

Minutes of the reconvened Special Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk at 5.00pm on Tuesday 23th September, 2014.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. O. Tully.

Members: Councillors: D. Breathnach M. Butler, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, M. Dearey, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, J. Tenanty.

Officials F. Pentony, Director of Services
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
Mary. T. Daly A/Director of Services
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
M. Quinn, Senior Executive Planner
S. McVerry, Senior Staff Officer
A. Dullaghan, Conservation Officer
K. Hamilton, Executive Planner
P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies Cllr. M.Yore
J. Martin, Chief Executive

Minute No. 216/14

Consideration of the Draft County Development Plan 2015 - 2019

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Oliver Tully reconvened the special meeting of Council in the matter of the Draft County Development Plan 2015 – 2019 adjourned at the meeting of Thursday 18th September 2014.

The Cathaoirleach reminded the members that a decision / direction on the draft document was necessary by 25th September. He outlined that the staff would highlight the material changes contained in the document. Member should raise other matters that they wished to be considered as the specific chapter was dealt with.

The Acting Director of Services, Senior Engineer and Senior Executive Planner continued to present the Pre Draft Development Plan 2014 - 2019 details.

Minute No. 217/14

Chapter 4. Residential and Community Facilities.

The following policies were noted and agreed following discussion.

RES 19 To require that residential buildings shall not exceed 3 storeys in height, including roof space development except in exceptional circumstances where the Planning Authority considers that the site can adequately accommodate 4 storeys (including roof space development) and where provision for higher buildings is provided for in any Local Area Plan.

RES 29 To ensure residential car parking provision as set down in Table 7.6 (in relation to residential development) is adhered to, with the exception of infill development in town and village centres where a financial contribution in lieu may be acceptable

RES 34 To require the preparation of a Design Statement for sites or locations where there are specific issues to be addressed, including, but not limited to those as outlined above in Section 4.14

RES 37 All new lighting in residential developments shall be high performance low energy lanterns with electronic gear requiring energy efficiency and effectiveness, with lowest whole life cost, and will thus require the use of LED lights (or any subsequent technical upgrade as agreed with the Planning Authority).

RES 38 To require applications for residential developments on sites of one hectare or over (excluding Level 4) or for more than 50 residential units provide an audit of existing community facilities in the locality and where a shortfall in facilities exist, demonstrate how this will be made good, either through provision on site or such other means as is acceptable to the council.

The policy setting out access to Nursing homes to be examined to include, as far as practical, access for pedestrians.

RES 53 To support the Community Fire Safety Strategy 2013-2018

RES 54 All new residential development (including houses and apartments) shall be required during construction phase to be hard wired for a smoke/heat/CO alarm

Minute No. 218/14

Chapter 5. Heritage (Natural & Built)

The following policies were noted and agreed following discussion.

HER 16 Where in exceptional circumstances, trees are required to be felled in order to facilitate development, there shall be a requirement that each tree felled is replaced at a ratio of 10:1 with native species where feasible.

HER 22 To work in partnership with Meath County Council and the relevant agencies and the public to promote, understand, conserve and sustainably manage the Battlefield sites of the Battle of the Boyne and to protect and enhance the cultural landscape of the Battle of the Boyne Battlefield Landscape.

HER 23 To work in partnership with Meath County Council and the relevant agencies and the public to promote, understand, conserve and sustainably manage the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne to maintain its Outstanding Universal Value.

HER 24 To protect the ridgeline to the north which frames the views within and from the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne from visually intrusive and inappropriate development, subject to the Development Assessment Criteria set out in Section 5.9.7 below and using viewshed analysis as a tool to guide and inform Development Management.

HER 25 To require that all development within Development Zone 2 be subject to Development Assessment Criteria set out in Section 5.9.7 below

HER 26 To encourage the retention, appropriate re-use and conservation of vernacular buildings in Development Zone 2 in preference to either their replacement or the construction of new buildings on green-field sites.

HER 27 To maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Louth County Council will seek to ensure that no development which might have significant, deleterious impacts upon the character of the World Heritage Site is permitted.

HER 28 To prepare a Framework Plan for the protection, development and promotion of lands subject to Development Zone 2 (which include for the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, Tentative World Heritage Site of Monasterboice and the Battle of the Boyne Battlefield sites)

HER 54 To require that any proposals for new development in designed landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, and an assessment of significant trees or groups of trees, as appropriate.

HER 55 To require applicants for proposed large scale developments within the Designed Landscapes and Demesnes utilise 3D Digital Survey Modelling tools to demonstrate that the proposed development does not adversely affect the site or its setting.

Minute No. 219/14

Protected Structures

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. R. Culhane

And resolved

To include the structure known as the Obelisk in the schedule of Protected Structures.

Minute No. 220/14

Chapter 6. Economic Development Tourism & Retail

The following policies were noted and agreed following discussion.

EDE 4 To deliver support and co-ordinated services to start ups and small businesses across the County of Louth.

