

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

**HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 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
Mr. Richie Walsh, Head of LEO
Mr. Hugh O'Brien, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Donal Ó Murchadha, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Anthony Dee
- Buddy Horgan
- Maura Brunnock
- John McGrath
- Francis O'Brien
- Gareth Morrissey
- Bertie Hickey
- Paddy McNamara
- Michael McGrath
- Francis O'Brien
- Marie Morrissey

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

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

- Dungarvan Dramatic Club on celebration of 80th birthday
- Charlie Treen on winning All Ireland under 17 Handball Title
- Ballymacarbry Ladies Football team on winning 40 County Titles

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 11th October 2021 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. McGuinness and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Phelan requested if letter regarding Bank of Ireland closures and use of the buildings for community use has issued.

Cllr. McGuinness reply to letter Minister of Transport regarding waiting lists and delays at driving test centres.

Cllr. Nugent requested update on cost benefit analysis for proposed swimming pool for Dungarvan town.

Cllr. Doocey requested update on letter to Bank of Ireland regarding the provision of ATMs now that branches have closed.

Cllr. O'Donnell notes no objection to the swimming pool but highlighted the need for the provision of public toilets in Dungarvan which needs to be prioritised. Supported by Cllr. Doocey.

K. Kehoe, DoS, will follow up on letters issued and will revert once a funding source is identified for the cost benefit analysis. No current funding for provision of public toilet in Dungarvan, noting that they have a substantial provision and maintenance cost outlining that a number of Local Authorities encourage local businesses to provide the facility as it promotes their businesses and supports the local hospitality sector.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Planning

Cllr. McGuinness noted disappointment with decision of An Bord Pleanála regarding the Duckspool decision. Given the strength of the CE report and the concerns raised enquired where this leaves the council as regards the planning application and thoughts of the planning department as to the next steps.

Cllr. Phelan outlined that An Bord Pleanála approved the Duckspool development despite the concerns of the local people and contrary to the council's own recommendation. Enquired as to the impact of the decision on the Development Plan, questioned if the council will support a judicial review in relation to the decision and if not challenged will there be assurances that all necessary drainage, flood works, sea wall works, and road safety improvements completed before the construction commences. Also noted a number of complaints received regarding the cutting of trees in a field in Ballinroad in preparation of the new site for the Ladies football club, enquired if investigations have been carried out by council and there was no breach of regulations.

Cllr. Nugent outlined that he raised issue about flood plain in Duckspool noting that the defence wall is porous and enquired if it will be put in place before any development commences.

Cllr. Tobin queried ABP in relation to strategic development for wind farm – extended beyond 6 months are there 2 different sections that deals with wind farms and housing developments.

Cllr. Pratt noted council submitted their issues and while surprised at decision noted that there is an onus on this development to ensure that any of the issues/concerns raised are addressed so that they don't occur.

H. O'Brien, SEP, as an overview the Forward Planning team are focused on developing the CE report for Development Plan, noting that received 470 submissions with 50% relating to land use zoning and it is important to maintain this focus and proceed in line with the draft. In terms of the Duckspool development the councils view is that it followed due process, we represented members views and that of the Chief Executive in report to An Bord Pleanála, their decision stands for the moment and planning office still reviewing the decision to determine implications. Issues around infrastructure for flood relief is managed as part of the planning application. In relation to tree felling at new football pitch, planning has contacted Dept of Agriculture and Forestry in relation to their own legislation and there has been no breach under the Wildlife Act, there is also no schedule of amenity trees or trees under a Tree Preservation Order that apply to the area in question.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Geoghegan acknowledged clean up works at Fr. Twomey's.

Cllr. McGuinness concurred with Cllr. Geoghegan, queried strip of grass in An Rinn close to the playground between road and footpath and approached by residents to see if something could be done with the land such as planting to add to the amenity of the area. In relation to the tree felling in Kilminnion South, need to look at the laws in relation to it as it provided an amenity and biodiversity for the location.

Cllr. Phelan concurred regarding works by environment at Fr. Twomey's and noted best of luck to Dungarvan Tidy Towns and all Tidy Towns groups in the upcoming national awards.

Cllr. Nugent enquired about the provision of electric charging points by the council, particularly along the Greenway and around the town of Dungarvan and are there plans in place. Outlined that there are lights out at Piltown Church and enquired as to whose responsibility they are.

