

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

**HELD ON 9th MAY 2022
at 2.30pm in Civic Offices, Dungarvan.**

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services Corporate, Planning, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. Ivan Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Ms. Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Raymond Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Mr. Liam McGree, Senior Planner, Planning
Mr. Donal Ó Murchadha, Senior Executive 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:
Tom Cunningham, Marion Walsh, Kilrush, Paddy Mooney, Pat Fitzgerald, Maurice Tobin, Breda Daly, Gabe Daly, John Hale, Bobby Keane, Michael Lombart, Bridie Fahy, Paula Collins, Paddy Carey, Hannah Nugent, Thomas Burns

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

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

- Dungarvan Committee of Darkness into Light who recently marked their 10th anniversary of the event
- Success of St. Patricks day parade in Clashmore
- Ballinroad soccer club on the youth B team win who won the league recently

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 11th April 2022 proposed by Cllr. Doocey seconded by Cllr. McGuinness and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Tobin welcomed the funding for piers and harbours for Waterford as announced by Minister of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Charlie McConalogue.
Cllr. Doocey raised issue regarding old Bank of Ireland building in Lismore noting it has a huge asset for community.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that the contracts have been signed with the Bank of Ireland for transfer of the building to council ownership, the Bank had outlined that they wanted to see the building being used by the community. It will be initially used to house some of the Ukrainian refugees and then will revert as a facility for community use.

Cllr. McGuinness acknowledged Minister McConalogue for providing funding but outlined his disappointment that the council's application for the preparatory work was not funded again this year, frustrating when had extra funding under the Brexit fund and department couldn't see fit to provide funding for this. Commended roads department for making the application and will need to make it again. Cllr. Phelan welcomed news about old Bank of Ireland in Lismore and queried the costs involved. Cllr. O'Donnell commented that the money received was funding that had been previously sought.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that the property in Lismore was acquired at lower than market value.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Housing

Cllr. McGuinness requested update on Railway Gardens estate in Lismore, the proposal for social housing units in Sean Phobal, outlined that mains sewer that run under rear of council homes cause uncertainty when issues arise and if the issue has been raised with Irish Water. Enquired if any response from the Department regarding Airbnb issue and if any timeline for allocation of remaining social housing units in Aglish as only 1 of the 4 currently allocated.

Cllr. Phelan enquired when the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) workshop will be held for the district.

Cllr. Pratt update on possibility of Alms houses across from church in Tallow being put back into use and if there is an opportunity for additional development site in Brideview Close.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that will be taking standard Part V requirements from the Railway Gardens development with remainder for private use, working with Department on proposed scheme for An Sean Phobal. Aware of issues with shared sewerage services noting that not necessarily an issue in relation to our own social housing stock. Confirmed that letter has issued to the Minister and also spoken with officials in the Ministers office in relation to the Airbnb issue and it is also due to be included in current review. Noted need to schedule ASB workshop and outlined that both the Alms houses and Brideview are included in the capital delivery plan for this year.

Cllr. Nugent delighted with 4 houses allocated in Aglish, requested follow up on scaffolding on heritage centre in Clashmore and enquired if transport has been organised for Ukrainian children attending local schools and if Melleray is being reviewed as an accommodation option.

Cllr. Tobin highlighted issues with fencing in front of housing development site in Tallow is falling down in front of the National School.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired if previously settled Ukrainian people living here for a number of years can avail of HAP, although not with iPAS.

I.Grimes, DoS, informed members that all 4 house in Aglish are in process of being allocated. Currently seeking pledges for Ukrainian refugee accommodation locally, 140 houses pledged currently and in the process of inspecting them and hopeful that families will be moved into more suitable long-term accommodation. Outlined that looking at access to services / public transport as part of the inspections, engaging with local link regarding local services. He noted that people not in iPAS, cannot currently access HAP but it is being reviewed and is up for consideration and a government decision. Outlined that the council does not own the site as referred to in Tallow, will contact the responsible housing agency on the matter. the Fencing in Tallow, council does not own site as owned by housing agency and will follow up with them again.

Cllr. O'Donnell agreed with Cllr. Nugent about need for buses for Ukrainians enquiring if Local Link bus could be al link bus be diverted to collect Ukrainians working in Dungarvan as would assist people.

Cllr. Tobin as a chair of the local link noted that Local Link has been working to organise supports and it is due to be discussed at upcoming board meeting.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted Local Link and James O'Donoghue carrying out great work and welcomed issue being raised with the board. Noted that Melleray needs funding for investment in the building due to works required, looking at all options and conversion of commercial buildings outlining that use of sports halls are not a long term solution and requested members to inform executive of any options / suggestions.

Cllr. Pratt noted that it is important that housing Ukrainians is not affecting the housing of people on our waiting list.

Cllr. Tobin highlighted the need to congratulate community in Modeligo who are upgrading the parochial house for accommodation for Ukrainians and hope it will set a trend across the county.

