

Borough District of Drogheda - June 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held via MS Teams, hosted from The Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 14th June 2021 immediately after the Annual Meeting at 4.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. James Byrne - Present in Chamber

Members: Councillors Joanna Byrne, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Fiachra Mac Raghnaill, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Eileen Tully - Attended remotely

Councillor Kevin Callan attended remotely in the Mellifont Room

Officials: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services - Present in Chamber
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator - Present in Chamber
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services - Present in Chamber
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer - Remote
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer - Remote
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer - Remote

Minute No. 58/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 10th May 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Joanna Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Fiachra Mac Raghnaill.

Minute No. 59/21

Matters Arising

None stated

Minute No. 60/21

Housing Progress Report

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

The following items were clarified:

- DPG programme has not slowed down - full allocation will be used

- Best option for homeless presenters is not to put in Emergency Accommodation, better to help presenters to help themselves through HAP
- 30 transfers planned to end of year through the recent allocation of funding for voids
- Louth is a County Housing Authority and looks at housing issues accordingly

Minute No. 61/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting.

Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer addressed all Operations Matters raised.

The following matters were highlighted:

- College Rise wall is not in LCC ownership / repairs are a matter for residents
- Signage required at headland walk Clogherhead with regard to no fires
- €10m spend from July to September over 1,600km of roads

The following matters were advised as for referral to other sections:

- Request for an Engineering Survey of Tholsel a matter for Heritage Officer
- Foul water smell in Drogheda a matter for referral to Irish Water
- Damaged Lifebuoy at Clogherhead slipway to Water Safety Officer

It was requested that Louth County Council talk to An Garda Síochána and School Principals to come up with a solution to Ballymakenny Road issues.

Minute No. 62/21

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer responded on all Infrastructure matters with Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services responding also on some matters.

The following matters were highlighted:

On foot of update request on PANCR from Cllr. Joanna Byrne, Cllr. James Byrne advised that he had written directly to the Minister and had received a reply to indicate that there would be no further calls for funding under URDF and that the Council should take up Cllr. Joanna Byrne's suggestion on exploring other funding streams.

Minute No. 63/21

Report on Drogheda Bottle Bank Demand Figures 2019 to date

Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer advised on the report as issued to Members. There were no issues raised.

Minute No. 64/21

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda.

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. Fiachra Mac Raghnaill

And agreed.

Minute No. 65/21

Outdoor Dining Scheme

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services advised that there was no presentation but that he was willing to address any matter raised by the Members.

Queries were raised regarding:

- Consideration of wheelchair accessible benches
- Whole street dining
- Policing the parklet areas at night
- Byelaws on alcohol consumption

Members were advised on all items by Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services.

Minute No. 66/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith

"That this council will promote tourism in the Greater Drogheda area including the Boyne Estuary areas of Baltray, Termonfeckin and Clogherhead. The wealth of natural environment,

built heritage and economic activity in these areas should be promoted in co-ordination with plans for tourism in Drogheda and the Boyne Valley."

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

As part of the promotion of Drogheda as the Gateway to the Boyne Valley Louth County Council are currently working with Fáilte Ireland on the linkage of the Boyne Estuary areas of Baltray, Termonfeckin and Clogherhead as tourism hubs on the Boyne Valley Drive. These villages are also being reviewed in light of any funding opportunities that become available.

Cllr. Michelle Hall noted the lack of a dedicated Tourism Officer for Co. Louth, suggested a boardwalk be erected in Clogherhead SAC, that there should be greater coordination with Councillors especially the Community SPC so the executive should have a stronger presence on Tourism. Many members supported Cllr. Michelle Hall and the need to promote Louth as a Tourist Destination.

Minute No. 67/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

"To ask the Local Authority to consider taking away the car parking space at the WW1 memorial at the bottom of Mary Street, that the public realm architects in the local authority design a public space that is suitable for remembrance ceremonies and can also be used throughout the year by members of the public as an amenity and look for funding through the peace programme to complete the project."

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

Louth County Council will review the proposal as part of a review of proposed projects to be progressed within Drogheda over the next number of years and determine the feasibility of the proposed public realm works. However, there are challenges with the proposal including loss of car parking spaces, the orientation of the WW1 memorial itself. It's possible to cordon off car parking spaces to facilitate wreath laying ceremonies, subject to proper notice being given to the public.

Cllr. Pio Smith noting the response of the executive, suggested that as the memorial had 300 people on the plaque it was part of our heritage, he suggested that either a traffic diversion needs to happen to protect the memorial or that the memorial should be relocated to Millmount. This was supported by other members who noted the significance of the need to remember those who had fallen, and including relatives of those present.

Minute No. 68/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. James Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

“That Louth County Council makes provision for the resurfacing of the road in the Dale in Budget 2022, setting aside the requirement to fund it through the Community Involvement Scheme given its historic importance to Drogheda.”

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

LCC engineers have assessed the Dale recently. Its historic significance is noted, it carries mostly pedestrian traffic, with 15 houses on lane, which is a cul de sac. It's a mid-scale rating on surface quality and patched as required by LCC crews.

LCC will consider the Dale cul-de-sac road for RWP 2022 subject to the availability of funding and priorities as always with funding expended on those roads of highest socio-economic impact.

Cllr. James Byrne expressed satisfaction with the response that issued to his proposal and noted that the Dale was a special area unlike other cul-de-sacs. Many Members agreed on this and supported the motion.

Minute No. 69/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Declan Power

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

“Louth County Council upgrade and improve the quality i.e. the surface, boundary lines, and net installation of the tennis court adjacent to the playground in Clogherhead and complete the installation of a basketball court on the green of Fr O'Donnell Park which has a current surface but never materialised when the estate was built. Both facilities would be maximised by the children of the adjacent school, locals of all ages and as additional sporting amenities for visitors who frequent the area as we embrace improved outdoor living experiences.”

Reply from Mr. P. Donnelly, Director of Services, Housing & Community

Circa 2007 / 2008 the playground and the all-weather pitch was installed at this location to replace two tennis courts which were underutilised. The Management of the facility was assigned to the Clogherhead Development Group who manage the all-weather pitch. There is no provision in the current sports budget for the installation and or improvements to these

facilities. The matter will be kept under review and if a suitable funding source presents, an application in respect of same will be made.

Cllr. Declan Power advised that upgrade works were required only and lots could be done to improve the area and remove the anti-social behaviour. Cllr. Tom Cunningham suggested that Clogherhead Development Group were seeking funding on this which was welcomed.

Minute No. 70/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

“To ask the local authority to carry out a feasibility study on the Dale area of Drogheda in order to assess the suitability of the area for inclusion in any future outdoor recreation funding scheme.”

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

The Council will examine the provision of Green infrastructure in Drogheda and this area will be considered as part of the considerations. Council Landownership will be examined as part of the review.

Cllr. Pio Smith advised that the Dale was an area rich in BioDiversity and that the Heritage Officer had remarked on same. Members supported this assertion.

Minute No. 71/21

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr. Pio Smith

“To ask the Local Authority to provide information on any agreements, ie number of leases that have been entered into with REITS and Special Purpose Vehicles to provide social housing?”

Reply from Mr. P. Donnelly, Director of Services, Housing and Quality of Life:

Louth County Council have not entered any agreements in relation to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS).

The members noted the reply.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____