Cllr. Pratt support Cllr. Nugent regarding need for charging points and enquired if there is funding available for their provision.

R. Moloney, SEO, noted comments regarding clean up, will refer issue regarding to strip of grass in An Rinn to Roads. In relation to electric charging points evidence shows that 80 % will be done by means of home charging. There is a SEAI grant but it needs back-office facilities that is not an option currently, however looking at partnering at a regional level and also look at developing an EV strategy to identify locations in the county. Currently no charging points West of Dungarvan and if to meet target of 1million electric vehicles on roads by 2030 need to put infrastructure in place. Will check on database regarding lights at Piltown Church.

Cllr. Cronin informed the meeting that the light at Piltown Church was repaired last week.

(c) Roads

Cllr. Tobin enquired if any progress on hedge cutting and if members were to propose a location to be addressed that the roads section could act on this. Complimented the roads section on work they are doing, we as councillors have an onus at budget meeting to ensure there is enough money allocated to address secondary roads. Requested update on any additional LIS and CIS funding.

Cllr. Cronin supported Cllr. Tobin on works carried out by the outdoor crews in addressing issues.

Cllr. Pratt enquired if hedge cutting on road between Moorehill Cross and Kilwatermoy Church has been addressed. Thanked team for work carried out on bridge in Tallow, noted overgrowth in water at bridge in West Street.

Cllr. Phelan enquired as to what work is left to be carried out at Ballinroad cross and Garranbane School, requested update on work at Cushcam junction, enquired if road closure at the R675 is to address reoccurring flooding in the area, outlined that access to and from Ballinacourty has been difficult during heavy rain warnings, noted the contractor did work to keep Gold Coast Road open and continues to be a problem and needs to be added to Roads Work Programme for 2022. Highlighted damage to one of the bicycle stands at Clonea Strand and suggested need to ensure future stands can withstand heavy usage. Collapsible plastic bollards need replacement and may need stronger alternatives.

Cllr. Geoghegan thanked roads for the provision of spaces for people with hidden disabilities in Scanlon's Yard which are receiving very positive feedback and recommended the roll out across city and county in public carparks.

Cllr. McGuinness complimented staff in addressing issues because of the recent heavy rains, Cushcam Cross incident while well flagged needs to be addressed and need to review what can be done at the location to address the issues. Noted strip of grass at Baile na Gall in An Rinn is a wasted area and suggested meeting with the community to discuss options that would be beneficial to the community. Acknowledged works completed at breakwater in Helvick, suggesting two additional works that would benefit the use of the pier; namely bringing public water supply onto the length of the pier with provision of taps to get water onto boats and the installation of a hoist to allow fishermen to land their catch onto the harbour, noting BIM have hoist available but falls to Local Authority to install. Noted issue of need for charging points and agrees that assessment needs to be conducted. Additional traffic management needed on stretch of road by school in An Rinn as there is an issue with speed at the location.

Cllr. O'Donnell acknowledged work on footpaths in An Rinn and welcomed new public lighting due to be installed. Noted that in area of Ballinamuck there are 29 houses without connection to main sewerage on

the road and the issue needs to be addressed. Noted by Cathaoirleach that this issue needs to be addressed with Irish Water.

Cllr. Nugent outlined issue of Greenway spur out to Ballinard and enquired when pathway will be widened. Noted importance of addressing issue at Cushcam Cross, highlighted residents on road between Cushcam Cross and Bridgie Terries are experiencing difficulties in accessing the road.

