

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER 2022 in Civic Offices Chamber, Dungarvan**

PRESENT

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ivan Grimes, DoS Housing, Community & Emergency Services
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads
Ms. Maria Goff, SEE Roads
Mr. Raymond Moloney, SEO, Environment.
Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning.
Mr. Richie Walsh, SEO, Economic
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Billy Kyne, Jean O’Loughlin, Pat Walsh, Sean Murphy, Eileen Cheevers and Pat Morrissey.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Portlaw Junior Camogie Team on becoming Junior County Champions for 2022 in their match against Abbeyside.
Rathgormack Junior Girls on winning County Ladies Football match and the Ballymacarbry Ladies on winning 41 titles in a row.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 21st September 2022 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Housing

Cllr. Power requested details on the one-off grants for vacant properties and who is dealing with queries.

Cllr. O’Leary acknowledged work of Elaine Sheridan in the administration of the disabled person grants and enquired as to her replacement.

Cllr. Brazil requested if any update has been received from Irish Water in relation to Kilmacomma.

Cllr. Barron requested update on development of convent in Kilmacthomas and on houses in Bye Lane.

Cllr. Clune noted the challenges in relation to the disabled persons grants and priority one applications noting the two-year waiting list for some cases, many of which relate to essential works for applicants. He enquired if there are any other resources that can be availed of to improve this area.

I.Grimes, DoS, stated that the grants referred to are the Croí Cónaithe grants announced in September, they are targeted at long term vacant or derelict buildings, basic grant of €30k available which is increased to €50k if property deemed to be derelict. The grant can also be supplemented by SEAI grants and noted that the Minister has extended the geographical eligibility to include outside of towns. The administration of the grants is dealt with by the Vacant Homes Officer Robert Zelanzy and all queries are to be emailed to vacanthomes@waterfordcouncil.ie, he will circulate details of the scheme to the members. He noted there has been a change of staff in relation to the Adaptation Grants and will circulate new staff details to the members. He outlined details in relation to the funding of the Adaptation Grants noting that should receive funding proportionate to the number of houses, he also noted that demand for adaptations for own stock is greater than the demand for private houses. Currently putting priority into the grants area noting that priority is given to the higher medical one cases and also looking at other options for dealing with back log. Housing capital team are contacting Irish Water regarding Kilmacomma and will keep on the agenda. The project for the convent in Kilmacthomas is currently being designed so that it can issue to the Department for approval. He outlined that there is an issue in relation to the connection to water for the houses in Bye Lane.

Cllr. O’Leary noted that Fán Glas estate in Kilmeaden have had a boil water notice since last March, work has now commenced by Irish Water in relation to replacing pipe work and asked when normal water service will resume.

Cllr. Clune noted issues with Irish Water and recent alerts from them, conditions of towns and villages and the fact that Irish Water won’t meet with the members. Took persistence of the residents in Fán Glas and political pressure to have works in Fán Glas addressed.

Cllr. Brazil noted that issue in Fán Glas illustrates how far Irish Water are detached from us, enquired if there is any vacant land available in Comeragh for developing and asked for report on this for next meeting.

I.Grimes, DoS, will provide details on land availability for next meeting, note and acknowledge comments in relation to Irish Water outlining they had been invited to attend the council meeting but declined invitation to attend on basis that have processes to discuss such matters.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Brazil enquired if there is any update on the use of CCTV and a pilot system can be rolled out for the Comeragh district in relation to illegal dumping when permitted to do so.

R. Moloney, SEO, outlined that there is a working group established nationally to draft a guidance document for the roll out of CCTV, expected to be completed in the New Year and will continue normal inspections in the interim noting that council will be ready to roll out once approval issues. He informed

the members that the bulky goods collection is scheduled for Saturday 22nd October in both Dungarvan and Waterford City civic amenity sites, it will run from 10am - 2pm and a fee of €5 applies.

(c) Roads

Cllr. Clune requested update on the Carrick Road contract, enquired if the new lights for William Street in Portlaw will have the same illumination strength. Noted that feedback received in relation to Carroll's Cross is positive enquiring if speed limit signs should be erected at the junction.

Cllr. O'Leary noted a number of calls received about lights not working in Graigueshoneen, Kilmacthomas, requested update on works at R680 and High Road junction and the Carrick Road. Enquired when the speed limit review will commence noting that receiving a number of complaints on speed limits being exceeded and not being enforced.

Cllr. Power noted that Scrouthea hill over Clonmel should be reviewed suggesting concrete channels are needed to address water runoff, requested update on Pine Wood, Kilmacomma and LIS/CIS schemes, complementing the works being carried out across the district.

