

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 20TH JULY 2022 in Civic Offices Chamber, Dungarvan**

PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. John O’Leary

Cllr. Seanie Power

Cllr. Ger Barron

Apologies: Cllr. Declan Clune

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ivan Grimes, DoS Housing, Community & Emergency Services

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, A/SEE Roads

Mr. Luke O’Brien, AO, Environment.

Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning

Mr. Richie Walsh, SEO, Economic Development

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Tony Whelan, James Tobin, Shauna McGrath.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations to Waterford U14 ladies team and their coaches on winning All Ireland and to Cllr. O’Leary on becoming Mayor of Waterford City & County Council.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 15th June 2022 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

Minutes of District Annual General Meeting held 15th June 2022 proposed by Cllr. Power seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Barron enquired when Taking in Charge will be on the agenda.
H. Dunphy, MA confirmed it will be listed for the September district meeting.

3. REPORTS

(a) Economic Development

Cllr. O’Leary acknowledged work relating to the new Greenway connection into Kilmeaden, noting the connection will be of great benefit to community of Kilmeaden and Ballyduff. He would welcome an official opening of it when completed.

Cllr. Barron requested update on the development of the distillery in Kilmacthomas and installation of the children’s playground in Durrow.

Cllr. Power acknowledged work of Bernadette Drohan, and all involved in the Comeragh Wild festival and Cullinan family for making land available at Crotty’s Lake.

Cathaoirleach supported all comments in relation to the Comeragh Wild festival, requested update on reopening of Crough Wood and provision of car parks at Kilclooney Woods and Mahon Falls.

R. Walsh, SEO, outlined that roads and rural development working together for completion of Greenway connection into Kilmeaden. He acknowledged that there are certain difficulties in relation to the proposed distillery as Gortinore Distilleries has gone into examinership and report back on future options. Will pass thanks onto Bernadette Drohan and acknowledged that there is a further need to develop the biking trail in the Comeragh mountains. He noted that working with Coillte to progress Coumshinguan access, Crough Woods and feasibility study for Waterford Greenway and Blueway connection in relation to lands in Portlaw to progress it and will report back to members. Will revert with update on Durrow playground.

Cllr. Power welcomed report in relation to the Greenway/Blueway connection which will be a great tourist attraction for both counties.

Cllr. O’Leary requested progress on Mount Congreve.

R. Walsh, SEO, suggested a visit to Mount Congreve to show all elements of the project for the Comeragh members. This was welcomed and agreed.

(b) Housing

Cllr. Power outlined that costs have increased for adaptation grants which is making it difficult for people to cover costs.

Cllr. Barron requested update on the current provisions for the Ukrainian refugees.

Cllr. Brazil raised issue in relation to Kilmacomma and ongoing odour issue which needs resolution, acknowledged thanks for works commencing on house in Stradbally that was burnt down last year.

Cllr. O’Leary welcomed development of houses in Kilmacthomas enquiring if all have been allocated and if there is any scope for further developments for the Comeragh area.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that construction inflation is impacting on grants, it is a national issue that has been raised with the Department as it is an issue across the sector. Currently at capacity in relation to the Ukrainian response, centres set up in Dungarvan and city are currently full, hope to open new centre in August on The Quay and planning to move families out of rest centres and into pledged houses and other long-term accommodation. Complimented all staff involved and Waterford Area Partnership who are ensuring that refugees can avail of all the necessary services and are also overseeing the inspection of properties that have been pledged. He noted that the council continues to raise issue regarding Kilmacomma as responsibility for resolving it rests with Irish Water. He confirmed that the new houses in Kilmacthomas have been fully allocated, as noted at Plenary meeting the new Social and Affordable Housing Delivery Plan 2022-2026 has provision for 57 units for Comeragh district. It is intended to have the housing capital team give a presentation to the members in September.

Cathaoirleach noted issue in Kilmacomma needs to be addressed with Irish Water.

