

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

**HELD ON 11TH OCTOBER 2021,
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. Paul Johnston, A/ Director of Services, Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Ms. Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Raymond Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Ms. Brid Kirby, A/Administrative Officer, LEO
Mr. Hugh O'Brien, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Donal Ó Murchadha, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning
Mr. Niall Curtin, Chief Fire Officer
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Adrian Fitzgerald
- Eddie Cashin
- Tom Kiely
- Breda Cleary
- Pat Kirwan
- Patrick (Patsy) O'Brien
- Charlotte Fuller
- Joe Foley
- John Sheehan

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its congratulations to

- Trainer John Kiely on Cesarewitch win with horse Line Out and jockey Shane Foley
- Junior A Hurlers win for Brickey Rangers against Mount Sion
- Maurice Welsh of Coolnasmear with win at Junior A competition in Laois

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. McGuinness enquired if there is a plan for Halloween to counteract any issues, requested update on ASB workshop and extending out to HAP place finder.

Cllr. Tobin enquired if legislation governing right of way has issued.

Cllr. Geoghegan requested update on skateboard park and thanked District Manager for provision of details.

K. Kehoe, DoS, noted tenders for skateboard park are currently on tenders with today date today at 3pm. Performance space out to tender with prices in 2 weeks, construction of Learn to Cycle scheme to commence in 2 weeks noting this the first outdoor scheme in the country and acknowledged work of all staff involved. Conformed that waiting on national guidance regarding the right of way legislation. Cathaoirleach outlined answers to Cllr. McGuinness will be provided under Housing report.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Housing

Cllr. Geoghegan requested update on wall between Highfield and Silver Springs.

Cllr. Pratt noted issue with delays in getting works carried out on own stock, requested update on 2 houses at Cuil Na Circe in Cappoquin that are due back into council under part v and update on windows in Alms Houses Tallow.

Cllr. McGuinness noted length of time some vacant houses in parts of Dungarvan remain unoccupied due to difficulties in allocating and need to test and demonstrate that this is the case. Requested update on Leacain Beag for resolution to storm water drains. Issue regarding central heating systems in homes in Dungarvan where no system bar a fireplace with back boiler and if there is a programme to replace with more fit for purpose system.

Cllr. Phelan enquired when ASB workshops can be held, noted delay in maintenance issues and hope can have turnaround targets enquiring if any issues around staff availability and resources. Enquired about details on number of council houses that need retrofitting, duration for completion and the long-term view for the scheme.

Cllr. Tobin requested update on the four sites in Knockanore.

Cllr. Nugent sought clarification that Childers Estate included under national scheme for retrofitting for 2022, noted that heating systems changed to air to water enquiring when chimneys will be closed.

Cllr. Doocey noted difficulty in private homeowners qualifying for grants to address issues.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested update on houses in Sean Phobal and is there an issue with zoning of the lands.

P. Johnston, A/DoS, outlined there is a plan for Halloween under review by estate liaison team and Gardai, noted that there was an ASB workshop in May and waiting on guidance for meetings in person to have another meeting, confirmed that HAP place finder facility is available to those that have received a notice to quit. Working in background regarding the location of the wall at Highfield and will be back with update at next meeting. Confirmed that have been experiencing delays across all services with difficulties in getting contractors to price work at all levels and looking at taking on additional staff. Noted that there is a legal issue regarding houses in Cappoquin legal that is being pursued and currently looking at solution to address issue with windows in Alms houses. Outlined that there are allocation issues in certain locations highlighting that Choice Base Letting currently getting around 27% refusal rate. The issue of surface water / sewerage at An Leacain Beag is in hand, outlined that there is a national retrofit programme, current allocation for 62 houses where houses will be improved to a B2 rating, programme has commenced, targeting poorest houses which results in existing heat source removed. Will review sites in Knockanore and if there is demand will revert at next meeting. Childers Estate due to be included in 2022 Retrofit programme and noted that chimneys are closed once new system in place. Noted that there was a back log in processing of private housing grants due to Covid which is not being

addressed. Stated that Sean Phobal site is currently zoned open space, Department is willing to support a scheme at the location and outlined that zoning issue needs to be resolved before it can be progressed.

(b) Planning

Cllr. McGuinness noted upturn in demand for pre planning meetings enquiring about the average waiting time and if increased resources can be allocated to the area. Noted that part of the wall at the old Church of Ireland church in An Rinn is collapsing, there is fencing in the area that is preventing families from accessing a few graves requesting if the fencing could be moved.

Cllr. Tobin enquired if any correspondence has been received from An Bord Pleanála regarding the proposed windfarm in West Waterford.

Cllr. Pratt noted that there is a perception that there is an increase in the number of Further Information requests.

H. O'Brien, SEP, noted that there are delays in pre planning due to a backlog which is being addressed, will include update in next month's planning report. Informed the members that planning wouldn't have erected the fencing at the church in An Rinn and recommended contacted the owners, the fencing is probably erected due to safety concerns. Not aware of any further correspondence from An Bord Pleanála.

