

Borough District of Drogheda – January 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held via MS Teams, on Monday 10th January 2022 at 4.15 p.m.

In attendance: *(All attendance was remote)*

Mayor: Cllr. James Byrne

Members: Councillors Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Eileen Tully

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer

Minute No. 1/22

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 6th December 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Callan and seconded by Cllr. Pio Smith.

Minute No. 2/22

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services addressed all matters raised by the Members.

Highlighted issues included:

- On request for a breakdown of the 146 Homeless figure, the Director advised that while no 2 cases were the same, there was a distinction between those presenting and those homeless. In the main, presenters were directed to find alternative solutions by the housing teams such as through Homeless HAP.
- Transfer Request Reasons: Overcrowding was the main reason for transfer requests, followed by accessibility issues. Some downsizing requests had come in lately. Disputes between neighbours are generally not considered as a criterion for transfer application consideration.
- Marsh Road new builds proximity to treatment plant: Respond Housing Association would be advised around possible future complaints of bad aroma.

Minute No. 3/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer addressed all Operations matters raised with Catherine Duff, Director of Services also responded to some items.

Along with requests for potholes/footpaths/yellow box upgrades and repairs, traffic calming surveys and measures, valve and drain unblocking at various locations which were all noted by Mark Johnson, the following items were highlighted:

- Public notification would issue on increased fines from 1st February 2022 for parking on footpaths
- New car park spaces at Port Oriel praised but concern raised by several Members that Clogherhead Beach was not provided with extra spaces
- IBAL report - Litter wardens targeted 10 private properties at Lawrence Street, highlighted as littered in IBAL report and got a high level of engagement with 7 property owners. Fines issued to 3 property owners who did not engage. Ongoing issue in Moneymore Lane where dumping occurs within 24 hours of any clean up. The results of top town, Naas and their co-ordination with local community groups was highlighted by Catherine Duff, Director of Services as an example of how it requires a combined approach to resolve.
- Catherine Duff, Director of Services advised that the two main issues raised in Tullyallen were being tackled. Traffic calming would be carried out in 2022 and the school warden put in place following an accident remains in place. Cllr. Michelle Hall was advised that an email received questioning processes would be replied to directly. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services reminded Members that Operational matters and how works are carried out is an executive function.
- Mell Walkway – Coordination with the Department continues, an implementation plan has been submitted and biodiversity concerns are being examined. This is an estimated 6 month process prior to any approved works commencing.
- Road mapped as LS6279 but reportedly signposted as LS6278 would be checked for clarity.
- Main criteria for traffic calming measures are accident history and speed; profile and geometry of road are then considered.
- Operations would refer back on how bus stops are selected, following concerns raised that passengers using the bus stop at Termon Abbey descend onto a grass verge.

It was requested that Louth County Council write to Drogheda Port with further concerns raised by Cllr. Kevin Callan, however Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services advised that correspondence had been received from Drogheda Port and perhaps this could be examined by Cllr. Kevin Callan first and then any remaining issues of concern raised in a future agenda.

The following non-operations issues were raised:

- Request for information on how to declare an item a protected structure should be referred to Planning, in relation to the request to declare Ballsgrove Gate a protected structure and instigate repair and restoration works.
- Update on Dominics Bridge should be referred to Infrastructure.

Minute No. 4/22

Taking in Charge Report

Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer advised Members he was available to discuss any questions on the report as circulated at the meeting.

Members complimented Gerry on works to date.

Minute No. 5/22

Roads to be Declared as Public Roads in the Development know as Brabazon Hall, Termonfeckin, Co Louth

In accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, the roads in the Development known as Brabazon Hall, Termonfeckin, Co Louth were declared as Public Roads and all public open spaces, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections), watermains within the grounds of the development were taken in charge in accordance with S180(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. This was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Eileen Tully

Seconded by: Cllr. Declan Power

And resolved.

Minute No. 6/22

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

"I am calling on the Borough District to write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, requesting him to fast track children with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus currently requiring urgent Orthopaedic intervention, for surgical review as a matter of urgency. I am also calling on the Minister for Health to ensure that provision of services is made to Disabled Children within elective Hospital settings as well as acute Hospital settings to avoid a repeat of this situation in the future."

Reply:

This is a matter for the Members.

Speaking on this motion, Cllr. Pio Smith requested the Mayor to write on behalf of the Drogheda Borough District Members to the Minister, to do anything they can to alleviate suffering.

Cllr. Declan Power advised that he had a similar motion in the upcoming council meeting and suggested that the letter should also go to the Minister for Children, Roderic O’Gorman.

Minute No. 7/22

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Declan Power

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

“Calling on Louth Co. Council to install a pedestrian crossing with flashing beacon lights at the main junction of Clogherhead village. This area at the location of the pizzeria is a blind spot for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and parents with buggies to cross the road safely.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

This area is part of the Clogherhead rural regeneration application which will identify solutions to these issues subject to funding being available.