I.Grimes, DoS, commended community in Modeligo and example they are setting, and that council is intent on meeting the needs of those on housing list separate to the requirements of the Ukrainian refugees Cathaoirleach agreed to send letter of congratulations to the community on their initiative in Modeligo.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted new air to water heating system installed in Childers Estate and how it has transformed living conditions.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if aware of other church properties that could be used and follow the example of Modeligo and enquired that there is no conflict that any refugees are accessing social housing before people on the housing list.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that Modeligo is an example of the community making approach to church and council is also meeting with church to discuss other options. He outlined that the council are not allocating social houses to any of the refugees and working with department to meet their housing needs, the houses being made available are in private ownership and wouldn't have been available for social housing.

(b) Planning

Cllr. Phelan noted that in article in Independent on 28th April it stated that properties should not be rented out for more than 90 days in a year by Airbnb and on websites, the article stated that the council issued 11 warning letters enquiring if other properties have been issued warnings and being enforced. Enquired when Taking in Charge will next be on agenda.

Cllr. McGuinness noted that access to Molana Abbey is problematic and need to address issue for public access. Welcomed funding for St. Nicholas Church in An Rinn under community heritage grants requesting detail on plan for the church. Enquired if applications for planning permission will be considered under current Development Plan or the draft plan.

Cllr. Pratt noted that tress damaging footpaths in Culrua and estate not taken in charge yet and how it can be addressed.

Cllr. Nugent commented that applicants for one of rural housing may be better waiting until new Development Plan is in place so can take in terms of the new plan.

L. McGree, SP, short term lets and Airbnb specific only apply to rent pressure zones and only 2 in Metro and none in Dungarvan Lismore district. Taking in charge due to be on upcoming district agenda and will include up to date report. Will follow up on community monuments fund and land access issue and provide upgrade plans for St. Nicolas Church in An Rinn. Outlined that all planning applications will be considered under the current plan, new plan due to be in place mid-July and will determine all applications under new plan from that date.

K. Kehoe, DoS, commented that currently looking at mechanism for removal of tress in absence of estate not been in charge.

(c) Environment

Cllr. Tobin thanked staff for work carried out in the graveyard in Ballyduff, supports Cllr. McGuinness in relation to Molana Abbey. Requested details on bulky waste days, use of the drone and mystery shopper.

Cllr. Phelan note €3k approved for clean-up in Shandon and if this relates to problem area and if follow up monitoring is in place, noted that the Circular Economy Bill allows the use of CCTV, Cork County Council have already put in cameras enquiring if the council is taking similar steps.

Cllr. Geoghegan requested additional detail on the Shandon clean up, welcomed works carried out and enquired as to what preventative measures put in place to avoid reoccurrence.

R. Moloney, SEO, outlined that Shandon clean-up was along the River Colligan and is being kept under review, looking at evidence collected and noted that formal arrangements are being put in place for the disposal of waste from the adjacent halting site. Bulky waste days will involve a series of days to collect bulky waste similar to mattress amnesty and will take larger items. Use drones to identify locations for illegal dumping, mystery shoppers are used to assist in ensuring that end of life vehicle are disposed in appropriate manner and use mystery shopper to go to area where may be a problem. Not aware of any Local Authority installing cameras in preparation for Circular Economy Bill as need legislation to permit it.

Cllr. McGuinness outlined that approached by people walking in Ceann Helvic in relation to lack of facilities to dispose of dog fouling bags and the occurrence of the problem. Noted that need to ramp up preparations in the event of Circular Economy Bill being passed, need to look at fixed CCTV and mobile CCTV and would be prudent to start sourcing as soon as have legal basis to do so. Noted need to review dumping in Shandon on both sides of the River Colligan due to the water currents. Reiterated issue of need to label of packaging for fast food with customer details to assist with tracing and prosecution.

R. Moloney, SEO, will review options for improved dog fouling signage and stencilling, will incorporate both sides of the River Colligan. Outlined that not all fast food purchased is from drive throughs, suggestion of labelling has been looked at nationally noting that difficult to implement and not being progressed currently.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that there are significant demands from areas for additional bins, need to educate public on removal, more bins would result in diverting staff away from core duties and not in favour of additional bins.

(d) Roads

Cllr. Pratt requested update on lights to Padre Pio in Cappoquin, progress on footpath from cross to link road in Cappoquin and the need in Tallow for footpath below hurling field. Lights in green area in Shanbally Upper are not working requesting they are reviewed.

