

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

**HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,
DUNGARVAN at 2.30pm.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. James Tobin (Cathaoirleach)

Cllr. Damien Geoghegan

Cllr. Tom Cronin

Cllr. Declan Doocey

Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell

Cllr. John Pratt

Cllr. Thomas Phelan

Cllr. Pat Nugent

Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness

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

Mr. R. Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment

Mr. H. O'Brien, Executive Planner

Mr. D. Ó Murchadha, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning

Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Pat Curran, Dungarvan
- Barry Curran, Clashmore
- Angela Creedan, Springfield, Dungarvan
- John Morrissey, Ardmore
- Mary McGrath
- Mary Marrinan, Coolnasmear

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Ballyduff winning the Intermediate Hurling Title
- Kilgobnet team
- Dungarvan Brickey Rangers Club Ladies Intermediate and Juvenile Hurlers in winning County Final.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 13th July 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Pratt asked for the list of the older persons on the electoral register.

3. PLANNING LISTS

(a) Planning Lists – noted

Cllr. Tobin queried if health companies purchasing properties in Ballymacarbery and Ballysaggart with no interaction with local community and enquired if they are monitored when set up.

Cllr. Pratt supported Cllr. Tobin and noted that they are exempt from planning but locals requesting additional information from the company Nua Healthcare Services.

Cllr Nugent stated that the health centre in Clashmore not currently in use but the external area is unkept and asked for it to be addressed with the Health Board.

Cllr. Cronin enquired if the issue of priority for locals to purchase can be included in the new development plan.

S. Doran, AO stated that the Nua Healthcare development as proposed is exempt under Class 14F of the Planning and Development Regulations which allows for change of use from a residential house to use as the house as a care facility. Monitoring of the facility will primarily be undertaken by the HSE, if there is a concern that the development falls outside of planning it becomes a planning enforcement issue.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted that there are a number of similar developments across the county which are run very successfully.

Cllr. Tobin stated that there are no objections to this development.

(b) Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Traffic Calming Scheme Pedestrian Crossing at Cois Trá, Ardmore, Co. Waterford– Completion of Process.

G. Hynes, SE outlined the details of the Section 38.

Proposed by Cllr. Cronin, seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness and agreed by all.

(c) Taking In Charge (TIC)

Cllr. Cronin raised issue of development of affordable and social housing in the Heritage estate that have yet to transpire and noted issue with surfaces in estate.

Cllr. D. McGuinness requested update on Páirc na mBláth and Railway Gardens in relation to stage with the taking in charge process. Noted presence of two sinkholes in the estate which is causing an issue. Asked for update on timeline for Fáinne na Farraige estate.

Cllr. Geoghegan asked why delay in TIC of Highfield Estate in Dungarvan as this was a turnkey development.

Cllr. Phelan requested additional details to be included in the report.

Cllr. Pratt acknowledged work of council in relation to the hoarding for Railway Gardens, enquired if TIC is nearing completion. Requested timeline for completion in relation to Cois Bride and Cúl Rua.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE will review report and provide additional information as requested. The Heritage subject to recent planning application, have referred to Irish Water and internal sections to carry out an appraisal of required works, actioned CCTV on the networks and public lighting contractor requested to survey the estate. At the point of agreeing a wayleave and engaged with residents for Páirc na mBláth, at the point of issuing final maps for agreement and then the estate will be recommended for TIC. Been in contact with developer for Railway Gardens and progressing items. Cúl Rua estate have been successful in contacting the liquidators and have signed deed of rectification for estate. Met with developer on Fáinne na Farraige at the end of June and satisfied to progress development to TIC and is committed to carrying out required works. Raised matter in relation to Highfield and noted need a more streamlined process and model. Progress with resurfacing of the entirety of Cois Bride, certification carried out and progress been made to bring to a close.

Cllr. Geoghegan railway gardens passed from planning to roads and update as to what is next.

G. Hynes, SE clarified that checks on defects and liabilities are carried out when file for taking in charge is received. Sink holes in Railway Gardens need to be investigated as roads section needs to determine the associated liability.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Environment

Cllr. D. McGuinness playground in An Rinn is managed by locals and they have plans to use other Údarás land for older youth and requested if Local Authority would cover this under the council insurance. Noted that EPA are stating a deterioration in air quality due to use of solid fuels and asked if this a fair and adequate representation of the air quality in the town of Dungarvan.

Cllr. Phelan commended presentation staff for work in Dungarvan and tackling effects of recent storms.

Cllr. Nugent raised issue of the continued closure of Melleray where scouts have been unable to use it. Asked if there is a fire impediment to its use and requested a letter to issue to Scouting Ireland.

Cllr. Geoghegan supported Cllr. Nugent and asked what national plans are for Mount Melleray and local scouts need clarification on the matter.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted issue with trees a danger to the public on Aglish to Clashmore Road.

