

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2022 in Civic Offices Chamber, Dungarvan**

PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. John O’Leary

Cllr. Seanie Power

Cllr. Ger Barron

Apologies: Cllr. Declan Clune

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ivan Grimes, DoS Housing, Community & Emergency Services

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, SEE Roads

Mr. Raymond Moloney, SEO, Environment.

Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning.

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late John ‘Toddler’ Maher, Dick ‘Horse’ Walsh, Kathleen Kinsella, Mary Whelan.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Ballymacarbry Ladies Team on winning Munster Ladies Football Senior Championships.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 19th October 2022 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

Minutes of District Budget Meeting held 19th October 2022 proposed by Cllr. Power seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Environment

Cllr. O’Leary noted the EPA Annual report recently published and queried Waterford’s performance regarding ground water quality.

Cllr. Brazil thanked environment section for arranging the Bulky Goods Collection Day commenting that they should occur more often. Requested update on roll out of CCTV suggesting the Comeragh District as a pilot for new initiatives to tackle the problem of illegal dumping.

R. Moloney, SEO, noted that the EPA Annual Report just published on the 15th November and will provide a synopsis to the members once reviewed. He outlined that the Bulky Goods Collection was very successful, it ran in both civic amenity sites, in Dungarvan collected 266 mattresses, 55 bed bases and 10 tonnes of bulky furniture waste, in Kilbarry collected 103 mattresses and 20 tonnes of bulky furniture waste. Have received draft CCTV guidance documents for comment which needs to be signed off by CCMA and then Minister, expects it will be early 2023 before formally issued for implementation.

Cllr. Brazil enquired as to how much bulky white goods came in as part of collection and need to consider doing twice a year.

R. Moloney, SEO outlined that don't have details of white goods as these can be disposed of at any time of the year free of charge. The aim of the collection was to target other items that have a charge as there was a reduced charge on the day of €5. Outlined that the costs of recycling the items collected is covered under grant from the Department for Anti-Illegal Dumping Initiatives.

(b) Roads

Cllr. O'Leary raised at last meeting regarding lights not working at Graigueshoneen requesting works to be completed, requested update on commencement of works at Carrick Road roundabout in Kilmeaden and in Dunhill.

Cllr. Power noted lights required on Mountain Road, lights out at this time of year is a health and safety issue and needs to be addressed and need more funding to resolve the issue. Commented that there is an issue with the volume of water on roads due to recent weather and challenge to keep shores clear.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on commencement of works in Lemybrien and Mahon Falls carpark. Thanked roads staff on all works carried out throughout the year noting that the LIS and CIS have been very positive schemes for the district.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that has been significant rainfall over the last number of weeks, unfortunately timed with leaves and blocking of gullies and outdoor staff doing considerable work to address problems. Commented that where recently carried out drainage works it has proved to be very effective in dealing with adverse weather and shows the need for increase in grants for this and to ensure improvement and strengthening works continue to ensure able to deal with future events. As previously advised Lemybrien has a team in place which is meeting regularly, project being prioritised and due to commence in 2023. Outlined that completion of lighting is dependent on ESB networks, noting that housing developments are prioritised. In relation to council public lights informed members that where underground issues exist works often require additional funding. Noted that have monthly meetings with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the Carrick Road roundabout is a PPP project and have no direct statutory authority over it. TII have advised that currently working on design to alter and improve roundabout and hopeful works will be carried out in shorter term.

M. Goff, SEE, noted that hope power will be in place at R676 in coming weeks, liaising with ESB on weekly basis. Dunhill project close to going out to tender followed by tender assessment and appointment. Due to appoint contractor to Mahon Falls carpark, working on programme of works and aiming to be completed by end of April.

Cllr. Barron complimented works carried out on new footpath from Knockmahon School to Geopark and enquired when can expect to have the 2023 roads works programme available.

Cllr. Power noted that the Bog Road in Portlaw is an issue and needs addressing requesting inclusion in the 2023 roads work programme.

Cllr. O’Leary thanked roads for maintenance works carried out at Suir Valley Railway and enquired when works will commence at the R680 High Road junction with Carrick Road works in Portlaw.

G. Hynes, SE, noted challenges with 2023 Roads Works Programme due to increase in costs and hopeful that restoration and improvement grants will allow for the increase, will revert to the members with Roads Work Programme once grant allocation has been confirmed in the New Year. Bog Road is an issue and can be listed for consideration in 2023. Outlined that there are 2 full time staff members with responsibility for maintenance of the Greenway.

M. Goff, SEE, outlined that Dunhill tender currently being reviewed with 2023 start, R680 at Kilmeaden tenders returned for review and due to award contract for Carrick Road works at Portlaw.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that there are a considerable number of schemes and availability of contractors can delay commencement.

Cllr. Brazil complimented all the roads staff in the works carried out across the district.

(c) Planning

Cllr. Barron requested update on Taking in Charge and the illegal development in Bunmahon.

Cllr. Power requested clarification on the green belt development in relation to new houses.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on Bunmahon, enquired if planning applications have increased or decreased on last year’s numbers and if there are any planned housing developments for the Comeragh district.

A. Sullivan, SEP, noted that planning applications are steady and consistent with last year, noting there are some proposals for housing developments in Comeragh district that may materialise into planning applications in the New Year. Noted that green belt previously existed and is now referred to as high amenity zone, principal of development remains the same, it is restricted to sons and daughters of existing landowners, to protect areas from urban generated housing. Note comments regarding Taking in Charge and hope to have new policy developed in the New Year. Acknowledged concerns regarding ongoing enforcement case in Bunmahon but precluded from discussing it as it is live case.

(d) Housing

Cllr. Power welcomed extension of the Croí Cónaithe scheme into rural areas.

Cllr. O’Leary welcomed works in Comeragh district and queried the number of housing applicants who choose to reside in Comeragh district.

Cllr. Brazil noted that proposal to add commencement of Part V111 for Rossmore Convent in Kilmacthomas to the agenda, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

I. Grimes, DoS outlined details of the proposal for commencement of external works on Rossmore Convent with works to be undertaken facing the Greenway, there is an existing planning permission with proposed refurbishment of convent to provide 6 units, there is also a requirement to install stairs and lift to facilitate access to residents.

Cllr. Barron welcomed project, it is a central facility, enquiring if the garden is owned by the council.

Cllr. Power supports project which will be a great addition to the village.

Cllr. Brazil outlined that more buildings need to be taken back and brought into use which would assist in addressing the housing crisis. Enquired if council has power to buy lands with derelict buildings on them and requested update on odour issue in Kilmacomma.

I. Grimes, DoS, outlined that council acquired lands around the convent. Currently in discussions with the OPW in relation to several properties that could be adapted for housing, Department will support local

authorities in the purchase of such lands. Confirmed that Croí Cónaithe scheme has extended out to rural areas and larger urban areas, it gives great potential for conversion of derelict sites and gives ability to access SEAI grants also and is being administered by vacant homes officer. Proportion of persons on list in Comeragh is 8-10% of total, most accommodated in HAP properties.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

8. AOB

Cllr. Brazil noted December meeting due to fall on 21st December, proposing deferral of meeting, noted that if anything urgent arises will convene a meeting. Thanked all staff for help and support over the year and thanked the media for their attendance and coverage of the issues. Thanked all councillors for their attendance.

All councillors supported Cathaoirleach in deferral of December meeting and concurred with comments for all work carried out throughout the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____