



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú de Cheanta Bhaile Átha Fhirdia / Municipal District of Ardee – May 2024**

Minutes of Municipal District of Ardee meeting – hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 4:30pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor: Dolores Minogue

**Members:** Councillor(s): Paula Butterly, Bernie Conlon, Pearse McGeough, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty

**Apologies:** Councillor(s): None

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer  
Terry Hamilton, Town Regeneration Officer

### **Minute No. 35/24**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Bernie Conlon

**Seconded by:** Cllr Jim Tenanty

**And agreed**

### **Minute No. 36/24**

#### **Matters Arising**

Updates were sought on items which are recorded under the Roads Section item

### **Minute No. 37/24**

#### **Part 8 Ardee Castle**

Members discussed the Chief Executive Report as set out before them on the Agenda. Town Regeneration Officer Terry Hamilton responded to queries raised. Members were advised that while there was a previous Part 8 granted on the Castle, Ministerial approval was required on works as Ardee Castle is a designated National Monument, and as the Ministerial Consent was granted it was subject to limitations of which result require that a new Part 8 is before Members.

Members were further advised of two submissions to the new Part 8 and responses given.

Approval of the Part 8 as set out in the Chief Executive report was:

**Proposed by** Cllr Jim Tenanty  
**Seconded by** Cllr Dolores Minogue  
**And Approved.**

Members asked for a update on a plan to allow them to visit the site and were advised that this is being organised subject to Health & Safety viability.

**Minute No. 38/24**

**Section 102(4)(c) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended - Approval of distribution of Draft Municipal District Discretionary Budgetary Plan**

Members agreed to approve the Discretionary Budgetary as set out by them and put on the agenda as follows:

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>€113,000.00</b>
Safety measures for vulnerable persons within Mid-Louth. Administered by Market House and Dee Hub.	€35,000.00
Hallowe'en event Ardee town (St Mary's GAA location). To be reallocated in September if no event forthcoming	€7,000.00
5k to Louth Sports Partnership to support female participation in Sport in Mid-Louth.	€5,000.00
10k towards Operations for traffic calming (ramps) at a rural primary school (choice of operations)	€10,000.00
2k for cleaning Ardee Foster statue at the Library. National Monuments Service	€2,000.00
5k to Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum to do specific targeted and interactive in the two local second level schools	€5,000.00
Santa in Dunleer. Payee: Dunleer Community Development Board (Market House)	€2,000.00
Santa in Ardee. Payee: Ardee traders	€2,000.00
Mid-Louth Men's Shed (Philipstown)	€2,000.00

10k to the two second level schools (€5k each) for sensory equipment for ASD units.	€10,000.00
Towards Community Section of LCC to their new programme for volunteers doing handy work for the elderly and disabled in Ardee mid Louth	€5,000.00
Ardee Hospice Home Care (30th anniversary. Matching what was given in 2023 to Peregrine House- Ardee and District Cancer Support)	€5,000.00
St Mary's Ardee - sensory garden and tarmac	€10,000.00
Ardee Active Retirement Retirement Group to disperse to the local active retirement groups (with the aim that its for course on life long learning e.g. digital safety or IT)	€8,000.00
New Leaf (For outreach beyond Ardee and Dunleer)	€5,000.00

Approval of the budget was

**Proposed by:** John Sheridan

**Seconded by:** Jim Tenanty

**And Resolved**

#### Minute No. 39/24

#### Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting and Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer responded to queries raised.

Items highlighted under this agenda item include:

- Ferdia Park Retrofit Scheme – of 54 units being retrofit bringing them from a D1 to a B2 BER, tenants of 9 units were refusing to allow works. Members were advised that the council, as property owners, have a duty to maintain properties, and tenants were potentially in breach of contract by not allowing works. Members were reassured however that no evictions would be sought at this time. The council are willing to consider up to 9 replacement units in the area which require works as the contractor was due to commence work.
- Members suggested an information evening might have been useful to inform tenants and suggested there had been some misinformation between tenants on efficiencies.

#### Minute No. 40/24

#### Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Declan McMahon Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with potholes, footpath repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests, traffic light sequencing and traffic light repair, road resurfacing, road lines painting, painting of parking bays, road subsidence, the following items were highlighted:

- Safety Consultants are to prepare a feasibility and options report on improvement to the junction from Castlegarde to the N33
- Parking issues at St. Mary's Kilsaran are a matter for housing
- The design to replace and move the Pedestrian Crossing at Bank of Ireland Ardee is being done. Works are expected by end of year 2024
- Issues with a sinking manhole at Educate Together School Ardee will be examined as will flooding issues on Kells Road
- Ownership of Collon Playground site was again questioned
- Works on N52 were for a 1km section only, with a further 600m planned at Funshog next year. Members commented that a two month closure of road for a 1km resurface seemed excessive
- Ramp requests have been referred to the safety team
- The Gallow Road Dunleer is on the list for pot hole repair, however the team are under pressure to prepare roads for surface dressing
- Clarity will issue to Members on the LIS scheme –
- An appeal for more CIS funding and a fresh scheme was made by Members
- Members were advised that a review on Speed Limits is on hold for national guidelines to issue. It was pointed out that those who had made a submission on the Speed Limit Review had not received response, including Members, and it was suggested that an update should issue
- It was clarified that ramps can only be installed on roads of a 50kmh speed limit or below

#### **Minute No. 41/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr Jim Tenanty  
**Seconded by:** Cllr John Sheridan

*That this council start the process in setting up Town teams for Ardee. Due to the downturn in trade in the town and the overwhelming amount of business and buildings for sale and to-let is at pandemic levels. Urgent action is needed to address this problem.*

#### **Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development**

*The establishment of Town Teams form part of the implementation of the Government's Town Centre First policy at local level, where certain towns/villages are selected for the development of a Town Centre First Plan, under the aegis of a Town Team, supported by the Local Authority's Town Regeneration Officer.*

*Town Centre First falls under the Department of Community and Rural Development. To date funding has been provided to develop Town Centre First Plans for Dunleer (complete) and Clogherhead (currently ongoing), with the formation of Town Teams to ensure local input and ownership of the respective plans, with a view to securing funding for implementation, primarily through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF).*

*The Ardee 2040 project, which the current design phase is being funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, represents the Council's strategy to develop projects that support the regeneration, compact growth and sustainable development of Ardee. The planning submission which will be lodged with An Bord Pleanala is currently being finalised. Extensive public consultation informed the development of Ardee 2040, and further engagement will take place as the project hopefully progresses through consent stage and ultimately funding approval under future rounds of the RRDF.*

*Accordingly, in the context of the above, it is not proposed to establish a Town Team in Ardee at this point given the current Town Centre First programme and the current stage of our focused efforts on progressing Ardee 2040.*

Members noted the response from the Executive. Cllr Tenanty commented that the response was very 2040 focused and that Town Teams lead to a combined approach for funding, and involved representatives from all sectors of towns. Commenting on Dunleer, he and all Members set out the Market House and Dunleer Community Development Board as an example of how a community could achieve where they all work together with a collective sense of responsibility and pride.

While on the subject of the town, Cllr Sheridan wanted to clarify that rumours of paid parking coming in to Ardee were false, and that it was parking enforcement rather than charges that were coming in.

