

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 21ST APRIL 2021 BY ZOOM CALL**

PRESENT:

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

Roll call carried out by meetings administrator.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. I. Grimes, DoS, Housing
Mr. G. Hynes, SE, Roads.
Ms. M. Goff, A/SEE Roads.
Mr. R. Moloney, SEO, Environment.
Mr. S. Doran, AO, Planning
Mr. J. Brunnock, Trails Officer, LEO
Mr. R. Maddock, Senior Architect
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

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

- Gillian Ryan
- Sean Atkins
- Kathleen Bagge
- Anne Torpey
- Thomas Walsh
- Kenny Bowers
- Jim Kelly
- Brendan Drohan

Agreed to write to rescue services involved in recent rescue in Comeragh mountains to acknowledge their work during a difficult rescue and recovery of Gillian Ryan.

Minute silence proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:

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

- Henry de Bromhead and Rachel Blackmore on their recent achievements
- Community groups who took part in the An Taisce spring clean in the Portlaw area
- Donal and Aileen Hickson on improvements to the Centra store in Kilmeaden.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of District Meeting held 18th March 2021 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Environment

Cllr. Clune requested update on arranging meeting with Coillte to discuss issues with use of woods by scramblers and illegal dumping. Enquired if additional bins can be installed in Portlaw village noting community will assist with emptying. Enquired if the bottle bank located outside of village by GAA pitch can be relocated more centrally in the village.

Cllr. Barron enquired about provision of benches on Greenway and replacement of playground that was removed at Durrow.

Cllr. O’Leary raised issue of costs related to disposal of waste at civic amenity sites noting it may be prohibitive for people and requested the charges are revisited.

Cllr. Brazil complimented all individuals involved in recent clean ups and noted Coillte are not locking access gates which needs to be addressed to prevent people dumping in locations around the county.

Cllr. Power noted playground needed in Clonea Power and asked it to be considered for the location.

R. Moloney, SEO will follow up with Coillte to address the meeting as requested. Welcomes initiative for community to assist with emptying of bins in Portlaw and outlined that have not been able to identify another location in village for bottle bank. Outlined that there is a schedule of charges in place at the civic amenity sites noting the sites are not making a profit and are competitive with other suppliers. Noted that the environment section has responsibility for ongoing repair and maintenance of playgrounds, many playgrounds are provided by community groups who apply for funding and will refer query to the community section.

J. Brunnock, Trails Officer, noted there are a number of existing locations for benches and picnic areas along the Greenway and in conjunction with community groups there are more locations identified for 2021 which concentrates on locations close to access points. Currently actively working on identifying area for relocation of playground near Durrow and developing other play amenity areas.

Cllr. O’Leary enquired when Kilmeaden Greenway link be completed and if it will have a tar and chip finish.

Cllr. Clune noted recent suggestion from Fine Gael senator where car registration details will be added to the packaging on fast food orders enabling it to be traced if dumped illegally, he enquired if this would require a change to legislation.

Cllr. Barron asked for clarification if bench would be located on the stretch of Greenway from Kilmacthomas to McGraths Cross.

J. Brunnock, Trails Officer, confirmed that the Kilmacthomas to McGraths Cross is one of the locations currently being considered for seating on the Greenway. Timeline for opening of Greenway link to Kilmeaden to be confirmed, there are a number of outstanding works to be completed due to the drainage works being completed and will revert with details. Current surface will be monitored, no funding or plan to have a tar and chip finish.

R. Moloney, SEO not aware of this proposal regarding food packaging, will review and revert with details.

(b) Roads

Cllr. Barron outlined that parking at Mahon Bridge for access to Crough woods is an issue noting need to look at options for parking at the location.

Cllr. Clune supported Cllr. Barron outlining it is a great facility but need to address the parking issue. Congratulated roads section for all the work being carried out in the district, enquiring if there has been any solution reached to address the problem of parking and traffic flow in Bunmahon during busy times. Enquired about the provision of a school warden at Portlaw National School and addressing the issue with insurance.

Cllr. O'Leary supported need to address issue at Mahon Bridge and outlined the opposition to the new footpaths outside of residences on the Carrick Road under the Active Travel proposal.

Cllr. Brazil noted traffic concerns to residents in Mahon Bridge that needs to be addressed, requested update on Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) for 2021 and requested support from members in relation to car park at Mahon Falls which is currently with An Bord Pleanála for decision suggesting letters of support for the development are submitted.

Cllr. Power supports issues raised regarding need for parking at our scenic areas, suggesting development of field at Mahon bridge for parking. Supported Cllr. O'Leary with regard to issues raised on the Carrick Road, outlined that lights are not working at the pedestrian crossing at Fingerpost in Clonmel and requested driver feedback signs on road from Dungarvan into Clonmel.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that aware of parking issue at Crough Wood and have commenced discussions with landowner regarding agreement to address parking. In short term will look at placing a number of bollards to protect households in the interim. Acknowledged thanks for work carried out and will pass onto all staff. New beach byelaws will assist in addressing traffic issues during upcoming summer season and will be in discussion with An Garda Síochána in order to have a joint approach to tackling issues. Outlined that council insurance for school wardens only applies to council staff noting that other schools have managed to put measures in place, will discuss matter with Irish Public Bodies. Note concerns regarding issues with residents on the Carrick Road, reviewing the matter on the ground so as to reach a resolution that will address concerns while reducing speed. The design is currently in draft and once completed will go through the Part 8 process which will give all an opportunity to make submissions before coming to council for a decision. No notification of current LIS allocation outlining that have a considerable number of applications on file, will revert with details once confirmed. Confirmed that the Mahon Falls application is currently with An Bord Pleanála, details on the council website, scheme cannot progress unless approved by An Bord Pleanála. Confirmed that waiting on the ESB to complete connection for lights at the Fingerpost junction. Will review what engineering measures can be put in place at the approach from Ballymacarbry to address the issue and have drivers slow down. Welcomes suggestion for community getting involved in assisting with the emptying of additional bins in Portlaw and will arrange to have additional bins installed.

M. Goff, A/SEE noted new footpath, lining and crossing in Bunmahon are due to be completed in the area.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on the report on traffic calming in Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. Clune noted the issues raised regarding the Carrick Road in Portlaw highlighting the need to advise members of the public of the Part 8 process so they are aware that they can make a submission.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Clune enquired about the process for acquiring permission and getting funding for priority 1 applications and allocation of same. Enquired about plans for additional houses in Portlaw and noted that the EIR are refusing broadband connection for the new houses in Coolfin Woods. Outlined that some

residents are having a reaction from water in stream in front of Coolfin Woods requesting testing of the water and perimeter fence in the location.

Cllr. Brazil supports Cllr. Clune regarding the Priority 1 applications and need to have emergency funding in place to deal with these cases. Enquired as to possibility of getting pedestrian access along river walk to new estate in Kilmacthomas. Noted issue in Pinewood Drive estate in Kilmacomma with wastewater that needs to be investigated and addressed.

Cllr. O’Leary noted there is an ongoing issue for council tenants in relation to accessing the disability persons grants, there are hardship cases that need critical attention.

I.Grimes, DoS noted that cases as referred to by the members are with the housing technical staff and inspections by the occupational therapist are being arranged. He outlined that the funding received for applications from the Department is insufficient to deal with the demand and the issue of a shortage of funding is faced by all local authorities. He noted that the grants for private householders is never fully drawn down and have requested the department to use the savings in this area for use on own stock which was refused. He outlined the application process for the grants outlining that all medical priority 1 applications could be regarded as urgent and are causing distress to families noting the key issue is lack of adequate funding. He informed the members that currently looking at new tenancies and new schemes for the district with a mix of new build and repair and lease schemes. The council have no influence in relation to the broadband issues outlining there is a regulatory body who can assist with disputes. Not aware of issues with stream and will have it investigated. Will raise pedestrian access from new houses in Kilmacthomas to walkway and issue in Kilmacomma with housing engineers.

(d) Planning

Cllr. Power welcomed high court ruling to proceed with Glanbia plans for Belview.

Cllr. Clune highlighted complaint received in relation to new casual trader in Kilmacthomas near Greenway enquiring if it is in breach of any agreement for the area and if causing an obstruction to access.

Cllr. Brazil outlined issue with Irish Water and extension of wetlands in Lemybrien and is unfair to the proposed developments in the area.

Cllr. O’Leary noted need to protect the rate payer and need to investigate issue of casual trading off the Greenway.

Cllr. Power noted that traders need to have a license to trade and this needs to be confirmed.

S. Doran, AO will defer the issue of casual trading to economic development. Currently speaking to Irish Water about inclusion of Lemybrien in their small villages capital fund and waiting for update.

J. Brunnock, Trails Officer outlined that new casual trading byelaws were recently adopted and govern trading in public areas, issue as discussed relates to trading from private property and complaint is being raised as a planning issue. He noted that when Greenway was being established casual trading was not to be encouraged if risked displacing businesses in the community.

Extension of Standing Orders for 30 minutes proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF TRAIL WORKS AT ANNE VALLEY WALK – Notice of intention to proceed.
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J. Brunnock, Trails Officer, outlined details regarding current proposal for improvement works as circulated. Part 8 report will be put out to public display by end of April and submissions on the proposal can be made.

All members welcomed the proposal as it is a great amenity for the area.

Cllr. O’Leary noted request to put in place a public toilet in the location that would be maintained by the community, supported by Cllr. Brazil.

J. Brunnock, Trails Officer outlined that aware of the request for public conveniences at the location and the options are currently being looked at and will revert with timeline on project.

5. ABANDONMENT OF SLIP LANE FROM N25 TO THE R676 AT LEMYBRIEN

G. Hynes, SE outlined detail of the process with recommendation to close the slip road as indicated, evidence that slip roads are increasing speeds, average speed at location recorded at 70kph with max of 105kph. Closure of the slip road will reduce the speed in the location. Approach is to reduce speed, engineering measures to have motorists slow down, all standards outline to have no slip roads in urban environments. 5 submissions received and recommendation from executive is to abandon the slip road on safety grounds and get reduction in speed.

Cllr. Brazil and Cllr. Power indicated their objection to the proposed abandonment of the slip road and were not in support of the proposal.

Cllrs. Barron, O’Leary and Clune supported the proposed Part 8 on the grounds of safety and need to reduce speeds at the location.

Proposed by Cllr. O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by majority.

6. UPDATE ON VISITOR ATTRACTION MOUNT CONGREVE HOUSE

R. Maddock, Senior Architect gave presentation on proposed upgrade for Mount Congreve.

Cllr. Barron enquired as to when the works are due to commence and if the main house will be included.

Cllr. O’Leary asked when main house will be open to the public noting that it is unfortunate that the contents of the building were auctioned by the OPW.

Cllr. Clune enquired if the allocated €4.98m will be enough to do as outlined and will additional funding be required.

R. Maddock, Senior Architect outlined that it is an incremental project which will involve a step by step process where additional funding applications will be needed to continue with the upgrades. Main objection is to get house back into use, construction due to begin in September and open in May 2022. Current funding will cover initial aspects of project and will be looking for additional funding to accommodate any additional costs.

Cathaoirleach welcomed project and the upgrade of the offering at Mount Congreve.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

9. AOB

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____