

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 18TH MARCH 2021 BY ZOOM CALL**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. John O’Leary

Cllr. Ger Barron

Apologies: Cllr. Declan Clune

Roll call carried out by meetings administrator.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. C. Horan, SEO, Housing

Mr. G. Hynes, SE, Roads.

Ms. M. Goff, A/SEE Roads.

Mr. L. O’Brien, AO, Environment.

Mr. S. Doran, EP, Planning

Ms. B. Kirby, A/Administrative Officer, LEO

Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

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

- Jimmy Ryan, Kilmeaden
- Wally Barry, Rathgormack

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:

Niamh Rockett, Senior Camogie Player on recent All-Star Award

Henry De Bromhead on achievements in Cheltenham

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of District Meeting held 17th February 2021 proposed by Cllr. Brazil seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

Minutes of Special Meeting held 22nd February 2021 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Environment

Cllr. O'Leary commended community effort in litter clean ups by local residents within their 5km areas, noting Ballyduff and Kilmeadan for their recent clean ups.

Cllr. Barron supported Cllr. O'Leary outlining that there is an increase in individuals who are continuously tackling the littering problem and asked that the council reach out to provide support them.

Cllr. Brazil acknowledged local litter picking groups noting that the litter issue is out of control, people need to be more responsible and highlighted the need for Coillte to erect barriers on their properties. Requested update on use of CCTV to tackle the issue of illegal dumping and he need to educate schools on issues related to littering.

Cllr. Power enquired if bags and litter pickers could be left in community areas for people to collect.

L. O'Brien, AO outlined that council is supporting individuals and households for litter picking, not encouraging large groups to litter pick at the present, request people to share on social media where litter picking is occurring and what is being picked up. The council continues to support people carrying out litter picking and have delivered bags and pickers to households where requested. Currently looking at decision of data commissioners with regard to the use of CCTV and awaiting decision on how to progress. Informed members that environmental education and awareness is ongoing in schools with the green flag programme being held remotely.

Cllr. Power complimented environment section in their support to communities for litter picks.

(b) Roads

Cllr. O'Leary noted that he has received a number of representations in relation to proposals for new footpaths on the Carrick Road in Portlaw, residents opposed to these footpaths and asked if the proposal can be reviewed. He outlined that a footpath is required from the village to the GAA field.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. O'Leary noting residents are anxious and suggested online meeting with residents to discuss.

Cllr. Barron requested update on traffic survey on High Road in Kilmacthomas, concerns with level of traffic and speeds noting this road will also service the new fire station.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. Barron request for traffic calming on High Road, requested update on Lemybrien traffic calming scheme and details of closing date for submissions.

Cllr. Power welcome €200k funding for Mahon Falls, noting difficulties with parking at Kilclooney Woods. Enquired about funding for design of footpaths in Rathgormack.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired about commencement of Dunhill Village road alignment and Carroll's Cross.

Cllr. Brazil enquired about parking availability at Crotty's Lake.

G. Hynes, SE stated that funding received under Active Travel for the Carrick road in Portlaw, proposal to have new footpaths in grass verge area, narrowing the carriageway and including new pedestrian crossings. Need to improve pedestrian safety in the area, have met with landowners and will come back to council with design and proposal or next district meeting. Acknowledged the need for a footpath out to the GAA field which will be reviewed at a future stage. Have Active Travel funding for traffic calming at High Road in Kilmacthomas and will consult with residents and revert to the members with proposal in a couple of months. Closure of submission date for traffic calming in Lemybrien confirmed as 6th April 2021 and will be back to the members with recommendation for the April district meeting. Detailed design and tender documentation being progressed for Carroll's Cross, aim to go to tender in July with commencement of works in September. Outlined details of proposal for provision of additional 46 car parking spaces at Mahon Falls with additional laybys on road to Mahon Falls, submission to An Bord

Pleanála from 21st March to 30th April, aim to commence construction in September. No significant progress in finding a solution to parking issues at Kilclooney Woods, continue to see if there are any temporary options, advised that drivers need to obey the road markings and don't create traffic hazard to other road users. Outlined that funding received for Rathgormack to Ballythomas is for design and public consultation with additional funding to start construction to be allocated in 2022.

