

## **Borough District of Drogheda – March 2022**

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in the Plunkett Room of the Barbican Theatre, Drogheda, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 4.15 p.m.

**In attendance:** *(All attendance was in person)*

**Mayor:** Cllr. James Byrne

**Members:** Councillors, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Eileen Tully

**Apologies:** Councillors, Pio Smith and Michelle Hall

**Officials:** Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer  
Bernadette McArdle, A/Senior Executive Engineer

### **Minute No. 20/22**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Callan and seconded by Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill.

### **Minute No. 21/22**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

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

The following Community issue was raised as same directorate:

- A Risk Assessment of storage facilities and water polo equipment in Aura was called for, with the Director advising that this would be referred back to the Service Provider who operated under contract to Louth County Council.

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

#### **Operations and Marine Progress Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer addressed all Operations matters raised.

Along with requests for potholes/footpaths/yellow box upgrades and repairs, traffic calming measures, traffic and pedestrian light sequencing issues, gully and drain unblocking at various locations which were all noted by Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer the following items were highlighted:

- Members were advised that toilet facilities in Port beach were provided on a seasonal basis and would be returned in the summer months.

It was noted that toilets at Clogherhead have been closed for works since Christmas, Members were advised that contractors have been appointed to carry out full refurbishment works

- Bothar Brua lights not operational as yet, with ESB to complete.
- ESB box interfering with sightline visibility at Bothar Brua may be for traffic lights.
- Temporary bollards for cycle lanes are installed on a trial basis only, in preparation for permanent works by active travel scheme
- Oil under Ramparts Walk at St. Dominic's Bridge into river would be checked
- Traffic counts are done prior to any provision of school wardens to determine need
- Missing fencing at bottom of Highbury on Rathmullen Road will be assessed
- A request for a report on solar bins and how they are working was made

The following non-operations issues were raised:

- An update on the Fair Street project was requested
- Suspected animal cruelty issue on horses at Old Quarry near Mell – advised this would be brought back to County Vet
- Bus stop on grass verge at Termon Abbey referred to Infrastructure
- Taken in Charge queries should be referred to Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer

A query on attendance at St. Patrick's Day celebrations was again raised following initial query raised at the last Council Meeting. This was referred back to matters arising at the next council meeting by the Director of Services as a point of order.

### **Minute No. 23/22**

#### **Infrastructure**

Members noted the report received. Bernadette McArdle, A/Senior Executive Engineer answered all queries raised.

The following matters were highlighted.

- Request to refer bus stop requests to TFI would be referred to Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer once locations are furnished.
- No solution found yet on buses stopping on dual carriageway in Drogheda, officials asked to consider.
- Consultants have been appointed on Active Travel Scheme.
- Installation of roundabouts in urban areas are not favoured.
- Moratorium on provision of new public lighting remains in place.

The following non-operations issues were raised:

- Safety measures on the Tower on Fair Street were queried, update would be sought from Corporate.

## Minute No. 24/22

### Road Works Programme 2022

Members welcomed the report as received. Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer gave a breakdown on the programme as follows:

- €12.3m spend allocated for 2022 – same as 2021
- €800k allocated for Obelisk Bridge refurbishment and structural steel works
- CIS budget had grant funding cut from €460k in 2021 to €300k in 2022 so only 6 of 9 planned roads can be tackled
- Bridge works funding is up but not enough to do all bridges needing works
- Restoration Improvement Works funding has increased
- Allocation was given in mid February and full grant will be spent
- Community Safety Projects funding has decreased from €300k to €223k
- €160k allocated to drainage works including €50k towards gully cleaning

Following queries raised by Members clarification was given on the following by Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer and Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services

- Courtesy Crossings – while they are not legal pedestrian crossings like zebra crossings, they provide a single point of crossing for pedestrians where courteous drivers can stop, allowing a better flow of traffic elsewhere. Pedestrians automatically have right of way when crossing roads.
- The last map, number 5, referring to works in Meath was an error.

Cllr. Kevin Callan suggested that if it was required to adopt the programme, he was happy to propose this. Cllr. Joanna Byrne advised she seconded this.

## Minute No. 25/22

### Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001(as amended), approval of Allocation of Members Community Grants as notified to the Elected Members was

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. James Byrne

and resolved.

**Minute No. 26/22**

**To consider a request to receive a delegation from Drogheda Cycling Group at April Meeting**

In accordance with Standing Order 45 Members were advised that having received a request to receive a deputation, the Municipal District Members must agree by resolution to allow same. Members unanimously agreed to receive this delegation and the Meeting Administrator was requested to advise the group accordingly and of the rules around this.

**Minute No. 27/22**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Joanna Byrne

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan

"In advance of Pride weekend in August, in the interest of promoting inclusivity, this Council will install a 'Rainbow Crossroads' at the junctions of West St, Peter St, Laurences St and Shop St by means of four Rainbow Crossings adjacent to the current four pedestrian crossings in place.

This junction is central to the main thoroughfare of the town and displaying the Pride Rainbow colours in such a prominent way promotes the fact that Drogheda is an inclusive, welcome town for all to live, work and socialise in.

I have an attached an image of what I am proposing, to show it would not impact or interfere with the current pedestrian crossings leaving them in line with Dept of Transport Guidelines."

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

The Council will not be providing the markings as requested as all crossings are installed utilising solely the standards set out in the Roads Traffic (Signs) Regulations.

Speaking on this motion Cllr. Joanna Byrne expressed 'frustration on how a motion was dismissed' noting that this was the second month in a row where members sought a more comprehensive response to motions. She advised it was clear that the council are not going to consider the motion and was not happy with the response as given and that it did not make sense to her. She 'had purposely asked for the rainbow crossing perpendicular to' the legal crossing and named 5 local authorities who had already installed these claiming funding from Active Travel and the Department. Cllr. Joanna Byrne went on to comment that the installation would promote inclusivity, make Drogheda different and show solidarity as an inclusive town and refusal would be turning backwards.

A lively discussion on the motion took place with Members supporting Cllr. Joanna Byrne in this motion and in the need for a more comprehensive response.

Responding to Councillors, Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services advised that the length of a response does not reflect the brevity and consideration given to motions submitted. Road regulations and legislation must be considered in this motion and regardless of what was done in other authorities, Louth County Council has to be able to stand up in court and protect itself should an issue arise at a junction. He suggested that the issue was not the rainbow but that at SPC level perhaps alternative locations or promotions could be considered to support such initiatives.

**Minute No. 28/22**

**AOB**

Mayor James Byrne noting Frank Pentony, Director of Services imminent retirement, extended his good wishes to Frank in his retirement on behalf of Drogheda Borough District.

Promotion of Seachtáin na nGaeilge was requested.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

4 April 2022

Mayor:



Meeting Administrator:

