

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

**HELD ON 11th APRIL 2022
at 2.30pm with members on MS Teams.**

PRESENT:

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

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. John Leonard, Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Luke O'Brien, Administrative Officer, Environment
Ms. Aisling O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Planner
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Conan Power, Communications

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Paddy Walsh
- John Cronin, brother of Cathaoirleach
- Mossie Donovan
- Katherine Power
- Fr. Colin Fives OSA
- Noel Brennan
- Tim Hegarty
- Claire Meaney
- Gabriel Daly

Cathaoirleach thanked all councillors and staff for condolences on behalf of family

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

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

- Waterford Senior Hurlers for their win against Cork in winning the League title Allianz Hurling League Division 1
- Christina Desmond, Garda and boxer in Dungarvan on winning Gold belt at international tournament in Romania.
- Seamus Power, for performance in Augusta at Masters tournament.
- Well done and thanks to all in council and support agencies on work over last couple of weeks in relation to the Ukrainian refugees and response from communities.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 14th March 2022 proposed by Cllr. Phelan seconded by Cllr. Nugent and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Nugent issue raised regarding shortage of creches and childcare facilities and noted that anyone looking to open a new facility should be supported.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on new contractor in Railway Gardens and if Brideview Close houses have been allocated.

Cllr. Geoghegan supported Cllr. Nugent suggesting that the council should look at replicating the facility in the presentation centre.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that it is the 5th week in Gaeltacht where residents don't have Eir mobile phone reception.

Cllr. McGuinness enquired if there is any progress in relation to issue as previously raised regarding the new medical form as used by the housing department, supports issue on preschool creche places.

Cllr. Doocey welcomed granting of ATM for Lismore and noted that Limerick council have bought vacated Bank of Ireland premises requesting council to do the same for the premises in Lismore and Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. Phelan agrees with council assisting with the issue with creche facilities and problem for lack of suitable premises for those entering the business, requesting that if landlords have premises that would be suitable for these facilities that they could be made available.

Cllr. Cronin praised the council in relation to signing of contract for playschool in Ardmore and all involved in progressing this, noting there is a shortage of places in West Waterford.

Cllr. Geoghegan suggested that representative from Waterford Childcare Committee present to council at next meeting on the current childcare provision issues in the county, seconded by Cathaoirleach.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that have recently granted permission to a provider where they will address and identify blackspots and install necessary hardware and can pass areas where there are issues onto company so that can go through necessary statutory function to provide the required infrastructure. Noted that currently engaging with agent appointed for Bank of Ireland regarding the Lismore site and informed the members that the Kilmacthomas site has been purchased by a local couple. Noted that identified council lands in Ardmore and engaged with childcare provider in Ardmore and planning permission was approved for new childcare facility, provided land outlining that council does not have a function in providing childcare but do support community programmes where possible and will continue to engage with local Dungarvan community. Where private sector have withdrawn service suggested they provide the building to local groups and lease to the groups so can continue to run.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that the new development in Railway Gardens to be followed up on, the 2 houses in Brideview are due to issue. New medical form discussed with staff, will look at additional supports that can be provided to people in relation to form and will raise at SPC. Working with childcare committee and agencies in relation to supports and will extend invite to present to committee.

Cllr. O'Donnell raised concerns that 5G masts will be put up in district.

K. Kehoe, DoS, confirmed that EPA confirmed that there is no evidence in relation to any medical impact from 3G/4G/5G masts.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Economic

Cllr. Pratt outlined that the Greenway feasibility study consultation period still open to 29th April and encouraged people to make submissions.

Cllr. McGuinness queried in relation to the operation of the Greenway and recent accident and competing demands, role of council in traffic management and communicating message to ensure used safely.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on the outdoor recreation infrastructure and work at Ballinacourty, outlined need for Greenway warders as requested by Cllr. Barron in Comeragh district suggesting usage of smart

technology to inform users of the Greenway. Welcomed additional facilities in Linear Park requesting dedicated grandparent parking at the location.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed that sightlines by the Poorman Seat have been approved, there was a commitment last year to improve access from Walton Park to crossing at Causeway and asked if this would be in place for the summer season. Outlined that the Greenway has been a tremendous success with visitor numbers in excess of 200,000, signage needs to be improved to instruct people on their usage of the facility.

Cllr. Nugent enquired if there is a finish date on the Ballinacourty spur of the Greenway and if the committee is in place for looking at cost benefit analysis of pool for Dungarvan.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that the spur off the Greenway was funded under the outdoor recreation scheme and currently going through environmental assessments and will advise when complete. Welcomed the feasibility study reminder noting that the Greenway is a success and is down to the users, it doesn't merit use of wardens but will take on board the comments in relation to social media usage and signage on the rules of the Greenway. The new facilities in the Linear Park are increasing parking demand, will look at options of designated parking spaces while noting that in the active travel environment looking to encourage walking and cycling. Will follow up on works on Walton Park, swim club group have met and developing approach.

(b) Housing

Cllr. Pratt HAP noticing a lot of HAP accommodation landlords choosing to sell on property, preferably that it would be own council stock so that tenants have a permanent home.

Cllr. McGuinness private rental market is creating hardship, need to address issue and that Dungarvan Lismore district should be a rent pressure zone, Airbnb properties available across the district and in absence of any regulation we are in an acute situation. Local Authority cannot regulate short term lets and not being able to find accommodation is a failure of the government and very little delivery for people and need to have solution progressed.

Cllr. Geoghegan raised issue of dumping at Colligan Estuary and if any progress has been made by housing in dealing with the problem.

Cllr. Phelan supported issues raised by Cllr. Geoghegan and Cllr. McGuinness, concerned that currently in a situation where HAP houses not available and need to let people accrue time on the housing list, need to review interpretation of the housing application form where causing issues.

Cllr. Doocey supported issues in relation to HAP, enquiring if need to review statistics in relation to housing need are there more people looking for houses and incorrect base data.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that they are more than 2,000 active HAP tenancies and it is serving a purpose and outlined that anyone on HAP remains eligible to apply for Choice Based Letting. There is significant pressure in the private rental sector, HAP section dealing with tenants who have received a notice to quit and they do try to apply every flexibility they can., have spoken to Department to look at the HAP limits. Acknowledged Airbnb issue and have spoken to officials, noted message needs to be relayed at Oireachtas level as happening across the region. In relation to the dumping in Colligan river the issue is being dealt with jointly and will relay progress to members. Noted there is an increased demand, and this have been included in the Development Plan figures and submitted to Department and waiting formal feedback. Requested details regarding application forms on individual cases where causing issues.

(c) Planning

Cllr. Tobin requested update on first quarter figures on planning applications and if increased on previous years and details on Further Information and assistance to the applicants.

Cllr. McGuinness queried that change on zoning in Development Plan cannot affect the planning permission as previously granted. Enquired if council has brought any high court proceedings last 2 months. Process when decision by ABP is in High court, what roll does councillor or planning office have in relation to the action.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, confirmed that cannot retrospectively change planning permission as a result of zoning changes. Confirmed that WCCC have not brought no high court proceedings in relation to a SHD

and council have no direct role in that regard unless it is to provide documentation. Will provide figures as requested on increase in planning permissions, noted that planning applicants or their agents can request assistance on Further Information to assist in addressing the issue.

Cllr. Nugent asked if ABP decisions can be included in weekly planning report.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if enforcement will be checking S254 licences coming into the summer to ensure outdoor seating is properly managed and asked if there will be scope for onsite pre planning meetings or are they to be desk based.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that ABP decisions can be circulated to members and included in report as appropriate and will be implementing same process as last year regarding the S254 licences to ensure accessibility is maintained. New mechanisms introduced for preplanning meetings for scheduling appointments, only rare occasions need to go on site. Meeting with agents over coming weeks and need to have discussion to outline requirements to help reduce the need for Further Information.

(d) Environment

Cllr. McGuinness extended thanks to presentation team on work in Kilrush, welcomed the recently published circular economy bill and use of CCTV for illegal dumping.

Cllr. Phelan concern regarding the bill that there will be red tape in relation to the use of the CCTV and worry that will be too onerous and if environment team have reviewed.

Cllr. Tobin welcomed government initiative to put a charge on coffee cups and hope it is as successful of the plastic bag levy.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed continued work on the Linear Park and the government funding and need to have a landscaping and planting plan for the completed works.

Cllr. O'Donnell welcomed new Garda to Sean Phobal who will be covering Old parish,

L. O'Brien, AO, noted have had sight of the new bill in relation to use of CCTV noting it is subject to change, happy the bill has been drafted and will use CCTV when comes into law and will be cognisant of any GDPR restrictions. Introduction of charge on coffee cups welcomed, working with groups who support this concept and will be promoting those that provide them. Will be looking at landscaping the area in the Linear Park once main works completed.

Cllr. Cronin outlined that the scaffolding is still in place at the Heritage Centre in Clashmore and roof repairs need to be completed enquiring on timeline for completion, supported by Cllr. Nugent.

K. Kehoe, DoS, will review and come back with details to members.

(e) Roads

Cllr. Pratt noted that LIS announced and disappointed that Waterford was allocated €92k which is significantly less than other Local Authorities enquiring why this is the case. Enquired if increased costs will have an impact on the delivery of the roads work programme as approved.

Cllr. McGuinness requested update on the application to Department for dredging of Ceann Helvic and if they will fund the preparatory works and noted issue at Fairlane roundabout which is causing difficulties for drivers, particularly on Friday afternoons and need to look at solution.

Cllr. Phelan supported issue occurring at Fairlane roundabout, commended council at resurfacing at this location and improvements in footpaths. Enquired about the Quay cobble lock and timeline for when works are scheduled to be finished and outlined that there are some depressions in the road at church gates outside Ballinroad church.

Cllr. Geoghegan highlighted the condition of the Quay and need to have it addressed, queried if there was an underspend on LIS allocation last year.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that the council have submitted an application for piers and harbours to the Department of Marine and Agriculture for numerous schemes and some under Brexit funding from Europe, as part of the application structural work at Helvic Pier and initial surveys to prepare the applications have been included, 15 schemes in total included and we are awaiting a response. There was

an allocation of €278k under the LIS last year with a top up of €593k in August 2021, substantial volume of work completed in Dungarvan in 2021 with 8 additional schemes completed and an underspend of €270k. Following discussions with Department at the end of 2021 it was agreed to give €240 as an advanced drawdown on 2022 which means for 2022 have an allocation of €330k for 2022 versus €270 for 2021. Noted that costs have increased for the 2022 Road Works Programme and discussing issue with department inspector to cover additional costs due to increase in asphalt and bitumen and will have further meeting with inspector and welcome any political input to reinforce the situation we are in. Will review issue at the Fairlane roundabout and discuss with regional road safety engineer with TII to manage at peak times. Procurement for works on the Quay is completed and have commitment from contractor to commence works in coming week and prepare defective areas, work will be ongoing through April and May and will minimise traffic disruption where possible. Noted that Ballinroad included for surfacing and will address issues as outlined.

Proposed by Cllr. Pratt and seconded by Cllr. Tobin to write to the Department regarding additional funding to cover increasing costs.

Cllr. Doocey enquired if new applications will be taken for LIS.

Cllr. Nugent noted that the LIS scheme is lifeblood of country and is successful in addressing issues, department shouldn't put time restrictions to spend money in the year of allocation and requested letter is issued to Department to request increase in LIS.

G. Hynes, SE, informed members that section is taking new applications and outlined criteria noting need for 2 landowners on the laneway irrespective of the number of households. Need to have works completed by mid-November and multi annual programmes would benefit work programmes.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Meetings administrator outlined the details of correspondence received. Cllr. McGuinness noted his issue with the delay in response from the Department of Transport with regard to the delays in driving tests for the district.

5. MOTIONS

Motion in the name of Cllr. John Pratt

"I propose that Waterford City & County Council explore the possibility of providing a skate park in Lismore.."

Reg. No. 16 (dated 23rd March, 2022)

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

Cllr. Geoghegan support for provision of the facility and need to follow successful process for the skateboard park in Dungarvan.

Cllr. McGuinness noted that that there are minimal facilities for teenagers and there is a need in Lismore, in general need to pay attention to the older cohort of young people when putting in resources

6. A.O. B

Cllr. McGuinness noted that at recent meeting of Southeast health forum presentation by national ambulance service on response times and would welcome input from members and public on issue.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____