



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

COMMUNITY & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Community & Placemaking S.P.C. hosted in the Conference Room, Drogheda Borough Council Offices, Fair Street, Drogheda on Thursday 27th March 2025 at 3pm.

Present: Cllr. Michelle Hall (Chair Deputise), Cllr. Shane McGuinness, Miriam McGuill, Aaron Karol Pundol, Lorna Costello, Garreth Weldon, Kevin Moran, Cllr. Fiona Mhic Choincille (Remote), Cllr. Paddy McQuillan (Remote).

Officials: David Jones-Director of Services, Mark Johnston-Senior Engineer, William Walsh- S.E.O., Michelle Curran-A.O., Olivia McCormack-S.E.O. (Remote), Paula Gribbon-A.O.

Apologies: Cllr. Robbie Nash, Finbar Gethins-S.E.O.

Welcome & Introductions

Cllr. Michelle Hall agreed to deputise in the absence of Cllr. Robbie Nash, welcomed everyone to today's meeting and commenced the round table introductions.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 12th December 2024

Proposal of: Cllr. Shane McGuinness

Seconded By: Lorna Costello

And resolved.

2. Review of the proposed replacement of Litter League

Presentation from Paula Gribbon, A.O., of "Sustainable Living Louth Competition 2025".

Discussion points included;

- Simple Entry form and closing date for applications to be confirmed.

- Competition is limited to applications from Tidy Town Groups however LCC encourage Tidy Town groups to engage and collaborate with other groups to achieve biodiversity targets.
- Louth in Bloom to be reviewed later in 2025.
- Focus of scheme is to raise awareness of Climate Action Plan.

3. Sport, Play, Outdoor Recreation Plan

Presentation from James Treanor and Grainne Fogarty, Community Section, of “Recreation / Sports / Play Policies and Plans”.

Discussion points included;

- Public Engagement will be through Consultants Engagement.
- The 3 Plans to work together in synergy.
- Budget is for contractor to make 3 policies into 1 plan.
- Possible public concern points.
- Commercial business opportunity for outdoor recreation in conjunction with required infrastructure.
- Ensure creation of Multi-Generational Play Areas
- Ensure accessibility for all and comfort of use for all groups including minority groups.
- “Cooperative not Competitive” Play areas
- Considerations given to Lighting, Natural Surveillance, Environmental Exposures, Safety, Socialisation, Community Areas, Attractiveness, Parking Facilities.

4. Road Safety Action Plan Presentation

Presentation from Adrian O’Sullivan, Road Safety Officer LCC, of “Road Safety Plan”.

Discussion points included;

- National Policy Change would be required for Speeding Fine changes.
- Statistics regarding young male driver fatalities.
- Query with Data Protection Commissioner for RSA Data figures remains outstanding.
- 20 Road Safety projects to be completed in 2025.
- Limited annual budget for road maintenance, road markings and signage
- Resurfacing of roads is a priority in limited budget.
- No public funding for driving lessons within school educational system.
- Emergency services and Gardai provide road safety education to schools.
- Focus to continue on rules of the road for Escooters
- Helmets and Hi-Vis vests are not mandatory for bicycles and escooters.

5. Traffic Calming Policy

Discussion lead by Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer LCC.

- Focus to update existing Traffic Calming Policy adopted in May 2015.
- Reduction of Local Roads from 80kmph to 60kmph
- Plans for Urban Speed Limits review in coming months.
- DEMUR updates

- Section 38 of Road Traffic Act includes Road Safety Measures
- D.O.T & T.I.I. new recommendations on traffic calming, speed reductions, safety signage, etc.
- Discussion regarding speed ramps, cushions, tabletops, gateways and costings.
- €400,000 per annum expenditure on safety measures and traffic calming.
- Request to review countywide traffic calming in small towns and villages.

6. A.O.B.

Miriam McGuill, Friends of the Earth, Dundalk.

Request assistance of Louth County Council and the Vacant Homes Officer to approach and assist commercial businesses to development space above commercial premises back into flats and apartments for housing use. This will encourage a repopulation of our town centres and will assist local businesses through increased footfall and expenditure within premises.

Discussion of Dundalk and Drogheda under Urban Regeneration and Town Centre First Policy applies to smaller towns and villages.

Government in talks to discuss the possibility of extending the “Vacant House Scheme” to commercial businesses for loans to aid regeneration in the future.

Date of Next Meeting:

- Thursday June 26th 2025, Dundalk venue and time to be confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed at SPC meeting held on: 03/07/2025.

Signed by Chairperson: 