Cllr. Cronin enquired about footpath from Ballinroad church to school as to which side of the road the works are to take place.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that as per the Local Authorities policy hedge cutting is the responsibility of the landowner and if don't comply with notice as issued by the Local Authority the issue will be follow up on through the courts. Cutting of hedges by Local Authority takes away from roads resources and reduces the chance of getting costs back through the courts, informing members that are sending out considerable number of notices to the relevant landowners as identified by the members. Highlighted that road section is very dependent on grants from the Department in relation to road strengthening, the Department are currently agreeing their allocations and urged members to encourage where possible that strengthening allocations and low-cost safety and road surfacing grants are increased for the coming year to ensure adequate funding and noted with members that costs are increasing. Acknowledged comments regarding recent works by roads section. Noted comments in relation to Tallow Bridge and in West Street some work to be done and will need a derogation order from the Fisheries and may run into next year's works. Approved for minor works at Cushcam by TII, there is a Part 8 approved for the realignment of the junction which includes going through land acquisition and waiting to bring these to a conclusion. It is likely that will have to undertake a CPO process which may take 12 months with works commencing in 2023. Kilminnion section of road where speed tables are located, putting in drainage to address flooding, diversion at Ballinacourty and in times of extreme weather there will be issues with flooding where infrastructure not in place and will get ponding and not cost effective to put in pipes and gullies where outfall is very far aware, in some situations on the local road network relying on natural soakage to address the issue. Note comment regarding disability bays, it is new initiative and will consider rolling out in larger carparks across the county and in Metropolitan district particularly. Will review with the community the grass areas at Baile na Gall grass area. Will look at extending the taps on Helvick Pier, installation of a crane is difficult from a Health and Safety perspective as it need statutory inspection and needs to be locked and need community group to take responsibility for the operation, maintenance and would need to look at in more detail. Speeds at national school in An Rinn can be reviewed noting that onus on drivers to ensure that statutory speed limits are adhered to. Proposed works at Cushcam Cross will not improve sightlines and improvements at private houses is their responsibility. Footpath from Ballinroad to school will be part of an Active Travel scheme and the location will be examined as part of statutory process.

J. McGrath, SEE, surfacing of roads at Ballinroad, An Rinn and Ardmore due to be carried out and will be completed in coming weeks. Drainage pipe completed near graveyard will be completed next year to allow for settling.

Cllr. Pratt noted development in Aglish for 4 houses enquiring if additional location for parking in the vicinity of the hall in Aglish could be provided.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired if any prosecutions have resulted from the registered letters issued to landowners for tree cutting outlining his concerns in the costs associated to the sending of letters by registered post.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired when the 2022 Roads Work Programme (RWP) will be ready for review.

Cllr. Cronin noted that there is a flooding issue on road from Grange School down to pump house as a result of part of the fencing along the roadside drain is blocking the drain and diverting water onto road, it needs to be reviewed as to how to address it.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that can work with community in Aglish if community land available and can review with Cllr. Pratt as to the options. He noted that the sending out of registered letters to landowners has worked very effectively in the last number of years and acknowledged great cooperation with landowners. Have commenced prosecution process for a number of landowners last year and once commenced the landowners carried out the works and didn't have to proceed to courts, cost of registering letters is very small. Roads Work Programme cannot proceed until receive allocation so will be dealt with in February 2022 and can review road from Grange as outlined by Cllr. Cronin.

(d) Economic

Cllr. Phelan enquired if there will be a monitoring of the outdoor seating in the winter months to get a baseline on usage for future planning, noted funding of €15k received for progression of water sport facility which is welcomed and enquired if same funding source could be accessed for the progression of the swimming pool proposal.

Cllr. McGuinness noted that the swimming pool feasibility study needs to draw on external expertise and public consultation. Economic Development and Enterprise SPC review of casual trading byelaws noted that in a number of cases the council could provide development around new pitches with suggestions such as toilet facilities and electricity, one pitch in An Rinn where there is a need for an electricity supply is in car park at top of Helvick head requesting it to be reviewed.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed commencement of works at Fairlane Park adjacent to Linear Park noting it is a positive development for the town.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on Wi-Fi hubs and how they are benefitting the community.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO, outlined that in relation to the Wi-Fi hubs, there are about 10 designated hubs in Waterford, trying to develop a capacity building around them and create a situation where there is a network that will assist and support each other. Developing an electrical point for An Rinn and need to review all casual trading points as to the required infrastructure.

K. Kehoe, DoS, town liaison officer is monitoring the usage of the outdoor seating areas noting it is positive and bodes well for future usage. Ardmore project part of national scheme allocation. Will need to engage a specialist to undertake the swimming pool feasibility study and will involve a public consultation element. Agrees need to undertake a review of the casual trading and association requirements. Acknowledge commencement of works at Fairlane Park and Creative Ireland performance space will commence in coming weeks, eagerly announcement on funding for pump track at the BMX track at Fairlane Park.

(e) Housing

Cllr. Pratt requested update on Cúl na Circa and windows at Alms Houses, noting need for commitment on completion of work. Enquired if making progress regarding works on own stock and when can expect to have work completed from recommendation of Occupational Therapist on own stock.