Speaking on this motion Cllr. Declan Power advised on difficulties for people trying to cross and for vehicles using the junction and said he witnessed many near misses at the junction. He noted the Council response and hoped the Council would request funding through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) grant and classed this as a priority. He stated disappointment that Louth had not featured in the list of recipients of funding in the Department announcement during the week.

Frank Pentony, Director of Services advised officials were very disappointed that they didn’t get funding from RRDF and have been in touch with Department who advised of a strong application and of a revised call in Q2 2022.

Minute No. 8/22

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. Declan Power

“Will this council implements low cost safety measures at the stretch of road from Rosehall Roundabout for pedestrians along the existing hard shoulder. Such works could include clear markings for pedestrians and a workable path surface on the landfill side of the roundabout at the Hill of Rath Roundabout to allow pedestrians travel back down towards Mell to link up with a new section of footpath in place beside Kieran’s Motor Dealers. This is an extremely busy and well used public amenity and we must assist pedestrians in every way possible.”

Reply from Mr. F. Pentony, Director of Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development:

In 2021, the NTA confirmed funding for an Active Travel Project for the R168 Collon Road/ R166 Northern Cross. This scheme will involve provision of footpaths and cycle lanes over c 2.25km in both the R168 from Leonards Cross to the Hill of Rath Roundabout and the R166 Northern Cross route from the Hill of Rath roundabout to the Rosehall roundabout. The procurement of Consultants for planning & design of this scheme along with four other schemes in Drogheda were advertised on E-Tenders in October 2021 and the tender assessment is currently being carried out. It is hoped to award this contract in January 2022 and commence the feasibility and option stage of the project.

Speaking on this motion Cllr. Kevin Callan noting the response, advised he was delighted to see the funding being awarded under Active Travel and the award of contract in January. He looked for a timeframe on when the project would have the infrastructure in place and queried whether interim measures could be employed to address the issue at the Hill of Rath for pedestrians prior to completion of works.

Frank Pentony, Director of Services advised that this could be looked at in context of the Active Travel programme if any additional funding was available. Cllr. Pio Smith welcomed this motion which he described as timely.

Minute No. 9/22

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

Can the council detail all communication and coatings on tenders in relation to proposed works at Tullyallen and lay out the plan for new works including the €60,000 allocated in 2021 Low Cost Safety Measures, with full costing for both proposed drawings?"

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

Louth County Council (Infrastructure) designed the scheme Q2, 2021 and then issued an invitation to quote on etenders on 30/06/2021 with a return date of 16/07/2021. Three submissions were received and all failed the Suitability Assessment Questionnaire and the competition was abandoned.

A restricted tender process was issued to one contractor carrying out similar works on behalf of Louth County Council. The price received by early October, to carry out the proposed works was €85,345 including VAT; This amount exceeded the available funding of 60k for the works, was not considered good value for money and subsequently the contract was not awarded.

LCC (Operations) subsequently forwarded the drawings (provided by Infrastructure in October) to our consultant on LCSS (low cost safety scheme), with a request to re-design based on a scaled-down proposal omitting controlled crossings from the scheme. This

redesign, then went to our framework for third contractor to price in early November (the intention being that the works could be constructed under that contract, by extending the contract). This price was received by LCC in mid- November.

LCC proposed a revision to include a full scale zebra crossing at the school was sent back to the consultant for revised drawings and, following that again, to the contractor for pricing. This second price for the revised proposal including zebra crossing, was received by LCC on the 15th December.

Unfortunately the funding drawdown deadline for these schemes funded from department of transport or DTTAS is end of November. Given the design and tendering activities above and the estimated construction period by contractors already constrained to fulfill existing construction works, it became impossible to deliver Tullyallen LCSS before the November deadline and therefore the 60k funding had to be reallocated to other like safety schemes that were deliverable before the deadline. This was done with the consent of the Department of Transport.

Concurrent with above, LCC made an application to the NTA in October to fund the scaled-down version of the scheme (ie without controlled crossings), which was the live proposal at that time. This application was made through the Active Travel team and was subsequently approved by the NTA, for delivery in 2022. Therefore there is currently €35k NTA funding available for the Tullyallen scheme, to be delivered in 2022.


The actual cost estimate for delivery of the scheme (no controlled crossings), based on contractor's price and including design fees & VAT, is of the order of €40k. As stated, NTA are providing funding of €35k towards this, in 2022.

As stated, 35k funding for the scheme with traffic calming and uncontrolled crossings is secured (plus €5k from LCC own resources) and will be delivered in quarter 1 2022.

Members noted the response.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 7th February 2022
Mayor: 
Meeting Administrator: 