



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, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 at 4:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Mayor Paddy McQuillan

**Members:** Councillor(s) James Byrne, Debbie McCole, Eric Donovan, Pío Smith, Michelle Hall, Declan Power

**Apologies:** Councillor(s) Kevin Callan, Anne-Marie Ford, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer  
Irene McGahon, Executive Engineer  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator

### **Minute No. 18/25**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February were confirmed on the

**Proposal of** Cllr. Michelle Hall  
**Seconded by** Cllr. James Byrne  
And approved

### **Minute No. 19 /25**

### **Matters Arising**

Councillor James Byrne sought an update on THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme and was advised that it is proposed to hold a Workshop on April 8<sup>th</sup> in advance of the monthly meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda.

## **Minute No. 20/25**

### **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. James Byrne  
**Seconded by** Cllr. Pio Smith

## **Minute No. 21/25**

### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting.

Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, responded to questions from the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- The application portal for the affordable housing scheme at Ballymakenny Park, Drogheda went live 10<sup>th</sup> February and remained open for 3 weeks. 55 applications were received. 10 successful applicants will receive offers in the coming days.
- The Department has yet to confirm the 2025 Budget Allocation for Local Authority Home Loans. Details will be circulated to Members once received.
- The 2025 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) allocation for Louth has been confirmed by the Department as 140 units, which is the fourth highest allocation nationally after Dublin City, Cork County and Donegal. The final list of EERP units for 2025 will be complete when tenders are received from contractors.
- Concerns were raised in respect of boarding blocking footpath and bins at the Greenhills Development. Mr Grimes advised that all appeared to be in order when checked in recent days but confirmed that he would check again.

## **Minute No. 22/25**

### **Roads and Local Services Report**

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting.

Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer, responded to matters raised by Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- Mr. Johnston committed to looking at the repair of potholes at locations as identified by Members in addition to areas of road potentially requiring enhanced/refreshed road markings.
- Concerns were raised in respect of littering and Drogheda's drop in the IBAL Anti-Litter League. It was noted that a monthly IBAL meeting takes place with relevant stakeholders invited to attend.
- It was also noted that the process of recruiting ten seasonal (April to October) workers had commenced and it is the expectation that they will be tasked with the cleaning of roads, streets and parks.
- The programme of Road Sweeping is currently being reviewed while a programme of sign cleaning is to be developed.
- While a comprehensive programme of gully cleaning was developed November 2024, Mr. Johnston undertook to revert on what more could be done / incorporated into the programme.

## **Minute No. 23/25**

### **Road Works Programme 2025**

Members discussed the Road Works Programme 2025 as circulated at the meeting. Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer, advised that the programme had yet to go out to tender and therefore could potentially change indicating that should tenders come in at higher-than-expected costs the list will be cut but if lower than anticipated more could be added. Members expressed annoyance that the 2025 Programme did not address a commitment to include Trinity Gardens, 1 of 10 roads cut from the 2024 Programme, and considered its exclusion would result in creditability issues for them as Elected Members and further heighten constituents' distrust in the political system. It was also considered that Wyanstown Road did not fall within the Drogheda Borough District.

Members shared the view that the Programme as currently drafted could not be approved.

## **Minute No. 24/25**

### **Physical Development Report**

Members noted the report as circulated in advance of the meeting.

John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer, responded to questions from the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- The CPO process is ongoing in respect of the Boyne Enterprise Link Road. The timing of its completion is dependent on reaching sale agreed and subsequent contract signing.
- Next month's report to include predictive modelling of traffic at Termonabbey and detail on progress of the PANCR development.
- While dependent on the provision of EMTA funding, detail design of the Pathfinder Project at Rathmullen Road is being pursued.
- It is envisaged that updated design drawings in respect of the Bridge of Peace Project will be brought forward for Part 8 Public Display in April.
- It is expected that designs in respect of Safe Routes to Schools Round 2 will be presented to Members shortly in advance of public consultation.

## **Minute No. 25/25**

### **Notice of Motion – Cllr. Debbie McCole**

**Secunder: Cllr. Eric Donovan**

I propose that the Council re-examine the current sequence of traffic lights at Dublin Road, North Road, Marsh Road, Trinity St, and Donore Road, all gridlocked in Drogheda, due to ongoing issues with traffic congestion and gridlock, which have been significantly impacting the flow of traffic daily.

### **Reply from David Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development**

The Council will re-examine the current sequencing of traffic lights across key routes, including Dublin Road, North Road, Marsh Road, Trinity Street, and Donore Road in order to identify any changes that may assist traffic flow within Drogheda.

