

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2020 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN**

**PRESENT:**

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

**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.  
Ms. H. Dunphy

Cathaoirleach welcomed all members to the first Comeragh district meeting since February, acknowledging the strange times that we are currently living in. He complimented all involved in managing the pandemic and the co-operation of all in Waterford to keep the numbers low. He noted his sympathies to all who lost family members and friends to the Coronavirus.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY:**

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

- Teresa Kennedy
- Maura Sullivan

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of District Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Clune enquired about the finalised report to Transportation Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in relation to Carroll’s Cross and asked for a copy to be circulated. Requested the Taking in Charge report for all estates in the district to be followed up on.

**3. PLANNING**

- (a) **Planning Lists** – noted.

## 4. REPORTS

### (a) Environment

Cllr. Clune noted the increase in illegal dumping over the last number of months and suggested the provision of scheduled skips in various estates and areas that could be used by the public. He noted that the cost of disposing of rubbish in this manner would be less than the clearing up of illegal dumping sites.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Clune as it would support communities in keeping their localities clean.

Cllr. Barron raised issue regarding sewerage at bottom of Coastguard Road in Bonmahon and odours emanating from the septic tank. There is a need to look at options for a more advanced treatment plant for the village and asked if it could be investigated. Complimented the beach clean group in Bonmahon who have been working over the last number of months to keep the area clean.

Cllr. O’Leary asked if the playgrounds in the area are being cleaned, complaints received from residents regarding playground in Kilmeaden and requirement to empty bins.

Cllr. Power noted that the water supply at Mahon Bridge isn’t fit for human consumption, it needs to be connected to the public system and asked if connection can be prioritised with Irish Water, requesting that the council writes to Irish Water recommending the connection.

Cllr. Brazil acknowledged the huge problem with illegal dumping in the district, requesting that Coillte be contacted to clean site in Bonmahon and on completion to put locks on the gates to prevent future access. Supports issue with need for waste water upgrade in Bonmahon, noting that small villages in Waterford are being jeopardised where the relevant water and waste water facilities are not being upgraded. Supports letter to Irish Water regarding connection at Mahon Bridge.

R. Moloney, SEO acknowledges the issues raised regarding illegal dumping, highlighting that there was a 25% increase in reports of illegal dumping during restrictions. He outlined that the civic amenity sites remained open during lockdown. He will investigate options for provision of skips where a community clean-up is arranged. He informed the meeting that there has been an increase in number of tyres that are being illegally dumped, they are being dumped in considerable quantities and asked the press to get information out to the public requesting any information in relation to the illegal dumping in the areas of Glenpatrick, Russelstown and Loch Mohra. He will refer issues raised regarding Irish Water to the water engineer. He will contact Coillte about securing their premises and will invite at a future date to a district meeting.

Cllr. Clune noted that commercial waste is being dumped in woods and asked if hidden cameras can be placed in locations where it is continuously occurring.

### (b) Roads

Cllr. O’Leary requested an update in relation to the planned improvements for the Carroll’s Cross junction.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that there is both long term and short term considerations for the junction. Long term includes a review of the road as it is a strategic route from Cork to Waterford and needs to be put on the national agenda for consideration as a dual carriageway. In the short term engineering works are proposed at the junction which would induce traffic to slow down and reduce speeds, this would involve the need for a rural traffic calming scheme. Proposed costs for alterations have been submitted to the TII at a cost of €600k and approval has been received. A preliminary design report and Section 38 report will be due back to council for approval in order to proceed to tender with the works, hopeful that scheme will commence in early 2021.

The members welcomed the progress on the matter and the importance of progressing the long term requirements for the junction.

Cllr. Power asked for update on current hedge cutting in towns and villages.

Cllr. Clune outlined that there are issues regarding parking for residents in proposed traffic calming on Brown Street in Portlaw, requested survey of road markings and footpaths in Portlaw, noted need for equipment to be replaced in Portlaw playground, update on playground inspections and asked if roads programme funding is secure in light of Covid 19.

