

Borough District of Drogheda - November 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in the Barbican Centre, Drogheda on Monday 1st November 2021 at 4.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. James Byrne

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

Apologies: Councillors: Eileen Tully

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
Patricia Hughes, Senior Planner

Minute No. 104/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 4th October 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Joanna Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan.

Minute No. 105/21

Matters Arising

None stated

Minute No. 106/21

Confirmation of Draft Budgetary Plan Minutes

The minutes of the draft Budgetary Plan meeting held on Monday 18th October 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Joanna Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan.

Minute No. 107/21

Matters Arising

- None stated

Minute No. 108/21

Housing Progress Report

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

Among the items discussed the following were highlighted:

- The Tenant Liaison Officer engages with An Garda Síochána in serious anti-social behaviour issues.
- No guarantee that extra funding received in 2021 for housing grants will be available in 2022 but basic budget remains at similar 2021 level. The difficulty for householders in getting trades people to carry out works was recognised.

Minute No. 109/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

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

Among the items discussed the following were highlighted:

- Residents are requesting that entrance to Ashfield is restored to pre work level. Members were advised DMURS design at Ashfield is for road safety, narrowing the roadway is designed to slow traffic down, and benefits pedestrians as less road to cross.
- The Road Safety Authority publishes accident data on website.
- Weeds and shrubs growing from Tolsell require significant funding for conservation architect to treat.
- Subsidence problem at Bridge of Peace.
- Bus Stop on dual carriageway causing traffic hindrance may be Bus Éireann issue.
- Marleys Lane works were cited as half job done. Director of Services, Paddy Donnelly advised Members that staff don't half do jobs and that there must be a reason that some works were not carried out. This would be looked at and advised to Members
- Trolleys are the responsibility of Supermarkets, if they require a bay they need to make planning permission application.

The following non operation items were requested:

- Active Travel update request for next meeting

Minute No. 110/21

Part 8 - Boice Court Phase 2, Drogheda

Members discussed the CE report on the Part 8 application for Phase 2 of Boice Court Drogheda, as issued and Patricia Hughes, Senior Executive Planner answered all queries raised.

Following consideration of the Report, it was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. Fiachra Mac Raghnaill

And resolved - that the Part 8 application for the proposed development may be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive Report.

Minute No. 111/21

Strategic Housing Development (SHD), Old Slane Road, Mell/Tullyallen, Drogheda

Patricia Hughes, Senior Executive Planner gave Members an overview on the application for a Strategic Housing Development at the Old Slane Road.

Members commented on aspects of the application and made some suggestions on items for inclusion within any planning granted. The possible historical relevance of site and proximity to the Battle of the Boyne was raised.

The closing date for submissions of 18th November was noted.

Minute No. 112/21

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

Approval of the Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants as circulated with the agenda was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

And resolved

Minute No. 113/21

Update on Litter Enforcement

Members welcomed the review of the IBAL report as issued by Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer and requested a future breakdown of locations of 31 new bins that are planned for the county.

Members considered that bins were not the full solution and the need to promote litter enforcement and leave no trace messages with members of public was highlighted. The work of tidy town groups was commended and Members were advised that tidy towns were drafting a five year plan.

The Mayor advised he would ask Tidy Towns to present at the next meeting.

Director of Services, Paddy Donnelly advised Members that interference, destruction and removal of anti-littering signage would be treated as criminal behaviour of council property.

Minute No. 114/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

"Asking that this Borough District will clarify who authorised the clean-up of vacant ground in Rathmullen Park in May 2021 behind houses 301 etc, why was it done, who carried out the work and how much did it cost."

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

"The Operations section as a whole (Engineers, GSS, Litter warden) receive reports of dumping and requests for clean ups throughout the town from a number of sources as follows:

- *Sugar Cases*
- *Tracker from Drogheda BD meetings*
- *Direct contact from Elected representatives Engineers and Litter warden*
- *In addition our GSS in Environment checks known dumping locations everyday.*

In 2021 alone there are already 23 Sugar cases and 7 BD Meeting Tracker cases directly related to waste issues in Rathmullan Park alone.

These are then compiled into lists for clean ups crews. The waste is checked by the Litter warden for any evidence.

Who Authorised the Clean up: The areas engineers and GSS of Environment section as part of ongoing cleanup program.

Why was it done: To remove problem dumping and provide a better environment for the residents of social housing estates.

Who carried out the Work: The Operations section through direct labour and plant hire.

How much did it cost: The cost for clean ups of individual back alleys is not evaluated. The costs relating to clean ups are coded to The Environment Cleansing Code which covers a

multitude of tasks. Disposal of waste collected from fly tipping costs us €74 per tonne, €30 per tonne for bulky goods under the current contract. There was some 650 tonnes of street bin waste collected and disposed of, and 792 tonnes of bulky waste in 2020 in Drogheda .”

Cllr. Pio Smith advised he didn't understand the rationale provided in the response to this motion that he thought two different responses were given to two similar projects.

Minute No. 115/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

*Cllr Smith indicated that he was happy with the response to this motion and did not need this heard.

"Asking that this Borough District will provide a list of the estates where the council is responsible for grass cutting, explain why the council assumes responsibility for grass cutting, outline the cost of grass cutting per estate and clarify if Louth County Council is the owner of the green space in Trinity Gardens."

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

"The grass cutting schedule will be circulated to the members. Grass cutting of large open spaces in Council estates has traditionally been done by the Council as this would be beyond the resources of resident associations. Other areas are a legacy that predate the amalgamation of the Councils in Louth. The cost of grass cutting contract for Drogheda Borough District is approx. €60,000 plus vat.

As this was a Council estate the lands are in Council ownership, Corporate will confirm same from their records."

Minute No. 116/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. James Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

"That officials of Louth County Council engage with their counterparts in Meath County Council to facilitate a meeting between the Councillors of the Borough District of Drogheda and the Councillors in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District to discuss issues of mutual interest with the intention of formalising a strategic alliance between the two districts in the near future."

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

A request has been made to Meath County Council seeking agreement that Louth County Council would host such a meeting between the member of the Borough District of Drogheda

and the Members of The Municipal District of Laytown - Bettystown. A response has been received confirming that the matter will be listed on the Municipal District Agenda for the November and subject to the members agreement a meeting date would be agreed for Q1 2022.

The Mayor, Cllr. James Byrne advised Members that he firmly believed of a need for closer ties with East Meath Councillors to share concerns, on infrastructure, tourism and more. Other Members agreed and advised they thought that it was a good idea to seek a meeting with Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District Members. A query was raised as to why a different response was received to this motion that that previously raised in June 2019.

In response to a question as to why a request for a similar meeting was refused, Paddy Donnelly clarified that this request is for a proposed meeting between two adjoining Municipal Districts and the business to be dealt with at such a meeting would be strictly in line with the reserved functions as set out for Municipal Districts. The previous request was in respect a Local Area Plan and as the Borough District is not a planning authority it would not be appropriate to deal with a statutory plan at such a meeting.

Minute No. 117/21

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr. James Byrne

Will Louth County Council make a request to Transport for Ireland to promote all local bus routes particularly the D1, D2, D4 and D5 in the run up to Christmas in order to encourage shoppers from outlying areas of Drogheda to make greater use of these fantastic local bus services?

Reply from Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Corporate and Emergency Services:

The Council will consider this response.

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: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____