## Minute No. 26/25

### Notice of Motion – Cllr. Eric Donovan Seconder: Cllr. Declan Power

I am asking the Council to installing speed ramps, slow down rumble strips and road signage on the approach to Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE) from the new northern cross route from Ballymakenny Road. While there are safety measures on approach to DIFE from the south side, the northern side is completely open to speeding and presents a risk to students and also to the residents living in and around the St. Laurence's Drive/Park area.

### Reply from David Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

The selection of locations for the completion of traffic calming measures are evidence based, including reference to speed and collision data, which assists in informing future Low-Cost Safety Schemes, funded through the Department of Transport or general traffic calming measures through own resources. It is noted that the overall objective of Low-Cost Safety works is to achieve a minimum 30%-40% reduction in collisions, though some locations showing demonstrable hazards may also be considered by the Department for funding under this scheme. In addition, the Department may also identify sections of the network with the most prevalent safety issues based on their own analysis (Locations of Interest), that Local Authorities are required to prioritise for application for funding under this grant category for the following year. The Council will examine the location subject to this Notice of Motion within the above context, and available future budgets.

## Minute No. 27/25

### Notice of Motion – Cllr. Pio Smith Seconder: Cllr. James Byrne

Asking the local authority to outline in tabular form the number of derelict sites notices that were issued in Drogheda for the years 2022, 2023, 2024 and the final outcome in regards to each notice?

### Reply from Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, Economic Development

#### Summary of Derelict Site Notices issued in Drogheda only.

Year	S8 Notice (Intention to Enter on Register)	S8 Notice (Entry on Derelict Sites Register )	Total
2022	34	0	34
2023	26	28*	54*
2024	19	8	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>115</b>

*\*S8 notices of intention to enter on the register and number of properties entered on the register may differ. Some cases get resolved by the owner conducting repairs/works to address derelict issues. Also, some cases roll from the previous year to the next.*

#### Outcome on files on which the Notices were served\*

Year	Closed	Under Review	On DS Register
2022	12	16	6
2023	3	7	26
2024	0	16	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>

*\*Note that the number of notices served are not always the same as the number of cases, in some cases more than one notice will be issued in respect of the same building/structure i.e. for example*

when new information comes to light about ownership/or a change of ownership occurs.

<b>Number of Derelict Site case files opened/investigated</b>	
2022	60
2023	19
2024	13
Total	92

#### **Minute No. 28/25**

##### **Notice of Question: Cllr. Eric Donovan**

That Louth County Council outline the number of issues, such as flooding, potholes, drainage and erosion, in the Burris area of Tullyallen which it has identified on foot of inspections it has conducted and what plans were put in place to rectify such issues identified. If the council have not conducted such an inspection, will it make a commitment to do so as soon as possible?

##### **Reply from David Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development**

Louth County Council confirms that the Area engineer has assessed the roads in the Burris area of Tullyallen, including Old School Lane. This local secondary road, which forms a U-shape around the graveyard, received hot asphalt repairs in 2024, with further defect repairs scheduled for 2026. Drainage remains a significant challenge in this area due to the higher surrounding fields, which limit natural water flow.

The Council continues to monitor this issue; however, largescale drainage works would require significant investment which is beyond the current drainage grant allocation received as part of the annual Road Works Programme.

Regarding the Burris section to the southeast corner, this is classified as a Local Tertiary (LT) road and falls outside current maintenance programmes due to budgetary constraints. Residents seeking further improvements are advised to apply for the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS).

#### **Minute No. 29/25**


##### **AOB**

- **Tidy Town Project Scheme 2025** - On the **Proposal of Councillor James Byrne and Seconded by Councillor Debbie McCole** the Tidy Town Scheme for 2025, submitted in accordance with Section 66 (1) & (9) of the Local Government Act 2001, was **approved**.
- **Discretionary Funding** - Councillor Paddy McQuillan reminded Members to submit their Discretionary Funding proposals to LCC Finance & Support Services as soon as possible.
- **Seachtain Na Gaeilge** – Councillor Paddy McQuillan expressed appreciation to the students of Scoil Aonghusa who had provided ‘ceoil agus damhsa’ on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to mark the commencement of Seachtain Na Gaeilge. It was the first such event to take place at the new public space at the Civic Offices in Drogheda and it is hoped that it will become an annual occasion.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:** 7th April '25

**Mayor:** 

**Meeting Administrator:** Sinead Dodge