

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022 BY MS TEAMS**

**PRESENT**

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

Roll call carried out by meetings administrator.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, A/SEE Roads

Mr. Raymond Moloney, SEO, Environment.

Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning

Mr. Conan Power, Communications

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Kathleen Walsh, Martha McCarthy, John Flynn

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 proposed by Cllr. Power seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

None

**3. REPORTS**

**(a) Roads**

Cllr. Clune thanked area engineer for clean up on Chapel Hill in Portlaw, unfortunately more rubbish has accumulated in the area, also acknowledged clean up on R680. Noted that the road works at Carroll’s Cross are causing extensive delays, these are unfortunate but necessary for the works that are being undertaken. The roadworks have been well advertised, are on social media and asked road users to show

patience as the finished scheme will be worth it in the long run. Noted recent incident at Ivy House, Kilmeaden, acknowledging work of all the emergency services that assisted, enquired if need to review the section of road and if anything can be done to reduce possibility of accidents. Also noted that Map Alerter was late issuing on the day of the accident and that new diversion through Portlaw village was successful and avoided high volume of traffic on the High Road.

Cllr. Barron agreed with comments on Carroll's Cross enquiring if an emergency vehicle strategy is in place if required at the road works. Outlined that need to be more ambitious on the development of the N25 into a motorway between Waterford and Cork and enquired as to the plan for enabling this.

Cllr. Power supported issue regarding Carroll's Cross and agreed with issue on Map Alerter and requested update on the Roads Work Programme for the Comeragh District.

Cllr. Brazil concurs with comments on Carroll's Cross noting it is a positive development for the district and the works will make it a safer place for the road users. A lot of accidents at Ivy House and is it to do with the road alignment and needs to be investigated. Requested update on car park at Mahon bridge and Mahon Falls and when works will be completed by Coillte in Crough Woods.

Cllr. Power noted that there is some concern about the sightlines at Carroll's Cross when accessing onto N25 from Portlaw.

G. Hynes, SE, acknowledged there are delays at Carroll's Cross noting it is a complex area to manage and are working with the contractor to minimise where possible, noting road users need to allow extra time in their journey, contractor on programme and due for completion by June weekend. Outlined that all accidents are reviewed with regional road safety officer, due to do surfacing works at Ivy house in next 4-6 weeks and liaising with TII and Gardaí regarding the accident history. When review of Carroll's Cross was conducted the report includes long term objective to upgrade N25 from Kilmeaden to Middleton in Cork. The road should be on a priority list for upgrades due to the number of right turn movements and associated high risk, not on programme currently but politically needs to be progressed from a road safety and economic development point of view, linking both Waterford and Cork is important for the region and needs to be put on national programme for delivery. In discussion with Coillte regarding embankment stabilisation in Crough Wood, looking at programme of works for the Mahon Falls and Mahon Bridge car parks and will revert with programme of works for both car parks. Outlined that emergency vehicles always get priority access at any road works.

M. Goff, SEE, acknowledge works at Chapel Hill as organised by GSS and area staff, the vacuum machine was deployed on the R680 and worked well.

G. Hynes, SE, notes comments in relation to Map Alerter, will review to ensure notifications are uploaded in a timely matter but for major incidents there may be other priorities and a delay in uploading of the details. Road Works Programme will commence in Comeragh district in July, currently working in the Dungarvan Lismore district.

Cllr. Barron appealed to colleagues to push the agenda on an application for a motorway for the N25.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that the design of Carroll's Cross is in line with traffic guidelines and was signed off as a safe scheme. The vertical alignment is to be altered to reduce the hidden dip and need to wait until all the works are completed and satisfied the issue won't be a problem.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on Lemybrien.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that currently finalising design and the land requirements, will get a complete programme and discuss with TII and bring to next district meeting with timelines.

## **(b) Housing**

Cllr. Clune enquired if there has been any progress on erection of fence at the rear of new houses in Coolfin. Noted that there is currently a significant safety issue in relation to provision of fire service in

Portlaw with issue of retained officers not turning up to calls which is impacting on fire tender not being able to respond. Existing retained staff have concerns and acknowledge challenge with recruitment of retained staff, concerned that there seems to be a divide between county and city service, and we collectively need to find a solution.

Cllr. Power supported issue regarding Coolfin.