EDE 5 To facilitate the emerging local development role of Local Government and bring about better alignment of the work of local development companies with that of Louth County Council

EDE 6 To support initiatives contained within the 10 Point Action Plans.

Minute No. 221/14

Road side signage

Proposed by; Cllr. Breathnach

Seconded by; Cllr. Minogue

That as appropriate an objective is inserted that the local authority provides adequate signage on the motorway and round-a-bouts highlighting or towns and villages.

Minute No. 222/14

EDE 19

Proposed by; Cllr. Dearey

Seconded by; Cllr. Breathnach

And resolved

That specific reference be made in policy EDE 19 to the role of Fáilte Ireland and their role and that of other agencies in working in partnership with the local authority.

Minute No. 223/14

The following policies were noted and agreed following discussion.

EDE 23 To work in conjunction with adjoining authorities to extend and design new walking and cycling routes, including the Brú na Boinne greenway from Drogheda – Mornington. Ensure all proposals include appraisal of environmental impacts and take full account of the potential for negative impacts on Natura 2000 Sites through the process of Habitats Directive Associated Screening.

In noting the policy it was agreed to include reference to the Drogheda Greenway.

Minute No. 224/14

Chapter 7. Transport

The following policies were noted and agreed following discussion.

TC 5 To promote, in collaboration with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and other relevant agencies and organisations, the expansion of the network of walking and cycling routes throughout the county

TC 6 To adhere to the principles contained within the guidance document, Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013) Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport / Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG).

TC 9 To prohibit any external lighting or illumination and any advertisement signs that would distract or interfere with the free flow of traffic, using the road network.

TC 12 The policy of the planning authority will be to avoid the creation of additional access points from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses to national roads and protected regional roads to which speed limits greater than 50kph apply. This provision will apply to all categories of development, including individual houses in all control zones within the Plan area.

TC 13 In those settlements which incorporate sections of national roads or protected regional roads that are subject to a speed limit of 60 kmh before a lower 50 kmh limit is encountered a limited level of direct access to facilitate orderly urban development may be permitted. Any such proposal must, however, be subject to a road safety audit carried out in accordance with NRA requirements and a proliferation of such entrances, which would lead to a diminution in the role of such zones, must be avoided.

TC 25 To continue to engage with and pursue funding opportunities offered through the National Cycle Network scheme, the Active Travel Towns Scheme or other similar funding streams that may become available over the course of the plan.

TC 26 To plan and develop a Louth Coastal Walk from the northern to southern county boundary taking full account of the need to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant negative impacts on Natura 2000 Sites through the process of Habitats Directive associated screening.

TC 27 To identify and preserve existing accesses and public rights of way to recreational areas including the coast, mountains, riverbanks, and other places of natural beauty and recreational utility and to commence the process of mapping and listing public rights of way in the County during the lifetime of this development plan under the provisions of Section 14 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

TC 29 To support and facilitate, where appropriate, the network of electric vehicle supporting infrastructure across County Louth in accordance with national policy on the promotion of electric cars

TC 37 To examine the need for bus and car based park and ride facilities at a range of locations including motorway interchanges.

TC 41 To support the development of smaller ports and harbours many of which are in the direct ownership of Louth County Council , through the implementation of capital and maintenance dredging programmes, subject to compliance with EU Habitats Directive

Minute No. 225/14

Chapter 8. Environment

The following policies were noted and agreed following discussion.

ENV 23 To comply with the SEVESO II Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents

ENV 24 To ensure that land use policies take account of the need to maintain appropriate distance between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and of particular natural sensitivity or interest.

ENV 25 To have regard to the advice of the HSA when proposals for a new SEVESO site, modifications to an existing SEVESO site or when proposals for development within the consultation zone of a SEVESO site are being considered (including and as detailed in Table 8.2 above).

ENV 26 Development sites must be investigated for the presence of invasive alien species, which if present must be treated and/or eradicated in accordance with best practice.

Minute No. 226/14

Chapter 9. Energy & Communications

The following policies were noted and agreed following discussion.

EnCo 6 To ensure that energy transmission infrastructure follows best practice with regard to siting and design and is managed in terms of visual impact particularly to ensure the protection of all important recognised landscapes.

EnCo 23 In general, to direct commercial bioenergy plants to locate on lands which are reserved for industrial uses. Brownfield sites in rural areas may also be considered, subject to planning and environmental criteria

Minute No. 227/14

Chapter 10. Water Services

Noted and Agreed

Minute No. 228/14

Chapter 11. Implementation

Noted and Agreed and the reference to bonds be amended to refer to cash bond.

Minute No. 229/14

To confirm by resolution the Draft County Development Plan 2015 -2019

Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach

Seconded by Cllr. D. Minogue

And resolved.

To confirm the recommendations of Council in respect of the Draft County Development Plan 2015 -2019 and recommend that the plan be submitted for Public Consultation as provided for in the Planning and Developments Acts, 2000 – 2009 (as amended)

Minute No. 230/14

The time being 8.20pm The Cathaoirleach concluded the business of the meeting by thanking the members for their contributions and the staff for preparing and presenting the pre draft documents.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____