

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

**HELD ON 9th January 2023
at 2.30pm in Civic Offices, Dungarvan.**

PRESENT:

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

Apologies: Cllr. Declan Doocey

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services Corporate, Planning, Culture, HR & IS
Ms. Claire Hartley, SEO, Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Mr. Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Raymond Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Mr. Donal Ó Murchadha, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Mandy Nolan Reade, Corporate

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its sympathies to the families of the late: Thomas Pratt, Paul Brunnock, Michael Brennan, Amelia O'Keeffe, Mary Keegan and Mary Theresa Nolan.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 12th December 2022 proposed by Cllr. Nugent seconded by Cllr. Cronin agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Phelan enquired if the review of the Taking in Charge policy has been progressed and if there is any way in expediting the taking in charge of Páirc na mBláth as there is an ongoing issue with the public lighting enquiring if emergency lighting can be provided in the interim.

Cllr. McGuinness enquired if there has been engagement with developers and the progression of snags in estates waiting to be taken in charge.

Cllr. Nugent enquired who the contract for swimming pool was awarded to.

K. Kehoe, DoS, new Taking in Charge policy being finalised and due to come to the members for adoption, can progress taking in charge subject to criteria being achieved, will follow up on public lighting issues and will have updated taking in charge report for members.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that wouldn't be providing emergency lighting and will look at progressing taking in charge in relation to existing lighting.

R. Moloney, SEO, tender has been identified awaiting on letter of acceptance will revert with further details.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Housing

Cllr. McGuinness requested update on application for houses in Sean Phobal and enquired if there are details on the number of vacant council houses in Dungarvan and the district. Enquired if the council provides bedsit type apartments to tenants and noted case in England regarding inhalation of damp mould and if any strategy to tackle issue of damp and impact on health is in place in the council.

Cllr. Pratt outlined details in relation to case where not entitled to social housing but due to circumstances enquired if council could purchase houses.

Cllr. O'Donnell supported issue raised regarding houses in Sean Phobal.

Cllr. Phelan supported Cllr. McGuinness, need to be informed and aware of issues, based on CRM reports or tenant complaints requested report on the percentage of cases that relate to mould. Enquired when units in Ormonde House will be allocated and if there are any other similar projects planned for Dungarvan this year.

Cllr. Cronin supported Cllr. O'Donnell and Cllr. McGuinness in relation to houses in Sean Phobal, outlined that land available in Aglish that would be suitable for a small development. Outlined that fund available from the Department to purchase and acquire sites to build houses requesting council to look at Aglish for a potential development.

C. Hartley, SEO, outlined that the Sean Phobal proposal is at pre stage 1 with the Department and no additional information received. Will revert with details on the number of vacant houses outlining that there is currently a 16-week turnaround on vacant houses. Studios are permitted under the current regulations and have a number across our stock. Housing Maintenance Programme deals with reported issues of mould, noting that there are a number of reasons for the occurrence of mould outlining that the tenant's handbook provides information on the prevention and treatment of mould, will revert with issues on reports of mould and damp as requested. Will revert offline with Cllr. Pratt in relation to case outlined and noted that the council has a limited acquisition programme which is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Ormonde House units due for allocation in Q3/Q4 2023, no details of any other similar property developments. Will discuss land in Aglish with the capital delivery team noting that need to identify housing needs for the area.

Cllr. McGuinness enquired if studio apartments are allocated to housing tenants for long term use and not just emergency as in many cases, they are not appropriate for long term use.

C. Hartley, SEO, noted that studio apartments in St. Johns are of a very high standard with good space and where a person has a one bed need, they allocate as a long-term solution.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired as to how many stages in process for new housing developments.

C. Hartley, SEO, outlined department has a four stage process.

(b) Planning

Cllr. Cronin noted review being carried out by the Department of who can and cannot object to a planning application and issue with serial objectors from outside the location which is impacting on housing for locals. Issue with An Bord Pleanála and time taken to make decisions on developments that they are dealing with.

Cllr. Pratt enquired if any update on the proposed Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm in Tallow.

Cllr. Nugent enquired as to how many submissions were made by 31st December on the proposed new Residential Zoned Land Tax and when submission by the council will be ready.

Cllr. McGuinness welcomed the review of the planning legislation and the streamlining of the process, asked that the district write to the AILG requesting that councillors are consulted in this new legislation as comments of councillors need to be taken into account.

Cllr. Phelan noted that An Bord Pleanála needs to review their processes along with needing additional resources and this needs to be considered by government.

Cllr. Cronin added that should also write to LAMA as well as AILG.

