

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

HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2021, at 2.30pm with members on Zoom.

PRESENT:

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

Apologies: Cllr. James Tobin

A minutes silence held for Ann Tobin, wife of Cathaoirleach Cllr. James Tobin.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
Ms. C. Horan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Mr. G. Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Ms. J. McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. R. Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Mr. H. O'Brien, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. R. Walsh, Head of LEO
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late:

- Niall Flynn, Caseyville
- Michael Fitzgerald, An Leith
- Neil Flavin, Ring
- Pat Hayes, Former councillor and Mayor of Waterford City

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 14th December 2020 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Phelan noted that answers to questions in relation to the Christmas Lights will be circulated when finalised.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

Amendment to standing orders to take report (e) Economic Development before other reports, proposed by Cllr. Nugent, seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed.

(e) Economic Development

R. Walsh, Head of LEO outlined key work on ongoing COVID supports to businesses noting allocation of €15million in grants allocated through the Restart Grants, also huge take up in the business continuity vouchers and trading on line vouchers. There have been four successful applications under the Town and Village renewal grants in the district, namely Aglish, Knockanore, Clashmore and Dungarvan with funding of €264,000 for the area. Noted that tenders have issued for project manager and design services for the Cappoquin project with view of having the project completed by the end of the year.

Cllr. Nugent enquired what funding is ring fenced for Cappoquin.

Cllr. D. McGuinness acknowledged work of all involved in the application for the town and village renewal scheme noting the importance of getting funding into rural areas. Noted that funding being made available for a strategic framework for Dungarvan and keen that there is a public consultation element to the development of the framework. Enquired when project manager will be appointed for the Cappoquin project, outlined that there are a number of sectors not receiving Covid related supports and may need to be addressed as part of national policy.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed extra funding under the town and village renewal scheme for the district and called on press to outline and promote the details of the projects for the area.

Cllr. Phelan enquired about design details on canopies for Grattan Square and welcomed funding for the district.

Cllr. Nugent welcomed funding news for smaller villages.

Cllr. Cronin welcomed funding and acknowledged work of Minister in delivering the scheme and support of Mary Butler, TD.

Cllr. Pratt outlined that the funds received also acknowledged the active community groups in our rural areas that are continuously working towards progression of the area.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO, confirmed under the various schemes there is approximately €1.5m in funding for Cappoquin with the project manager due to be in place by the end of the month. He noted that a summary of projects outlined is provided in the economic report and outlined a brief note in relation to each successful project. An outline of the broad parameters for the proposed canopies in Grattan Square to be circulated to the members.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on section of land by community centre in Cappoquin.

Cllr. Cronin raised issue of rural broadband requesting update on next roll out phase for areas such as Ardmore and Clashmore.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO, noted that meeting in Cappoquin due to be scheduled with all affected parties to get agreement on broad level access design to the river. He outlined that the delivery of the roll out falls under the National Broadband plan, noting that the development of village hubs is an important adjunct to improving provision of services in rural areas.

K. Kehoe, DoS welcomed funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the district and acknowledged the work of the communities in developing the applications alongside support of staff Vinnie O'Shea and Michelle Daly. Suggested presentation at future meeting by Vinnie O'Shea on funding and impacts on the district and also from Jack Doyle on roll out of the National Broadband Plan for the district. Dungarvan 2040 project is a shared vision for Dungarvan, providing benefits to all agencies and stakeholders and the community to shaping the town for the future, it will include a core consultation approach. The report will look at the current position, have a vision statement, devise an action plan through research and consultation that will result in a list of projects for the town. It is planned to have a steering group with appointment of consultant to assist with development of strategy and is a great opportunity to develop Dungarvan.

Cllr. Phelan welcomed Dungarvan 2040 plan and suggested reference to feedback from Development Pan issues papers to assist consultants and asked for details on the terms of reference for the consultants.

Cllr. Nugent noted opportune time to include development of the sports centre/swimming pool for Dungarvan as part of the Dungarvan 2040 plan.

(a) Environment

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted poor access from carpark to beach at Ballinclamper, highlighted illegal dumping of construction waste at edge of Colligan Estuary, noted spike in illegal dumping across the district condemning that people are disposing of rubbish in this manner. While acknowledging the concern of GDPR requested need to deploy mobile CCTV to tackle the issue

Cllr. Phelan acknowledged good presentation of approach roads to the town centre, requested if a schedule of weed spraying and grass cutting is due to commence, appeal to the community to address the ongoing littering in the area, enquired if there is interest in the SEAI Better Energy Community Grants and if they can be promoted. Enquired if there will be consultation with paint retailers regarding waste prevention. Requested the promotion of Deadsure App for reporting of lighting faults to the public and asked for inclusion in lighting contractors SLA a process for dealing with emergency issues.

