

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 20th OCTOBER 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. Paul Johnston, A/DoS, Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads
Ms. Maria Goff, A/SEE Roads
Mr. Luke O’Brien, AO, Environment.
Mr. Liam McGree, Senior Planner, Planning
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:

- Ned Sullivan
- Johnny Anderson
- Tom Dee
- Maureen Wall
- Maura Brunnock
- Thomas Power
- Marion Luker
- Jimmy Veale
- Mick Cronin
- Eddie O’Regan

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 15th September 2021 proposed by Cllr. Power, seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Barron requested update on progress of new fire station in Kilmacthomas
P. Johnston, A/DoS, will follow up and revert.

3. REPORTS

(a) Planning

Cllr. Power noted planning is very busy with planning applications.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Clune noted increase in number of calls in relation to illegal dumping enquiring if awareness plan in place promoting number that the public can call in relation to issues.

Cllr. O'Leary noted figure in report in relation to the amount of clothing dumped and enquired about effects to carbon emissions because of it.

L. O'Brien, AO, outlined that the council will be increasing the social media campaigns in relation to illegal dumping, noting recent social media posts regarding upcoming Halloween bonfires. There is a significant campaign ready to commence in relation to illegal dumping which is an increasing issue in remote areas over the winter months. He outlined that carbon is associated with the manufacturing of clothing and there is a significant use of water used in the production and encouraged reuse and recycling of clothing.

(c) Roads

Cllr. Clune thanked roads in relation to consultation regarding the Carrick Rd Part V111 in Portlaw, enquiring about options for the plan and suggested a workshop with the members. Noted a number of issues regarding lack of public lighting between Bridge Street and Coolfin, acknowledged installation of LEDs and asked if these lights will give off greater light and need to enhance what we have. Concerns regarding school bus stops in village outside credit union as pickup point and concern about safety at the location as a result. Noted need for bus shelter on Carrick Road and requested contact made with Bus Eireann to review options for safer pick-up locations.

Cllr. Power thanked roads engineers for meeting with residents and requested update on the project plans. He noted the reoccurring issue with trees growing around lamp standards which need to be cleared and enquired as to who is responsible for them.

Cllr. Brazil thanked all in relation to work in Comeragh district this year to date, encouraged locals to apply for the LIS, associated with comments regarding meeting with residents in Portlaw and requested update on Lemybrien traffic calming scheme.

Cllr. Barron concurred with members regarding meeting in Portlaw noting there were genuine concerns that needed to be addressed and welcomed workshop meeting regarding the plans. Requested update on the lighting on the Well Road.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. O'Leary supported request for workshop on Carrick Road works. He noted temporary signage on the N25 at Fairbrook enquiring about upcoming works at the location. Requested update on the commencement of works at Carroll's Cross and noted that the junction on the L4026 by Suir Valley Railway needs to be addressed to make the junction safer.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that there have been a number of accidents on the N25 by Fairbrook stating there is a technically difficult stretch of road causing issues with cars travelling at speed and breaking on wet surface on bends and sliding into crash barrier, council has taken initiative to put up warning signs to slow down when road surface. A contract has been awarded to carry out drainage works at the location which will also include resurfacing to increase skid resistance on road and decrease water on the road, signs remain in place until work commences. Awarding of contract for Carroll's Cross is imminent and hopeful that work will start in current year, the traffic calming scheme at the location has an estimated value of €1.5m. It is proposed to bring Carrick Road Part V111 report back to council in November for

consideration and agreed to a workshop prior to the meeting. Works ongoing in relation to design at Lemybrien and won't have works in current year but scheduled to commence Q1 2022, subject to land agreements with parties involved. Advised to use the Deadsure App in relation to any public lighting issues which will be dealt with by contractor once logged. Can discuss in workshop appropriate locations for school buses pick up points, need to review all locations and can liaise with Bus Eireann prior to workshop.

M. Goff, A/SEE noted that contract awarded to install lights at Well Road and expect completion in coming weeks.

Cllr. Power outlined that Killaree Lighting have outlined that removal of vegetation around lighting is responsibility of the council

G. Hynes, SE, noted that small vegetation blocking public lighting will be removed by contractor and more significant issued to be addressed by council. Has reviewed L4026 junction noting there are sightline issues which need addressing and will have it included for consideration for low-cost safety schemes for 2022.

Cllr. O'Leary noted in relation to Tramore Cross in Butlerstown that there are large costs and substantial works associated with the location. He noted that it is very busy junction and enquired as to how funding can be accessed to address it.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that the council have carried out some improvement works at junction which have improved the sightlines. Acknowledge have 2 roads opposite each other and would require a roundabout with land acquisition to resolve the problem. Specific funding would be required from the Department of Transport and could be considered under a significant improvement grant.

Cllr. Clune enquired as to the details of the KPI for the lighting contractors for resolution of issues.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that there is a 7- 9 days KPI which relates to minor issues where there is a fault with a bulb or fuse noting that there is a longer timeline if the problem relates underground ducting and cables.

(d) Housing

Cllr. Clune enquired about planned new housing developments in Portlaw area in the short to medium term noting there are issues with getting any house in either the private or public market. Enquired about maintenance plan for the 12 houses in Gort an Chlochair, and particularly servicing of the boilers.