Cllr. O'Leary thanked area engineer re improved speed signage in

Cllr. Brazil requested update on traffic calming in Lemybrien fingerposts signs in Clonmel and outlined that there is an issue with congregations at playground in Kilmacthomas and need to have it closed at scheduled times.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that the current policy will only permit cutting of hedges at this time at dangerous junctions or where sightlines are being infringed, noting that it is the landowners responsibility to ensure their own hedges are properly maintained. Advised that any submissions regarding Brown Street need to be submitted by the end of the week, report will be considered at next meeting. Confirmed that funding for the roads programme is secure and will be spent in the current year. There is signage in place for Covid 19 at playgrounds but there are no provision in place for cleaning, the onus is on users to sanitise as needed. Regular inspections are carried out in relation to health and safety and replacement of equipment. Works on fingerposts will be completed by end October and currently resolving a number of issues in relation to land acquisitions in order for the Lemybrien project to progress.

M. Goff, A/SEE reiterated that there is a weekly programme of inspections for playground, any defects identified are highlighted and a specialised contractor carried out necessary repairs. Hedge cutting contractors are appointed and carrying out work at junctions and bends where there is poor visibility. Will review footpaths in Portlaw noting that there is a limited budget to deal with this work. Agreed that the playground can be closed if there is a nominated person in the area to take responsibility for it.

Cllr. Barron complimented the excellent job from Scrahan to Newtown.

Cllr. O'Leary asked how specific the Covid 19 signage is, needs to state that it is responsibility of the users.

Cllr. Clune requested possible schemes as part of the traffic calming on Carrick Road.

G. Hynes, SE noted comments in relation to the strengthening works from Scrahan to Newtown, outlining that this is ideal solution to issues and for improving the integrity of the road network – funding for this work needs to be prioritised by members. He outlined that the Covid 19 signage in playgrounds is national signage that had been agreed upon. Engineering measures are required on the Carrick road, funding will be under the low cost safety measures and will be included for consideration in next year's programme.

### **(c) Housing**

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if there is a system to deal with landlords who are denying tenancy as they refuse HAP payments.

IGrimes, DoS noted that complaints of this nature should be sent to the Workplace Relations Commission.

Cllr. Brazil asked for update on housing development in Kilmacthomas.

IGrimes, DoS outlined that the scheme for 16 houses has been submitted to the Department, confirmed they are approving the tender documentation, timeline to have procurement process completed by end of the year.

Cllr. Brazil noted his concern over restrictions on controlled burning and the change in requirements.

IGrimes, DoS confirmed that the Fire Officer will attend the next meeting.

**(d) Planning**

Cllr. Clune requested updated taking in charge list for the district.

Cllr. Barron supported this request noting the need for update on Cruachán view in Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. Brazil outlined issue of the lack of required water and waste water infrastructure in small villages and asked how this issue will be dealt with in the Development Plan.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Brazil and the need to prioritise the provision of houses in all our small villages.

H. O'Brien, EP will discuss taking in charge with Donal Ó Murchadha and have an update for next meeting. He acknowledged issued regarding small villages and they are engaging with Irish Water regarding their capital investment plan as need to ensure they align their capital budget with the core strategies in the new development plan to ensure sustainability for all settlements.

Cllr. Barron highlighted that good schemes are being refused planning permission due to inadequate infrastructure and called for a similar scheme to the 7 Villages Scheme to be developed.

H. O'Brien, EP agreed that there needs to be a co-ordinated and holistic approach to the zoning of land, there will be significant dialogue with Irish Water as part of the development plan process.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**6. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**7. AOB**

Cllr. Barron raised query as to whether the concept of Waterford Walls which has been very successful can be extended to other areas of the county.

Cllr. Brazil questioned that if was a planning issue as aware of a project in Kilmacthomas that was refused.

IGrimes, DoS will investigate issue with Kilmacthomas and revert.

Cllr. Brazil acknowledged this as his last meeting and thanked the executive and the press in their assistance during his time as Cathaoirleach. Noted that this has been a strange year and regrets that his fundraising cycle had to be cancelled. However the Go fund me page established as an alternative was successful in raising €15,000 which was an overwhelming response for funds that will benefit the field of mental health. He spoke of his personal experience of mental health and suicide and how mental health needs to be spoken about and those in need supported so that the stigma attached to it can be removed.

Cllr. Barron complimented Cllr. Brazil on his chairing of meetings how eloquently he speaks about mental health and making it a priority to be dealt with.

Cllrs. Power, O'Leary and Clune supported Cllr. Barron.

Meeting concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_