R. Moloney, SEO unusual to provide insurance to lands not in council ownership and will check the options. Will discuss the air quality monitoring with EPA and locations of monitors and other options for locations. Planting schemes on outer ring roads will be programmed.

K. Kehoe, DoS not aware of issue in Melleray and will check on it.

(b) Roads

Cllr Cronin noted that there are issues with traffic during busy periods which is also hampering access by emergency vehicles outlining that there had been previous plans for a relief road for area and extension of the existing carpark, he requested that this is reviewed with proposal for coming year. Outlined that Byelaws needed to be reviewed with inclusion of parking for campervans. Noted that the storm wall has leaks and cracks and asked if submission for funding can be made to the OPW to repair.

Cllr. D. McGuinness requested that IW officials are invited to attend district meetings as there has been a failure in the service to large parts of Dungarvan without an appropriate back up plan. Also noted that there was poor communication of the message to the public where businesses and householders were without water in Ballinamuck.

Cllr. Tobin acknowledged correspondence received.

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined that IW hold separate workshops and have a dedicated councillor phone line, this is the process and they do not attend council meetings.

Cllr. D. McGuinness stated that this is not good enough and noted that they should attend a meeting and be held to account at a council meeting. Welcomes town and village renewal and active travel funding particularly in An Rinn, issue with speed in the area and asked for roads section to look at infrastructure that would curtail speed. Requested if contractor on road works on N25 Burgery could make provisions to move traffic during busy times while works are ongoing. Noted that need to make Grattan Square safer for pedestrians with mobility issues.

Cllr. Geoghegan outlined that the condition of surface on Davitt's Quay is very poor and in serious disrepair, welcomes additional funding and requested that this area could be addressed. Need to invest in footpaths in housing estates and outside of the town centre.

Cllr. Phelan concur with issue regarding Davitt's Quay, drainage works in Ballinroad has taken longer than expected to be completed and there will be a waiting period for settlement before final surfacing can be completed. Requested that bollards and footpaths at Murphy Place could be reviewed and require substantial investment. Active investment into footpaths across the district is needed.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired if walkway at Murphys Place in Abbeyside was reviewed, road up from Park Hotel needs resurfacing and surface at Master McGraths is still uneven.

Cllr. Nugent requested that landowners in Clashmore to be notified regarding need to cut back trees, need for traffic calming at Kilminnion at Ballinroad Cross. Acknowledged great job carried out at junctions on Military Road.

Cllr. Pratt outlined that there is a vacancy in the outdoor staff for the Lismore area and asked for this to be resolved.

Cllr. Tobin supported Cllr. Pratt in relation to the outdoor staff, noted that overgrown trees are an issue on roadside from Cappaquin to Knockanore.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that most of roads work programmes substantially completed for the district. Military road junctions nearly complete, acknowledged issue regarding the Master McGrath cross and is due to be rectified by the contractor. Confirmed that land owners are responsible for trees and hedge and will be issuing letters as normal, acknowledged co-operation of the land owners and asked for details of particular problem areas to be notified to the area engineer. Acknowledge traffic issues in Ardmore on busy days, was reviewed this summer and only solution is a new relief road and will discuss with planning as to how best to achieve this. Agreed that need to update beach byelaws to factor in campervan issues, will commence the process and bring draft byelaws to the SPC. Considerable work has been carried out on the storm wall in Ardmore, it is constantly under pressure acknowledging that ongoing repair is required and will submit application to OPW to protect from tidal events. A speed survey has been carried out in An Rinn and it outlined that there is not significant speeding in the area, will look at alternatives and a medium term solution for the area. The drainage project at the Burgery has been significant, new paving scheme will take 2-3 months to complete and will talk to contractor about minimising delays. Carried out improvement works in centre of Grattan Square and would welcome information on additional areas causing problems. Acknowledged issue with Davits Quay and are currently carrying out localised repairs and will investigate the appropriate solution for medium to long term. Murphy's Place not on the current plan for addressing. Acknowledged issue with Park Hotel road and will be considered for 2021 Roads Work Programme. Workforce Plan in place and it can take time to fill vacancies and confirmed that the vacancy will be filled. J. McGrath, SEE outlined that discovered more defective drainage than expected in Ballinroad which led to longer work programme in order to repair. Outlined that landowners can cut trees on their land without receiving letter and asked that landowners check their road frontage for any issues.

(c) Housing

Cllr. D. McGuinness asked if there has been any application made in relation to the Childers Estate improvement works as there is real need to make houses more energy efficient. Noted that there is a residual issue regarding drainage with a number of houses in An Leacha Beag due to adverse weather conditions. Queried if houses due to be built in Railway Gardens are to be a turnkey development and what form of allocation to be used.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if all houses been allocated in new development in Ballinroad, how many refused and how many locals were successful. Road been widened in the area and asked if the works were commenced prior to agreements with land owners.

