

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2020 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,
DUNGARVAN**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. John O’Leary

Cllr. Ger Barron

Apologies: Cllr. Declan Clune

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Mr. G. Hynes, SE, Roads.

Ms. M. Goff, A/SEE Roads.

Mr. R. Moloney, SEO, Environment.

Mr. H. O’Brien, EP, Planning

Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

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

- Keith Casey, Ballyduff

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of District Meeting held 18th November 2020 proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. PLANNING

- (a) **Planning Lists** – noted.
- (b) **Section 38 Traffic Calming Scheme Carroll’s Cross**

G. Hynes, SE outlined details of the proposed Section 38 for traffic calming scheme at Carroll’s Cross noting that the scheme will result in reduction of carriageway widths, construction of five traffic calming islands, public lighting, new footpath/cycling facility, drainage and landscaping works. The aim of the engineering measures is to provide a safer environment at Carroll’s Cross. This is an interim measure and long-term view is that the N25 needs to be reviewed and examined from Kilmeaden to Dungarvan.

Proposing to put out to public consultation next week, taking submissions for period of 4 weeks and anticipate coming back at the February council meeting with recommendation for approval.

Cllr. Barron welcomed the work and noted the comprehensive proposed scheme, asked how it will be advertised and enquired if will be adverts and use of social media as need to get it out to as many people as possible.

Cllr. O'Leary acknowledged this is a long time coming, enquired about cycling facility and if only for the length of the 500m. Supports need for a bigger development in relation to the N25 noting that the right hand turning lanes are an issue that need to be addressed. Enquired as to what happens the submissions when received and after submissions could it result in a different proposal being considered.

Cllr. Brazil noted the need for reduction in speed at the location and outlined the need for a slip road at Kilmacthomas junction.

Cllr. Power supports issues raised by other members, welcoming public lighting at the location and requested the proposed plans to be put up in the website and on social media platforms.

G. Hynes, SE noted that advertisements will be in local newspapers, drawings and report will be on website and will look at use of social media platforms with a 4 weeks for display and further 2 weeks for submissions. All submission will be reviewed, responded to and brought back to members for final approval of the scheme. Submissions will be taken on board provided they do not compromise overall safety of scheme. He outlined that in relation to speed and speed limits and with the introduction of traffic calming, there will be gateway signs on both approaches, public lighting, narrow carriageways and solid central islands. All these engineering measures will encourage a driver to slow down, speed will reduce naturally and may not be necessary to reduce the current speed limit. Outlined that once measures are in place the speeds will be monitored and will be commencing review of speed limits across the county next year so Carroll's Cross can be reviewed as part of this process. In the long term, the N25 needs to be reviewed as right turn movements are high risk and ideally these need to be reduced. Members need to work politically on getting this work onto the national medium term agenda, the executive have included in report to the TII that a review needs to be undertaken on the stretch of road. He outlined that the junction at Kilmacthomas could be considered as part of the overall review of the N25. On approval of Section 38 intention to proceed to contract documents and indication from TII is that there will be funding for the scheme in 2021. Overall expenditure is estimated at €1.3m which includes significant pavement works at the location. He confirmed that the cycle path is for the 500metres between the gateways.

Cllr. Barron agrees with issue at Kilmacthomas junction and welcomes addressing this, need to be ambitious and aim to having a dual carriageway, appealing to all members to put political pressure on with individual parties to get commitment to this infrastructure change.

4. REPORTS

(a) Environment

Cllr. Power outlined concern with continuation of illegal dumping noting occurrences in his local area.

Cllr. Brazil thanked R. Moloney for opportunity to give presentation to the Environment SPC regarding burning in the mountains noting it is due to be brought to the Plenary council meeting in the New Year.

Cllr. O'Leary noted increase in the report of littering and dog fouling, enquired about the cost associated to the council for removal of abandoned vehicles and the process involved in their removal.

R. Moloney, SEO will investigate illegal dumping. Outlined that the increase in complaints recorded on CRM does not necessarily show an increase in events but there is an increase in awareness and reporting of issues by the public. Outlined that there is no cost to the council in relation to abandoned vehicles, end

of life vehicles can be disposed of free of charge at an authorised end of life facility. Benefit of dealing with authorised facility is that liquids, batteries can be disposed of appropriately.

(b) Roads

Cllr. O’Leary looking forward to 2021 and enquired if funding will be available for the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) as they are an efficient way of locals getting roads improved. Noted that bridge repaired at Knockaderry Lake, thanked the executive for works and asked if it will be open for Christmas.

Cllr. Barron enquired if there will be an allocation of funding for the low cost safety schemes and how people can access the scheme.