Cllr. Phelan complimented road on footpath works and speedy response to sink holes at Ballinroad Cross. Enquired to what extent the funding from Minister McConalogue office would include dredging works. Enquired if tender for repair on the Quay related to the cobble lock or is it just for road surface. Cllr. McGuinness noted that application for funding to Department to carry out preparatory work for dredging was not successful but any feedback from Department on why not funded. Enquired if Irish Water proposed works at Baile na Gall to improve pump station and plans for sewer rehabilitation work have been discussed with roads section. Noted that Kilrush cemetery overgrown, and access impeded, cycle track towards Master McGrath unusable with trees/ branches that need to be cleared. Issue of hoarding in car park in Ardmore adjacent to the church encroaching onto public car park requested it to be reviewed.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that there is no progress to date on the public lighting on N72 to Padre Pio and will continue to discuss with TII. Affane to Cappoquin is a possible active travel project and will discuss with NTA for funding for extension. Footpath in tallow discussed with NTA, not funded under active travel view as related to a limited number of houses, no funding under current capital programme. Will add lighting of Shanbally Upper, noted comments regarding Ballinroad and doing investigation into issues. Received funding of €2.8m for piers and harbours for seven projects, all funding is for structural work, consultancy and surveying works are not deemed eligible and no explanation for not receiving funding. Total costs for dredging works is €150k. Engaging with Irish Water regarding Baile na nGall, aware of hoarding in Ardmore and will review.

J. McGrath, SEE, noted will have sweeper address issues at Master McGrath, cobble lock works commenced on Davitt's Quay and footpath included.

Cllr. Nugent requested additional detail on CIS and LIS funding, enquired as to works proposed by church in Clashmore.

Cllr. O'Donnell acknowledged and welcomed works on widening of footpath to Garda barracks, new lights for church in Ring and extension to Robinsons cross for public lighting.

Cllr. Doocey issue regarding lights out to Padre Pio, old bins taken out for sightlines and need to replace railings.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that there was an advanced LIS last year, allocation for 2022 is €330k. CIS allocation pending and will be finalising in coming weeks. Clashmore village surfacing works to be carried out opposite the church in current year. An Rinn up to Garda barracks, section 38 out on public consultation for public lighting and footpath and will bring recommendation back to next district meeting. Padre Pio public lighting is on a national secondary road and needs TII funding to progress, will review bend on case-by-case basis regarding issues raised by Cllr. Doocey.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if any funding for Ballinacourty Pier.

G. Hynes, SE, confirmed no funding for dredging only structural work

Cllr. Geoghegan outlined that the approach in past with build-up was that the material was flattened out and resolved the issue for a number of years, build up is a concern in Ballinacourty

G. Hynes, SE, noted that must comply with environmental legislation and need a foreshore license to move any materials.

Cllr. Pratt enquired is any reply from Department regarding increase in costs for road projects.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that have had discussion with Department who are aware of issues and impact on our programmes and awaiting response.

(e) Economic

Cllr. Phelan noted plot of council land advertised for tourism accommodation requesting details and enquired if there is scope for private sector to provide services for camper vans.

Cllr. McGuinness noted issues with campers and summer season, issue of parking at Quanns outside of designated areas and impact on other users and are preparations in place for summer visitors and traffic management requirements.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on the Mallow to Dungarvan feasibility study.

Cllr. Nugent agree and welcome camper vans and need new spaces, need to plan for future increases.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that expressions of interest on Fairlane site, indications are that it will go through as a planning application. Camper vans are welcome and are as a result of the success of the town, will have spaces made available and if camping illegally will be enforced. Huge visitors to the town suggesting that the private sector need to look at opportunity to open up lands to service visitors.

D. O Murchadha, SEE, noted that there has been significant engagement in relation to the feasibility of the Mallow to Dungarvan Greenway and will revert with update on timeline of report.

Cllr. Phelan, provision of overflow areas for camper vans any chance of opening staff carpark at weekends and one by offices.

K. Kehoe, DoS, can consider and they are open for use of the public.

(f) Arts & Culture

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed murals at John Tracey Park enquiring if Waterford Walls will be extending into the County this summer.

Cllr. McGuinness welcomed Arts and Culture on agenda noting that need to have a discussion in relation to the development and use of the Town Hall Theatre.

Cllr. Doocey complimented local schools at Lismore Arts Centre.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that Waterford Walls working with locals and street and festival will be extending out the county. Group has been set up to review the Town Hall Theatre and maximise the use of the facility, deferred panto to take place this month.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. McGuinness commented on response from the Minister of State regarding driving test delays, noting that delays existed prior to Covid and hopes the issue will continue to improve.

5. MOTIONS

None

6. A.O. B

Cllr. O'Donnell raised issue about the need to develop a multi storey carpark in the town.

Cllr. Tobin welcomed that meetings are back in person and thanked all staff for co-operation over the last 2 years while in pandemic. Supported by all councillors.

K. Kehoe, DoS, clarified that looking at active travel around town and that there is a multi-storey car park in town that is not full and council will not be building an additional one highlighting that the local shops are thriving and town is busy.

Cathaoirleach thanked the media for patience over Covid, thanked executive for support and courtesy along with the outdoor staff and all councillors for their courtesy

Cllr. Phelan enquired if parking workshop as previously agreed can be scheduled.

Cllr. Doocey requested letter is issued to Waterford Regional Hospital on the costs associated with parking which is difficult for families who are there on a daily basis.

Cllr. Geoghegan supported Cllr. Doocey noting parking charges are extortionate and need to be addressed.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that he will be resigning from the Transportation SPC.

This matter will be on the agenda for the June Plenary meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____