

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 15th MARCH 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

Mr. Noel Flynn, EE Roads

Mr. Niall Kane, A/SEO, Environment.

Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning.

Mr. Richie Walsh, SEO, Economic Development

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Maurice Foran, Mary Clarke, Mai Power, John Hanley.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 15th February 2023 proposed by Cllr. Power seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Housing

Cllr. Clune enquired if there is any indication of future developments of social housing in the Comeragh district and if there are any options of affordable sites being made available by the local authority. He enquired if the council has received any information in relation to Irish Water connections that enable houses in Glen Ealach in Dunhill to be developed. Cllr. Barron and Cllr. Power supported the provision of sites noting that small developments in rural towns and villages would be very beneficial.

Cllr. O’Leary noted that the provision of additional water supply to Dunhill would enable previously refused permissions to proceed, enquired if there are any social housing units in An Clochán in Kilmeaden.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Brazil strongly supported the provision of sites for sale noting that need to develop villages to make them viable. He noted the need to have old vacant buildings such as Garda Barracks brought back in to use for housing asking for this to be investigated. Requested update on issue with septic tanks in Kilmacomma.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that the Housing Delivery Action Plan as submitted and approved last year includes several schemes across the three districts and includes the current development in Kilmacthomas. In relation to plans in the Comeragh district for housing development, the Housing Delivery Action Plan as submitted and approved last year, working on a number of schemes in district, noting the current works on the Old Convent in Kilmacthomas. Will continue to advance projects and review options for additional schemes.

Cllr. Clune enquired how cashflow and payment is managed.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that the council manages initial payments and then applies for recoupment from the Department. He noted that there are locations in the Housing Delivery Action Plan to be developed in Portlaw and looking at other opportunities. The repair and lease scheme also provides affordable sites as provided for in the National Housing for All plan, for the development of own housing, waiting for the detail and the terms and conditions as to how to roll out. Will liaise with Irish Water in relation to update on Dunhill, scheme included in monthly report as want it to advance as a scheme as it is needed in the area and is part of a wider development for Dunhill. In discussions with IW regional managers regarding Kilmacomma, IW have stated that it is not part of current investment plans and will continue to raise with them. Noted that 10% of the development in Kilmeaden will be social housing units, no details of when they will be available. Outlined that the disposal of buildings such as Garda Barracks are managed by the OPW and being managed nationally, there are many locations across the country that could be used and the council are keen to bring them back them into use, will look at what is potentially available.

Cathaoirleach, noted that the OPW came to Lemybrien and Kill and carried out works of their buildings, they haven’t progressed from there and would welcome follow up on it.

(b) Environment

Cllr. O’Leary enquired if there has been any further update on the use of CCTV.

Cathaoirleach supported this as the issue of illegal dumping continues across the district, requesting the Comeragh district to be used as a pilot when possible. Enquired if environment can investigate the illegal unit on the side of the road in Bunmahon.

Cllr. Power enquired if residents need to have bins registered to their house, Pouldrew to Fiddown bridge in a very poor state with rubbish and needs to be addressed.

Cllr. Clune supports previous councillors noting that people need to take responsibility for their own rubbish noting that residents in small villages do great work to keep areas clean.

N. Kane, A/SEO, outlined that code of practice for use of CCTV is currently being reviewed by solicitors before final approval by the Dáil, hopeful that it will in place by the end of the summer. Noted that a business case will need to be developed and presented to the Chief Executive in order to justify the location of CCTV, highlighting the importance of reporting illegal dumping on CRM as this will assist in building the business case. Noted that the container issued in Bunmahon cannot be dealt with under environmental legislation. There is provision in the Circular Economy Bill to register bins to houses as then will be able to target those that don’t have a collection system. Can look at use of vacuum cleaner for cleaning of dangerous roadside areas.

Cllr. Barron outlined that there is not an easy solution to tackling litter enquiring on the programme of educating people in schools.

N. Kane, A/SEO, noted that there is a programme of green schools and environmental officer visits schools regularly, there is a competition with secondary schools to encourage litter picking and keeping areas clean, constantly looking to influence and educate students.

(c) Roads

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if there is any update on the previously requested meeting with NTA, remains disappointed with decision to reduce the projects under Active Travel to be progressed. Noted that there is an issue with the white lines at the Five Crossroads and needs repainting.

Cllr. Clune requested update on the taking in charge on Cois Cille in Dunhill, will submit details of areas where road markings need to be redone. Enquired if there has been any progress in identifying overflow spaces for the tourist season to alleviate parking issues at our tourist areas.

Cllr. Power noted need for pedestrian crossing for the school in Clonea Power, and where schools don't qualify for Clár funding this needs to be reviewed.

Cllr. Clune noted works commenced on Carrick Road, enquired who contractor is for Browns Road and when works are due to start.

Cathaoirleach requested update on carpark in Mahon falls and Mahon Bridge, when Lemybrien works will commence this year, noted issue with potholes on Carrick road by Mahon Bridge.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that the Director of Roads is making direct contact with NTA, no further update on Dunhill and Lemybrien and don't envisage funding this year and will reapply in 2024, in absence of funding from NTA cannot proceed. Road lining will be refreshed throughout year requesting locations to be submitted. Carrick road commenced, have advertised taking in charge for Cois Cille and will be back before council for next meeting. Have been engaging with landowners to make land available for temporary carparks during the summer, no progress to date. Will review pedestrian crossing in Clonea, Clonea doesn't qualify for Clár funding. Lemybrien traffic calming scheme is progressing, next key area is bridge adjacent Applegreen, in process of appointing contractor to review bridge and determine what needs to be done. Committed to looking at parapet of bridge at Mahon Bridge, will cost and include for funding consideration in 2024. Will review Carrick Road. Road lining of the five crossroads will be carried out as part of the Roads Work Programme, Carrick Road contractor is on site, Brown street awarded and will be commencing soon, meet with residents also and will run concurrently with Carrick road scheme. Mahon Falls works ongoing, 90% complete with 2 weeks work remaining, finalising tender documents for Mahon Bridge.

(d) Planning

Cllr. Barron noted concern from some residents in Kilmacthomas regarding proposed height of building planned for the old derelict filling station, noted that new housing development in Kilmacthomas is welcomed but raised concerns about traffic implications for the village.

Cllr. Clune enquired if planning application has been submitted for Mayfield house in Portlaw.

Cllr. Power noted that housing development in Kilmacthomas will be of benefit, concerns from residents in the area regarding traffic and access to the required services and the infrastructure for it.

Cllr. Brazil great development for Kilmacthomas, need to ensure adequate services are provided enquiring if it will be developed on a phased basis.

Cllr. Clune supported councillors concern about infrastructure noting the planning conditions need to address it.

A. O’Sullivan, SEP, noted comments and precluded from commenting on a live planning application, advised people to engage in the process and make submission. In larger developments, need to look at other aspects, suite of documents regarding transport, infrastructure and environment are included. No planning application received to date for Mayfield House.

Cllr. O’Leary development in Kilmeaden, no conditions in the planning for the infrastructure and if not catered for in the application how will it be factored in.

A. O’Sullivan, SEP, when looking at planning permission development contributions are applied which would be a levy for such items as road improvement works. In relation to provision of creches do assess impact on crèches and schools and will work with schools and assist where can.

(e) Economic

Cllr. Clune noted that the Durrow playground is a great amenity, noting need to include disabled access amenities. Enquired if Portlaw will be included in new booklet on outdoor recreation and requested details on the timeline and submissions in relation to the Blueway connection.

Cllr. O’Leary noted that the new Ballyduff Kilmeaden Greenway connection is welcomed, car park needs some signage and exits signage. Enquired if there is any news in relation to economic development in Kilmeaden to assist with job creation for the area.

Cllr. Barron enquired about proposed works on Kilmacthomas Greenway, new railings and need to provide some lighting from new housing estate onto it.

Cllr. Power enquired if there are details on the route for the proposed Blueway.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Brazil requested update on Crough Wood walk, and car park at Coumshingaun.

R. Walsh, SEO, noted point on need for disabled amenities in the Durrow playground and will revert to design team to see if can make provision and need to consider for future developments. New booklet and website have Portlaw included. Greenway Blueway connection consultants currently working on preliminary preferred route, then meet with both councils and meeting with each property owner affected Will review signage with roads at new Kilmeaden connection and arrange for an official opening. The economic development and potential industrial business for Kilmeaden outside of remit. Will need to review environmental impact of lighting on river walk in Kilmacthomas. Noted that currently have no update on plans for Crough Wood and Coumshingaun, will continue to pursue for a resolution. Informed members that consultants appointed for the Portlaw town centre plan and will develop plan for the funding. Liaising with Kilmacthomas enterprise group regarding development of station as a tourist area.

4. ROADS WORK PROGRAMME 2023

G. Hynes, SE, outlined details of the funding noting that allocation increase by 8% on last year, however with 25% inflation won’t achieve the same level of work. There will be considerable work done and need to be spending twice this amount annually to ensure keep road network up to standard. To ensure longer term that maintain standard need more funding from Department to ensure can deliver and meet expectations. Welcomed input into the programme for 2023 and requested approval for programme as outlined.

Proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

Cllr. O’Leary noted need to continue investment into the roads, real concern that not getting adequate funding to ensure investment in local roads.

Cllr. Power noted that works that are carried out are of high quality and need to continue to work across parties to ensure adequate funding is received.

Cathaoirleach welcomed funding received and has seen great work being done, welcome programme for the year ahead.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

7. AOB

Cllr. Clune noted a vote of congratulations for St. Declans on their recent sporting success. Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Mental Health Cycle is scheduled for 9th April, 8th year supporting the SOS charity to promote positive mental health, commencing in Lemybrien at 9am
Cllr. Clune outlined the importance of having advocates like the Cathaoirleach to discuss mental health, to normalise talking about it and recognises his involvement. Need to send message that there is help out there.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____