Cllr. Phelan noted anecdotally hear that few properties to rent in Dungarvan while there is availability for short term enquiring if statistics available on the impact of availability of HAP units for tenants trying to get onto council housing list.

Cllr. McGuinness enquired where there is damage to a tenant's house by third party it falls to the tenant to cover the cost or to follow through the courts to win back costs which seems unjust for the tenant that this is the case to recoup for damage done to council property. Noted retrofit at 4 units in Childers Estate should be completed and enquired if application for future funding is underway as remainder of estate should be dealt with under the scheme. Requested update on progress at Railway Gardens, noted flooding at 2 houses in Lacken Beag where no action to date and needs to be addressed along with update on social housing development in Sean Phobal. Agreed on issue with short term lets and if housing consider the real market cost on units on these rental sites as part of the rent pressure zones.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested update on houses in Sean Phobal and noted a number of people raised issue regarding condition of Focus Ireland flats. Enquired if houses built in An Rinn could be built for people from the area.

Cllr. Nugent enquired about difference between housing adaptation grants for older people and for those with disability, along with funding and time limits.

Cllr. Cronin enquired about the lack of progression on the development of social and affordable housing behind fire station in Ardmore noting there was a previous issue that Irish Water couldn't provide adequate water at the location, and it needs to be brought forward for planning permission.

P. Johnston, A/DoS noted that there is an issue with the two Part 5 units in Cúl na Circa in Cappoquin regarding the legal title of the properties but making progress and hopeful can secure in coming months. There have been issues with delays on the windows for Alms houses along with inflation and waiting period, will take four months for delivery and will inform tenants. Outlined that there are no issues with maintenance but taking time. Waiting times for OTs depends on availability, takes a couple of weeks with

private application however with own stock there are significant waiting times and can be 2-3 years to do adaptation to own stock, it has been reduced significantly on previous waiting times and is being resourced. Short term let's use in certain areas is attractive to certain owners which takes property out of general property pool for letting under private rental and HAP, recent legislation changes, and planning permission required for short term let in pressure zones and this is a planning issue. Noted that in relation to third party damage to council property outlined that if constantly pay for damage to council property will have no way of taking account. Issue of retrofit is in progress, criteria for inclusion in the scheme is estate per area per year based on the worst performing properties in terms of fuel and do intend to retrofit the remainder of Childers Estate in 2022. No further update on Railway Gardens, current developer in contract with will not be carrying out the remaining work. Have carried out some investigation works in Leacain Beag and working with roads to address issues. There are zoning issues on the site for proposed development in An Sean Phobal, earliest that zoning can take place is Q3 2022 and planning cannot proceed until zoning changed. Will provide information to councillors on the various grants available and will revert with update on development in Ardmore and will have Focus Ireland apartments inspected.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

Cllr. Geoghegan noted not satisfied with response from National Parks and Wildlife Service as leaving the responsibility with council. There is no issue with signage and will not improve the situation, suggested that the vegetation is cut back to provide additional observance for motorists in the area and contact Coillte.

Cllr. Cronin supported this and need to revert back to them.

5. MOTIONS

Motion in the name of Cllr. Thomas Phelan

“In light of recent archaeological research at the Famine Grave site at Pulla outside Dungarvan, which could be the final resting place of approximately 3000 famine victims, and given that next year is the 175th anniversary of the Black ‘47, the worst year of the Great Famine, we call upon the Council to complete an interpretation, maintenance and management plan to ensure that the site is kept in appropriate condition and made suitably accessible for current and future generations, so that it can be researched further and be an educational resource, as well as a properly tended resting place for the deceased interred there.”

Reg. No. 11 (dated 20th September, 2021)

Cllr. Phelan proposed and outlined the detail of his motion and look at the Accessing Communities fund for the graveyard. Seconded by Cllr. Pratt.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted money also needed for other graveyards across the County.

Cllr. McGuinness commended the motion, noting and congratulating the committee that maintained the area over a number of years and kept the area accessible and memory alive.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. A.O. B

Cllr. Tobin noted only one bank left in West Waterford which is the AIB in Lismore, issue with private machines inside of premises and proposed letter to AIB to install external bank machine in bank in Lismore so more accessible to the public. Supported by Cllr. Pratt

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____