Cllr. Brazil asked for update on the Lemybrien traffic-calming scheme and noted the great work carried out in the Comeragh district, thanking the engineers and outdoor staff. Asked for update on broken light in Kilrossanty.

Cllr. Power thanked all outdoor staff and roads staff for work during the year and looks forward to the New Year and Road Works Programme for 2021.

G. Hynes, SE noted that there is no indication for the LIS yet, normally get in February/March and have a number of schemes waiting to be competed. The scheme relates to roads not taken in charge by the local authority and there needs to be two landowners on the road to qualify for LIS. Receive allocation for low cost safety scheme in January and will be dealt with as part of roads workshop in the New Year where will outline successful schemes for the area. Update on Lemybrien will be on January agenda, will update in relation to the programme and delivery dates. Welcome comments in relation to outdoor staff, noting that considering the difficult year the full roads work programme was completed along with significant additional work as a result of the stimulus plan.

Cllr. Power enquired if there is any way around two landowners qualification under the LIS.

G. Hynes, SE agreed with the difficulty of the qualification criteria, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs set criteria and council is obliged to adhere to the criteria as if not the funding can be withdrawn. Suggested politically representation to the Minister of Agriculture from the members to see if the scheme can be amended as it is omitting some legitimate schemes where roads need improvements.

M. Goff, A/SEE outlined that Knockaderry expected to be open before Christmas. Have emailed details regarding the public lighting fault to Killaree and acknowledged work of all roads staff in a difficult year.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Brazil requested update on the Kilmacthomas scheme and enquired if the grant applications allocations has been fully spent and what happens any unspent funding.

Cllr. Barron enquired about proposal worth investigating regarding keeping river walk open during the construction period of the new housing development.

Cllr. O’Leary noted in the report application to council for 59 houses in last year with tenancy of 9, welcomed 16 houses proposed for Kilmacthomas but feels that it does not address the full need. Enquired about the number of applications for social housing in Comeragh area. Asked for update on the housing in Lemybrien and what is being done in relation to the An Bord Pleanála decision on the development.

I.Grimes, DoS informed the members that the tender for Kilmacthomas development closed in November, tenders being assessed and contractor to be appointed and on site in the New Year and will contact Cllr. Barron in relation to options for keeping walkway open during works. Outlined that there are two separate grants, grants for adaption of own stock and will spend full allocation for the year. There are also private housing grants which are generally underspent as dependent on the private owner, are demand driven and up to the grant applicant to have works carried out, unspent funding is returned to the Department. Will

revert to Cllr. O’Leary with details as requested and has no details in relation to Lemybrien, as it is a private development.

(d) Planning

Cllr. Brazil raised issue in relation to pre-planning meetings and difficulty in getting appointments that is unfair on the people and would like to see meetings carried out over the phone. Enquired as to what Irish Water (IW) needs to do in relation to the housing in Lemybrien being progressed, essential that look after rural small towns and villages.

Cllr. O’Leary asked if flood plains can only be reviewed under the Development Plan process.

Cllr. Power noted need to upgrade waste water systems in villages to enable additional development and factor into the new Development Plan.

H. O’Brien, EP outlined that development management staff are under pressure in relation to pre planning meetings, will follow up on and revert directly. Current situation in Lemybrien relates to connection agreements that the developer can make with IW; council is having extensive dialogue with IW regarding the provision of services to villages. As part of the Development Plan, the council has commissioned a strategic flood risk assessment across the county which will consider historic flooding and the impacts of the flood zone on development. Also will look at the implementation of the flood risk guidelines.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if Irish Water are doing investigations in small village across the county and the council prioritising Lemybrien and Dunhill.

H. O’Brien noted that working with Irish Water to develop and innovate around needs of small towns and villages, there is a small towns and village’s growth programme where Lemybrien is one being considered and this is a decision of Irish Water.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

7. AOB

Cllr. Power raised issue in relation to St Bridget’s hospital in Carrick on Suir and announcement that it is to close, it will be a huge loss for people in surrounding areas and is another hit to our rural areas.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. Power, also noted that Christmas time is not ideal time to purchase pets and risk of stray pets to rural farming. Acknowledged that reporter Kevin Kirrane is missing and extended his support to his family, outlining Kevin’s continuous support and fair reporting.

Cllr. O’Leary noted that regrettable that hospital is closing but HIQA and HSE determined it was no longer achievable to have a safe service in the facility. The building to be used as a community health network for the area with creation of seven new jobs

Cathaoirleach wished all a happy Christmas and that 2021 will bring better things. Thanked all staff for their work during the year and to the press for their assistance during a difficult year

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Cathairleach