

Borough District of Drogheda – February 2016

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 1st February 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

- Mayor:** Cllr. P. Bell
- Members:** Cllrs: T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, K. Flood,
I. Munster, P. Smith, O. Tully
- Officials:** P. Donnelly, Director of Services
J. McGuinness, Director of Service
G. Kelly, Senior Engineer
M. Murtagh, Meetings Administrator
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
M.T Daly, Senior Executive Officer
M. Quinn, Senior Executive Planner
- Apologies:** Cllr R. Culhane
Cllr. F. Godfrey

Minute No. 16/16

Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th January 2016.

- Proposed by:** Cllr. O. Tully
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

Minute No. 17/16

Matters Arising

- Minute 07/16- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer confirmed that it was expected that the Sustainable Transport Network Committee would be in place within the next two months.
- Minute 07/16- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer agreed to circulate members with details of the nine areas under consideration by Irish Water highlighting the four areas being recommended for prioritisation.
- Minute 02/16- Cllr I. Munster referred to the fact that the Notice of Motion in respect of the appointment of a Director of Services for Drogheda had been resubmitted and refused. P. Donnelly, Director of Services confirmed that this

matter was an Executive Function but was listed on the Agenda for the next Corporate Policy Group.

Minute 18/16

Report on Obelisk Bridge

Members welcomed the report which had been circulated to members with printed copies distributed at the meeting. It was noted that the substructure of the Bridge did not exhibit any signs of distress and that the two main girders were in very good condition. The weak points were the concrete slab/ transfer beams with the missing capping stone on the north east pier requiring replacement. Noted that the Obelisk Bridge was made in Drogheda and members expressed the hope that funding can be secured to undertake the works required in the short/medium term. Members was advised that discussion would take place with Meath County Council and it was noted that the report recommends Refurbishment of the Bridge at a cost of €750,000.

Minute 19/16

Update on Council Offices, Fair Street.

Members welcomed the short report distributed at the meeting setting out the current status of the proposal. Members were advised that The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht had made a submission Under the Part 8 process which is now being progressed by the Architects for the project with a view to finalising the Chief Executives Report for the March Meeting of the Council. Members advised that this was a priority project for the people of Drogheda and recommended that it be advanced as a top priority.

Minute 20/16

Draft Economic & Community Plan.

Aibhlin McCrann and Cliona Ryan from Communique International joined the meeting to deal with issues related to the Draft Plan which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. At the outset the members were advised that the requirement of the Municipal District is to consider the Draft Plan with regard to its consistency with the County Development Plan and any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, Regional Guidelines as well as the respective Community and Economic Goals being consistent with each other. It was confirmed to Members that the Draft Plan is consistent with the County Development Plan, the Drogheda and Environs Plan, the Dundalk and Environs Plan, the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines.

The members raised a number of issues including:

- The need to put timeframed Policy with measureable outcomes in place to address low education attainment in some areas- members were advised that LMETB is

working very hard to highlight/address this issue including the identification/ delivery of courses for Pre PLC potential students.

- The need to implement Industry specific courses and it was noted that the Economic Forum Sub Group is examining this issue.
- What element of the Plan will bring the area to the stated unique Market Leader of National significance in terms of Tourism and Heritage. Members were advised that while there is reliance on Failte Ireland to achieve this target the Council will be focusing locally with a review of the Tourism/ Heritage Action Plan planned and the Boyne Valley Interpretive Centre and Drogheda Our Town Exhibition opened in the Tholsel by the end of April.
- A concern that there was nothing specific in the Draft Plan to attract Direct Foreign Investment to Drogheda as opposed to any other location. Members were advised that the Economic Forum is working with the IDA examining possibilities for Drogheda.
- The need for flexibility in the Plan when approved. It was confirmed that there would be periodic reviews of the Plan that would among other issues, take account of any changes to National Plans or Guidelines.

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

The Economic Draft Plan was approved.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Tully

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

The Community Draft Plan was approved.

Minute 21/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

During discussion on the Report included with the Agenda the following matters were addressed.

- J McGuinness, Director of Services advised members that, following circulation of the Report, there was an announcement by the Department of funding to acquire 12 individual housing units in Drogheda and one single unit in McArdle Green, Moneymore under the CAS Programme for disability use.
- The perceived lack of a roll out of a proper Social Housing Programme contributing to increasing numbers of the Housing List with lack of HAP Properties and high Private Rental Accommodation costs also contributing to the problem.

