

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2023 in Civic Offices Chamber, Dungarvan**

PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. John O’Leary

Cllr. Seanie Power

Cllr. Ger Barron

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. Niall Kane, SEE, 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 Nellie Walsh, Philip Walsh, Eamon Walsh, Paul Brunnock, Larry Bolger, Maura Baldwin, John Kiely, Thomas Rowe, Eileen Maher, Kathleen Deasy,

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 14th November 2022 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Roads

Cllr. Clune requested that the High Road, Kilmeaden is added to the gritting route during severe weather as it is a heavily used road, noted complaints received about several streetlights that are not registered on Deadsure and raised concern regarding the potential reduction in the Active Travel budget enquiring if any of the planned works would be affected.

Cllr. O’Leary supported Cllr. Clune in relation to the High Road noting the broader issue where the council is not equipped to grit all roads, enquiring if there is a solution to support local communities to assist in resolving the situation. Requested a feasibility study to review options.

Cllr. Barron enquired about footpath widening on St. Anne's Terrace and timeline for commencement.

Cllr. Power noted issues with the roads network because of bad weather and acknowledged work is being done to address, supported High Road issue noting same issue with the Clonea Power to Ballydurn road suggesting that local communities and agricultural contractors could assist. Enquired about works on footpaths in Clonea Power and the Active Travel project in Portlaw is due to commence.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Brazil requested update on works for Lemybrien noting need for gritting along road to Downey's Cross and from Mahon Bridge to McGraths Cross. Noted his concern about potential reduction in Active Travel budget. Noted that works have commenced at Mahon Falls highlighting need to review the bad beds as part of the works. Outlined the issue with poor sightlines at Mahon Bridge when coming from Fewes and that viewing mirror at the location is currently missing.

G. Hynes, SE, informed the members that €2.6m has been requested under Active Travel for the Comeragh District and projects are ready to proceed once allocation is confirmed advising that if full allocation is not received some projects may need to be postponed. Footpaths will be dealt with when all allocations confirmed, hope to have details for February meeting. Roads section are currently salting 500km of road networks which requires significant resources, can only salt other roads during the day where resources allow. Can engage with community groups but need to ensure the salt can be stored at a suitable location and open to piloting a few locations. Informed members that currently engaging with landowners in relation to the traffic calming project in Lemybrien, hopeful that contract would be awarded in Q3 of 2023. Aware of sightline issues on the road from Fewes at Mahon Bridge noting it is a difficult area to resolve and requires significant work to address, will review design options and cost with view to including in next year's schemes, in interim will have mirror replaced.

M. Goff, SEE, outlined that design for Main Street in Kilmacthomas has commenced, currently carrying out carry typographical survey. The Clonea Power footpaths are included under capital programme, plan to phase works with some sections being addressed this year. Mahon Falls construction works commenced this week, will be a 8-10 weeks programme of work and new passing bays are included as part of the works, addressing bends cannot be included as part of current funding.

Cllr. O'Leary outlined that a reduction in the Active Travel allocation would be a retrograde step, several Section 38s already carried out and commitments have been made to communities, noting that all proposed works will make roads safer in rural areas.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. O'Leary highlighting that there will also be an increase in the cost of materials.

Cllr. Clune supported colleagues, noting that it is potentially devastating for the Comeragh area, significant work already carried out by the engineers and councillors and have liaised with communities.

Cathaoirleach supported all members emphasising the need for the money to remain in the Comeragh area. Highlighted the need to promote hedge cutting as come close end if the hedge cutting season, also welcome the new pilot hackney service for Kilmacthomas.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that the schemes where contracts have already been signed will proceed as planned, this includes the Carrick Road and Brown Street, have made a case to the NTA for other projects. Outlined that have been issuing notices to landowners regarding hedge cutting, 1st March is deadline.

(b) Planning

Cllr. Clune highlighted concerns of residents over water supply in Woodlands Estate in Portlaw, there is also an issue with the borehole as it is exposed and at risk of contamination enquiring about when water services will be taken in charge and noted no reply from Irish Water regarding the issues. Supported the current planning application for a premium wedding venue in Gardenmorris in Kill, it will be a unique opportunity for the area.

Cllr. Barron requested update on the taking in charge of Cruachán View and supported the Gardenmorris project in Kill.

Cllr. O’Leary enquired about the number of units to be developed in An Clochán in Kilmeaden and if associated community facilities will be developed.

Cllr. Power noted that planning applications are down on previous year enquiring if there a slowdown in applications.

Cllr. Brazil supported the wedding venue proposal noting it is important that it is supported. Highlighted that the container on the Copper Coast Road by Bunmahon needs to be addressed as it is a hazard. Lights in St. James Wood in Stradbally are not operational and estate is taken in charge.

A. O’Sullivan, SEP, will follow up on St. James Wood in Stradbally, issue at Bunmahon is an enforcement case and will continue to progress under the legislation. Noted that planning applications are down slightly across the county, December is a quieter month so not surprising. In relation to An Clochán working with developer regarding provision of creche. Will be progressing taking in charge of Cruachán View and Cois Cille in coming weeks and will follow up on issues in Woodlands Estate.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Barron requested update in relation to the Convent in Kilmacthomas,

Cllr. Power enquired if receiving the same funding for Housing Adaptation Grants for 2023.

