

**DÚICHE DHÚN GARBHÁN AGUS LIOS MHÓR
DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE DISTRICT MEETING**

**HELD ON 10TH JANUARY 2022
at 2.30pm with members on MS Teams.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Tom Cronin (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan
Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Declan Doocey
Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Conor McGuinness

Roll call carried out by Meetings Administrator.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. Ivan Grimes, Director of Services, Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Ms. Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Raymond Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Mr. Richie Walsh, Head of LEO
Mr. Hugh O'Brien, Senior Executive Planner
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Jon Hawkins, IS
Mr. Conan Power, Communications

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its sympathies to the families of the late:

- Michael O'Connor
- Angela Fitzgerald
- Richard Tobin
- Dermot O'Brien
- Alma Fenton
- Pat Dalton
- Phyllis Desmond
- Michael Daly
- Eilis Sullivan

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 13th December 2021 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. McGuinness requested update on correspondence issued to the RSA and noted that subsequent to the December meeting there has been disquiet in relation to the quality and standard of the Christmas lights. Cllr. Phelan requested update on arrangements for workshop on parking for Dungarvan.

H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator confirmed that no response received and will follow up with the RSA regarding original correspondence.

Cllr. Doocey enquired if any progress has been made with the Bank of Ireland regarding use of the vacant building in Lismore.

K. Kehoe, DoS, welcomed comments and feedback in relation to the Christmas lights, substantial investment needed in infrastructure which were compounded by Storm Barra. Date not agreed for the proposed parking workshop but will revert with date after completion of the Development Plan workshops. Reviewing correct contact for Bank of Ireland to progress the query in relation to property in Lismore.

Cllr. Tobin requested parking workshop prior to the district meeting

G. Hynes suggested combining parking workshop with RWP workshop, agreed by Cathaoirleach

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Roads

Cllr. Pratt raised issue of hedge cutting and praised works carried out to date, noting that people have up to end of February to carry it out, requested update regarding Moorehill Cross to Kilwatermoy Church. Noted that Dromana Bridge signage not having desired effect and recently lorry got caught requesting it to be reviewed. Enquired why part of the bridge has been boarded up.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired if date confirmed for Road Works Programme (RWP) workshop, welcomed dedicated footpath programme noting that footpaths on Wolftone Road are in appalling state and asked for their inclusion. Highlighted condition of Quay in Dungarvan and need to address urgently as it is a focal point and requested consideration of resurfacing of John Treacy street.

Cllr. Phelan concurred with Cllr. Geoghegan regarding areas for inclusion in the roads works programme for the year, commended drainage works on R675 by Kilminnion, noted on parallel road there are a number of reports of cars coming out against the one-way system requesting a traffic survey and need to improve the junction and enforce one way system. Outlined that drainage works needed at Ballinacourty. Requested that traffic lights at back of shopping centre are reviewed and if option of setting to constant amber which would give pedestrians priority could be considered.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that hedge cutting work ongoing in Glendine road, advising closure from 17th to 20th acknowledging work carried out by landowners, in discussions with landowner in Moorehill and necessary works due to be carried out. Advised that have to the end of February to carry out hedge cutting Intention to hold RWP workshop once grant allocation is confirmed from Department and will revert when confirmed. Aware of issue at Dromana Bridge, have erected electronic signs, there is no reason that a vehicle should approach the structure if not suitable, additional barriers not warranted or would be affective. Advised that drivers will be responsible for remediation works if any damaged caused. Can agree works for coming year as part of RWP workshop, acknowledge issues on the Quay, currently reviewing as to the appropriate action needed at the location. Kilminnion drainage works completed and are effective, there are statutory signs in place on new one-way system but will review. Will review pedestrian crossing at back of shopping centre noting there are safety issues to leaving constant amber but will revert with proposal. Assume boarding and padlock on Dromana Bridge carried out in relation to health and safety reasons and will revert with reason. Can look at speed monitoring in Kilminnion to look at speed in area and will record direction of traffic.

Cllr. Cronin thanked council for works along Canal Road, requested that road from Spring roundabout out the Two-mile Bridge is addressed and included in RWP for this year.

Cllr. McGuinness welcomed workshop on parking and also looking at inclusion of permit system as part of workshop and to have finance staff at meeting. Requested jet patcher for Ardmore, noted that new lights in An Rinn along new footpath are working well, requested update on the LED retrofitting project enquiring about the impact on general maintenance. Acknowledged works at school in An Rinn enquiring when new signs will be in place and requested update on issue of water supply at the Helvick. Noted that

footpaths programme needs full discussion, need to look at housing estates requirements, residential areas and other towns across West Waterford.

Cllr. Tobin welcomed Glendine hedge cutting, and acknowledged all works carried out since Christmas, noted issue with drain on road in Kilwatermoy and need to have hedge cutting carried out to address issue. Enquired if electronic sign can be erected to show drivers the new road in Tallow.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that roads staff should address potholes rather than jet patchers and concerned that work is being taken away from them.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that commenced strengthening works on Canal Road before Christmas and intention to complete to the junction in coming weeks if agreed by the members. Outlined that new lights and LEDs regional programme to commence Q3 in Waterford, the LED bulbs will have a considerable extended lifespan which will reduce the number of lights blown and will reduce lights failing. Where lights are out for considerable time it is the underground cables that are failing, and works can take longer to address. Once LED programme complete will need to look at underground cables and carry out survey and replacement programme. Will review additional signage in Tallow and Church Street to divert drivers to new link road, from statutory point could introduce 5 axle ban but suggested advisory signs which would encourage people to comply, agreed to meet members on site to review. Have issued notice to landowner at Kilwatermoy Church for compliance and will revert to members. Outlined that there are three patching units in operation to address issue of potholes, they are highly efficient in dealing with potholes and quality of work has proven to be very satisfactory.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired about cost of the jet patchers and reducing staff of the council

G. Hynes, SE, noted that there is no loss of staff and looking at getting greater efficiency from machinery, machines are grant aided and from a cost point of view give greater efficiency.

J. McGrath, SEE, outlined that required signs are ordered for An Rinn and will be in place once received. Will follow up on water supply at Helvick Pier.

Cllr. Cronin proposed that additional works for Canal Road proceed, seconded by Cllr. McGuinness and agreed by all.

Cllr. Pratt acknowledged work in removal of graffiti at The Towers, requested update on LIS and CIS and enquired is damaged lights on Lismore Bridge have been addressed.

Cllr. Nugent welcomed continuation of work on Canal Road, noted previous works at Bog Road requesting additional berm on opposite side of road. Agreed on issue on the Quays and need to have problem addressed. Enquired if any progress on land purchase at Garranbane junction and enquired if can improve technology to use pay for parking on mobile.

Cllr. Geoghegan supported need to endorse comments of Senior Engineer for use of jet patchers, supported by Cllr. Doocey.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that LIS have allocation left from last year and will be selecting 3-4 additional projects across county, reviewing current applications and anticipate additional funding to be forthcoming. Will review Bog Road for safety issues at drain and can put in earth berm if required. No update on land negotiations for the Garranbane junction, finalising designs and is intention to proceed to a CPO.

J. McGrath, SEE, confirmed that lights on Tallow Bridge are being upgraded noting there was a major cable fault.

G. Hynes, SE, confirmed that new lights that will be inset are being provided and will replace existing standards that are being continuously damaged. He noted that have commenced process for procuring new system for paying for parking on phones.

(b) Economic Development

Cllr. McGuinness welcomed €1.4m funding for Dungarvan Digital transformation hub, providing space for up to 190 people noting it is the way that working arrangements are developing. Outlined that will put some stress on availability of public parking and public access links and need to consider planning requirements for this area.

Cllr. Phelan highlighted issue with Christmas Lights with a number of locations not working. Welcomed funding for Dungarvan enquiring if the funding covers full costs, who will cover any shortfall and noted need to look at overall service requirements for the people what will be working from the hub.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed injection of this capital funding and complimented all involved in the project enquiring when will expect to see works commencing at the premises.

Cllr. Pratt enquired if there are any opportunities for communities to access Wi-Fi hubs that are developing throughout the County.

Cllr. Nugent welcomed funding noting it will transform the centre of Dungarvan and will rejuvenate O'Connell Street.

Cllr. Tobin welcomed all the work that is being done, need positivity from all in relation to the development of the town and district congratulating all involved in the project.

K. Kehoe, DoS, welcomed the great news of €1.4m in grant aid, total projected cost is €1.75m cost, additional money will be provided as matched funding from council's capital budget, it was the third highest allocation in the country and acknowledged the support of the members. He noted work of Dungarvan West Waterford Chamber of Commerce, Jenny Beresford, Richie Walsh in LEO, Colin Byrne in Totem and Denis Herlihy in progressing the project. Outlined that hired specialised digital advisor to assist in businesses tapping into the digital age and need to look at every area of the town. Outlined two main elements of the project, it will address dereliction across the town, and this is an opportunity to address these issues and will develop a programme on developing training programmes in digital space and will employ specialist in the new space to support businesses. Acknowledged there will be challenges but will invest and address the issues. Thanked Enterprise Centre and see it as a way to maintain and sustain the Enterprise Centre and making it more sustainable. Noted can address broadband connection points for communities while wait on the full rollout of the National Broadband rollout. Will be commencing work on the project and will keep members updated.

Cllr. Pratt enquired when skatepark will come on stream.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that ongoing work in Fairlane Park, learn to cycle scheme complete and waiting on signage for official opening. Performance space completed and tenders ready to issue on the Dungarvan Skatepark and awaiting this to go through formal LEADER process, will be at Jan / Feb LCDC with start in March/ April subject to LEADER approval. Await sports capital grant for BMX pump track.

Cllr. Nugent requested update on cost benefit analysis on proposed swimming pool and input by clubs.

K. Kehoe, DoS, will start process and need to put together steering group with groups involved including community section and sports partnership. Group will put together scope of works that will go to tender.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired about the provision of the public toilet.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that have commenced process to look at options for location and provision of public toilet.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Cronin requested update on development of council owned site in Ardmore, noted that money paid in relation to the HAP scheme differs and enquired what it is in Ardmore.

Cllr. McGuinness noted that no properties in West Waterford on CBL and capital projects in report remain unchanged demonstrating that the situation isn't changing for people, he enquired what projects are in the pipeline and what is being done for housing supply in the district. Requested update on Railway Gardens project in Lismore and how to incorporate affordable housing as part of it, update on progress of the deep retrofit scheme. Enquired if any change to the threshold levels for the tenant purchase scheme, any progress on social housing development in Sean Phobal and noted short term lettings and impact on private rental market.

Cllr. Geoghegan requested feedback on roll out of deep retrofitting scheme in Childers Estate and progress to other areas.

Cllr. Phelan requested update on ASB workshop, council houses eligible under tenant purchase noting certain restrictions and if it includes turnkey developments, what percentage of stock is eligible for purchase and if there are likely changes to the scheme.

Cllr. O'Donnell would welcome new houses in Sean Phobal.

Cllr. Pratt noted issue of inability for people to buy houses under Part 5 and if there will be any change in this area. Outlined site in Tallow, 4 houses in Brideview Close and additional land owned by the council that could be developed. Enquired how are future plans are progressing for provision of houses.

Cllr. Doocey issue with progress on the provision of houses, need to use council sites to provide houses and attract necessary funding to enable development, need to progress repair and lease and there are concerns about issues of anti-social behaviour of some tenants.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that there is an agreement in place with the affordable housing organisation Ó Cualann for the delivery of affordable and social houses on the council site in Ardmore, there have been issues with the servicing of the site, awaiting confirmation that the issues have been resolved and the council remain committed to the project. HAP relates to the location and size of units and will revert with details as requested. Prior to Christmas a detailed housing action plan was submitted to the Department up to 2026, it is an optimistic plan and is deliverable, will share plan when it has been approved by Department and will have workshops to discuss. Will revert with update on Railway Gardens. Outlined that due to have meeting with the Department and Housing Delivery Organisation and hope to have update on 2022 plans. Outlined that the tenant purchase scheme is governed by regulations and there has been an ongoing review of the scheme, the regulations do exclude Part 5 properties and need to confirm if applies to turnkey. Noted that when scheme was introduced in 2016 all tenants were written to, and 50% tenants were eligible to apply. Will check on status of Old Parish submission. Noted that impact of short-term letting in Dungarvan is a problem across the country and needs to be addressed at national level. Will review site in Tallow, Waterford are the only local authority implementing the repair and lease scheme successfully, any issues with tenants and ASB are taken seriously, and all tenants are Garda vetted and do actively try to manage tenants to avoid ASB. Will be arranging ASB workshop after Development Plan workshops have concluded.

(d) Planning

Cllr. Phelan outlined recent criticism about stewardship of heritage, commended council in supporting and the book published by museum curator and noted the council takes heritage seriously. Enquired if community's monument fund could be a possible funding source for Moresby Buoy.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted failing of Commemorations committee, as set down nationally, is that they are not allowed erect monuments and committee should be allowed to and there is a need for memorial to the West Waterford brigade. Supported by Cllr. Cronin.

Cllr. McGuinness noted need to lobby nationally to get regulations changed and proposed in budget that mark Cumann na mBan and West Waterford brigade and look at it for 2023 budget. Noted us of the communities monument fund and funding of Molana Abbey on Blackwater and asked what the issue with public access to the site is

Cllr. O'Donnell outlined that the 5G mast at Old Parish close to housing estate was refused by WCCC and subsequently granted permission by An Bord Pleanála. Supported by Cllr. Cronin.

Cllr. Tobin supports issue regarding the mast and asked who is responsible for removal of the mast when it becomes obsolete.

H. O'Brien, SEP, outlined that conditions are placed on mast permissions regarding removal or upgrade of masts as required. Outlined that work within a heritage programme and have community engagement, unsure of public right of way at Molana Abbey. Funding is provided for the protection and security of the monuments for future generations.

(e) Environment

Cllr. McGuinness requested update on Waters Edge regarding the subsidence issue.

Cllr. Phelan outlined that provision of bins by shopping plaza needed and enquired if they can be put in place.