- The issue of B&B Accommodation in Drogheda Borough being utilised by Dublin City Council and Meath County Council affecting Louth's ability to provide emergency accommodation in the town.
- Members asked to be provided with details of the Housing Adaptation Grants in terms of funding level and period within which applications will be accepted. The Director of Services to revert with update.
- 41 Units planned for Boice Court- Phase 2 and 3 Progressing to construction stage simultaneously which will contribute to greater efficiency at construction stage.
- In response to a request for the inclusion of a list of developments in the Municipal District that have not been taken in charge to be included in the Housing and Communities Progress Report. J. McGuinness, Director of Services advised that this was not a housing matter and more appropriate to the Planning update provided as part of the Chief Executives Report to full Council. P. Donnelly, Director of Services advised that any changes to the format of the Chief Executives Report would require approval of the CPG.

Minute 22/16

Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report

During discussion on the Report issued with the Agenda the following matters were raised:

- Grant allocation, approved following issue of Agenda circulated to members for information. Noted that the Senior Engineer had previously sought emailed comments from members on the Restoration Improvement Works Scheme but none were received. Members expressed disappointment at the level of money going to the Drogheda District. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that a number of significant applications had been made but were not approved by the Department including:
 - Engineering/traffic calming measures in housing estates €200,000
 - Rathmullan Road junction in Drogheda €195,000
 - Cement Road/ Slane Road junction , Drogheda €245,000
 - Ballymakenny Road Drogheda at schools €20,000
- The issue of drainage in housing estates causing problems.
- Clarification sought in relation to playing fields at Rathmullen.
- Query in relation to place names eight months ago- update required.
- Clogherhead continues to appear in Drogheda Municipal District Report despite now being in Mid Louth Area.
- The need to not rely totally on CFRAM Reports to address flooding risks but to also examine small scale interim solutions in areas identified as being at risk including Baltray, Termonfeckin and Drogheda.

- Members were advised that Bryanstown School/ Wheaten Area will be kept under constant observation but no funds are currently available to carry out works.
- Termon Abby- continued problems with waste overflow as a result of clogging of Pipes/Sewers at number 48-52. Matter to be further investigated with a view to indentifying a permanent solution.
- Port Access- Works practically complete
- Ballymakenny College Opening- Best available information given at any time with latest information suggesting a date of Mid February.

Minute 23/16

Votes of Sympathy

- The Martin Family Bothar Bruagh on the death of Mick Martin(Killester)
- The family of the late Sid Kierans, Hillview
- The family of the late Maeve Furey, Bettystown.

Minute 24/6

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P .Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

“ That this Council make the necessary legal provision to issue a lease to the Grove Rangers soccer club for grounds solely used by them in Rathmullen for over twenty years”

REPLY:

The pitch has been recently inspected and does not seem to be in use. The matter will be investigated and a further reply will issue to the members

Members were anxious that procedures should be put in place that would allow the issue of a licence to interested parties. P. Donnelly, Director of Services, advised that there had been an exhaustive examination of the issue, including legal advice, given that an earlier Section 183 may apply giving another Part M Rights. It was agreed that the Director of Services, would have this matter further examined with a view to providing an update at the March meeting including the potential to advertise the facility as being publicly available.

Minute 25/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

“Calling on this Borough District to carry out a comprehensive traffic study around the area of Magdalene Terrace/ Sundays Gate to determine if there is a need for safety measures to be implemented at school drop off points and the junction of Patrick Street/ Sundays Gate”

REPLY:

This matter has been examined previously and considerable funding has been expended on road traffic safety measures at Sunday’s Gate for the benefit of the schools. In the last number of years traffic calming ramps, pedestrian safety barriers, road markings and signs have been provided to improve road safety and slow traffic. School wardens operate the designated school crossings. The schools provide road safety education for the children. Parents collecting children are required to abide by the rules of the road.

Noted that this matter had also been addressed in the earlier discussion on the Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised members that yellow boxes would be considered as unnecessary expense in dealing with the problem.

Minute 26/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

"Calling on this Borough District to carry out a comprehensive traffic study around the area of Magdalene Terrace / Sundays Gate to determine if there is a need for safety measures to be implemented at school drop off points and the junction of Patrick Street / Sundays Gate"

REPLY:

There is a short period in the mornings and evenings when school traffic associated with Ballymakenny Road primary schools is active. Considering that motorists on Ballymakenny Road give way to motorists exiting estates during periods of peak traffic and considering the level of traffic and the resulting delays, I do not consider the costs to introduce yellow boxes is warranted at this time.

Members referred to the fact that this matter had been raised at previous meetings of the Borough Council when the Borough Engineer recommended a Pelican crossing. Noted that similar problems exist at all schools as a result of drop off as close to the school as possible. It was agreed that G. Kelly, Senior Engineer would arrange for discussions with the Board of Management and that the feasibility of installing a Pelican Crossing at Upper Patrick Street would be explored.

Minute 27/16

General Election

The Mayor and members wished Councillors Imelda Munster and Kevin Callan well in the forthcoming election.

Minute 28/16

Drogheda Maritime Festival

Members congratulated Mary T Daly and her team on the LAMA Award for this Festival and expressed their thanks for their work on the festival.

The meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____