

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2021 BY ZOOM CALL**

PRESENT

Cllr. John O’Leary, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. Seanie Power

Cllr. Ger Barron

Apologies: Cllr. Declan Clune

Roll call carried out by meetings administrator.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Ivan Grimes, DoS, Housing

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, A/SEE Roads

Mr. Raymond Moloney, SEO, Environment.

Mr. Niall Kane, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment

Mr. Liam McGree, Senior Planner, Planning

Mr. Finn Brophy, Executive Technician, 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:

- Dolly Fahy, Rathgormack
- John Barry, Kill
- Michael Flannelly, Waterford

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations to the following:

- Ballinacourty Team on winning Senior match against Rathgormack

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 21st July 2021 proposed by Cllr. Power, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

Amendment of Standing Orders to take Item 4 before Item 3 on the agenda proposed by Cllr. O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

4. COILLTE PRESENTATION

R. Moloney, SEO introduced members of Coillte to the meeting PJ Trait, John Galvin, Conor Hennessey. Overview of work of Coillte presentation given by PJ Trait.

Councillors requested direct contact details for Coillte, highlighted issues regarding illegal dumping, maintenance of water on cleared lands, need to improve security at entrance to forests, illegal dumping and noted improvements at a number of locations in relation to security and access to areas.

Cllr. Brazil welcomed meeting, noting his concern about illegal dumping on Coillte lands and need to have more barriers at locations that are locked to prevent vehicular access.

Cathaoirleach highlighted impact on local roads because of the works carried out, issue with fires in forest areas enquiring as to the risk for the locality and measures to address it.

PJ Trait, outlined that felling license application includes reestablishment plan, ground preparations details, mainly issues associated with unusual weather events where have water runoff, aware of impact of works carried out and work closely with neighbouring landowners and local authority. Noted that contact email regarding issues is info@coillte.ie . Outlined that littering is an issue for Coillte and agreed that locked barriers are key to addressing the issue and can be challenging to ensure that locks remain in place at all locations. Noted that Coillte have an overloading policy in Coillte for haulage trucks to ensure adherence to weights on minor roads, in certain cases make contributions to local roads repair schemes in consultation with local authority. Limited number of large-scale fires and have fire readiness plans in place and plan forests with forest breaks to minimise impacts.

Cllr. Power noted issue regarding lack of parking at Kilclooney Woods and issue with open drain with stagnate water at Coolfin Woods in Portlaw.

Cllr. Brazil highlighted issue with water run off and impact on lands and roads and supported Cllr. Power regarding at Kilclooney Woods and enquired about motorbike track in Glendalligan Woods.

John Galvin, Coillte noted that money spent over last number of years to improve parking area at Kilclooney Woods and working with stakeholders to address the issues at the location.

PJ Trait noted issue at Coolfin Woods will be addressed offline and in relation to Glendalligan Woods no consultation has taken place in relation to a motorbike track and Coillte does not permit quadbikes in its forests and erects signage to this affect.

Amendment of Standing Orders to take Item 5 and 6 before Item 3 on the agenda, proposed by Cllr. O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

5. CASUAL TRADING BYELAWS – AMENDMENT KILMACTHOMAS

F. Brophy, ET, outlined proposal to relocate 4 designated spaces from old train station in Kilmacthomas to be used in car park on Main Street. The original market proposed for train station hasn’t progressed. Recommended relocation that will support and develop a thriving market on Main Street in Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. Barron proposed amendment, outlining his support to regularising the vendors in the current market, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

6. SECTION 38 – R679 / R677 OLD CORK ROAD KILMACTHOMAS TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

G. Hynes, SE, outlined proposal to undertake road improvement works consisting of new widened footpaths, uncontrolled pedestrian crossing which will link east of the village to the Greenway and narrowing carriageway which will encourage vehicles to slow down. Public consultation carried out with notification to An Garda Síochána, no submissions received, and recommended scheme approved as advertised.

Proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

Cllr. Barron enquired as to option for controlled crossing rather than uncontrolled.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if work on Well Road could be carried out to assist with traffic calming.

G. Hynes, SE, will review Well Road to see what is feasible, noted that the current number of pedestrians crossing does not necessitate the requirement of a controlled crossing but will review and revert separately.

3. REPORTS

(a) Planning

Cllr. Power raised concerns regarding Section 254 Licenses where telecommunications companies are seeking permission as a section 254 license rather than planning permission and enquired as to the process being followed as it doesn't provide for public notice or opportunity for submissions.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on development plan, issue of requirement for one off houses and issue if the Office of the Planning Regulator will change what is in new development plan. Requested update on Lemybrien application.

Cllr. O'Leary stated there is an issue with recent statement from the Office of the Planning Regulator statement that need us not as much

L. McGree, SP, noted that the planning regulations recently changed to allow for telecommunications structures to be applied for under the Section 254 provisions. Currently dealing with them if they are non-contentious, they will have certain conditions attached. If applications are any way contentious the Section 254 licence will be refused and then it needs to be resubmitted as a planning application. Office of Planning Regulator required by law to make submissions on all draft Development Plans. Planning office met with their office prior to their submission which was productive, points raised are points of general application across the country that council needs to comply with. Will review their submission along with all other submission, briefing members of Planning SPC in early October and follow with briefing to all members. No update regarding Lemybrien and will revert to Irish Water and come back to members.

Cathaoirleach suggested feedback on the Development Plan at district level. Noted that there is due to be investment into Irish Water by government which will assist with issues such as Lemybrien and Dunhill.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Power noted continuing issue with smell from sewers in Kilmacomma and need for investment in these areas to address the problem.

Cllr. Barron requested update on the proposed new fire station in Kilmacthomas Fire station.

I.Grimes (DoS), outlined that development of the new fire station in Kilmacthomas is in the Departments fire capital programme. The Part V111 documentation is currently being finalised for commencement of the Part V111 process in the coming months.

(c) Roads

Cllr. Power requested update on recent road works notifications on Map Alerter.

Cllr. O’Leary noted need for traffic calming at the Tramore Cross R680 Orchardstown Cross requesting it to be reviewed.

Cllr. Barron noted congratulations to roads section on works in Kilmacthomas to date. Requested update on proposal for traffic calming on bridge in the village, noted issue with Well Road / St. Annes Terrace and requirement to tackle as one section requires addressing.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that Roads Works Programme for the Comeragh area will be completed in 2 weeks with the exception of LIS and CIS schemes which will commence thereafter into October. Advised that tender has issued for Carroll’s Cross and anticipate construction to commence in October. Sightline works have been undertaken at the Tramore Cross at Orchardstown in last 2 years, additional works will need investment, need either staggered approach or roundabout and will look at medium term proposals and would need land acquisition. Acknowledge comments regarding work in the district and will review Well Road and Main Street in Kilmacthomas with area engineer and will advise regarding options at next district meeting.

Cllr. Power noted a number of submissions received on the Carrick Road proposal and suggested need to meet with residents regarding the project.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that submission date closed and will review submissions internally, can meet with residents and members on site to discuss and address concerns.

M. Goff, A/SEE noted that Section 38 recently approved by the members for traffic calming on Main Street in Kilmacthomas and works scheduled to commence in coming weeks. Well Road, new footpaths in 2017 and new public lighting scheduled in coming weeks and will review options for other traffic calming measures.

Cllr. O’Leary welcomed proposal to meet with residents from Carrick Road and enquired as to when annual meeting with TII will take place as need to progress improvements to the Orchardstown Cross.

G. Hynes, SE noted that Orchardstown Cross is a regional road so falls to the remit of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Annually receive €360k under low-cost safety which allows for 3-4 schemes in each district. Works at Orchardstown would require a specific improvement grant from the Department as the costs would be in the region of €1m. Would need to design a solution and put together a scheme for funding and therefore it is part of a medium-term plan.

(d) Housing

Cllr. Power raised need to address need for safety railing at Coolfin Woods.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on Kilmacomma housing estate and issued with sewers, pedestrian entrance into River View estate and along Walsh’s Place is not suitable and residents should use river walkway instead.

I.Grimes, DoS, will have housing engineers contact Coillte regarding Coolfin Woods. No update on Kilmacomma and will get response issued. In relation to the pedestrian connectivity for the new housing estate in Kilmacthomas, housing engineers looked at suggestion for alteration and proposal is not feasible as national guidance for new housing developments promotes connectivity by way of cycle ways,

walkways and lighting. The proposed footpath was discussed at initial design and planning stage and view was important to integrate new residents into existing community and provide most direct route to amenities. Second reason that footpath connection was included in the site plans and form part of approved planning of the scheme and if changed would contravene planning.

Cllr. Barron suggested that could invite additional entrance onto river walkway to facilitate people with an alternative.

I.Grimes, DoS, will look at proposal into the future after current contract has been delivered and will discuss with engineers.

(e) Arts & Culture

Report noted

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

7. AOB

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____