

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021 BY MS TEAMS**

**PRESENT**

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

Roll call carried out by meetings administrator.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Ivan Grimes, DoS, Housing  
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads  
Ms. Maria Goff, A/SEE Roads  
Mr. Raymond Moloney, SEO, Environment.  
Ms. Melanie Cunningham, AO Planning  
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late:

- Jackie Whelan
- Joan Hallissey
- Liz McCue
- 

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

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

- Nire club on winning Senior Football Championship Final
- Portlaw Enhancement Committee awarded 100k for Town Centre First regeneration fund

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

None

### 3. REPORTS

#### (a) Planning

Cllr. Clune noted that planning applications have increased substantially and enquired if there are specific planning staff allocated to each district or if applications are dealt with by a central pool. Enquired when additional planning staff will be in place.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. Clune on requirements in planning and need to provide additional resources. Noted that not satisfied with the definition of rural housing for the draft Development Plan, it needs to be defined as was in 2011 Development Plan.

Cllr. Power noted that plan for rural areas very important to enable communities and villages to stay alive.

M. Cunningham, AO, outlined that there are planners allocated to each district, but all planners assist where required, additional planning staff are due to start in the new year. Received Department funding to provide staff to deal with short term lets compliance and will also have resource to deal with derelict and vacant sites. Will revert in relation to the issues raised about the Development Plan.

Cathaoirleach stated that issues relating to the Development Plan will be dealt with at the workshops.

#### (b) Environment

Cllr. Clune welcomed successful prosecution in relation to illegal dumping on the Copper Coast, noting the fine was very small and enquired if the costs of the clean-up could be claimed, acknowledged the work of all involved in having the case pursued and enquired as to why the council cannot name and shame those involved.

Cllr. Power agreed with Cllr. Clune and raised issue in relation to need to upgrade the wastewater system in Bunmahon.

Cllr. Barron supported Cllr. Power regarding Bunmahon, acknowledged met with Irish Water to deal with the issue but unsatisfactory outcome and need to have the project prioritised.

R. Moloney, SEO noted comments in relation to the illegal dumping prosecution and while a small fine there was a custodial sentence, confirmed that the costs awarded included the legal fees and clean up costs. The council is prohibited from naming and shaming and noted that the case was covered by court reporters who published the details. Confirmed that the issue of wastewater in Bunmahon was raised and referred to the Senior Engineer and Director of Services in Water Services.

Cllr. Clune requested a breakdown of the costs for the clean-up along with the associated legal costs and requested that a copy of the circular outlining details on naming and shaming is circulated to the members.

R. Moloney, SEO will circulate details as requested.

Cllr. Barron requested update on provision of recycling facilities for aluminium cans.

R. Moloney, SEO outlined that a new deposit return scheme will be in place in 2022 for recycling of plastic bottles and aluminium cans so council will not need to put provision in place.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired about the details of the new deposit return scheme.

R. Moloney, SEO informed the members that details of new scheme have yet to be published but noted that service providers will have a kiosk that will enable people to deposit items and in return receive a coupon or discount.

**(c) Roads**

Cllr. Clune recognised works in the district and efforts of all involved. Outlined issue with the High Road in Kilmeadan being used as a diversion route when there is an incident on N25, the road is unsuitable for heavy traffic and traffic should be diverted through Portlaw Village. Enquired about prospect of traffic warden service for Portlaw National School.

Cllr. Barron supported work in the district, welcomed new footpath that will join up the East Greenway link enquiring when it will be finished and when the pedestrian crossing will be in place. Noted his congratulations on works on High Road in Kilmacthomas but noted issues on the road that requested are reviewed.

Cllr. Power supports issue regarding traffic on High Road when used for diversion, requested update on commencement of works at Carroll's Cross and if temporary warning signage could be put in place until works start.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. Clune highlighting need that the Kilmeadan High Road is not used for traffic diversions. Thanked all staff for great work done in the Comeragh district over the past year, enquired if a winter maintenance plan is in place for bad weather and requested update on works at Lemybrien.

