

## **Municipal District of Ardee - February 2022**

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Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted remotely over MS Teams on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 at 4.30 p.m.

**In attendance:** All present attended remotely over MS Teams

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor J. Tenanty

**Members:** Councillors: P. Butterly, B. Conlon, D. Minogue, P. McGeough

**Apologies:** Councillor: J. Sheridan

**Officials:** Bryan Coughlan, Acting Director of Services for Joe McGuinness  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer  
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer  
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer  
Terry Hamilton, Public Realm Designer

### **Minute No.9/22**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Paula Butterly and seconded by Cllr. Dolores Minogue

### **Minute No. 10/22**

#### **Matters Arising**

- Condolences for Shay Rooney. Cllr. Pearse McGeough advised that while the Minutes reflected that all Members spoke to extend their sympathy, one member spoke inappropriately and requested that consideration be given for future condolences.
- Louth County Council was congratulated on the speed and quality of the work carried out at Annagassan bridge

### **Minute No. 11/22**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting by John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer.

Members were advised on the reasons for refusals of Choice Based Lettings property offers at Clonmore as requested at the last meeting. Reasons ranged from size of property, accessibility issues requiring single storey accommodation, mental health issues and location of units. The individual reasons are being assessed for validity. Applicants can be suspended from the programme for up to 1 year if found not to be valid.

A request was made for breakdown of the reasons for 607 maintenance requests received in January and if possible to include by location at the next meeting.

### **Minute No. 12/22**

#### **Operations and Marine Progress Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer responded on all Operations matters.

Updates were given on previously raised items including:

- Subsidence at Killanny
- Tree at Bellingham Heights
- Footpath repairs at various locations including Lennon's Pub to Tallansfield Manor

The following matters were noted:

- Break-in's to cars at Port Beach in Q4 2021 - signage to alert car owners requested
- Resurfacing requested from Ardee to Stabannan
- Ramp request at Shamrock Grove and painting of new ramp at Beechgrove
- Request for an extension of the single white line past the estate at Blakestown on R165
- Coopers Cross, Castlebellingham - half drain at bus stop, possible trip hazard

Members were advised that:

- Drogheda road into Dunleer, traffic calming is included in 2022 low cost safety measures list
- Parklet seating outside Sizzlers will be removed and replaced with timber seating
- N52 upgrades continuing along with speed flashing sign erected inside 50km zone
- Repainting of yellow boxes in Ardee will be added to line painting programme
- Hedge notices will issue to land owners causing traffic hindrance
- Back lanes and tertiary roads are not maintained by operations as a rule

Following a discussion on the lack of maintenance of tertiary roads and the CIS scheme, it was suggested that a motion be submitted by Ardee Municipal District Members to discuss policy at full council, as responses to date were described as unsatisfactory.

## Ardee Bypass

Members spoke of the need for the Ardee Bypass to go ahead, citing heavy congestion and accidents on the N52/Kells Road into the town. An appeal was made for Louth County Council to do whatever they can to speed up the process. The Cathaoirleach advised that having watched a debate on the judicial review structure that it appeared likely there would be a 7 to 8 year delay on all projects that have gone to judicial review which was not looking good for the bypass. It was requested to put this item on the March Agenda.

The following non operation items were noted:

- Dissatisfaction that Greenmount water supply upgrade is not planned until 2025
- Derelict building Castlebellingham – planning enforcement say receiver sold property. Louth County Council is not aware of owner and cannot enforce legislation

## **Minute No. 13/22**

### **Litter and Bring Banks**

Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer advised Members on the report as circulated at the meeting as follows:

- Litter - Litter investigations are ongoing with Ardee area accounting for roughly 1/20 of investigations happening.
- Bottle Banks - Members were supplied with Bottle banks figures/graph for last 3 years and advised demand increased with increased restrictions and decreased with ease of restrictions. General figures for the county were supplied, with some of the Ardee area highlighted for Members.
- Solar bins – Louth County Council availed of Department Grant funding and used this to purchase solar bins which have 8 times the capacity of ordinary litter bins and could reduce frequency of collection.
- Dog fouling – Members were advised of the difficulty to institute a sufficiently reliable enforcement campaign.
- Awareness campaigns – Louth is coordinating with other county councils on social media campaigns.

Members thanked Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer for his presentation and wished to acknowledge work being done by community groups and CE schemes. A request for a further bottle bank in the Mid Louth area to replace the bins removed at Philipstown was made.

Two new Big Belly Solar Bins in Ardee were welcomed but the location was requested to be reviewed as domestic dumping is occurring at bins due to an increased capacity of bins. A suggestion was made that bins should be in well-lit visible areas on the main street.

A request was made for Dog Wardens to carry out licence checks on dogs and issue fines, as many owners allowing fouling did not have licences.

### **Minute No. 14/22**

#### **District Discretionary Budget 2022 Proposal**

Members were reminded to submit ideas for the Discretionary Budget to the Cathaoirleach, Director of Services or Meetings Administrator.

### **Minute No. 15/22**

#### **Update on Ardee Castle Renovations**

Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer and Terry Hamilton, Public Realm Designer briefed Members on Ardee Castle renovations, funding for which had been successfully approved under the Rural Regeneration Scheme. Members were shown 3D images of the project and a picture of the materials proposed to be used which were sympathetic to and complemented the existing structure. Members were advised that accessibility issues had been a primary issue and it was planned to install a lift to all floors including the cafe area and to have a fully compliant stair case. It was hoped to commence works by end of year, but realistically it could be Q2 of 2023.

The presentation was well received and the opening of the castle looked forward to by Members.

### **Minute 16/22**

#### **AOB**

A request from the Youth Project of Ardee Hub to give a presentation to Ardee MD at March meeting was received. It was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Dolores Minogue that this be facilitated.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Paula Butterly and as on questioning **no Members objected**, this was resolved.

Members were advised the Ardee St. Patricks Day Parade was planned to go ahead at 3pm.

**Minute No. 17/22**

**Condolences**

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of all those who had died in the area.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:**

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

**Cathaoirleach:**

M. Nulty

**Meeting Administrator:**

E. Spence