(c) Environment

Cllr. McGuinness enquired about the replacement for the Poplar trees on the N25 and suggested flora and fauna signage is erected on road from Park Hotel along the Colligan Estuary due to increased usage by walkers.

Cllr. Tobin enquired if it is the council's responsibility to check the weigh scales on the waste collection trucks and if so, how often it is done.

R. Moloney, SEO, outlined that the too early to plant the replacement trees at the site of the Poplar Trees as still in process of killing off roots which will be followed by stump grinding, planted due for Spring 2022. Will look at flora and fauna signage like other locations and identify some items of interest to include. Checking of weighing mechanisms is responsibility of Department.

(d) Roads

Cllr. Cronin requested driver feedback sign on approach to Ardmore village, requested update on closure of right of way in Ardmore also.

Cllr. Phelan welcomed opening of road from Ballinroad to Garranebane, requested manholes covers to be looked at on road from Ballinroad Cross to Clonea roundabout and dog waste bin to be installed at Ballinroad Cross. Complimented work on footpaths in O'Connell Street and requested update on loading bay on O'Connell Street. Enquired if roles within the Active Travel section have been filled and if a workshop can be scheduled to discuss the required works under this area.

Cllr. Doocey noted N25 diversion up to Tallow / Lismore because of works in Ballyrafter caused long delays requesting that works are not carried out at same time as Ticknock.

Cllr. McGuinness noted resurfacing works on Marquis Drive in Silver Springs caused issues were macadam stuck to cars requesting review of type of resurfacing used and the methodology and rationale in using the product. Outlined that parking in housing estates near town at weekends impacting on availability of parking for residents enquiring if council can do anything to police this to ensure residents have spaces to park. Commended fire service on tackling recent oil spillage.

Cllr. Nugent noted Gold Coast Road needs to be included in 2022 Roads Work Programme stating the old mains is being replaced and could roads and water work together to address the road. Closure on N25 for road works caused issues and asked if there is a way of providing information to the motorist to inform them.

Cllr. Pratt agreed with issued caused because of road closure for roadworks, noted active travel works due to commence and hopes works will prevent flooding in New Street occurring in the future. Noted repairs being carried out on lighting on bridge in Tallow and asked that the bridge is upgraded also. Outlined that

need cooperation from landowners in relation to addressing overgrowth as part of the current hedge cutting season.

Cllr. O'Donnell supported need for driver feedback signs on approach to Ardmore.

Cllr. Tobin supported Ticknock diversions as assisted business in Tallow, supports Tallow Bridge works and need to have bridge painted. Requested council to act on need for hedge cutting on privately owned lands where overgrowth is causing a problem on the roads.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that research has shown that if driver feedback signs are used at frequent locations that they lose their effectiveness and wouldn't be the preferred measure, traffic calming measures would be the preferred option. Walk in Ardmore closed and will remain until issue addressed. Not in favour of putting in place additional dog fouling bins as resources does not allow for additional emptying and need to balance resources. Currently reviewing O'Connell Street and loading bay as footpath works had it out of use and looking at current usage and at parking in the vicinity. Active Travel team in place and workshop can be arranged later in the year and early 2022 once team has plan in place. Noted that in relation to the N25 diversion there was no hard shoulder at the location and had to lay asphalt with joining in middle of road and had no choice but to close the road, main diversion along main alternatives, acknowledged some issues in Lismore and due to delays other works in Lismore delayed and was adverted once aware with it. Diversion advertised on radio, Map Alerter and social media. St. Declan's Way can be put on website, trails annually apply for funding to upgrade trails and is an ongoing application. The new surfacing material used in housing estates is a quarter of cost and has allowed roads department to carry out additional works in Dungarvan and is used across the country by local authorities. Outlined that the Gold Coast Road works relate to the new water main, there are two stages of reinstatement where wait for one year for permanent reinstatement to allow for settlement. As part of the Active Travel works the flooding issue in New Street can be reviewed and additional gullies installed if required. Noted there is a difficulty in getting contractors and works on bridge in Tallow have been delayed as a result, have a commitment that the painting of bridge to commence this week. Outlined that as previously advised hedge cutting is the responsibility of landowners and where noncompliance occurs council will pursue through the courts, noted that getting great support from landowners in general. Will review issue with parking for residents in estates near the town.

Cllr. Tobin stated cannot wait for court process to take effect in relation to hedge cutting as will be too long and roads need to be addressed.

J. McGrath, SEE, manholes in Ballinroad have been checked and Irish Water informed for addressing, will review moving one of the current dog waste bins to Ballinroad Cross.

Cllr. Pratt asked if can meet contractor regarding painting works on bridge in Tallow.