(c) Environment

Cllr. O'Leary acknowledged launch of the 2GoCup campaign to encourage the use of reusable cups hoping the public will support this campaign. Supported By Cllr. Power

Cllr. Brazil noted his concern with the continual occurrence of illegal dumping highlighting the need to get more serious about issuing of fines, he enquired if there is an update on the new CCTV legislation suggesting a pilot system in Comeragh area once permitted.

L. O'Brien, AO, outlined that the purpose of the 2GoCup campaign is to reduce the use of single use containers, initial initiative taken on by ten local cafes and hope these outlets will demonstrate to other outlets to increase the number of places involved. The Circular Economy Bill has passed through the Oireachtas, currently waiting sign off which will enable us to bring in the use of CCTV in litter hotspots. Will use CCTV where possible and will see how we can operate within the legislation and then review priorities across the county.

(d) Planning

Cllr. O'Leary enquired about the policy in relation to pre planning meetings, and how a meeting versus a phonecall is decided upon.

Cllr. Power noted that there is a difficulty in getting planning permission for log cabins and would like the issues looked into.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on the matter previously raised in relation to Bunmahon where no planning permission is in place.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, outlined that there has been a back log in relation to pre planning, the planners make a phonecall to applicants for a standard pre planning enquiry and this accounts for the bulk of pre planning queries. For larger pre planning queries there will be either an online meeting or in person meeting. The planning office is exceptionally busy with no downturn in relation to planning applications. Noted that have in the past granted permission for log cabins, however they are dealt with on merit as in many instances they are not appropriate. The site in Bunmahon has been inspected and is currently being dealt with under the appropriate statutory process.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if there can be an expectation of planning after the pre planning meeting.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that that the purpose of pre planning is to see if comply with planning policies, only way to get definitive answer is to lodge an application.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if the new Development Plan is in place in relation to the granting of planning permissions.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, confirmed that all decisions being made since the 19th July are decided upon under the new Development Plan.

(e) Roads

Cllr. Barron welcomed design proposal for St. Annes Terrace requesting that junction at the end of the Terrace is considered also, noted need for signage for new loop walks to show walkers and need to look at outside of extended footpath outside primary school in Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired about the feedback on the new junction at Carroll's Cross, issues being caused due to restrictions on hedge cutting and is causing issues at some junctions, requested update on Carrick roundabout at Kilmeaden.

Cllr. Power noted there are hedge cutting issue due to growth at junctions, requested update on LIS and CIS and noted that footpaths in Clodagh Drive, Clonea Power are in poor repair.

Cllr. Brazil supported need to carry out hedge cutting due to narrowing of roads and needs to be addressed, requested update on Lemybrien traffic calming and car park at Mahon Bridge and Mahon Falls. Noted no EV charging points in Kilmacthomas, and bus stop needed in Ballymacarbry.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that there is general positive feedback in relation to the works carried out at the Carroll's Cross junction, scheme substantially complete, next stage will involve a speed limit assessment to measure if the engineering measures have induced a slowdown of traffic, if speeds remain excessive will look at reduction in speed limits as part of the speed limit review later in the year. Hedge cutting is prohibited until 1st September, however where there are significant safety issues on the public road network and junctions hedge cutting is taking place. Noted that the TII are in contact with the PPE contractor with regard to the Carrick on Suir roundabout in Kilmeaden and have advised the group to do a safety design, hopeful that works will be carried out in the current year. Have applied and waiting response on additional funding for LIS, finalising schemes under CIS for the current year. Expect construction to commence in Q2 2023 at Lemybrien and works will take approximately 6 months to complete. Provision of EV charging points is not responsibility of the council, national policy to be agreed as regards their roll out. Agree that as bus stop is warranted in Ballymacarbry and is the remit of Rural Transport Ireland and the NTA and will take up with them. Tenders are currently out for the car parks at Mahon Bridge and Mahon Falls, hopeful construction works will commence end of the year with completion for the 2023 summer season.

