



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú de Cheanta Bhaile Átha Fhirdia / Municipal District of Ardee – May 2025

Minutes of Municipal District of Ardee meeting – hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on Thursday 1st May 2025 at 4:30pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor John Sheridan

Members: Councillor(s) Bernie Conlon, Rachel Kerley, Pearse McGeough, Jim Tenanty, Dolores Minogue

Apologies:

Officials: Bernie Woods, Head of Finance
Olivia Gaskin, Senior Staff Officer
Olivia Cormack, Senior Executive Officer
Enda Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer
Sinéad Dooley, Meeting Administrator

Minute No. 34/25

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 3rd April 2025

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
Seconded by: Cllr. Bernie Conlon
And approved.

Minute No. 35 /25

Matters Arising

- An update was sought in respect of the provision of information previously requested under Minute No.17/25 concerning the refusal of 67 social housing maintenance requests. Olivia Gaskin, Senior Staff Officer undertook to follow up.
- With reference to Minute No.18/25, an update was sought in respect of the provision of signage, cautioning that Walkers are on the Road, along the LS51380, Ballyoran Road. Enda Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer to follow up.
- With reference to hedge cutting along the route at Mosstown Cemetery, LS62720, and as raised previously under Minute No.18/25, while Enda Murphy had been assured it had been done he committed to confirming same.

Minute No. 36/25

Suspension of Standing Orders

Standing Orders were suspended to acknowledge the retirement of Director of Services, Joe McGuinness from Louth County Council on 13th May following 41 years of service. Members congratulated him on his achievements throughout his tenure with Louth County Council, stating that he was “a tremendous ambassador for Louth County Council” and “would be sorely missed”. Members further expressed their appreciation for all his guidance and assistance over the years and wished him many happy and healthy years of retirement.

Minute No. 37/25

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Olivia Gaskin, Senior Staff Officer, addressed matters raised. The following items were noted:

- LCC has written to the Department seeking approval for 11 of the 20 Units at Quarry Court, John Street/Stoneylane, Ardee, to be made available under the Affordable Purchase Scheme.
- Income is considered as part of the qualifying criteria for affordable housing.
- It was queried if LCC had considered whether a ‘rental to purchase’ type scheme would alleviate some of the problems faced in housing. Ms Gaskin undertook to investigate and revert.

Minute No. 38/25

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated in advance of the meeting. Enda Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer, addressed matters raised. The following items were noted:

- TII has yet to provide a works update, but a meeting between LCC and TII is due to take place in the coming weeks, at which the work programme will be discussed.
- The digital speed sign in Dunleer requires repair.
- Enda Murphy committed to raising queries concerning the Safe Routes to School Programme and the Cavan to Dundalk Scheme with relevant colleagues.
- Concerns were raised in respect of low-hanging telecoms wires and the potential safety hazard they pose for school buses.

Minute No. 39/25

Placemaking Report

Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the elected members. It was noted that:

- In respect of Ardee Castle, the tender process has been completed with the appointment of a contractor imminent. It is anticipated that construction will commence shortly thereafter.
- In respect of Ardee 2040, TII has provided pre-planning approval for the main street, and the planning submission will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála in June.

Minute No. 40/25

To agree a date for the Annual Meeting of Municipal District of Ardee

It was agreed to convene the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Ardee on Thursday 5th June as

Proposed by: Cllr. John Sheridan
Seconded by: Cllr. Dolores Minogue
And resolved.

Minute No. 41/25

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

The Municipal District of Ardee Discretionary Budgetary Plan 2025 was approved as

Proposed by: Cllr. John Sheridan
Seconded by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
And resolved.

Minute No. 42/25

Road Safety Working Together Group – Request for MD Member Nomination

Councillor Dolores Minogue was nominated to represent the Municipal District of Ardee on the Road Safety Working Together Group.

Proposed by: Cllr. John Sheridan
Seconded by: Cllr. Rachel Kerley
And resolved.

Minute No. 43/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr Dolores Minogue

Seconded: Cllr Bernie Conlon

“That, in the absence of a functioning Joint Policing Committee (JPC) or any similar structure, this Municipal District agrees to convene regular meetings with An Garda Síochána. These meetings shall follow the same format and purpose as previous JPC meetings and will continue on this basis until such time as a new committee is formally established”.

Reply from J McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

The Council will await the publication of Regulations and Guidelines on the implementation of the Community Safety Partnerships before convening any meetings

Minute No. 44/25

Notice of Motion – Cllr John Sheridan

Seconded: Cllr Dolores Minogue

“That members of Ardee MD receive an update on promotional activities taking place to enhance tourism to the district”.

Reply from T McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development

The Economic Development and Tourism team are working on a countywide tourism strategy, that will include highlighting the tourism assets of the Ardee Municipal District. As part of our tourism strategy, our first workshop was held on 25th February to which elected members and tourism business from across the county were invited. We also launched a new VisitLouth.ie website, and logo for the county on that date. The team is actively promoting activities across the county, including Ardee District on our social media channels and in recent weeks we have featured Collon House, Long Acre Alpacas, Ardee Golf Club, Ardee Town and the St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Further strategy workshops are scheduled which are open to the public, and we are inviting everyone in the Ardee District who would like to participate in the future of tourism to participate. Details of these workshops are available on our website at: <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/louth-county-council/latest-news/county-louth-tourism-strategy-workshops.html>

We are working with Fáilte Ireland on a reimagined Tain Trail which is near finalisation and will include Ardee as a key tourism stop on the trail. Linked to this, we are exploring the use of Ardee Castle as a key tourism asset with Failte Ireland. This will address an action highlighted in the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy <https://www.discoverboynevalley.ie/tourism-strategy>

In addition, we continue to work closely with our partners in Meath County Council and Boyne Valley Tourism to promote the Ardee District as part of the Boyne Valley offering.

Minute No. 45/25

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to the Louth Team on reaching their third Leinster Final in a row, and a special mention to Tommy Durnin for a wonderful 2 pointer at the end of the game & Craig Lennon, who has been nominated for GAA Player of the Week.

Minute No. 46/25

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of the following people who had recently passed away:

- Marie Claire Rogers, Togher
- Margaret (Maggie) Hatrick, Louth Village

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date:

5th June '25

Cathaoirleach:

D. Winger

Meeting Administrator:

Sinead Dooley