Cllr. O'Leary supported need for alternative diversion route, welcomed new national road safety strategy plan which hopes to reduce accidents on roads by 50%, enquired how the council will benefit from additional funding due to be available for the plan.

Cllr. Power noted issue with need for salting of road in Clonea Village.

G. Hynes, SE, acknowledged comments regarding works over last year acknowledging work of the engineers, administrative staff and outdoor staff. He outlined that it is not uncommon for An Garda Siochana to have to divert traffic onto local roads as a result of road traffic accidents, he notes comments and will liaise with the Gardai to discuss. Will confirm with HR on approval for Traffic Warden and revert. Confirmed that contract awarded for Carroll's Cross, contractor due to start in early January and in interim will not be putting up temporary signage. Winter maintenance plan in place for priority 1 & 2 routes, not reasonable or feasible to salt outside of these areas and noted that during normal working hours and where area have resources can look at areas around schools and village and can make salt available to local communities. Confirmed no further update on Lemybrien as land agreements not finalised.

M. Goff, A/SEE noted that in relation to the R679 East Greenway link at Cooltubbrid there has been significant site clearance work with installation of services for drainage and public lighting with macadam surface in new year and will review turnoff to Hillside Estate on the High Road as requested.

Cathaoirleach concluded by complimenting both Gabriel Hynes and Maria Goff on work carried out in the Comeragh district this year noting that improvements are evident across the district.

**(d) Housing**

Cllr. Clune enquired about the operation and process for the retrofitting of houses noting he would welcome an increase in the number of units addressed under the scheme, requested update on progression of new housing units in the Portlaw area.

Cllr. Brazil outlined that the issue at Kilmacomma housing estate in Ballymacarbry is still ongoing noting that the emptying of the tank is not the long-term solution and need to link into Clonmel system. Requested update on the river walking and pedestrian entrance at new housing estate in Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if there is a change in policy where and Occupational Therapist needs to review all grant applications regardless of size.

I.Grimes, DoS outlined that the Department request submission of houses for the retrofit scheme based on their energy rating and then select the houses to be retrofitted for the year. It is a multi-annual programme and will take a number of years to complete. Will revert in new year with plans for houses in Portlaw.

Acknowledged issue at Kilmacomma and will engage with other agencies to seek solution. Agreed that Paul Johnston will review river walkway and access at new housing estate in Kilmacthomas and revert with recommendation. Outlined that Occupational Therapist assessment is standard for each application and is required for draw down of funding.

Cathaoirleach outlined that the requirement for the assessments for all applications is delaying the processing and completion of works.

I.Grimes, DoS noted that there is a shortage of Occupational Therapists and are making efforts to speed up the process where possible.

#### **4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED - Carrick Road Improvement Works – Completion of Process**

G. Hynes, SE outlined details of the proposed urban improvement scheme along the Carrick Toad L4033 in Portlaw. The scheme will link the urban centre with outskirts of the town and provide a safe route link to the GAA sports ground. It will provide for a safer environment for pedestrians and protect vulnerable road users. The proposed works as presented will consist of the upgrade of existing footpaths, new footpath construction, uncontrolled pedestrian crossing, controlled crossing points with raised table, build outs, tree planting and narrowing of carriageway. The project will deliver and encourage people to walk and cycle to the GAA grounds. Outlined that received 28 submissions, undertook consultation, and held workshops. Having reviewed the issues have omitted the bus shelter and bus stop from the proposal and will undertake a separate full review of Portlaw in relation to their future provision. Outlined other issues of concern at Forge Bar and regarding parking at a number of houses mid-way on scheme, revised scheme as presented provides for a buffer between residence and footpath to alleviate problem and can address issues relating to drainage as the scheme progresses. Recommended that members approve scheme as outlined with revisions as noted.