M. Goff, A/SEE, noted that will review revising junction at St. Annes Terrace, signage for river walks to be reviewed with economic development section. Will look at footpaths at primary school for inclusion in next year's programme of works. Clodagh Drive is included under capital footpath programme and plan for works in August/September.

Cllr. Brazil requested that road in Bunmahon where landowner has widened ditch is reviewed.

Cllr. O'Leary thanked the roads section for works at the Kilmeaden connection to the Greenway enquiring when it will be open for use.

M. Goff, A/SEE noted that new Greenway extension is due to be open in coming week, currently snagging and there are plans for additional parking at the location.

4. SECTION 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Traffic Calming Scheme – R680 Old Kilmeaden Road – Completion of Process

G, Hynes, SE, outlined the proposed road improvement works along the R680 noting 5 submissions were received. Having considered the submissions recommended the scheme proceed as advertised with some additional changes.

- Slip Road from R680 to L4026 to be closed with right of way extinguished, with residential access only being maintained.
- Proposed footpath to be extended along the grass verge to the cycle route, subject to landowner agreement.
- Footpath will be extended towards the church subject to available land and landowner agreement.

Cllr. O'Leary welcomed and proposed the new scheme which will make the junction safer onto the regional road.

Cllr. Power seconded the proposal which will add to the improvements of the road network.

Cllr. Barron noted that it is vital that this junction and road is upgraded

Agreed by all.

5. N25 Garranmillon Lower to Lemybrien Pavement Scheme – Proposal to alter traffic movements at Garrahylish Junction L7032 / N25

G. Hynes, SE, outlined the details of the pavement scheme noting that the proposed alterations to the Garrahylish junction are to make it safer and eliminate the right-hand turn. This junction is a legacy design and not in accordance with new TII standards, number of options looked at and acknowledged that in the medium to long term need to progress the upgrade of N25 which would address the safety issues with right hand turns along the route.

Cllr. Barron acknowledged problem with the junction, but proposal will cause local issues, agrees with need to upgrade of the N25, would welcome public input as part of consultation.

Cllr. Brazil outlined his disagreement with the proposal to close the road and result in putting heavy vehicles onto narrow roads and what is being presented by TII is not acceptable. Need a dual carriageway and proposal will affect local people greatly. All options are unacceptable, junction needs to be widened and provide a hatch area for right turning and opposed to the proposal, TII need to review for another option.

Cllr. O’Leary noted the need to have our roads as safe as possible; the proposal is not straight forward and diverts traffic onto very local narrow roads and needs to be re-examined.

Cllr. Power proposed that would need to meet on site to look at the options as proposed and alternatives.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that right turn movements on national primary roads are high risk movements, safer alternatives have been identified as presented. Accept that it is an inconvenience for a number of users. Provision of a right-hand turning lane is guided by national standard which requires a number using it to facilitate it, in case of this junction the numbers are small and therefore does not necessitate provision. If view of meeting is proposal is unacceptable it won’t proceed to a Section 38. Going forward will have no right-hand turn lane with no hard shoulder and current road markings to be removed under new signage requirements.

Cathaoirleach requested confirmation on the acceptability of progressing the alteration to the junction, all councillors against. The proposal will not proceed to a Section 38 in its current format.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

8. AOB

Cathaoirleach wished all an enjoyable break over the remainder of the summer.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Resolution of the Elected Members
Waterford City and County Council, Comeragh District
15th June 2022
Ref: R2022/13

In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 that Waterford City & County Council enter into a section 85 agreement with Tipperary County Council to allow Tipperary County Council and their appointed consultants to complete the Feasibility Study in the functional area of Waterford City & County Council in relation the development of a recreational trail connecting the Waterford Greenway and Tipperary Blueway.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Comeragh District of Waterford City & County Council that Waterford City & County Council proceeds with this section 85 Agreement as detailed. Proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed unanimously. THAT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED AND WITH RECOMMENDED REVISIONS PROCEEDS.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach Comeragh District

Witnessed:

Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator