

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

**HELD ON 13th February 2023
at 2.30pm in Civic Offices, Dungarvan.**

PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services Corporate, Planning, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. Ivan Grimes, Director of Services, Housing & Emergency Services
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Mr. Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Raymond Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Ms. Aisling O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Planner, Planning
Mr. Donal Ó Murchadha, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its sympathies to the families of the late: Mary Dunford, Catherine Connors, former councillor Geoff Power, Kathleen Deasy
The members also acknowledged the tragedy in Turkey and Sierra because of recent earthquakes.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its congratulations to Garda Christina Desmond for winning national title in boxing.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 9th January 2023 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Planning

Cllr. Pratt requested update on Lyrenacarriga wind farm.
Cllr. Phelan requested update on issues facing residents in Waters Edge.

Cllr. McGuinness noted in terms of vacant sites and level of works taken in relation to clearing of a site enquired if this can exclude site owner from the associated derelict site levy.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, outlined that Cúl Rua estate has been advertised for Taking in Charge. Noted that have met with the developer on site at Waters Edge, carried out inspection and outlined details of work to be carried out. No update on windfarm and noted that site as outlined would remain vacant.

Cllr. Cronin quired if Old Creamery site in Clashmore has been taken in charge.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP noted that this site is on list to be reviewed in coming months.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Pratt enquired if an official invitation issued in relation to the recent opening of new disabled swing in Dungarvan.

Cllr. McGuinness welcomed planting of trees on N25 at Killoseragh as a great addition enquiring if there are additional plans for more planting that councillors could feed into. Acknowledged the service of the Civic Amenity Site, facility is very well maintained and managed, suggested more advertising and details on pricing structure. Noticed increase in dog fouling, enquiring as to the criteria for getting a waste bin in areas to deal with this.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested update on provision of public toilets in Dungarvan.

Cllr. Nugent enquired about signage for entering boardwalk at entrance to the church to prevent electric bicycle and dogs not on leads, the area also needs to be power watched as slippery. Noted need for additional signage at entrance to the Greenway in relation to its usage by cyclists.

R. Moloney, SEO, noted that the launch of the wheelchair accessible swing was a photocall with Mayor, there is an annual tree planting programme and would welcome suggestions. Noted comments on trees at Killoseragh and Civic Amenity Site, new dog waste bins can be provided in areas that are currently managed for collection. Noted that gates at Abbeyside Church are not an option but will review the signage in the area. There is a code of conduct for use of the Greenway and will review signage at access points.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired about progress of the tree maintenance programme.

R. Moloney, SEO noted that currently working through it.

Cllr. Cronin requested a commitment for the inclusion of flaps on the bins in Ardmore and Clonea to prevent birds from removing rubbish. He extended his best wishes to Raymond Moloney on his upcoming retirement, thanking him for all his work.

Cllr. Tobin requested details on figure for amount of fines issued for dog fouling.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired if there will be adequate access to the area in Killoseragh for maintenance of the trees planted.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted that the retirement of Raymond Moloney will be a great loss for Dungarvan and Abbeyside and always admired his understated way of doing his business.

Cllr. Cronin noted that recent hedge cutting at Master McGraths has exposed litter and requires cleaning, may also be because of litter collection service enquiring if council has any role in the oversight of the bin collection companies.

Cllr. Nugent, outlined need for hedge cutting in Clashmore, will provide specific details after meeting.

R. Moloney, SEO, noted that most efficient solution to addressing issues at bins is the installation of compactor bins which can be looked at. Confirmed that trees at Killoseragh have sufficient room for maintenance, don't have oversight on refuse collection but if contributing will have the routes reviewed on the relevant days, likely that rubbish is as a result of that thrown from cars and will schedule vacuum tractor to clear in coming weeks. Will refer hedge cutting to roads. Noted that there were 2 dog fines in 2018, 3 in 2019 and 12 in 2020, none in 2021 and 2021 due to Covid.

K. Kehoe, DoS, currently examining possible sites for provision of public toilets, there are issues with services and don't want to remove car parking spaces and needs to be an area with passing surveillance to ensure there is no issue with anti-social behaviour.

(c) Roads

Cllr. McGuinness highlighted issue with dredging at Ceann Helvic and the refusal of the application to the Department, requested that all members undertake to lobby and keep pressure on the Department to amend the regulations so that application can proceed. Highlighted issue with use of cobblelock on Quays in Dungarvan enquiring as to why this material is being used in repairs. Noted concern about the reduction in funding to LIS and Active Travel Scheme and how this will impact on the ground. Petition to Minister for Education regarding the public bus service requesting support, people in outlying areas such as Ardmore need to be given option to attend schools in Dungarvan.

Cllr. Phelan noted issue at Causeway, busy pedestrian crossing at Greenway requesting option to prevent cars accessing. Outlined that lights on the Square remain an issue, enquired when bins will be reinstated in areas such as Ballyclammer, Clonea requesting they are emptied on Mondays. Noted disappointment at reduction of Active Travel funding requesting workshop to review what works will be carried out, asking that official communication is issued expressing dissatisfaction with the process undertaken.