M. Goff, A/SEE traffic calming, designs to be completed for entrance into Kilmacthomas will be brought to April meeting. Consultants engaged in Dunhill and looking at town centre and traffic calming. Continue to review options for alternative parking facilities at Kilclooney Woods.

Cllr. Brazil noted his disappointment with unresolved issues with landowners regarding traffic calming scheme for Lemybrien and suggested that a meeting is arranged to pursue additional options for parking at Crotty's Lake.

G. Hynes, SE noted that are in discussions with landowners in Lemybrien to pursue the commencement of the scheme.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Barron noted new housing development in Kilmacthomas is progressing well, pedestrian entrance proposed into Riverview and asked for council to consider entrance onto the Riverwalk.

Cllr. Brazil concurred with Cllr. Barron and highlighted the slow pace of processing of the disabled persons grants and mobility grants asking if more staff are required to improve the process. Noted difficulty of applicants in getting three quotations.

Cllr. Power also noted issue with difficulties in getting three quotations and first preference for Comeragh area on the housing application form.

C. Horan, SEO will review request for access onto Riverwalk with engineer, outlined that there is no discretion in relation to the three quotations and will review how to improve turnaround of the processing of grants. Acknowledged there are a number of options for applicants on the housing form outlining the form is being reviewed and will revert to the Housing SPC for consideration.

(d) Planning

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if an application has been submitted for offshore wind turbines and asked what issues planning considers in the event of a large residential development in a rural area.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if any progress in having pre planning meetings held remotely, requested update on Irish Water Lemybrien project, how many planning applications in comparison to previous year and when will new Development Plan be finalised.

S. Doran, AO will revert regarding wind farm application, noted that planning authority looks at a number of areas when large development in rural area lodged, looks at zoning for land, capacity of community to absorb the level of housing in regard to existing facilities and infrastructure. Pre-planning will revert to one-to-one meetings when restrictions allow, if particular issues arise contact directly to discuss. Lemybrien is to be included in the Irish Water Small Village Programme with decision due shortly. Currently to date up on planning applications and substantial increase to date for Comeragh area to date. Development Plan is in draft at moment and following further discussion with members and public consultation the new plan will be in operation for Summer 2022.

Cllr. O'Leary queried if high density planning and application for 96 houses in Kilmeaden has been submitted.

S. Doran, AO confirmed that on validation the application was deemed invalid and returned to applicant.

(e) **Economic Development**

Cllr. Power enquired about plans for the Comeragh Wild festival
Cllr. Brazil requested update on racing track for Glendalligan Woods.

B. Kirby, AO outlined that due to current restrictions there is uncertainty about the Comeragh Wild Festival, committee due to meet in April and will review plans in line with restrictions at the time. Not aware of any developments about proposed racing track in Glendalligan Woods.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

Motion in the name of Cllr. Liam Brazil

“That Waterford City & County Council write to Bank of Ireland (following the announcement of the closure of Bank of Ireland in Kilmacthomas) to request a reversal of their decision. The closing of this Bank will be a big loss to the residents of the Comeragh district in County Waterford”.

Reg. No. 14 (dated 4th March 2021)

Cllr. Brazil proposed the motion, outlining his disappointed with the closure of the Bank of Ireland branch in Kilmacthomas, the negative impact of the closure on the community and asked for the council to do all they can to reverse this decision.

Cllr. Barron seconded the motion and call for the decision to be reversed, noting it is short-term thinking by Bank of Ireland and the loss in a progressive town which will inconvenience a large number of people. Asked for ATM to be maintained in the village. This is anti-progressive for the village.

Cllr. O’Leary welcomed the motion noting it is typical of what is happening in rural Ireland and called on the reversal of the decision.

Cllr. Power supported all speakers and from speaking with residents, businesses and IFA chairman on the closure it will be detrimental to the area, informed members that Senator John Cummins also written to the Bank.

6. AOB

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____