



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

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

Minutes of Municipal District of Ardee meeting – hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 4:30 pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Dolores Minogue

Members: Councillor(s) Rachel Kerley, Pearse McGeough, Jim Tenanty, John Sheridan, Bernie Conlon

Apologies:

Officials: David Conway, Chief Executive Officer
Bernie Woods, Director of Finance
Susan Deery, Acting Meeting Administrator
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Enda Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer
Michelle Curran, Administrative Officer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer
Anna Nowacka, Clerical Officer
Aine Roddy, Assistant Communications Officer

Minute No. 83/25

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Thursday 4th September 2025

Minutes adopted on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Rachel Kerley

Seconded by: Cllr. Bernie Conlon

And approved.

Minute No. 84/25

Matters Arising

- Cllr McGeough requested an update regarding Minute No. 32/25 as to when a Public Meeting would be scheduled to address the ongoing traffic concerns in Ardee. Cllr Minogue confirmed she will confirm in due course.

Minute No. 85/25

Taking in Charge Report

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. It was noted that:

- Cllr Conlon requested an update on the taking in charge of The Orchard, Dunleer with Keith McArdle confirming that he will revert with an update on this matter in due course.
- Cllr Sheridan enquired if the eight houses at Mullavalley Court, Darver Road have been added following the plebiscite? Keith McArdle advised that he will ensure this matter is advanced.

Minute No. 86/25

Taking in Charge – Knockfergus, Louth Village

Proposal of: Cllr. John Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr. Jim Tenanty

And approved.

Minute No. 87/25

Placemaking Report.

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

- The planning application for the Ardee 2040 Project will be submitted this month.
- Olivia McCormack informed the members that communication will be issued next week outlining plans concerning the memorial trees at the railway lands. She also confirmed that further engagement will be arranged in due course with families who may be affected.
- Members sought information and detail around what plans are in place to deal with vacant homes in Dunleer and Collon. Olivia McCormack is to follow up on these matters with the Vacant Homes Officer who will revert with a response to the members.

Minute No. 88/25

Housing Progress Report

Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. It was noted that:

- 58 social housing units are being constructed in Mullavally, Louth Village, and are expected to be available in the first quarter of 2027. There is also ongoing engagement with many developers and approved housing bodies, which offers hope to increase housing units across the county.
- A strong policy is in place to tackle rent arrears, particularly around the area of reactive maintenance. Rent Managers within the Housing Section actively engage with individuals with rent arrears to establish payment plans.
- Social Housing applicants are permitted to amend their areas of choice under the Choice-Based Letting Scheme following 12 months.

- Cllr Kerley welcomed the work carried out on the Affordable Homes at Quarry Court and confirmation was given that these units are to launch 18th November 2025.
- Cllr McGeough sought further information and detail on the lack of advertised properties via the CBL portal within the area over the past number of months. Declan Grimes advised he would revert with specific details on this matter.
- Members sought confirmation that applications for housing grants would re-open in November with Declan Grimes confirming that this is the intention, however, he would revert with confirmation and details of the date.
- Following discussion among the members on housing allocations, Declan Grimes confirmed to the members that priority is given to those who have been on the list the longest, and every effort is made to ensure the allocation process is fair. A certain number of units are also allocated to people with disabilities and those who may be homeless. Social workers are also involved in providing support to those in need of assistance, including the elderly who may not be familiar with technology.
- Cllr Tenanty enquired whether Ravel Drive is progressing as planned with Declan Grimes confirming that it is on track with the possibility of a number of OPD units being released early. Mr. Grimes reminded members that there are also other Age Friendly Schemes available within the county such as Greenhills, Drogheda, which offers 45 units for those over 55. Additionally, 70 units in Connolly's Field, Dundalk are scheduled for allocation, along with the 12 units in Gravel Range.

Minute No. 89/25

Physical Development Updates

John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. It was noted that:

- A letter of intent for a preferred bidder for the Ardee Castle project will be issued, with the hope of appointing a contractor by the end of October. Construction is expected to commence before Christmas, with an anticipated 18-month completion timeline.
- A discussion will take place with the appointed contractor regarding the erection of Christmas lights at Ardee Castle.
- John O'Hagan reminded the members of the public consultation on the R178 Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Regional Route which is live from 6th October to 31st October 2025. An in-person consultation event will be held on 15th October 2025 at St Brides GAA Club, Knockbridge.

Minute No. 90/25

Roads and Local Services Report

Enda Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer, attended the meeting and responded to queries from the Elected Members. It was noted that:

- Works on the Greenway are scheduled to commence on Monday, following the receipt of funding in the amount of €15,000.
- Hedge cutting notices are actively being sent to landowners, with Enda Murphy encouraging members to provide an Eircode for locations which are causing problems.
- A speed ramp installation in Annagassan would be commenced and installed within the coming fortnight.
- Cllr Sheridan highlighted issues around the faded pedestrian crossing near the school in Louth Village, (R171) and queried when safety measures at Duffy's Cross would be carried out. Enda Murphy committed to reverting with details on both queries.

- Cllr Conlon noted that the digital sign outside Dunleer National School has been half erected and requested also that the ramps outside the school are to be repainted. These were noted by Enda Murphy for follow up.
- Cllr Sheridan highlighted issues around Eircom poles now in the middle of the footpath on Stoneylane, due to road widening works recently carried out. These issues were noted by Enda Murphy for follow up.

Minute No. 91/25

Draft Budgetary Plan for 2026

Ms. Bernadette Woods, Director of Finance presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Ardee and advised the members that whilst the council are in the early stages of the budget process, it would provide them with an indication of their General Municipal Allocation for 2026.

This draft plan was:

Proposed by: Cllr. John Sheridan
Seconded by: Cllr. Bernie Conlon
And resolved.

Minute No. 92/25

Condolences

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

Louise O'Connor, Drumgowna, Louth
 Mark O'Connor, Drumgowna, Louth
 Evan O'Connor, Drumgowna, Louth
 Peter Fahy, The Glebe, Ardee

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date: Nov 6, 2025

Cathaoirleach: John Sheridan

Meeting Administrator: [Signature]