Cllr. Brazil acknowledged works being carried out, enquired when traffic calming works will commence in Lemybrien and the carpark at Mahon Falls. Noted need to inform landowners to commence hedge cutting, enquired about the status of the current Roads Work Programme (RWP) and outlined that road relining is needed between Griffins Garage and the Five Cross Roads.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that currently having regular meetings with design team for Lemybrien noting that there are a number of complications in relation to details on water and sewer connections and bridge at the Applegreen garage, revised programme start in Q3 2023 and will keep updated as progresses. Confirmed that the hedge cutting season has commenced and it open until the 28th February, issuing notices to landowners, acknowledged work being done by landowners and will pursue those that are not complying, getting good co-operation from Coillte and landowners. Current RWP is 90% complete, weather permitting will be completed early November and satisfied that will fully complete works. Outlined that costs have increased by 30% on average, hopeful will get an increase on grants for next year and asked members to seek support politically. CIS and LIS will be completed in coming weeks. Noted road condition and drainage in Scrouthea Hill, additional houses putting extra demand on road, can consider works for next year and will depend on grants and roads budget, noting that as it is a Cúl de Sac may be suitable as a LIS. Have carried out speed monitoring at Carroll's Cross noting that since works were completed the engineering measures have resulted in a speed reduction of 20%, current speed limit at the junction is 100kph. Due to commence speed limit review next month, will include a consultation period and will come back to the members for approval. Outlined that speed limits are affective; the council's roll is to put the appropriate measures in place. Speed limits are a reserved function with one exception of national primary and secondary roads where TII have to consent to any changes. He noted that with the installation of new public lights, there can be a delay by ESB networks for new infrastructure to be connected and continuously engaging to ensure connected in a timely manner. Outlined that the need to use the Deadsure app to log complaint for contractor to address. Funding in active travel programme and on list and depends on funding.

M. Goff, SEE, noted that the award of contract for the Carrick Road is due soon, finalising accommodation works and works due to commence mid-November. Williams Street lighting design by contractor as part of active travel works is for LED lighting

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that LED lights will have greater intensity, will improve lighting where there are dark spots and give greater coverage.

M. Goff, SEE, noted that Pinewood estate near completion, lighting contractor appointed for new lights, installation in coming weeks and then connectivity of ESB networks, surfacing works by mid-November. Mahon Falls out to tender, submission closing date Friday 21st October and will be followed by tender assessment. Will review Five Cross Roads to Griffith Garage.

Cllr. Power noted hedge cutting complaints in relation to Fiddown Bridge to Carrick, particularly from lorry drivers, need to outline that overhanging branches also need to be cut. Outlined that received a number of reports of lorries losing concrete on road enquiring if this can be addressed. Lights out in housing estate on the Mountain Road noting there seems to be an issue with the underground cable.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that hedge cutting needs to include overhanging branches, are sending out notices and specifying the cutting of these also. Requested the members to inform roads section of any locations that need to be addressed. Requested details on location and suppliers regarding issue of concrete on roads as can issue letters to have issue addressed and repairs carried out, if necessary, Public lighting where small issues will be repaired quickly, if there is an issue with underground cabling this takes longer and can depend on availability of budget and will review Mountain Road.

(d) Planning

Cllr. Barron requested update on Taking In Charge of Cruachán View in Kilmacthomas and requested report for next meeting. Enquired if issue of illegal access to road in Bunmahon has been addressed. Cllr. Clune requested update on Taking in Charge of Cois Cille.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. Barron regarding illegal area in Bunmahon, noted reduction in planning applications and if there is a reduction across planning.

A.O'Sullivan, SEP, noted there is no real reduction in one off planning applications, steady with applications in the Comeragh district. Acknowledged and noted concerns regarding Bunmahon but as it is a live enforcement case cannot comment further. Cois Cille still with planning and recommendation to come some, will review Cruachán View and Cúl Rua once Cois Cille is completed. Taking in Charge is a process that takes time to complete.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if there are any plans for return to physical meetings in relation to pre-planning.

A.O'Sullivan, SEP, a physical meeting can take place, noting that the online meetings have worked well, back log has reduced and now at 1-2 weeks.

(f) Economic

Cllr. Barron welcomed report on Mount Congreve, impressed with plans in place and will be a great attraction for Waterford, requested update on opening of playground at Durrow.

Cllr. Clune acknowledged recent funding application for Portlaw and Dunmore East which has potential to transform these areas.

Cllr. O'Leary supported works at Mount Congreve enquiring when it will be open to the public.

Cllr. Power compliment works in Mount Congreve and its addition to the tourist attractions of the area.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on meeting with Coillte regarding Crough Wood and car park in Kilclooney Woods.

R. Walsh, SEO, noted the new café and gardens are due to open in coming weeks, the full facility is due to be completed ahead of the summer season with official opening due in Spring 2023. Official opening of the Durrow playground is due soon, Minister Humphries has requested it as part of her visit in November. Number of issues discussed with and are currently focusing on the potential linking of Kilmeaden on Greenway and Carrick on Suir on the Blueway as anticipated that a lot of the route will go through their lands. Primary issues at local level including Crough Wood and Kilclooney not currently on their priority list and large funding required for the projects.

Cllr. Brazil noted that Coillte received €80k funding for upgrade of Crough Woods and enquired how this will be progressed.

R. Walsh, SEO, confirmed that funding was received to resolve issues at Crough Wood, however actual costs far exceed the funding, will need to have a local level consultation and get Coillte official to meet with members to discuss. Need to negotiate with Coillte for a solution.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

8. AOB

Cllr. Clune outlined that in recent weeks the dental service in Portlaw has closed and is proving difficult to determine reason as to why this is the case. Noted that no notice given by the HSE and requested a letter is issued to the HSE for the reasons for the closure.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____