Cllr. Tobin enquired about the numbers of applications on e-planning since started in December, need to ensure that do not exclude applicants enquiring if applications can still be made by post. Cllr. Pratt enquired if the public are still permitted to view planning applications.

K. Kehoe, DoS, confirmed that planning applications can be viewed in person. The current number of e-applications was 12 before Christmas, outlined that the online system saves on printing and scanning costs and is more efficient for both applicants and planning staff. Under the Planning Act will continue to receive hard copy applications. He noted that it is important to have engagement in the current review and can request that the AILG and LAMA are consulted as part of the process and aware that the planning regulator and An Bord Pleanála are part of the review of new Planning Act. Informed the members that the timeline and process for the Residential Zoned Land Tax is included in this month's planning report, outlined that 61 submissions had been received, they will be reviewed and applicants will receive notification on their submission in April.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that there has been no update in relation to the proposed Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm in Tallow.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that he is not aware of a precedence for objections to one off houses in rural areas, multiple unit applications are different and generally receive submissions.

Cllr. O'Donnell commented that An Bord Pleanála should be reviewed as part of the process.

(c) Environment

Cllr. Pratt noted that the area between Tallow and Lismore was being heavily littered and requested update on the use of CCTV to deal with black spot areas such as this.

Cllr. Phelan commended the council on the Tom Murphy Litter Competition noting the long-term educational learning for the participants. He enquired about plans for the installation of information plaques in relation to the Moresby Buoy and surrounding area as per his motion last year and noted that the fountain in the park is spraying water and needs to be repaired.

Cllr. Nugent noted that illegal dumping is occurring within wooded areas, not obviously visible from the main arteries and needs to be addressed.

Cllr. Tobin requested figure for fines issued last year and prosecutions for dog fouling highlighting an ongoing issue in Tallow on the main road to the school.

Cllr. Geoghegan highlighted need for railing on the Fr. Twomey's walkway in the interest of health and safety.

Cllr. McGuinness supported need for railing and noted that received correspondence ahead of fireworks display last month regarding the impact of fireworks on animals enquiring if the council could investigate quieter fireworks options for events. Supported issue of dog fouling highlighted difficulties for wheelchair users and people with buggies, need to remind people of their responsibilities and fines associated.

R. Moloney, SEO, outlined that the Minister has not yet commenced the Circular Economy Act, CCMA currently reviewing documents and further consultation required with the Department. Notes comments regarding the Tom Murphy competition and associated impact on lifelong learning for the participants. Outlined that currently working with the Abbeyside Pattern Committee in relation to the history of Moresby Buoy and surrounding areas with the view of developing for the plaques, will review issue at the fountain. Will utilise CCTV when relevant legislation is in place, requested details on locations of illegal dumping in wooded areas. Aware of ongoing issue of dog fouling in Tallow and will reinforce message of dog owners' responsibilities, will arrange inspection of wardens.

Cllr. Tobin suggested involvement of the school and school children in the dog fouling awareness campaign so they can bring the message home.

R. Moloney, SEO, will review Fr. Twomey's walkway and noted that regularly run publicity campaigns on dog fouling and dog owner responsibilities, will revert with figures as requested. Will refer Cllr. McGuinness query regarding silent fireworks to Economic Development. Outlined regular publicity campaigns are run regarding dog fouling, fine is €150 will revert will number of fines issued.

(d) Roads

Cllr. Phelan thanked roads engineers for addressing issue of potholes in Ballinroad requesting that the road in Ballinacourty is reviewed as resurfacing works are needed in the area requesting a longer-term solution for the location. Outlined that size of the car parking spaces in Scanlon's Yard needs to be reviewed and certain spaces marked for use by small cars only.

Cllr. Cronin highlighted need to review surfacing of road in Southways suggesting inclusion in the 2023 Road Works Programme (RWP), also highlighted the poor surfacing on the N25 Grange to Youghal road.

Cllr. O'Donnell highlighted need for footpaths in Ballinamuck and addressing of dangerous road at the Cappagh bend.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on works at Scallywags, need to repair road at Railway Gardens and enquired if the Active Travel project is progressing on Chapel Street in Tallow.

Cllr. McGuinness acknowledged limitations regarding gritting of housing estates, outlined that some other local authorities are working successfully with communities where secure bunkers are provided at entrances to housing estates and local authority fill with grit and residents manage during severe weather, suggesting consideration of a pilot in several of the difficult estates. Highlighted difficulties for wheelchair users with cobbled entrances to the Hillview Drive estate in Dungarvan requesting the kerbs are dropped in an area away for the cobbles. Noted danger with Roberts Cross when coming from Sean Phobal to Dungarvan where need to improve sightlines and need solution to improve road safety. Requested workshop and discussion on the Outdoor Recreation Scheme and how best to avail of it for West Waterford.

