

**DÚICHE DHÚN GARBHÁN AGUS LIOS MHÓR
DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE DISTRICT MEETING**

**HELD ON 8th May 2023
at 2.30pm in Civic Offices, Dungarvan.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Declan Doocey (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan
Cllr. Tom Cronin
Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Mairead Tobin
Cllr. Conor McGuinness

Apologies: Cllr. John Pratt

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services Corporate, Planning, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. Ivan Grimes, Director of Services, Housing
Ms. Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Niall Kane, A/Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Mr. Conor O'Neill, Senior Executive Engineer, Economic Development
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its sympathies to the families of the late: Patrick Hynes (brother of Senior Engineer Gabriel Hynes), Jim Cooney, Eddie Lyons, Nicholas O'Connor, Cian Nugent, Helen Donovan and Susan Cronin.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its congratulations to the Waterford Decade of Centenaries Committee on the successful conference in the 1923 Farm Labourers Strike, Deise Day Care Centre on launch of the Saturday Dementia Day service, Dungarvan Darkness into Light Committee on the 11th year of the event, Niamh Kilcawley student from Ardscoil na nDéise for her advocacy on disability issues and raising awareness on accessibility in the public realm. Anita Geoghegan and Eunice Power for running a successful Festival of Food. Minister Mary Butler in her work for delivery of services.

Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Senthil Ramasamy to the chamber who is a participant in the Migrant Councillor Internship Scheme.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 11th April 2023 proposed by Cllr. Cronin seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Phelan requested update on provision of public toilets in Dungarvan.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that he has met with company who provide public toilets and initial proposal with includes for dual cubicle unit (disabled and unisex) will be in the region of €135k for supply and installation with proposed location across from active travel as services are already in place.

Cllr. Geoghegan requested update on addressing the ongoing dumping in the Estuary.

N. Kane, SE, outlined that applied for funding under the anti-dumping initiative, currently cleaning the area as required and plan to use CCTV at the location once it is permitted.

Cllr. O'Donnell proposed the Causeway in Abbeyside as a location for public toilets.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Economic

Cllr. Phelan referred to town village renewal scheme enquiring if it is open to the council to apply to suggesting application for additional camper van parking spaces.

Cllr. McGuinness noted Donegal County Council have scheme where provide funding to convert available land into camper van parking and suggested investigation. Requested report on the Dungarvan Town Centre Management Group (DTCMG) is circulated to the councillors.

Cllr. Cronin enquired if the projects that are not to be funded under Active Travel can be considered under the town and village renewal scheme.

Cllr. Tobin enquired when councillors will have visibility of the feedback on the proposed Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway and if there will be more engagement with the councillors. Enquired if the pedestrian crossing in Tallow by the medical centre could be considered under the town and village renewal scheme.

C. O'Neill, SE, will get details in relation to scheme and if projects as suggested can be included, will investigate scheme by Donegal County Council. Landowner consultations are ongoing in relation to the proposed greenway route, will update councillors when concluded along with proposed public consultation process.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that the existing camper van spaces were applied for under the town and village renewal scheme and will review if additional application can be made. Will have the DTCMG report uploaded to Decision Time. Noted there is a demand in West Waterford for private sector camping facilities and will support if applications are received. Active travel projects cannot transfer across to town and village renewal scheme but will see if some elements are applicable, road crossings are a roads issue.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted end of visit by the Mercyhurst students and the support of the Enterprise Unit and Corporate office in ensuring its continued development.

Cllr. Nugent requested update on the spur off the Greenway to Ballyclamper and surrounds and when will works happen.

C. O'Neill, SEE noted the commencement of the Part V111 for Ballyclamper will be dealt with later on the agenda, hopeful that will go out to contract at the end of summer and will commence on access at Ballyclamper end.

Cllr. Doocey noted it is important that the members are informed of the details of the Mallow to Dungarvan greenway and suggested a visit to the areas concerned.

K. Kehoe, DoS, noted support of Dyan Jones, Gerty Murphy and Tom Keith for the Mercyhurst project.

Cllr. Cronin enquired as to when will see progress and commencement of the Water Activity Centre.