Cllr. Barron complemented all involved in the new houses in Kilmacthomas which are of a very high standard. Acknowledged housing section is busy with refugee crisis and asked if any plans to use the old convent in Kilmacthomas as a centre.

Cllr. Brazil supported issue raised in relation to the fire service and hope the issue can be investigated. Agreed with the required works at Coolfin and asked if all houses in new Kilmacthomas scheme have been allocated. Requested update on burnt out house in Viewmount, Stradbally, any solution to the continuous issue in Kilmacomma, noted number of vacant houses in the county enquiring if these can be reviewed for use by Ukrainians.

I.Grimes, DoS, agreed that it is a serious issue when retained fire brigade don't respond to a call and is taken very seriously by management, management of the fire service is an executive function and have been working with the retained brigades to resolve issues and noted that there is no issue between the city and county brigades. He outlined that there is a difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff in the retained service, management is aware of the issues in both Kilmacthomas and Portlaw and is a matter of significant concern and is being monitored closely. Have requested housing engineers to review Coolfin fencing and aim to have in place for the winter. Confirmed that all houses in Kilmacthomas have been allocated. Currently running an ad campaign in relation to pledges for houses for Ukrainian refugees, low level of residential vacancies in the county and are encouraging people to get them back into use. Extent of damage to property in Stradbally was extensive and waiting on confirmation from insurer that will cover cost of refurbishment works. Issue regarding sewer at Kilmacomma has been raised with technical team and hope to bring to a resolution soon.

### **(c) Environment**

Cllr. Clune noted change in legislation regarding enquiring if the council is intending to invest in new CCTV. Enquired if there are any options for the use of kayaks on Ballyshunnock reservoir.

Cllr. Power welcomed funding for sewerage treatment plant in Clonea enquiring if the plant is being upgraded and any update on issue with Bunmahon and Pinewood.

Cllr. Brazil noted need to contact Coillte regarding issue with dumping, needs to be an onus on Coillte to make it harder for people to dump onto Coillte property. He complimented all involved in the Comeragh clean-up.

R. Moloney, SEO will refer issues on water to Irish Water. There is provision in the circular economy bill to amend the primary legislation under the Litter Pollution Act and Waste Management Act to allow for the use of CCTV. Legislation hasn't been enacted yet so not in a position to CCTV, once approved will look at all opportunities. Noted comments regarding the Comeragh clean-up, it was a very successful this year and thanks to all residents, it has gone from a one-day event to an extended event which is having a greater impact. Matters and concerns will be referred to the Coillte.

### **(d) Planning**

Cllr. Power enquired about number of solar farms granted in the district, noting proposed one for Clonea Power and if there is a cap on the number of solar farms and what other options can be availed of that wouldn't be as visible on the landscape.

A. O’Sullivan, SEP, will have the information on solar farms issued. Currently have 416 hectares granted for solar farms in the county which equates to 14 planning permissions. Don’t have a cap on the number of solar farms that can grant, there is a renewable energy strategy in the new development plan which gives scope to other renewable types.

**4. SECTION 38 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 – Traffic Calming Kill Village – Completion of Process**

G. Hynes, SE, outlined details of the traffic calming scheme with the objective of reducing vehicular speed within Kill Village. Two submissions were received and recommended the approval of the scheme noting one change where the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing is to become a controlled crossing and will also look at provision of bicycle stand.

Cllr. Clune proposed the scheme, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agree by all.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**6. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**7. AOB**

Cllr. Brazil acknowledged people who supported Easter cycle and creating awareness about mental health and suicide.

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**  
**20<sup>th</sup> April 2022**  
**Ref: R2022/5**

In accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 Traffic Calming Scheme on the R681 and L3036 in Kill Village as presented to the Comeragh District on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 THAT Waterford City & County Council proposes to undertake road improvement works along R681 and L3036 within Kill Village. The proposed works will consist of the following: additional uncontrolled pedestrian crossing with raised table, build outs, narrowing road width with kerbs, gateway speed limit signs, renewed road signage and markings.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Comeragh District of Waterford City & County Council that the scheme as presented and after consideration of all the submissions, noting one change where the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing is to become a controlled crossing and will also look at provision of bicycle stand. Proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed unanimously THAT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED AND WITH RECOMMENDED REVISIONS PROCEEDS.

**Signed:**

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

**Witnessed:**

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**Honor Dunphy**  
**Meetings Administrator**