Cllr. Cronin praised the Government regarding announcement of money to Waterford and thanked Minister Butler for extra money for older people and those with disabilities.

C. Horan, SEO will revert with details on remediation works for Childers Estate. Confirmed that Railway Gardens is a turnkey development. Detailed that 75% of offers for Ballinroad estate were accepted, various reasons people refuse such as successful on other competitions, second round offers being processed and there is a mix of people that were offered the houses. Will check and revert with commencement dates on road widening. Outlined that disability funding is as a result of an application earlier in the year, works ready to commence now that funding committed and acknowledged that there is an increase of about €230k on previous years.

(d) Planning

Cllr. Cronin outlined that treatment of locals in the planning process needs to be addressed in the new Development Plan, locals need to be able to build in their own communities. Supported by Cllr. O'Donnell. Cllr. D. McGuinness concurred that people are frustrated at not being able to get planning permission on their own lands that would satisfy numerous needs for areas, we need to look at how we plan and grant planning permissions in areas in order to sustain communities. Enquired to what extent policy is taken into account in the Gaeltacht when granting or refusing planning for this area, need to support locals in the Gaeltacht being able to remain in the locality to ensure its sustainability as a community.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired if details discussed at pre-planning meetings should be form part of the actual planning application.

Cllr. Nugent requested direct contact numbers for planners that are currently working from home due to Covid 19. Noted difficulties experienced by people when not getting planning permission in their own area.

Cllr. Phelan agreed with issues raised regarding rural housing challenges, noted we are constrained by national planning guidelines and need to bobby own parties to make changes. Asked what way pre planning meetings are currently being held and are there any backlogs.

S. Doran, AO noted issues raised in relation to locals applying for planning permission, the planning department is anxious for sustainable communities and needs to ensure that development is done in a sustainable manner that is in accordance with national planning frameworks. He noted that pre planning meetings are taking place remotely with a small backlog, planners highlight in their report the details of the meeting. All planners are working from home and will confirm that contact details are available. Outlined that today is the last day of the public consultation process, to date there have been 180 submissions, a report from the CE summarising the contents of the submissions will be issued to the members at Plenary council.

Cllr. Geoghegan stated that the details of the pre planning meeting should be part of the planning application file and not just available as part of the planner's final report.

K. Kehoe, DoS stated that contact details for all staff are in the contact list as previously circulated to the councillors and outlined that planning are following national guidelines regarding the pre planning reports.

(e) Economic

Cllr. D. McGuinness requested update on development of Cappoquin, Christmas lights for Dungarvan and plan for Dungarvan Aglow for 2020.

Cllr. Phelan outlined that the volume of campervans has increased and asked if can revise plans for Quanns yard and look for specific facilities. Asked what will happen the festival funding not used due to Covid 19 and asked if Christmas lighting will be affected by Covid 19.

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined that planning works for Cappoquin are advancing and also have funding for project manager for the scheme who will drive the project, funding to be spent in next 18 months. Campervans proposal for Quanns was to address a small number of vehicles, want to encourage campervans and would like to see private sector come forth with solutions. Stated that will not have the normal range of events with Dungarvan Aglow in line with current Covid 19 restrictions. Need to ensure that Christmas lighting is up to standard, have tendered the contract and currently finalising tender report with decision to issue in next week. Funding going towards upgrade of lighting in Dungarvan.

Cllr. Geoghegan thanked and gave appreciation to the Dungarvan Aglow committee for their work Dungarvan.

5. JULY JOBS STIMULUS MEASURES

Cllr. Tobin welcomed the stimulus package for the district and congratulated all the areas that were successful in getting funding and asked if this work can be carried out with the staff we have and in the required time.

G. Hynes, SE outlined the details of the report as circulated at the meeting noting that the Dungarvan Lismore District received €475,000 under the Active Travel allocation and received €170,000 under the Climate Adaptation allocation. Timeframe is short in that the funding has to be spent this year and will be done as a combination of own staff and contractors.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed additional funding and as Mayor outlined his appreciation to Minister Ryan who listened to issues at recent remote meeting.

Cllr. Pratt disappointed on funding for projects in Lismore and outlined that will not vote for any budget that doesn't included dedicated funding for footpaths.

Cllr. Phelan welcomed funds, however still only a drop in the ocean as to what is needed. Would like to see full list of projects submitted for funding. Noted that bricks used on O'Connell street cause problems and asked if an alternative material could be used. Also need to look at putting gullies under the surface.

Cllr. Cronin welcomed funding and thanked engineers for tackling issues in the area.

Cllr D. McGuinness acknowledged work engineers to getting money and concurs with Cllr. Phelan regarding the brick finish.

Cllr. Tobin supports Cllr. Pratt in lack of funding for the area of Lismore.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

8. A.O.B

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____