normal, and any damaged outdoor furniture will be addressed on a priority basis, subject to the limited resources available. The Council will endeavour to ensure that the Park continues to maintain its Green Flag status.

Minute No. 86/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Sean Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt

Call for NTA engagement re footpath at Newtownbalregan

That Dundalk Municipal District requests Louth County Council to write to the National Transport Authority seeking an on-site meeting with the relevant officials to discuss the provision of a public

footpath along the N53, from the M1 Junction 17 interchange to the cul-de-sac at Newtownbalregan. Background/Rationale: This section of the N53 has been the subject of serious and ongoing safety concerns for local residents over a number of years. The absence of a safe pedestrian route forces people to walk along a busy national road, creating an unacceptable risk for residents, including children, older people and those accessing nearby homes and amenities. An on-site meeting with the National Transport Authority would allow the issues to be assessed firsthand and help progress a practical solution to improve pedestrian safety along this important stretch of road.

Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environmental Delivery

The area in question is on the N53 and therefore falls under the remit of TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland).

Previously we enquired about removal of roadside hedging and ESB poles to rear at said location in 2024, but TII estimated the cost to be excessive and would not fund the hard shoulder provision requested.

The Road Safety Engineer will write again, and engage with, TII highlighting this location and the concerns expressed. This will be with a view to assessing what funding and appropriate safety interventions are possible at this location.

Minute No. 87/26

Notice of Motion: Cllr. John Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt

That Louth County Council explore the possibility of developing greater links with the City of Chicago in recognition of the descendants of Edward O'Hare, the renowned World War II pilot, who has family ties to the Lurgankeel area of Kilcurry.

Reply from Joanna Kelly, A/Director of Services, HR, Corporate and Community Delivery

Louth County Council notes the motion and acknowledges the historical connection between the O'Hare family and the Kilcurry area.

While the development of formal links with the City of Chicago is not currently proposed, any opportunities to highlight or promote County Louth's diaspora connections, including those associated with Edward O'Hare and his family heritage, can be considered as they arise through existing programmes and initiatives.

Minutes No. 88/26

Any Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date:

Cathaoirleach:

Meeting Administrator:

6/10/2026
John Reilly
Sinead Dooley