Cllr. Nugent noted issue with protestant graveyard in Ballinameela where a number of the boundary walls have collapsed causing concerns to families who have family members buried there enquiring if council has a responsibility to address. Enquired if the jet patcher is in use in the Dungarvan area as there are issues that need addressing. Requested inclusion of footpath at the parish church in the RWP. Commended wonderful work of Active Travel in Abbeyside and Dungarvan.

Cllr. Geoghegan supported issue regarding graveyard in Ballinameela.

Cllr. Tobin highlighted issue where railing on private property has been damaged in Tallow, landowner not living in the area, it is causing a problem and needs to be addressed. Road from Moorehill Cross to Kilwatermoy Church needs addressing.

G. Hynes, SE, informed members that currently waiting on notification of grants for 2023, will hold workshop with members to discuss areas of concern as outlined today. Outlined that there is a problem with potholes in general due to severe frost followed by rain which has impacted on the condition of the roads and dealing with issues as arise. Jet patchers are in operation and requested notification of areas of concern and will address on a priority basis. Resurfacing works carried out in Scanlon's Yard, aware of some issues at the location, advised that the spaces are in accordance with standards and can review. Aware of surfacing issues on the road from Grange to Youghal and will review as an option for inclusion in RWP. Footpath may not be justified in Ballinamuck due to the volume of pedestrians but will review. Cappagh bend on N72 is an issue that will need to be addressed by a programme under safety budget from TII, have been prioritising junctions onto the N25 and N72, it is on list and will need land acquisition. Currently engaging with landowners at Cushcam Cross, reviewing designs and drainage issues. In discussions with landowner and TII regarding Tara Bridge where there is a sightline issue at entrance onto the N25, may be considered for future project. Railway Gardens not in taken in charge, has been reviewed and there are significant issues with collapsing sewer and significant funding will be needed to address, currently reviewing and in discussion with planning regarding associated bonds. Will consider pilot with resident's associations in relation to gritting and salting. Will review kerb issue at Hillview Drive and junction at Roberts Cross. Will review projects for Outdoor Recreation Scheme.

R. Moloney, SEO, stated that investigated ownership of the boundary wall at Ballinameela graveyard and it is the responsibility of the church and have referred issue of damage to the graves to National Monument Screening.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that damage to private property is responsibility of the owner but will review issue.

Cllr. Geoghegan outlined that the parking meters in Scanlon's Yard are not working.

J. McGrath, SEE, outlined that contractor due to commence works at Scallywags and currently finalising drawings for the Active Travel Project in Tallow.

(e) Economic Development

Cllr. Phelan noted that some of the Christmas lights were not working over the Christmas period, requesting that a review of all lights is undertaken before removal and report on lifespan of all stock undertaken.

Cllr. Pratt acknowledged works on Ramp Boreen enquiring and what work is left to be completed, requested update on the Cappoquin Railway walk.

Cllr. McGuinness requested answer on question regarding fireworks, update on Theatre works and timescale for completion. Enquired if meeting of Town Centre Management Committee took place and if it can be attended by members of the public.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired if on schedule for Theatre to be open for Easter.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that Theatre upgrades are on track for completion by Easter, Town Centre Management Group is not a public meeting. Fireworks display was hugely successful very positive feedback and will enquire regarding silent fireworks. Feedback on Christmas lights has been positive and will request report from Economic Development it would be highly unusually to get approved electric contactor report.

D. Ó Murchadha, outlined further works are to be completed by Contractors regarding Ramp Boreen, welcomed funding for Cappoquin walk undertaking appropriate works to complete planning and processing with tender process. Welcome opportunity to hold workshop on Uras Scheme outlined scheme low level of uptake workshop would spur interest and make communities aware of scheme.

Cllr. Tobin requested update on when applicants to the Village Renewal Scheme in Tallow can expect to receive their grants.

D. Ó Murchadha, outlined Tallow selected for scheme, received letters of offer and will be revert to applicants.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None

6. A.O. B

Cllr. Phelan noted installation of new IT equipment requesting that the Dungarvan Town Council tapestry which was removed is replaced in the chamber. Cllr. Geoghegan agreed with Cllr. Phelan call to have tapestry replaced.

Cllr. Pratt welcomed and commended the work of the JPC with new Garda sergeants seeing greater improvements in area with anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. O'Donnell highlighted issue of public lighting not working in Sean Phobal.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____