Cllr. Cronin concurred to problem with lights out across Dungarvan, the contractor should be asked to review lights at night time to see where issues are occurring, there seems to be a problem with reoccurring outages in the same areas. Noted an increase in the illegal dumping on the Greenway and also dumping by bottle and clothes banks supporting the need to utilise CCTV to manage the problem.

Cllr. Pratt outlined that issues of illegal dumping and dog fouling is continuing and need to find a way to address this ongoing problem. Welcomed the electric vehicle charging units throughout the county, suggesting Lismore as a location and requested promotion of the various SEAI schemes that are available.

Cllr. D. McGuinness supported issues raised in relation to the lighting issues in Dungarvan, disappointed with response of the lighting contractor to dealing with the reported issues and questioned if the outages are inspected and reviewed. Outages have an impact on communities and need to be addressed in a timely manner, asked if the current contract can be reviewed and see if performance targets are being reached and getting value for money.

Cllr. Phelan acknowledged that there are KPI's and metrics in place for the contractor and that performance is measured. Suggested getting legal advice in relation to the use of CCTV and implications for GDPR.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that contractors are covering a number of areas and not possible to have lights fixed immediately, faults that he has reported have been fixed in a timely manner.

R. Moloney, SEO noted that all reported instances of illegal dumping will be fully investigated; the Office of the Data Commissioner conducted an audit in relation to the use of mobile CCTV and found that use of CCTV was not in accordance with the legislation under the Litter Pollution Act. Measures are under way nationally to enable the use of CCTV for addressing litter pollution measures. Grass cutting schedule will be in place for spring summer months, have communicated with retailers in relation to paint and have done some educational videos to provide advice. Working on a number of energy efficiency initiatives with the Energy Agency, noted that illegal dumping at bottle banks is an issue and are kept under observation. Outlined that there are currently no public Electric Vehicle points in West Waterford and proposing to make an application for EV points in Clashmore, Aglish, Tallow, Cappoquin and Ardmore to the SEAI.

(b) Housing

Cllr. D. McGuinness acknowledged work of maintenance team who have been responsive to issues and particularly during the cold spell. Raised issue regarding violent criminality relating to feuding taking place between a small number of families around Dungarvan which is resulting in intimidation and violence, noting need to look at what can be done to address the matter and need to seek advice from support organisations and Department of Justice to assist.

Cllr. Geoghegan supported Cllr. D. McGuinness noting that issues are playing out on social media and happening in one particular area on a constant basis, asked if a workshop can be set up to discuss the issues in the area (estate management, Gardaí and residents) as people in the area are living in misery and fear at the moment.

Cllr. Pratt concurred with the issues raised, agreed with request to hold a workshop to discuss the matter, enquired about what is deemed an emergency under the current restrictions by a tenant in order for the matter to be resolved.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested option for oil heating to be installed in local authority houses.

Cllr. Phelan noted need to prioritise maintenance requests regarding heating issues, supported need to have workshop to discuss and address issues pertaining to anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. Doocey supports need to address unacceptable behaviour of some tenants.

Cllr. Cronin noted that need to review implications when tenants are in breach of their contract obligations and participate in anti-social behaviour.

C. Horan, SEO outlined that the housing staff are aware and concerned in relation to recent events, issues of violence and criminality are the responsibility of An Garda Síochána. There is an allocations policy, which outlines responsibility as a housing authority, have tried outside mediation services but has not worked in the past. Will review organisation of workshop as requested and revert with details. Key check in relation to having maintenance works carried out is to review if rent payment are up to date, where upgrade works are required this mainly occurs when house is being reallocated.

(c) Planning

Cllr. D. McGuinness enquired when further information detail is due to be submitted for the Piggery application in Ballinamult. Enquired if there is progress in relation to Fáinne na Farraige estate and Railway Gardens and if taking in charge of An Cruachain, Waters Edge and Riverside Estate is imminent. Cllr. Geoghegan noted breach of planning in location of St. Bridget's Terrace where person placed large mobile home at back of house and expect planning enforcement proceedings to progress.

Cllr. Phelan enquired what occurs if further information is not submitted within the timeframe and requested that taking in charge list is presented as an Excel spreadsheet so that it can be filtered by members. Essential that the enforcement section is adequately resourced in order to carry out follow up on permissions.

Cllr. Cronin requested update on status of Heritage Estate in Ardmore, enquired about unauthorised halting site at the Burgery and when it will be addressed.