K. Kehoe, DoS, noted that a lot of work has been carried out on the design of the Water Activity Centre for Ardmore, reviewing impact on the village of Ardmore, need to acquire the land and will be looking at improving the area and it will be transformational for the village.

(b) Housing

Cllr. McGuinness enquired about completion date for the Ormonde House development, details on the allocation for the retrofit scheme and what houses will be included in the next phase for it. Previously mentioned that large number of DAS applications relates to bathroom upgrades for removal of baths and replacement with showers, suggested an inhouse team to carry out the works which would reduce the waiting list for this work, enquired as to the percentage of DAS applications that relate to this work. Noted that emergency accommodation needed in West Waterford enquiring if there have been additional options added for Dungarvan.

Cllr. Nugent noted that half of the houses in Congress Villas were previously retrofitted, other half causing serious problems and requested their inclusion in the next phase.

Cllr. Phelan noted that Niamh Kilcawley was recently on Prime Time, requested her inclusion in a walkability audit under the age friendly initiative along with the roads section to come up with suitable solutions. Requested community involvement in the recent funding allocation for upgrade of allotments.

I.Grimes, DoS, the completion of Ormonde site is scheduled later in the year, retrofitting allocation for 2023 not received yet. Council have provided the Department with details on the houses with the poorest energy rated houses and they decide on the houses where works are to be carried out. In process of procuring contractors to carry out the works under DAS, will be in place by middle of year and will speed up process. There are currently no plans to provide a hostel in West Waterford for emergency accommodation as the numbers don't justify such a facility, actively review numbers in the area and increase provision if required. Outlined that Age Friendly is a cross departmental function and will review options for including members of public. Confirmed that there will be consultation in relation to the allotments.

Cllr. Cronin enquired about option for building an extension and if there is a form available.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that there is only one form for social housing as set out in regulation, no scheme to apply for an extension.

Cllr. Tobin requested update on inspection carried out on property in Tallow for housing Ukrainians, enquired who carries out the inspections and need to ensure facilities are suitable for people.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that inspections are carried out by fire safety officer and housing, any properties pledged are inspected prior to placing of families.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted that IPAS are signing contracts for properties and then having council inspect.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that IPAS are under enormous pressure to cater for refugees and are not carrying out initial inspection, the council inspects and highlight issues. The council have staff that are funded by the Department to carry out this work.

(c) Planning

Cllr. Nugent enquired if there is a timeline for a response from An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. McGuinness requested update on taking in charge of Waters Edge and Cruachain.

Cllr. Phelan supported Cllr. McGuinness noting the need for removal of building material and overgrowth on greens that needs action.

Cllr. Doocey noted delay in land tax for areas that are to be serviced.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that there are changes being made to the process with An Bord Pleanála which will result in timeframes for decisions being substantially shortened. Noted that maps have been published for the residential zoned land tax and landowners can appeal to An Bord Pleanála. Have met with the developers for Waters Edge and Cruachán and list of outstanding works agreed. Issues with Uisce Eireann that are being progressed, will follow up on issues requested.

Cllr. O'Donnell questioned how 5G masts can be erected so close to houses noting his concern about health issues.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that planning authorities grant permission for the structure and licence is issued by the EPA who have confirmed that there are no health issues associated with 5G technology and is providing connectivity within rural areas.

(d) Environment

Cllr. Phelan welcomed funding received for anti-dumping initiative, which is welcomed for Ballinroad, thanked all involved on behalf of tidy towns committee. Enquired whether there has been any uptake on enforcement since commencement of the updated litter control byelaws.

Cllr. McGuinness noted €4k for Colligan clean up enquiring if this is part of clean up for illegal dumping or an additional clean up. Enquired if there is any indication as to when CCTV regulations will be ready to allow use of CCTV. Noted the stump grinder in the district and requested stumps from Poplar Trees on N25 are addressed and enquired when chemical amnesty will take place. Enquired what format the pre-draft consultation on climate action plan will be.