Cllr. Clune recognised efforts in relation to working on the project, welcomed review of bus shelters and raised roundabout, would support scheme if nothing changes outside mid-way houses proposing they that are left as is.

Cllr. Power welcomes the scheme enquiring if proposal from Cllr. Clune could be supported and raised issue where local business needs more room for unloading of materials.

Cllr. O’Leary notes issues raised and enquired if scheme can proceed with variation as outlined resulting in no impingement on the houses affected.

Cllr. Brazil welcomed proposal and notes it is impinging on a small number of houses and not fair to put footpath in front of their doorway.

Cllr. Barron welcomed proposal to make road safer noting a number of meetings with residents to address concerns.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that unloading of materials should not be occurring on public road and business should widen access so can drive in safely for unloading. Have advised that in relation to driving over footpath this provides increased risk of pedestrian /cyclists being knocked down and hence why insisting on parking being on public road and have accommodated inclusion of a buffer area. Undertook an independent safety audit that fully supports the proposal as presented noting that the footpath needs to be on inside, cannot allow a scheme to go ahead where there is an increased risk. Proposal to eliminate the affected house is not acceptable as cannot proceed with a scheme where there is an identified safety issue and funding authority wouldn’t approve expenditure.

Cllr. Barron proposed the meeting is adjourned for 10 minutes to allow the members to meet in committee to discuss the issues, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

The meeting administrator requested that the live streaming of the meeting is paused to enable the adjournment of the meeting.

Meeting reconvened after 10 minutes.

Scheme proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all that the proposed Part V111 proceed as presented.

Meetings Administrator confirmed that the members have agreed by resolution to approve the Part V111 as presented with revisions as noted by Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer.

Extension of Standing Orders to enable conclusion of the agenda proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

#### **5. SECTION 38 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 – Traffic Calming Scheme along R675 Bunmahon**

G. Hynes, SE, outlined details regarding the proposed road improvement works along the R675 in Bunmahon Village, noted that no submissions received, and recommended approval of the scheme as presented.

Scheme was proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

The meetings administrator confirmed that the members formally resolved to approve the scheme as outlined and presented.

#### **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted

#### **7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

#### **8. AOB**

Cllr. Brazil extended a vote of sympathy to Liam Flynn from Comeragh district and extended his sympathies to his family and work colleagues, supported by the Cathaoirleach and all the members.

Cathaoirleach wished everyone a very happy Christmas and thanked the media for all their support over the year.

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  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

In accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended), and the Part V111 planning report for the Carrick Road Urban Improvement Scheme the following outlines the details as presented to the Comeragh District on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. THAT 'the proposed works will consist of the upgrade of existing footpaths, new footpath construction, uncontrolled pedestrian crossing, controlled crossing points with raised table, build outs, tree planting, bus shelter, designated bus stop, road markings and road signage'.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Comeragh District of Waterford City & County Council that the scheme as presented and after consideration of all the submissions the scheme will now include a raised surface roundabout and the provision of 2 bus stops will be removed pending an overall review of bus stop/shelter requirements for Portlaw. Proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed unanimously THAT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED AND WITH RECOMMENDED REVISIONS PROCEEDS.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor John O'Leary**  
**Cathaoirleach Comeragh District**

**Witnessed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Honor Dunphy**  
**Meetings Administrator**



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge  
Waterford City & County Council

**Resolution of the Elected Members  
Waterford City and County Council, Comeragh District  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

In accordance with the Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 THAT Waterford City and County Council propose to undertake road improvement works along the R675 within Bunmahon Village. The proposed works consist of the following: a controlled crossing point with raised table, build outs, narrowing road junction, renewed road markings and road signage.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Comeragh District of Waterford City & County Council that the scheme as presented is adopted. Proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed unanimously THAT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED PROCEEDS.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor John O'Leary**  
**Cathaoirleach Comeragh District**

**Witnessed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Honor Dunphy**  
**Meetings Administrator**