Cllr. Barron enquired if any progress on house in Bylane, up from Centra in the Square.

Cllr. Clune requested update on 50 additional units for Portlaw.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if any progress has been made in relation to the odour issue in Kilmacomma as current services are not fit for purpose. Enquired if there is any land in the Comeragh area suitable for new housing developments, enquired if the unused Garda barracks in Lemybrien and Kill could be taken over by the council and used for housing.

I.Grimes, DoS, currently no update on Convent development in Kilmacthomas and will include in February report, in relation to Bylane there is an issue with connection to water which is being addressed and developer to connect shortly. Private adaptation grant funding allocation announced in March, have adequate allocations from government, it is demand led and agree is an important source of funding. Funding for adaptations for own stock is never adequate, Minister Butler has been discussing issue with Housing Minister and proposing what would be needed to clear backlog for own stock. No update on units for Portlaw but will be working on progressing, will look at workshop in relation to potential developments for the Comeragh district. Currently discussing issue with treatment system in Kilmacomma with the housing team and seeking a meeting with Irish Water to address. Will engage with the OPW in relation to scope to use the unused Garda barracks as they have been brought into use in other locations. Meeting with housing agency regarding land and fund to enable local authorities to acquire land for social housing.

(d) Environment

Cllr. Clune noted recent announcement of Irish Water regarding upgrade of Bunmahon water plant, need to get specific details from Irish Water regarding the commitment and plans for it. Outlines that Irish Water involved in the mains rehabilitation works in Georges Street in Portlaw, noting issue with contractor and way they are doing the work, no advanced warning for works and no consultation with the residents.

Cllr. O’Leary welcomed councils’ initiative in devising action plan 2023 – 2029 enquiring about its content and impact on the area. Congratulated Blackwater Community School in Lismore as the winner of the Tom Murphy competition.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Clune regarding Bunmahon.

Cllr. Brazil supported issues raised in relation to Irish Water, outlined that illegal dumping on side of roads increase over Christmas, need CCTV enquiring how far advanced proposals for its use are requesting pilot system in Comeragh district regarding illegal dumping.

N. Kane, SEE, outlined that the LGMA are currently developing a code of practice for use of CCTV which will require legal review prior to adoption by the Department noting pilot can be operated when the process is completed. Outline that will need to make a case to CE to put up CCTV, need to record areas where illegal dumping occurs so that can build a case for the requirement of CCTV to monitor encouraging members to report cases on CRM. Will bring Irish Water issues to the attention of the A/SE in Water Services. Climate Action Plan workshop scheduled for tomorrow which will set out how the council can improve energy efficiency and put in place mitigation plans.

Cllr. Clune noted that there is no input into overall infrastructure works of Irish Water outlining that councillors should write to Irish Water.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that council are contractors to Irish Water, local staff have regular meetings with Irish Water regarding local issues and have significant dialogue with Irish Water but final decision is that of Irish Water.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that Irish Water hold workshops with councillors, this is the forum to bring issues of concern to the attention of Irish Water.

4. SECTION 38 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 – Boatstrand, Co. Waterford – Completion of Process

G. Hynes, SE, outlined details of the project. The works will include improvements to the road alignment, improvements to sightlines, introduction of gateway signage, new surfacing and road markings, new footpaths and street lighting as well as a raised speed table at the junction with uncontrolled pedestrian crossings incorporated. The purpose of the scheme is to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility to the harbour and to reduce the speed and dominance of vehicular traffic through the settlement. Outlined that 2 submissions were received, and recommended approval of the scheme as advertised.

Scheme proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all. Scheme supported and welcomed by all councillors, outlining the works will make the area safer.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that will proceed with land acquisition and design and hoping scheme will commence early 2024.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

7. AOB

G. Hynes, SE, informed the members that there will be upcoming pavement scheme works in Garranmillon commencing 3rd February, it is a three month programme which will require traffic management to be in place outside of Lemybrien to McGraths Cross.

Cllr. Brazil enquired about grants for charging point as one is needed in Stradbally, noted issue with sheep killing on farms and owners need to keep pets under control.

G. Hynes, SE, will need to revert regarding information on charging points.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Resolution of the Elected Members
Waterford City and County Council, Comeragh District
18th January 2023
Ref: R2023/1

In accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 Waterford City & County Council proposes to undertake road improvement works along R675 at Boatstrand Village and the Junction to Boatstrand Harbour. The works will include improvements to the road alignment, improvements to sightlines, introduction of gateway signage, new surfacing and road markings, new footpaths and street lighting as well as a raised speed table at the junction with uncontrolled pedestrian crossings incorporated. The purpose of the scheme is to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility to the harbour and to reduce the speed and dominance of vehicular traffic through the settlement. The scheme will prioritise pedestrian and cycle movements over vehicles and promote active travel by providing a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists to travel along the R675 between the main settlement in Boatstrand, the camping area, the harbour and those travelling to the harbour via the L4004 Kilsteague Road

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Comeragh District of Waterford City & County Council that the works as outlined proceed as advertised. Proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed unanimously.

Signed:

Councillor Liam Brazil
Cathaoirleach Comeragh District

Witnessed:

Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator