



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, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 4:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Michelle Hall

**Members:** Councillor(s) James Byrne, Anne-Marie Ford, Debbie McCole, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton

**Apologies:** Councillor(s) Kevin Callan, Eric Donovan

**Officials:** David Jones, Director of Services  
Susan Deery, Deputy Meetings Administrator  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Anthony O'Donoghue, Senior Executive Officer  
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer  
Michelle Curran, Administrative Officer  
Ben Holland, Assistant Engineer  
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer  
Sharon Keaveney, Assistant Staff Officer

### **Minute No. 39/26**

#### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

In accordance with Standing Order Number 89, the Standing Orders were suspended to allow for the inclusion of an emergency Notice of Motion.

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Michelle Hall

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

**And Resolved**

### **Minute No. 40/26**

#### **Motion for Purpose of Dealing with Urgent Business**

In accordance with Standing Order Number 20, Cllr. Michelle Hall presented to the Members the following Emergency Notice of Motion:

*"Drogheda Borough District does not have confidence in the current government and believes it is doing Drogheda a disservice that will have long-term repercussions in the future. The urgency is because since the last BD meeting held, the D Hotel contract is being renewed, omission of*

*Drogheda schools on the DEIS+ programme when a pilot intervention Operation Encompass will commence in Drogheda schools in September, the stop on cycling infrastructure plans due to cessation of government funding and the lack of planning for the future events that led to this week's countrywide protests. It calls on this government to listen to elected representatives of Drogheda when they say in earnest that these actions have a detrimental effect on our community".*

In turn, Cllr. James Byrne submitted a Counter Emergency Notice of Motion, as follows:

*The Drogheda Municipal District calls on this government to listen to elected representatives of Drogheda and action the following without further delay:*

- *Commence work on the new Basketball Arena at St Oliver's for which the Government has committed €7.2m in funding under the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund*
- *Commit to ending the contract with the owners of the D Hotel as an IPAS dispersal centre when the 12 months are up allowing it to once again function as a hotel*
- *Begin discussions with the CEOs OF LCC and MCC to locating the east coast naval base on public lands at or in the vicinity of Drogheda Port*
- *Continue progressing the already committed to active travel measures beginning with the Rathmullan Road and Marley's Lane*
- *Notwithstanding the additional funding secured for local DEIS schools as part of the Drogheda Implementation Plan, that the Government review its decision regarding the omission of funds for Drogheda schools under DEIS +*
- *Provides for a train station on the northside of Drogheda to cater for the increased demand resulting from the expansion of the town at Ballymakenny and complement the continued development of PANCR*
- *Commit to keeping the reduction in excise duties under review if the temporary ceasefire doesn't hold and prices to provide further supports to the public if necessary*

Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton subsequently submitted an additional Counter Emergency Notice of Motion, as follows:

*The Drogheda Municipal District acknowledges the genuine concerns being raised by residents across Drogheda, particularly in relation to education, infrastructure, and local decision-making. This Council further acknowledges that meaningful progress will not be achieved through a broad vote of no confidence, but rather through constructive engagement and the delivery of practical solutions.*

*Accordingly, the Council calls on all stakeholders — including local representatives, community groups, public bodies, and Government — to work collaboratively to deliver real, tangible outcomes for Drogheda.*

*In this regard, the Council commits to prioritising:*

- *The advancement of fair and equitable supports for Drogheda schools, including continued advocacy for inclusion in DEIS+ and other appropriate schemes.*
- *The delivery of critical infrastructure, including active travel projects, transport connectivity, and investment in roads and services to support the town's growth.*
- *Greater transparency and accountability in local decision-making processes affecting Drogheda.*
- *The restoration of key local economic assets, including supporting the return of the D Hotel to full use as a hotel, in line with the needs of the local economy and community.*
- *A collaborative, solutions-focused approach to addressing the challenges facing Drogheda, ensuring that all voices are heard and that outcomes*

*Drogheda needs solutions, not just statements — and that is where our focus must remain.*

In accordance with Standing Order No. 20, a roll call vote was conducted to determine which of the above motions would be heard and discussed. Director of Services, Mr. David Jones,

advised Members that discussion of a motion would require the support of not less than one-half of the total membership present and voting. Should this threshold be met, the remaining proposed motions would be dropped and would not be considered further.

A rollcall vote was taken in relation to Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton's Motion, as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
James Byrne		1		
Kevin Callan				1
Eric Donovan				1
Anne-Marie Ford		1		
Michelle Hall		1		
Debbie McCole		1		
Paddy McQuillan		1		
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power		1		
Pio Smith		1		
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

As the required one-half of the Members voting was not reached, Cllr. O'Hare Stratton's Motion was dropped.

A rollcall vote was then taken in relation to Cllr. James Byrnes' Motion, as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
James Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan				1
Eric Donovan				1
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall		1		
Debbie McCole	1			
Paddy McQuillan		1		
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power		1		
Pio Smith		1		
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

As the required one-half of the Members voting in favour was achieved, it was noted that Cllr. Michelle Hall's Emergency Motion was now dropped, with Cllr. James Byrne's Notice of Motion to be discussed by the Members.

Following a discussion by the Members around matters including DEIS+ programme, D Hotel, ongoing fuel crisis, North Side Railway Station, Active Travel Projects and Departmental Funding, a vote was then taken by the Members in order to pass the Motion.

Members were advised that, as per Standing Order Number 10, that such number voting in favour shall be not less than two-thirds of those present and voting:

<b>Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
James Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan				1
Eric Donovan				1
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall		1		
Debbie McCole		1		
Paddy McQuillan	1			

Ejiro O'Hare Stratton		1		
Declan Power		1		
Pio Smith		1		
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

As the required two-thirds majority of Members present and voting was not achieved, the Notice of Motion was not carried.

### **Minute No. 41/26**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March were confirmed, subject to the amendment on Minute Number 38/26 where Condolences were extended to the families and friends of the late Peter Anthony Smith, Termonfeckin and not Peter Smith as outlined on the Minutes:

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Pio Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. James Byrne  
**And Approved.**

### **Minute No. 42/26**

#### **Matters Arising**

No Matters Arising were noted.

### **Minute No. 43/26**

#### **Taking in Charge Report**

Assistant Engineer, Mr. Ben Holland, responded to matters raised by Elected Members. It was noted that:

- The sewerage pumping station issue in Liscorrie has been referred to Uisce Éireann.
- Taking in Charge of Arda Raith Woods, Tullyallen is advancing towards the plebiscite stage.
- Mr. Holland has requested a meeting with Uisce Éireann to raise the ongoing issues in Bishops Court and Townley Manor.

### **Minute No. 44/26**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

Senior Engineer, Mr. Declan Grimes, along with Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony O'Donohue, responded to matters raised by Elected Members. It was noted that:

- Monthly measures in place to address rent arrears were outlined, including staff resources, tenant engagement and ongoing communication.
- The Housing Assistance Programme (HAP) figures within the Housing report relate to tenants seeking to transfer to another property, and that a further breakdown by transfer category will be provided.
- Greenhill Grange and Boyce Court will be officially opened on 1 May 2026 with units to be advertised via Choice Based Letting.

## Minute No. 45/26

### Roads & Local Services Report

Senior Engineer, Mr. Mark Johnston, responded to matters raised by Elected Members. It was noted that:

- Reports of potholes in Wheaton Hall, Baltray Road, John Kirk Park and the Bog Road will be forwarded for action to Operations along with rubbish which is opposite St Mary's Church to be referred to the litter team.
- HGVs continue to pass through Avenue a Trí, Yellowbatter despite signage; further options will be examined.
- Parking issues in Rathmullan Estate have been referred to engineering staff, and an update will be requested.
- Reinstatement works carried out by Uisce Éireann under Road Opening Licence's at Park View, Yellowbatter will be reviewed.
- A request for traffic calming in the vicinity of the four schools on Ballymakenny Road will be examined.
- Road repairs at Burris, Tullyallen were noted, however, it was also noted that drainage at this location is poor and that full resurfacing works will be required. As this road is classified as a tertiary road, it is not included in the Road Works Plan.
- Road surface on the Priestown Road towards the Valley Inn will be examined with view to determining required repairs.
- The 2026 Roadworks Programme tender process is complete, and works are expected to commence in June, approximately one month earlier than usual.
- The provision of yellow boxes on the Newfoundwell Road will be examined in due course.
- Discussions are ongoing with TII regarding parking on the hard shoulder at the M1 Retail Park.

## Minute No. 46/26

### Update on the Speed Limit Review in built up and Urban Areas

- This item was deferred until the May meeting

## Minute No. 47/26

### 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. Michelle Hall  
**And Resolved.**

## Minute No. 48/26

### Notice of Motion – Cllr. Declan Power

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Michelle Hall

*“That Louth County Council recognises the forthcoming centenary of the ESB in 2027 as a significant national milestone, and acknowledges the pivotal role played by Drogheda native and engineer Thomas McLoughlin in its foundation and in the transformation of Ireland through electrification and modernisation. The Council agrees to engage with the ESB, who have*

*indicated their willingness to work with Louth County Council, to develop a programme of commemorative, educational and civic initiatives in Drogheda and across the county to appropriately honour Thomas McLoughlin's legacy and ensure his contribution is recognised at both local and national level".*

**Reply from Joanna Kelly, HR, Corporate & Community Delivery**

The Council recognises the centenary of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) in 2027. Accordingly, Louth County Council will engage with the ESB to explore the feasibility of developing an appropriate programme of initiatives in Drogheda and across County Louth.

**Minute No. 49/26**

**Notice of Question – Cllr. James Byrne**

*"Given the levels of vacancy and dereliction in the town, can Louth County Council provide figures for the number of CPOs completed in Drogheda over the past 5 years 2021-2025, and how many are in process at present?"*

**Reply from David Jones, Major Capital Projects & Infrastructure Delivery**

An internal cross directorate group was established in 2024 to provide a focus and coordinate activity in addressing vacancy/dereliction in our urban centres including Drogheda, with the completion of a high-level review of key vacant/derelict properties in Drogheda to guide this effort. Targeted activities underway to address vacancy/dereliction include action under the Derelict Sites Act, Dangerous Structures Notices, ongoing engagement with property owners under the auspices of URDF Call 3 and the promotion and administration of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (VPRG).

Through the Council's Vacant Homes Office, focus and effort has been placed in the first instance on engagement with the owners of vacant properties on the URDF Call 3 list (circa 66 properties in Drogheda), with the aim of progressing vacant properties to productive use, without the need, in the first instance, to defer to acquisition and subsequent resale by the Council. There has been success in this 'engagement first' approach to date, with circa 10 properties returned to productive use and 4 properties currently subject to refurbishment works. Further properties are for sale/relet or subject to a planning /grant application.

Consideration has turned to properties where direct intervention by the Council may be the required intervention to reactive certain properties. Accordingly, while no properties have been compulsory purchased by the Council for the period 2021-2025, the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process is to commence on one derelict property shortly. In addition, there are currently a further 16 properties that have been identified for direct intervention by the Council, with a voluntary acquisition process being initially pursued, defaulting to the CPO process if required.

In terms of the other targeted activities, it is noted that there are 36 properties located in Drogheda now placed on the Derelict Sites Register, while under the VPRG, 15 grant payments have been issued by the Council to applicants on the completion of refurbishment works to vacant/derelict properties.

**Minute No. 50/26**

**Condolences**

Condolences were extended to the families and friends of:

- Ms. Phil Conyngham, Brookville Park, Drogheda

**Minute No. 51/26**

**Congratulations**

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Joe Casserly & Mr. Mark Kimmins who both recently retired from Louth County Council.

**Minute No. 52/26**

**Any Other Business**

Members were advised that nominations for the Annual Mayoral Civic Awards should be submitted to the Meetings Administrator. An "in-committee" meeting will take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 4.15pm to finalise the awardees.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

**The Minutes were confirmed on:**

**Date:**

11<sup>th</sup> May '26

**Mayor:**

Michelle Hall

**Meeting Administrator:**

Sinead Dooley