#### **Minute No. 42/24**

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr John Sheridan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Jim Tenanty

*That Louth County Council provide an update to the Ardee MD on when traffic counts were last conducted at the below four locations and what was the outcome of the traffic count.*

*LP1178 at Darver National School  
R171 at Louth Village Crossroads  
LP2253 at Philipstown National School  
R168 at Drogheda Street Collon*

*And that traffic counts would be conducted at the four locations again this summer as they need to be reviewed in the context of future low cost safety measures/ traffic calming.*

#### **Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development**

*The selection of locations for the completion of speed counts are now prioritised based on collusion data/history of accident clusters, which may assist in informing future Low-Cost Safety Schemes.*

Members noted the response from the Executive. Cllr Sheridan wished to counter two items of the response, firstly that Low-Cost Safety works while done in Darver were completed on a secondary road and not the primary road, i.e. not on the location of the requested traffic count, and he considered the second part of the motion was not addressed.

Cllr Minogue thought that the summer was the wrong time to carry out traffic counts as the school traffic was relevant to the count and schools would be closed.

Cllr Butterly suggested that while traffic measures had been put in place at St. Kevin's school there was a creche just after the measures where up to 30 children were going in and out along with a GAA pitch.

Cllr Tenanty suggested that where measures were put into Louth Village, locals were bypassing these and using Fr Finn Park as a rat run to avoid measures.

Cllr McGeough suggested that regardless of what measures are put in place by the council, road users should slow down, more enforcement is needed and education is key to road safety.

Overall while Members supported safety works, they agreed that personal responsibility was key to road safety.

## Minute No. 43/24

**Notice of Motion: Cllr Pearse McGeough**  
**Seconded by: Cllr Dolores Minogue**

*"Following the passing of Part 8 on Collon Playground at the Municipal meeting of the 4th April 2024, it was noted that playground is situated on the west of the village while the majority of housing is located on the east of the village. This will necessitate children and those accompanying them having to cross the N2.*

*It is incumbent upon us to ensure the safety of children who will be using the playground so I am asking this council to write to TII seeking the installation of traffic calming measures that would/could include ramps on the N2 in Collon"*

**Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development**

*Traffic calming measures were installed in Collon in 2022. These measures included the following:*

- *Upgrading of the gateways at either end of the village.*
- *Narrowing of the running carriageway*
- *Introduction of refuge islands*
- *Installation of a Controlled Pedestrian Crossing strategically positioned adjacent to the location of the proposed playground.*

*All of the above measures will assist in safe pedestrian access to the proposed playground facility on completion.*

*In relation to speed ramps, it is noted that it is the policy of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) not to install speed ramps on National Primary routes.*

Members noted the response of the Executive. Cllr McGeough considered that the response was not sufficient to address the safety concerns raised. He suggested that the majority of households were on the East side of the village, and because of the topography of the village would be downhill from Ardee.

Members thanked TII for works done but suggested there was more to be done.

## Minute No. 44/24

### **Decision on June meeting**

Members noting that the scheduled meeting for June fell the day before the Local Elections and during the moratorium period, unanimously agreed not to hold the meeting, following the proposal of Cllr Paula Butterly and as seconded by Cllr Jim Tenanty.

As it was therefore the last meeting of the council term, Director of Services Joe McGuinness speaking on behalf of the Chief Executive thanked the Members for all their hard work over the current term and wished them all well in the upcoming election.

The Cathaoirleach Dolores Minogue speaking on behalf of the Members said it was their great pleasure to be there and that all the Members were united in wanting the best for the mid-Louth area.

Declan McMahon Senior Engineer advised the Members that it might also be his last meeting as he was retiring shortly after.

Members wished Declan the best in his retirement, a sentiment echoed by the Director, and remembered Cllr Hugh Conlon who sadly had passed away during the term of council.

#### Minute No. 45/24

#### Condolences

Condolences were offered to the family and friends of:

- Little Blue Hero, Honorary Garda 128, Jamie Halpenny from Ardee.
- All those who had died in the area.

#### Minute No. 46/24

#### Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Louth minors for reaching the Leinster Minor Football Championship semi-final.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

**The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Municipal District held on:**

**Date:**

July 4, 2024

**Cathaoirleach:**

Seán Siorada! -

**Meeting Administrator:**

Quinn