R. Moloney, SEO, noted that Waters Edge has been referred to planning department and will follow up on it. Confirmed that provision of bins in plaza area is responsibility of the shopping centre and will talk to the owners about options.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. MOTIONS

1. Motion in the name of Cllr. Damien Geoghegan

“That Dungarvan/Lismore District Council calls on Waterford City and County Council to explore all options regarding the re-instatement of The Moresby Buoy and report back to the District Council before any final decision is made regarding its future, including full repair of the original buoy. And that Waterford Council proceeds by bringing together interested parties with a view to advancing the project and resolving the matter satisfactorily”

Reg. No. 12 (dated 30th December, 2021)

Proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan and seconded by Cllr. Cronin. Cllr. Geoghegan outlined need to ensure remain focused on the issue and need to involve community and pattern committee etc.

Extension of Standing Orders for 10 minutes proposed by Cllr. Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

Supported by Cllr. Cronin, Phelan, Guinness, Doocey, Pratt & Tobin noting need to address concerns of the public, public annoyed and dismayed about the removal of the buoy without prior notice due to the strong heritage of the buoy for the people of Dungarvan. There seems to have been a lack of consultation and sensitivity to the nature of its history.

Cllr. Tobin noted that it was his understanding that it was never the intention to not replace the buoy as outlined at the December meeting.

Extension of Standing Orders for a further 10 minutes proposed by Cllr. Pratt, seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

R. Moloney, SEO noted all comments of the members. Outlined that included in environment report before Christmas that works were going on, that the buoy would have to be removed to facilitate works and when off site would be reviewed. Due to the condition of the buoy, there were great difficulties in removing it, the buoy was removed in parts to the amenity site for storage. It was always intention to replace buoy, have to bear in mind that original buoy is encased in an outer shell, and it has rusted from the inside out. The buoy was independently inspected, and local company confirmed that the buoy is beyond repair and getting estimate for reproduction of the buoy. No difficulty in progressing the details of the motion and including the groups as part of the future discussions. Agreed that invitation will be extended to the pattern committee, representation from the museum and the heritage officer.

K. Kehoe, DoS, noted commentary online, he outlined the councils supports and absolute respect to the heritage of the Moresby Buoy. He noted that in the summer of 2021 he and Raymond Moloney visited and inspected the Moresby Buoy, it was falling apart and very obviously dangerous. In conjunction with the Active Travel team have secured funding for Moresby Park, the sensitivity of the issue was outlined by Raymond Moloney, and he ensured engagement with the Pattern Committee, so it is untrue that this work was not carried out without consultation. Always intention to assess it and see what needs to be done, currently getting price to do a replication and to respect the maritime history of the Moresby buoy.

Cathaoirleach requested price for works is available for the meeting in relation to the replacement
K. Kehoe, DoS, agreed that working on an indicative price.

2. Motion in the name of Cllr. Thomas Phelan

“This motion calls on the Council to draft a detailed, comprehensive, and integrated plan that provides for:

- 1. A graphical depiction of the proposed layout of the park, including illustration of locations and types of seating, planting and waste bins;*
- 2. The preservation of the Poor Man’s Bench;*
- 3. The preservation of the tree at the Poor Man’s Bench, including a tree preservation order for it;*
- 4. The reinstatement of the Moresby Buoy, and its protection and preservation in the meantime;*

5. *Inclusion of the Poor Man's Bench and the reinstated/restored Moresby Buoy on the Register of Protected Structures in Waterford;*
6. *A process for the official naming of the park;*
7. *A plaque or plaques, or other appropriate signage, for the presentation of the history and importance of the park and its features;*
8. *The inclusion of the Council's Heritage Officer, Conservation Officer, and Horticulturalist/Arborist in the planning and implementation process;*
9. *Public consultation to promote and facilitate the participation of and input from the community before a final draft plan is brought back to this Council for review, revision and approval prior to implementation. Item No. 5*
10. *The draft plan referred to above is requested to be circulated to Councillors a week before the March District Council meeting in time for discussion at that meeting and in advance of a subsequent period of public consultation, which is to be concluded in good time to allow for circulation of a report on responses to the public consultation to be circulated to Councillors in advance of the May District Council meeting."*

Reg. No. 13 (dated 30th December, 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Phelan, seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed by all.

K. Kehoe, DoS, suggested using councillors contacts and new group to get feedback quickly as intention is to have upgrades advanced and completed in coming months.

Cllr. Phelan agreed on a non-statutory process and agreed on consultation with committee as agreed for Motion 1 and feedback through the members.

K. Kehoe, DoS, confirmed that group will be made up of internal staff members, members of municipal district, reps of pattern Committee and Museum.

R. Moloney, SEO, noted under strict time restrictions and all infrastructure has been purchased and working towards St. Patricks day timeline and will bring plan to the committee as it progresses.

6. A.O. B

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____