Cllr. Pratt outlined that that smaller towns and villages are going to be the losers in relation to the reduction in Active Travel funding and asked that letter issue from the district. Enquired when will have details on CIS and LIS funding for this year. Two lights in The Mills not working since 2021 and need to be addressed, bollards on road at Railway Gardens bollards needed and consideration of CPO on station road to acquire land for lighting.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that repair works are being carried out to the existing cobblelock on the Quays, as part of flood relief scheme will review the pavement and have flood protection wall. Last year received 2 allocations for LIS in region of €600k, this year's allocation in region of €260k, hopeful to get second allocation later in the year. Will be holding workshop in coming weeks regarding Roads Work Programme, Footpaths and Active Travel. Request to NTA for €2.6m for Dungarvan Lismore, received allocation of €900k, will go through in detail at workshop. Noted that the statutory position in relation to the Causeway and yellow box where parking is not permitted, traffic wardens to patrol and will look at bollards. In relation to lights in the Square all existing lights being surveyed as part of the LED programme, looking at design as to light omitted and will look at what needs to be done. Bins in car parks put back at Easter and will look at collection times. Noted there are significant issues with storm water sewer at Railway Gardens and need to do cost estimate on works. Will review issues in The Mills.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted need to review upper part of O'Connell Street and Michael Street as part of the Footpath programme when presented. Lighting in The Square is dull and dreary and needs to be addressed, suggesting string lighting like the Quays to be put installed.

Cllr. Nugent noted success of McDonalds and drive through which is causing an issue with tailback onto N25 at times and needs to be addressed. Footpath outside St. Marys Church is an issue that needs addressing. Raised issue of lack of parking in An Rinn by the Halla, National School and graveyard

Cllr. McGuinness noted that council has roll in addressing the area and supported Cllr. Nugent.

Cllr. Tobin requested pedestrian crossing and signage at West Street in Tallow, taking in charge of Cois Brid. Noted that significant funding spent in Tallow on the relief road and need to engage on getting it used. Highlighted concern regarding road from Lismore to Tallow and top of Tallow Hill where there was a crash recently. Chapel Hill is an issue and needs to be one way. Issue of top of Tallow Hill supported by Cllr. Pratt and Cllr. Doocey

G. Hynes, SE, noted that workshop will include Footpath Programme, Mitchell Street included last year and funding is ringfenced for works to be carried out this year. Lighting in Square being reviewed and once complete will revert with details. Issue at McDonalds is due to inadequate car parking and backs up at peak time and will discuss plans with them to see what can be done to address. Noted that car parks for schools and community groups are not the responsibility of the council but will engage to see what options are to provide spaces and land must be provided by community. Department of Education also have a role to ensure provision of adequate spaces. He noted that road surface in Tallow replaced and signage put in place over the normal standards, have intervened to ensure that what is in place is in accordance with standards. Will review accident reports for the junction. Chapel Street was included as Active Travel project, can make one way and can consult on this and come back to meeting when consultation completed, can discuss at workshop.

J. McGrath, SEE, will review signs up on West Street.

Cllr. O'Donnell raised issues regarding Murphy Place in Abbeyside, supported Cllr. Geoghegan regarding lighting issue in the Square.

Cllr. Cronin supported Cllr. O'Donnell regarding Murphy Place requesting that is reviewed. Requested details on the meeting with TII, acknowledged works at Kiely's Cross to improve sightlines. Powers Cross (Cleary's Cross) spoke to landowners, no issue with providing lands to improve junction. Disappointed with LIS allocation for Waterford, lowest allocation in the country and need to go back to Minister requesting additional funding. Raised concerns regarding wheelchair access in town and some of older estates, issue with access to footpaths requesting survey to be conducted.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that Murphy's Place scheme in place under previous smarter travel, in short term no plans to alter, looking at overall permeability scheme for town and will include as part of review. Lights being reviewed and action will be undertaken once completed. Due to meet TII in Dublin in April and will revert after meeting. Works underway at Kiely's Cross, Cleary's cross difficult location and may warrant improvement works and can discuss with TII and review accident report for location. Can review wheelchair on a phased basis and correct to reach standards. LIS allocation is disappointing with over 50 schemes waiting to be carried out, current allocation will only allow 3-4 schemes to be undertaken.

Cllr. O'Donnell raised concern in relation to recent accident in Seanchluain in Ring, requesting additional signage and road markings to be put in place noting that landowner will provide land to remove the bend.

J. McGrath, will contact An Garda Siochana to review junction in Ring.

Cllr. Phelan requested letter is issued to the NTA on the reduced allocation of Active Travel funding, seconded by Cllr. Pratt.

(d) Economic

Cllr. Pratt requested update on feasibility study regarding Greenway extension.

Cllr. Nugent requested update on greenway spur at Ballyclammer

Cllr. Tobin enquired if council would consider a Covid memorial on the railway loop walk in Cappoquin.

R. Walsh, SEO, noted that consultants will come before the members to update on feasibility study for Greenway extension from Mallow to Dungarvan, there will be consultation with landowners along the route and then will go out to public consultation. Tender assessment at Ballinacourty completed last week and due to be awarded, design work for months and construction will be 6-9 months.