Cllr. Pratt noted issue with updating of information on the Deadsure App which leads to confusion.

Cllr. O'Donnell raised issue of parked vehicles by the Garda station and is planning permission required for them.

Cllr. Geoghegan concurs with issue raised at the Burgery noting that it is a fire and safety hazard and needs to be addressed.

H. O'Brien, SEP, noted that if timeline for further information has not been adhered to the application is deemed withdrawn. Noted that planning and housing sections working together in relation to a solution to the Burgery. Outlined that there is no scope to deal with the cars parked at the Garda Station under the planning legislation.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE, in relation to An Cruachain, Riverside and Waters Edge developer undertook a resolution commitment to the planning authority to undertake works and developer is engaging to get ready to complete works. Railway Gardens has progressed and agreed with roads section to progress the process of taking in charge. Fáinne na Farraige signage completed as parts of the roads work. Can provide additional detail and in Excel format. Confirmed there was a glitch with Deadsure at end of last year that did not have details updated, more people interacting with system enables to keep all updated. Confirm that significant progress in relation to Heritage Estate in Ardmore. Will get update on enforcement cases and noted there are two separate reports in relation to the Burgery and noted that need to allow for due process to take place.

(d) Roads

Cllr. Pratt enquired if there are any exceptions to the current routes for gritting that can be addressed, asked what can communities do where there are problem areas.

Cllr. D. McGuinness highlighted that the R674 to Helvic is not included in the priority winter maintenance route, it is currently a priority 3 and while understand the council cannot grit all outlined that the road is a strategic route to the Helvic lifeboat and requested that a review of the routes is carried out. Noted that community gritting facility could be looked into. Issue regarding public sewerage issues in An Rinn and need to have a workshop to look at this issue with Irish Water and Water Services.

Cllr. Phelan requested update on schedule for final surface at Powersriver in Ballinroad, noted bins at Clonea Beach not able to cope with level of rubbish and requested increase in bins or increase in

collection. Asked for update on provision of car parking spaces in Grattan Square in line with seating in the location.

Cllr. O'Donnell issue of speed limit from Dungarvan to the Burgery and request for public lighting in the location, noted N25 Ring Cross to Glenbeigh is poor and needs to be reviewed.

Cllr. Doocey would welcome option for community salting to be investigated.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that new public lighting contractor Killaree Lighting Services (KLS) was appointed 3 years ago and contract divided into two parts, firstly routine maintenance which deals with bulbs and fuses blowing. There is a KPI of 10 days in relation to routine maintenance, current contractor is performing well within the KPI and is exceeding the contract in relation to his performance. The difficulty lies within the second area of infrastructural issues as this relates to underground cabling and there is difficulty where there is a significant fault, this does take time to repair, the delays are not the fault of the contractor, the current underground cabling is not fit for purpose. Records shows that Ballinroad outage reported on the 31st December was responded to and repaired within 24hours. Confirmed that current contractor (KLS) is performing within the requirements of their contract and the council is satisfied with their delivery. Noted that a ramp is required to enable to access beach at Ballyclammer, applied for funding to cover estimated costs of €80,000 and awaiting approval. Out of the summer season do not have the resources to empty bins more regularly, public need to take responsibility for the proper disposal of their rubbish. In relation to severe weather there is a winter service plan with 500km of priority roads, which are salted, can re-examine options for provision of grit for communities. Powersriver will be included in Roads Work Programme and will provide timelines on approval of this. Policy with TII is that public lighting is not provided in 100kph areas. Canal road to Glenbeigh reviewed also under roads work programme. Informed that regional LED lights replacement programme will be commencing later in the year and will result in have a lot less faults once in place. The LED lights also use less ESB demand and will have less demand on existing cables.

Cllr. Phelan proposed extension of standing orders, seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness to deal with item 4 on the agenda, agreed by all.

4. UPDATE ON DUNGARVAN SKATEPARK

K.Kehoe, DoS outlined details of the proposed new skate park for Dungarvan, funding is in place and hopeful that will source additional funding for other elements of the project. Intend to go to tender in coming weeks for design and build and asked members to provide details of the local skateboard groups to consult with on design requirements.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed report and the progression of the project which will be an investment in the youth of the town and district and an added attraction to the locality. Thanked Dungarvan Lions club and all staff involved in the progression of the project. Supported by Cllr. Cronin.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted that it will be a well used amenity for the area and would welcome a biodiversity element included in the landscaping of the scheme and educational signage.

Cllrs. Phelan, Doocey, Pratt all welcomed positive development for the district and credit to all involved.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

7. A.O.B

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathairleach

Dated _____