Cllr. Brazil noted issue remains in relation to the sewers at Kilmacomma and requested pedestrian walkway for Kilmacthomas through river walkway to access existing walkway. He requested update on addressing house in Stradbally that had a recent fire and getting 3 quotations for housing adaptation grants is causing difficulties for people.

P. Johnston, A/DoS, noted that there is a lesser demand for housing in the Comeragh area but outlined that there are a number of proposed developments for the Portlaw and Kilmacthomas areas that can be brought through the various housing schemes and can bring early-stage assessment to members for next meeting. Confirmed that do have a boiler servicing plan as part of routine planned maintenance and will check on status for Gort an Chlochair. Will revert with details and update on Kilmacomma, notes that providing connectivity from new estate in Kilmacthomas to walkway and can discuss in more detail. Fire damaged house in Stradbally to be addressed, clarified that old system of 3 quotations for works is being phased out, team assess works on current costs for facility and awards grant on this amount.

Suspension of Standing Orders to take Item 4 before completion of reports proposed by Cllr. O'Leary, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

4. UPDATE ON GORTINORE DISTILLERY, KILMACTHOMAS

Aidan Mehigan from Gortinore Distillery informed the members that there have been delays in the project due to the pandemic. Currently securing funding for the growth of the business that will allow the business to raise the necessary capital for the development in Kilmacthomas. Planning to commence phase 1 with site clearance in Q1 of 2022 with main works commencing by the end of 2022, on the basis that sales get back to required levels to provide the necessary funding.

Cllr. Barron welcomed the update noting the development is long awaited in Kilmacthomas outlining that a clean-up is needed on the site.

Cllr. Power delighted to hear the positive plans considering the difficult year and noted concerns of residents due to current state of the site.

Cllr. Brazil noted concerns of residents, acknowledged difficulties, and asked about finish date for full project.

A. Mehigan outlined sales for this year won't affect the securing of the funding for end of year to enable commencement of clean up works and development of visitor centre, the dependency of sales is reliant on future sales which is currently unpredictable. He outlined that it would take approximately 3 months to clean up site with 18 months for completion of full distillery build.

Cathaoirleach wished company the best for the future development of the project for the village of Kilmacthomas.

(e) Economic

Cathaoirleach acknowledged recent achievement for the Waterford Greenway coming second at the European Greenway Awards in Valencia Spain.

Cllr. Clune requested update on the Waterford visitor experience plan and visitor app.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on the connecting link between Kilmeadan and Ballyduff and outlined the need for provision of parking at the location.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO suggested that Vinnie O'Shea provide update to the members at their next meeting regarding the visitor app. Noted there are additional improvements required at Kilmeadan Ballyduff extension site of the Greenway and waiting for funding to address the issues, agreed to meet on site to discuss requirements.

Cllr. Barron noted that ducting and pods put in around the Greenway for future provision of lighting requesting whose responsibility it was to provide lighting 1 mile either side of the village.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO, outlined that dual ducting put in place with potential future use for fibre cabling and lighting capability, issue of capital and ongoing costs to do the lighting and need to discuss with engineers to identify source of funding.

(f) Taking in Charge

Cllr. Clune noted number of estates were engaging with Irish Water enquiring as to the length of time it is taking to resolve the issues.

Cllr. Barron requested update on progress of Cruachán View in Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on snag list for Fán Glas estate in Kilmeadan.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE, acknowledged that there have been delays in getting onsite meetings with Irish Water due to the health measures in place with Covid pandemic. Outlined that there is a statutory process that needs to be followed, documenting the issues and there is a bond in place that ideally covers the costs and outlines the liability to both parties. Confirmed that at the point of a technical feedback from Irish Water in relation to Cúl Rua where preparation of tender documents is due to commence. Noted there are a few issues in relation to Cruachán View, waiting on Irish Water to get clear instruction on technical details as to how to proceed. In discussion with the developer of Fán Glas and issues are progressing in talks with developer, number of issues from the residents concerning regulatory signage in the estate which would not have been part of the original development. Significant progress made regarding northern boundary with developer clearing area and installed fencing in location, developer will undertake numbering of houses in estate. Item with respect to public lighting which has been actioned with Killaree Lighting and additional public lighting that is a matter for local authority. Hopeful to bring development to conclusion of taking in charge process for next district meeting. Developer on site at adjoining development and anxious to address any remaining issues in the estate.

Cllr. O’Leary noted adjoining development in Kilmeadan is with the original Fán Glas development requesting how the current residents of Fán Glas can make representations to developer in relation to any issues that may arise as part of the new construction works.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE, noted that not a regulatory roll but as part of development there is a construction management plan, any concerns by the residents can be submitted to the planning authority if there is an issue of breaching planning conditions or planning law. Would encourage residents’ association to engage with developer at the outset so that any issues can be addressed.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

7. AOB

Cllr. Clune requested Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) workshop is held and Superintendent O’Driscoll invited to attend with councillors.

P. Johnson, A/DoS confirmed that will look at options for holding ASB workshop and confirmed that it is planned that Part V111 commencement of fire station in Kilmacthomas is due before the district by the end of the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____