K. Kehoe, DoS, agreed with Cllr. Tobin's proposal and will contact architects to look at contemplative space.

Cllr. Phelan outlined that works at Ballinacourty Spur are taken a long time to complete and hopes they can progress quickly, requested that grass verge can be cut along the route in the interim as it is narrow. Requested update on the new water activity centre for Ardmore.

Cllr. McGuinness outlined this request to be able to attend the town centre management group and to be able to review minutes. He noted that Waterford Crystal site in Kilrush, in ownership of board of trustees, zoned for social and community use, does council have roll to bring building back into use and is there an issue with dereliction.

R. Walsh, SEO, will speak to Greenway maintenance crew to address issues as outlined, in discussions with Failte Ireland and architects team regarding the water activity centre.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that the town centre management group meets once a quarter and the elected members for the committee are elected at the AGM, set up in accordance with Town Centre Process. Can bring update report back to the members.

Cllr. Doocey enquired if the council has a Biodiversity officer.

K. Kehoe, DoS, clarified that the council has had person who has been carrying out work in the area of biodiversity for the last 10 years and will review if site is derelict.

(e) **Housing**

Cllr. Phelan outlined that heat pumps and retrofitting of houses is causing an increase in costs for householders enquiring if the council are assisting tenants to ensure on right tariff. Requested a walkability audit for Dungarvan in conjunction with roads.

Cllr. McGuinness enquired about timeline for social housing units being developed in Dungarvan, supported issue regarding heat pumps and need to look at commissioning to ensure being done correctly with proper guidelines. Requested update on affordable scheme for Ardmore, asked if there is an ability for fire service personnel to provide additional service be registered to work as emergency responders due to lack of ambulance service for the area.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on additional housing in Brid View Close and Alms houses in Tallow, when will be completed and allocated. Enquired if have reached capacity for fire fighters in Tallow and Cappoquin and if not does it prevent response to an event.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that contractor doing retrofitting give instruction to householders and advice on more practical advice to work efficiently. Will revert regarding apartments and Alms Houses and include in next report. There are issues in relation to the fire service acting as first responders but will discuss with CE. Noted that there are difficulties in maintaining retained fire fighters and continue to review. Team are feeding into age friendly project and will review inclusion of wheelchair access audit. Looking at options for delivery of social housing. Ardmore scheme going out to tender which will be followed by application to Department for the affordable housing subsidy.

(f) **Taking in Charge**

Cllr. Phelan welcomed taking in charge report, suggested inclusion of detail in relation to the process, when commenced for process, legacy issues and then prioritise on the length of time in the process.

Cllr. McGuinness welcomed addressing wastewater issues in Fainne na Farraige enquiring as to next steps, noted non-compliance issues in An Leachan enquiring as to what is being done to address them.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that a lot of work involved in the historical and legacy issues, will look at including detail on when grants. Due to resources working through the list of estates that need to be taken in charge and addressing issues as arise.

4. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 as amended – Part V111 Construction of Relief Road and Car Park at Duffcarrick, Ardmore, Co. Waterford – Commencement of Process

Item Deferred

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None

7. A.O. B

Extension of time proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted disappointment with funding to Walsh Park and issue with parking at the location, investment needed in Fraher Field.

Cllr. McGuinness noted that there have been busy sporting events in Dungarvan and complimented Gardai for making traffic flow and managing parking. Supported by Cllr. Geoghegan and noted that Dungarvan would have benefited more for having Fraher Field developed.

Cllr. Phelan thanked Raymond Moloney for his dedication to district and Waterford and all the support provided to the Tidy Towns. Supported by Cllrs. McGuinness and Pratt.

Cathaoirleach thanked Raymond Moloney for all his co-operation and help, gave great contribution to council and big loss and experience will be missed.

K. Kehoe, DoS, joined with members and on behalf of all the executive, Raymond worked across all areas of council, epitomises work of local authority, knowledge of procedures, knowledge of local issues, will be a huge loss and gave a phenomenal service.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted his disappointment in the approach taken by IPAS in relation to the housing of refugees in Lismore, there was no communication and the community, council and the members were treated very poorly.

Cllr. McGuinness concurred with Cllr. Geoghegan, people kept out of the loop, not informed and not engaged with. It opens an information vacuum which leads to distrust and government need to address their approach.

Cllr. Phelan noted that approach from Department was unhelpful showing a lack of trust in communities, communities if engaged with will outline issues and challenges and how to approach. Need an all-government approach with cross party representation.

Cllr. Pratt noted that there was no consultation, council was not informed, it was a national decision. Need to respect that people are willing to listen and this needs to happen going forward.

Cllr. Tobin outlined that a complete disrespect was shown to councillors as no-one contacted or consulted. A culture of fear was created in the community due to lack of consultation. Supported by Cllrs. Cronin and O'Donnell.

Cllr. Tobin outlined her opposition to proposed modular housing into Tallow, current services are under pressure.

Cathaoirleach appreciated comments as outlined noting the concerns as raised by the members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____