

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 21st JULY 2021 BY ZOOM CALL**

PRESENT

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

Roll call carried out by meetings administrator.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Ivan Grimes, DoS, Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads
Ms. Maria Goff, A/SEE Roads
Mr. Luke O’Brien, AO, Environment.
Mr. Seamus Doran, AO, Planning
Mr. Richie Walsh, Head of LEO
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Michael (Mick) Harney
- Catherine (Kitty) McGrath
- Dominic Hearne
- Thomas Bowman
- John Joe Fleming
- Ger Flahavan
- Theresa (Tessie) Lenihan
- Berta Connors

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 16th June 2021 proposed by Cllr. Brazil seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

Minutes of District AGM Meeting held on 16th June 2021 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Power

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Environment

Cllr. Power raised concern over issue with lack of water in Ballymacarbry, Fourmilewater and Knockalisheen that needs to be addressed by Irish Water, requested tankers of water for the locations and acknowledged work of the council in provision of water over last few days.

Cllr. Barron raised issue of quality of water in Bunmahon due to lack of proper sewerage treatment plant in the area and need for it to be addressed. Need to restore blue flag status for the location.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on communications with suppliers of takeaways adding customer details to their packaging

L. O'Brien, AO, noted that the water supply issues in Ballymacarbry area and Bunmahon water quality are the remit of Irish Water and will refer onto Water Services for response. Outlined that decision of the data commissioner in relation to process of tracking down wrapping etc and identification of persons causing litter is an approach that they are not in favour of. Currently engaging with vendors to ensure they have sufficient capacity for waste at their locations.

I. Grimes, DoS, confirmed that council is working closely with Irish Water in relation to the water supply issues and looking at options for these locations, noting that tanker going into Ballymacarbry this evening and will confirm the details for the members.

(b) Roads

Cllr. Clune notes the amount of work being carried out across the district, highlighting that traffic on copper coast is heavy at busy times, noting traffic built up at Bunmahon, Kilmurrin, Boatstrand etc. There are issues with cars parked illegally and need to look at options for additional parking during busy periods enquiring if can discuss options with local landowners.

Cllr. Barron supported Cllr. Clune outlining it is an ongoing issue with serious issue with emergency services having difficulty in accessing areas, additional parking and enforcement of parking regulations is needed along with a parking plan.

Cllr. Brazil notes that county is attracting visitors and people are realising the amenity of the area, need a parking system in place to address problems and noted that drivers need to respect parking regulations. Outline that buses parking at Crotty's Corner in Lemybrien and concerned that there will be an accident noting need to progress the traffic calming scheme for the area. Outlined issue with Coillte opening entrances onto narrow roads and need to prevent this happening as is causing traffic concerns.

Cllr. Power outlined that parking system at Clonea Strand is successful and needs to be resolved for other locations. Requested update on Lemybrien and welcomed announcement by Heather Humphries of €10.5m for Local Improvement Scheme.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if any update on improvement to the junction at the R680 Kilmeaden and L4026 as needs attention.

Cathaoirleach confirmed that Coillte are due to attend the September district meeting.

G. Hynes, SE, noted members acknowledgement of works carried out in the district outlining that have received additional funding through Active Travel which can be seen on the ground but note need to do more work on strengthening of roads. Acknowledged issues with parking at beaches where not enough car parking spaces, solution requires significant capital investment, shorter term solution if community groups can look at opening up land in the location and leasing of land to local authority so insurance could be covered by council. Noted that only an issue during the fine weekends stating that acquiring land is a challenge and will review and consider with area engineer stating that it is an issue across all coastal areas in the country. Acknowledged issues at Lemybrien and have a traffic calming scheme in the

pipeline to address the problem, outlined that there are two schemes on the N25 that need to be progressed namely Carroll's Cross and Lemybrien and hopeful that Carroll's Cross will commence in September/October. With regard to Lemybrien currently negotiating with landowners and finalising tender details and hopeful that works will commence this year. Outlined that any entrance onto road network will need permission and consent from area engineer and will assess all entrances to ensure it is suitable. Informed that council receiving an additional €280k under the LIS as a supplementary allocation which will allow for completion of additional 4/5 schemes and will finalise details in coming weeks. Noted that may be possible to address the junction in Kilmeaden under the low-cost safety scheme for 2022 and in the interim a design can be looked at.

(c) Economic

Cllr. O'Leary outlined issue at the new connection from the Greenway to Kilmeaden as it is not finished, entrance not comparable to other areas, is overgrown and needs to be completed.

Cllr. Brazil noted that there are issues at the entrances and exits on crossing road junctions at the Greenway and suggested red stripe across the road with slow written on it to warn drivers.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Brazil and noted that Comeragh Wild festival has been cancelled again for this year due to the Covid and is a disappointment for the district.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO, noted that development of the Greenway also included proper safety measures, there is very usership noting safety aspects are very robust and will review with roads engineers to see if additional measures are required. He will review the Kilmeaden extension on the Greenway, rectify and conclude any outstanding works.

(d) Housing

Cllr. Clune enquired if any plans for new houses in the district.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on houses in Kilmacthomas and option of changing route of the pedestrian walkway and outlined that there is still an issue with odour in Pinewood Estate in Kilmacomma.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if any update from government regarding disabled persons grants for own stock to deal with backlog of applications.

I.Grimes, DoS, updated that will be water tanker at Ballymacarbry at community centre from 6pm today, night-time flows from the Ballylaneen Kill water supply will have restrictions from 11pm to 7am as supply under pressure and information will be in social media later today. Confirmed are looking at housing options county wide and hopeful for additional projects for the district in coming year. Confirmed that houses in Kilmacthomas commenced and walkway is being constructed in compliance as per the Part V111 decision and will have engineers discuss options with planning. Will revert with update regarding Kilmacomma. Outlined that the level of DAS funding is frustrating and request for increase is continuously raised with Department.

(e) Planning

Cllr. O'Leary noted applications for planning increasing in comparison to previous year, outlined that planning department is understaffed and need more staff to address and need to ensure district is not left behind

Cllr. Brazil requested update on Lemybrien, supported Cathaoirleach and asked when a review of development charges is due in Waterford as seem to be most expensive in comparison to other regions. Noted there is a planning application on the website due for decision, but no planner allocated.

Cllr. Power suggested planners have site visits for pre-planning to make recommendations on suitability of proposal for the site.

S. Doran, AO, confirmed that there is significant increase in planning applications over last three years with 2021 the busiest since 2008, working within current resources and have allocated additional planner to work on development management applications over the summer and to support new development plan. No update on Lemybrien further to last meeting. Requested detail on application referred to by Cllr. Brazil. Noted motion passed at end of 2021 to extend current scheme by year and will be on the agenda in coming months for review. Not possible for planners to meet on site due to resources and trying to have pre planning meetings held remotely where possible.

4. SECTION 38 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 – HIGH ROAD, KILMACTHOMAS

G. Hynes, SE, outlined detail of the Section 38, which consists of narrowing the carriageway, upgrade of footpath with purpose of reducing speed and to make road safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The scheme was advertised for public consultation with one submission received that was in favour of the proposed scheme and recommended approval by the members.

Proposed for adoption by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all. Welcomed by all councillors.

Cllr. O’Leary noted that Well Road equally needs same traffic calming measures similar to High Road, supported by Cllr. Brazil.

5. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part VIII – Completion of Process

a) Development of Mahon Bridge Carpark – Commencement of Process

G. Hynes, SE, noted congestion in the area and development of permanent car park of 129 spaces and included provision for bus stop, set down area, small wetlands in middle with biodiversity planting and will relieve congestion for the location. Recommended proposal proceeds to consultation phase as outlined and will be on display for 4 weeks and will come revert to the members for the September district meeting.

Unanimously supported and welcomed the development for the location.

b) Carrick Road, Portlaw Urban Improvement Works – Commencement of Process

G. Hynes, SE, advised that intend to commence Part V111 process for this location with primary objective to reduce speed and make safer for road users while also creating a link from Portlaw centre to the GAA field. Works consist of upgrade of existing footpaths, 2 controlled crossings with raised tables, bus stop with shelter and lighting. Referred that intend to put on display and encouraged public to view and make submissions and will revert to the members for final approval at September district meeting.

Cllr. Power complimented landowners for provision of land for the scheme, suggested meeting with residents to discuss prior to September meeting.

Cllr. Clune welcomed proposed project, will provide safe access to the pitch and not withstanding concerns that some residents have about the project is very welcomed for the area.

Cllr. O’Leary noted proposal is a major positive development for Portlaw and also the GAA club and will provide safe access noted soccer pitch benefited from the footpath developed to their location. Noted some difficulties and concerns with residents and hope their needs can be met.

G. Hynes, SE, noted previous representations and concerns of the residents and members have been considered and reviewed as part of the proposed development and important that members and residents review this as part of the proposal. Outlined that any schemes that progress are dependent on the co-operation of the landowners and have their agreements in relation to this proposal which is greatly acknowledged as only other option is CPO which takes a minimum of 12 months.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Cllr. Clune noted that he had proposed motion in relation to provision for additional lifeguards for 2022 and it has been referred to Plenary council as has budgetary implications.

7. AOB

Cllr. O'Leary extended congratulations to Seamus Power on winning the 2021 Barbasol Championship as part of the PGA Tour and wished him best of luck for the future. Supported by Cllr. Brazil
Cllr Barron complimented Cathaoirleach on first meeting and noted request to have the community awards next year.

Cathaoirleach acknowledged contribution and attendance of officials, support of the meetings administrator and wished all members an enjoyable summer break.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____