G. Hynes, SE, agreed to meet on site if required.

(e) Economic

Cllr. Phelan noted reference to expanding membership on town centre management group, stating only one councillor on the Dungarvan Lismore group whereas Waterford and Tramore have 2 councillors and suggested need to have consistency across this groups. Requested update on what to expect on Christmas lighting for this year asking for breakdown to be included in next month's report. Enquired if can access recent Government funding for sports with specific funding for swimming pools for swimming pool for Dungarvan. Enquired if previously suggested area of small lawn beside offices for bicycle park and plaza area by the shopping centre have been reviewed as to their suitability and if have control to do this. Commended Dungarvan Chamber of Commerce for inviting to Taoiseach to Dungarvan.

Cllr. McGuinness supports issue regarding town centre management group, noted funding to look at strategic framework plan enquiring about level of public engagement involved and when will be opportunity to make submissions.

Cllr. Nugent noted need for a cost benefit analysis for municipal pool in Dungarvan.

Cllr. O'Donnell outlined most important thing is the need for public toilets for Dungarvan.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO, can increase councillor representation on Dungarvan town centre group, Will issue report on Christmas Lighting prior to November meeting, intended that Christmas lighting will be turned on, on the 19th of November.

K. Kieran, DoS, no issue with extension of membership on Dungarvan town centre group, agrees with provision of report on Christmas Lighting for next meeting. Currently no funding mechanism for investment for feasibility report to justify for need for a public pool. Working with active travel team regarding bicycle parks in town and is part of assessment being carried out by the strategic framework plan. Will revert to members regarding the report from the consultants stating that it will go out for full consultation for engagement.

(f) Taking in Charge

Cllr. Phelan due to increase in planning applications is there an increase in planning enforcement activity and requested update on Waters Edge and commitment from developer on maintenance of the area until taken in charge and addressing of wastewater issues in the area.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE, outlined that have corresponded with developer for Waters Edge and they have given an undertaking to carry out works and liaising with IW regarding waste infrastructure in the estate. There are a number of operational development issues and carrying out maintenance issues. Planning enforcements not a symptom of increase in planning applications but there was an increase and will bring statistics to next meeting.

(g) Emergency Services

Cllr. Phelan congratulated the fire services on their performance as best in the county according to NOAC report.

Cllr. Pratt enquired if all fire services numbers are up to capacity.

Cllr. Cronin enquired about filling of vacancy in fire service in Ardmore.

N. Curtin, CFO, stated up to level with all staffing, keeping panels and recruiting as required.

4. REVIEW OF OUTDOOR DINING PROVISION ON MIAN STREET, DUNGARVAN

K. Kehoe, DoS, made presentation outlining background proposal for outdoor dining and the results of the provision in Dungarvan. Noted main findings as footfall to Main Street benefited with outdoor dining provision, there were minimal traffic movement issues and there were some issues with illegal parking on Grattan Street and Main Street. Recommendations to remove outdoor dining provision to Jitterbeans and reinstate parking for winter months and reinstate for summer season from May 1st, 2022, and no changes to other two locations due to minimal impact to parking.

Proposed by Cllr. O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed.

Cllr. Phelan noted that outdoor dining has been a phenomenal success for the town, key benefits in the consistent approach and look, have concerns about continuation into winter months and enquired if business owners were asked to input to report. Enquired when the seating will be removed, and parking reinstated by Jitter beans and noted that need more of a seasonal balance.

Cllr. Doocey supports plan outlining that the provision of this facility was given consideration due to Covid and to support businesses in the town. It worked well for the town and has been very beneficial to the town and businesses.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired if seating left for winter and cannot understand why it should be removed.

K. Kehoe, DoS, noted this is a non-statutory piece of consultation and commitment to members was to review Main Street and report outlines this review. Provision of €152k Failte Ireland towards this scheme as presents all year-round parasols and Towns and Villages funding of €40k. People on ground looking for more and businesses want more of same assistance. Members can make proposals to make change but there is ample parking in the town to address the need for parking in the town. Will remove area by castle green as this is a summer based activity.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired about availability of disabled carpark spaces.

Cllr. Phelan enquired about seating in parts of Thompsons Lane carpark that should be reinstated to parking as more of a summer activity.

K. Kehoe, DoS, noted can review Thompsons Lane and have protected the disabled parking bays and will review other locations.

Cllr. Phelan noted that outdoor dining was brought in as a rapid response to the pandemic, in place now 2 years and would like to see rolled into a more consistent policy for Waterford City and County.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. MOTIONS

None

7. A.O. B

Cllr. Doocey raised issue regarding the closure of the Bank of Ireland branches and the need to replace ATM in Lismore.

Cllr. Pratt supported Cllr. Doocey and adds to the dissemination of rural communities.

Cllr. McGuinness raised issue regarding delays in driving test centre and need to write to Minister of Transport to have additional resources for the sector considering the issue.

Cllr. Phelan supports issue regarding the closure of banks, issue of empty buildings and need to have them used for the benefit of the community. Requested letter to Bank of Ireland to determine their plans for the properties and suggested they are set of for community use and managed by the local authority.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____