

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 in Civic Offices Chamber, Dungarvan**

**PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cathaoirleach
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Cllr. Declan Clune
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Cllr. Seanie Power
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Cllr. Ger Barron
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Apologies: Cllr. John O’Leary

**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

Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Annette Geoghegan, mother of Cllr. Damian Geoghegan and proposed an adjournment of 10 minutes as a sign of respect, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

All the members offered their condolences to Damien Geoghegan and his family,

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Dick Dalton

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

Minutes of District Special Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 proposed by Cllr. Power seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

None

**3. REPORTS**

(a) **Housing**

Cllr. Clune queried figures in Table 2 of the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 where eleven units are not listed for Portlaw asking confirmation on how these eleven units will be delivered.

Cllr. Barron noted that residents of Port na Machan in Kilmacthomas requesting lighting along the river walk and asked for this to be reviewed. He enquired about the recently announced Government 'Ready to Build' scheme and provision of serviced sites by the local authority and how it can be availed of.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if the new scheme relates to where the council owns land, noted that the issue of odours in Pine Wood estate in Kilmacomma are ongoing stating that Irish Water have outlined that upgrade works are not planned for the location which is unacceptable and needs to be progressed.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Brazil and welcomed the new serviced sites scheme.

Cllr. Clune supported Cllr. Barron regarding issue for lighting along the River Mahon in Kilmacthomas and needs to be addressed for the safety of users.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that there is an omission in the table, outlining that the eleven units are on the existing local authority land bank, he outlined that the Department have committed funding for the units included in the plan and they hope to exceed the targets. Within the plan there is a target of seventy-six affordable units, currently have advertised 117 in the city, approval for 180 and already approved beyond the target. Currently actively looking at affordable schemes in Dungarvan, Tramore, Ardmore and other options across the city and county and working with developers to deliver on this.

Cllr. Clune enquired about the timeline on delivery of the eleven units in the local authority landbank and if there would be a demand for the smaller villages such as Portlaw and Kilmacthomas.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that council is committed to looking across the county and not restricting to urban areas, noting need to engage with the developers firstly who are open to the affordable schemes and confident can identify schemes in smaller towns and villages. Committed to delivering the units over the timeline of scheme up to 2026. He noted that it is evident that the river walk has increased usage since the new housing development opened in Kilmacthomas, the original funding did not provide for lighting but will discuss with colleagues to see what can be delivered on. He will circulate details of the scheme as referenced to the members. Noted the issues raised by the members regarding the Pinewood estate, it is a matter for Irish Water and will arrange to have a meeting with Irish Water and housing engineers to see what can be done to come to a resolution.

## **(b) Environment**

Cllr. Clune raised issue of water supply in Bunmahon and Cois Cille, lack of supply during the summer and lack of communication from Irish water. Noted that the new Irish Water investment plan is coming up enquiring as to what input the council have into the development of the plan and what pressure can be brought onto Irish Water for carrying out necessary works.

Cllr. Barron supported Cllr. Clune and noted the difficulties in dealing with Irish Water and wished Luke O'Brien a happy retirement.

Cllr. Power concurred in relation to Luke O'Brien, supported issue in relation to Irish Water and the challenges that lie ahead.

Cllr. Clune asked for letter of thanks to be sent to Luke O'Brien on behalf of the members.

Cllr. Brazil noted issue of high levels of illegal dumping and if update on roll out of CCTV usage was available, requested update on scheduling the one-day collection for bulky items.

Cllr. Clune Beach noted recent clean up with An Taisce outlining that there was no beach in Comeragh area included in the clean-up and if there was scope for this to be extended in the future.

R. Moloney, SEO noted the comments raised in relation to Irish Water and will refer to the water services section. Outlined that all complaints received in relation to illegal dumping are fully investigated, use of CCTV is included in the new Circular Economy Bill for which a code of practice is currently being developed. Working group established and data protection assessment to be developed and will be 2023 at earliest before having full code of practice in place to allow for use of CCTV. Date for bulky goods

collection to be confirmed shortly. The An Taisce 'Clean Coasts' project is a community led group and will talk to environmental awareness officer about promoting other beaches for inclusion.

Cllr. Clune and Cllr. Power requested that a member of water services is invited into the council meetings I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that local authority is a contractor to Irish Water and will request them to attend the Comeragh meeting.

**(c) Roads**

Cllr. Clune acknowledged work of roads section, requested update on commencement of works on the Carrick Road and Brown Street. Noted underspend of €4m in relation to Active Travel enquiring if funding could be used in the Comeragh district for projects such as footpath to Curraghmore and the church. Noted that request for school warden for Portlaw National School has been unsuccessful to date, enquiring if the Tramore safe route to school could be replicated in Portlaw. Mentioned public consultation currently underway for connection of the Greenway to Blueway encouraging all to participate and support.

Cllr. Power outlined need for safety measures such as a pedestrian crossing around school in Clonea Power, requested update on footpaths in Clodagh Drive, Clonea and noted that in Clonea Power light needed from church. Disappointed that some towns and villages did not qualify for Clár.

Cllr. Barron noted and welcomed the work being carried out in the district, requested update on the design for St. Annes Terrace link with the village noting that where St. Annes Terrace joins the High Road there is an issue with the crossing and requested that the design would include safety measures at this location.

Cllr. Brazil concurs with all the work being done, requested update on car park in Mahon Bridge and Mahon Falls, commencement of footpath in Lemybrien on the Carrick Road and traffic calming in Lemybrien. Noted that there are separate criteria for both the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), need to ensure that the criteria is clearly outlined to the community, Enquired if there is a waiting list for the schemes and requested details on the criteria for each of the schemes.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that the LIS relates to roads that are not in charge by the Local Authority and noted that the laneway/road applying for the scheme needs to be serviced by two active farmers that are engaged in farming and have submitted an Area 8 map as set out by the Department. Received a second allocation of €490k, noting that carrying out quality works that will last and have a cost impact. On an annual basis an average of ten schemes are completed, also have secondary list with fifty applications waiting funding. The CIS deal with cul de sacs and are roads that are in charge by local authority, Department of Transport require a 10% financial contribution by the residents on the road or residents to do works to the value of 20% of the scheme. Noted that Lemybrien project due to commence next year, design and land negotiations underway. Active travel have undertaken considerable work outlining it is a capital programme so funding rolls over and is not lost, larger schemes can take considerable time through design, planning and approval to be completed on the ground. Gave credit to the Comeragh district members in their role of approving the Section 38s when come to council for decision. In relation to the school warden in Portlaw noted that the safe route to school's programme is the process that needs to be followed with the NTA and needs school, community and parents involved and will discuss with active travel team in relation to it.

Cllr. Power noted that there is an issue with having two farmers in order to be compliant with LIS criteria.

M. Goff, SEE, outlined that there is a significant body of work involved in the Carrick Road scheme through the various stages, tender assessment completed and due to commence end of October/November. Will review options for safety measures at Clonea School, work on Clodagh Drive due to commence at the end of the year and will review lights in Clonea Power. Design for St. Annes Terrace to the Main Street being funded by Active Travel and noted comment on sharp bend on junction.

Mahon Bridge and Mahon Falls Car Park tender document to be finalised and will be prioritising Mahon Falls to go out to tender in October.

Cllr. Barron outlined that while members refused proposed design at Garrahylish junction crossing on the N25 at previous meeting need to ensure that the junction continues to be reviewed for a suitable solution to address the issues there. Proposed bridge rehabilitation work on Kilmacthomas viaduct does not include area on bridge over the park and asked for it to be reviewed and an audit to see what needs to be done.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that the Garrahylish junction was rejected by the members, the proposal as presented was the only option to complete junction within the current standards, due to the volume of traffic will not be a right turn lane and hard shoulder will be reinstated.

Cllr. Barron noted option for a right turn lane is an option and concerned about safety and asked for new design.

G. Hynes, SE, proposal was reducing the risk of drivers turning right and therefore limited risk of severe collision, the more right turn movements you can eliminate on the road network the safer it becomes. N25 currently has a significant number of junctions and therefore is high risk and what was being presented was to reduce the risk. as it currently exists can only do a standard junction solution.

Cllr. Barron advocated the need for a dual carriageway and need to review this junction again.

**(d) Planning**

Cllr. Clune acknowledged work in Cois Cille in Dunhill in relation to the Taking in Charge process and agrees with the new approach being undertaken.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on actions in relation to the van and new access to land at Bunmahon as it is illegal.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP noted that the cases as referenced are live enforcement cases which cannot be discussed in a public forum. Noted that there will be a recommendation issuing to roads section from planning recommending taking in charge of Cois Cille.

**(e) Taking In Charge**

Cllr. Barron noted concern about Cruachán View in Kilmacthomas and need to have it taken in charge and issues in the estate progressed.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. Barron, noting the development has been completed over 16 years ago and needs to be addressed, enquiring what owner needs to do in order for it to be taken in charge.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that when Cois Cille is completed can look at prioritising Cruachán View and Cul Rua.

**(f) Arts & Culture**

Cllr. Barron noted that we have a very healthy library system in the Comeragh area and complimented all involved in the service.

Cllr. Clune concurred with Cllr. Barron noting that libraires are a very important part of the community, noting how it works very well in Portlaw.

Cathaoirleach supported the members and great to see the impact of the service in our local towns and villages.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**8. AOB**

Cllr. Clune informed the members that there is a new Garda Superintendent, Fiona Fogarty in Tramore that covers the Comeragh district area and requested that an invitation it extended for her to meeting with the members and discuss the issues for the district.

I.Grimes, DoS, will make contact with suggestion of a workshop to discuss issues.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_