N. Kane, A/SEO, outlined that the byelaws encourage people to comply and will be commencing a promotional campaign over the summer months. The CCTV report sent for legal review, waiting on response before can progress to Minister. Will review scheduling of the stump grinder for the location on the N25, details of amnesty for household chemicals to be confirmed. There will be public consultation and councillor workshop in relation to the Climate Action Plan.

Cllr. O'Donnell acknowledged progress on Ballinameela cemetery and commencement of works.

(e) Roads

Cllr. Geoghegan outlined issue with poor condition of entrance and access to the St. Mary's, Church of Ireland. Outlined issue regarding dredging in the inner harbour and need funding to address as impacting on the pontoon.

Cllr. McGuinness supports need to dredge harbour; coastal repairs work gone to tender enquiring when works due to commence. Outlined need for additional disability parking spaces in Dungarvan and if there is a timeline on the works. Noted issue with narrow footpath at terrace of houses on Emerald Terrace and Shandon that may need realignment of road and if can do anything to make it safer. Noted dangerous pothole on N25 near where Poplar Trees were removed.

Cllr. Tobin noted need to calm traffic by pedestrian crossing in Convent Street and need to look at additional car parking in Lismore with events such as the Towers and Tales festival and use of St. Declan Way. Outlined issue with damage to road by Uisce Eireann when carrying out works and not reinstating properly.

J. McGrath, SEE, will review footpath at St. Mary's church. Will apply for dredging funding. repair works in Helvic due to close out by end of June. Will review disability parking in Dungarvan to see if additional can be acquired. Will revert with timeline for addressing footpaths on O'Connell Street and will review options for Shandon Street. Noted that contactor due to carry out works for permanent reinstatement of pothole. Will look at other options for funding and low-cost measures for Convent Street. Outlined that all utilities must obtain a road opening licence for carrying out works which outline terms and conditions to be complied with, initially a temporary reinstatement is carried out which is followed by a permanent finish after 6 months. Currently no capital funding for a car park in Lismore, currently liaising with two stakeholders and will revert when have an update.

Cllr. Nugent supported need for dredging and workshop to look at areas for the jet patcher.

Cllr. Phelan supported issue in relation to access to St. Mary's church and noted need to link back to a walkability audit when looking at additional disabled parking spaces. Requested update on meeting with Minister regarding active travel. Enquired if there is a policy in place in relation to the use of herbicide for the spraying of weeds.

Cllr. Doocey noted issue with potholes and need to address for the summer and added to list for addressing.

J. McGrath, SEE, outlined that the jet patcher is carrying out repairs across the district and welcomed locations on other areas to be addressed. Currently finalising the capital programme for footpath repairs.

Noted that spraying is very limited and is kept to a minimum in towns and villages, there is specific guidance on the treatment of Japanese Knotweed.

(f) Art/Culture

Cllr. Phelan commended local libraries for range of work they carry out and enquired about long term future of library on the Quay in Dungarvan.

Cllr. McGuinness noted it is clear from report as to the level of work undertaken by the library services and complimented work of everyone involved in the recent upgrade works in the Town Hall Theatre. Noted that the government has announced that the next board of Údarás na Gaeltachta will include elected members and looking for two members from Waterford.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed works to the Town Hall Theatre and the exhibiting of the art collection in the venue, would also welcome photographs of previous productions at the location.

K. Kehoe, DoS, acknowledged the Towers and Tales festival and the work of the library staff. Dungarvan library is one of the busiest libraires and is the busiest open library in the country, are currently examining options for the location of the library along with development of an Educational Cultural Centre. Acknowledged work of the council's facility team along with architects for the work on the refurbishment of the Town Hall Theatre.

4. Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – Ballinacourty Greenway Spur – Commencement of Process

Proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr Nugent and agreed by all.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None

7. A.O. B

Cllr. Phelan added a vote of sympathy for Peg Murray.

Cllr. McGuinness informed the members that the RSA are scheduled to have a 'check it fits' clinic next Thursday 18th May from 10am -5.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____

