

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,
DUNGARVAN**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Liam Brazil
Cllr. John O’Leary
Cllr. Ger Barron
Cllr. Declan Clune

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. I. Grimes, DoS, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
Mr. G. Hynes, SE, Roads.
Ms. M. Goff, A/SEE Roads.
Mr. L. O’Brien, AO, Environment.
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner, Planning
Mr. D. Ó Murchadha, SEE, 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:

- Paddy Moore, Joanstown
- Caroline Whelan, Portlaw
- Peggy Murphy, Portlaw
- Patrick ‘Doc’ Morrissey, Portlaw
- Plilo Dowdall, Kilmacthomas
- Edmond Connolly, Kilmacthomas
- Bridie Power, Kilmeaden
- Ann Robinson, Kilmeaden

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of District Meeting held 15th July, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. PLANNING

- (a) **Planning Lists** – noted.
- (b) **Taking in Charge**

Cllr. Clune asked for additional information on the stage in the process and the expected timeline for completion for each of the estates to be included in the report.

Cllr. O'Leary welcomed progress on estates, enquired as to the responsibility for the signage in the estates, in particular Fán Glas in Kilmeaden.

Cllr. Brazil asked for deadlines to be included in the report as a number of estates are waiting to be taken in charge.

Cllr. Barron welcomed list, requesting inclusion of details if there is a hold up on information being submitted. Enquired if it is normal practice for a respond estate to be taken in charge.

D. O 'Murchadha, SEE noted that additional information can be added to the report and he will re-circulate to the members. He outlined that timelines are not in the control of the council, the onus is on the developer to complete the works so it is difficult to include this information. The request for voluntary housing estates to be taken in charge is becoming more prevalent as they continue to deliver estates.

Cllr. Clune enquired is it when the bond is retrieved that the estate can commence the taken in charge and if there is a timeline associated with Irish Water completing required works.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE confirmed that the bond is part of the planning permission and once received the process can proceed and there is an exercise in engaging with the relevant parties. He noted that there is a memorandum of understanding in place to guide the process with Irish Water, however the lockdown period has had an effect on this. There is a significant exercise in undertaking resolution works.

4. REPORTS

(a) Environment

Cllr. Clune asked for update on the Tannery site and when outstanding report and overall plan will be available. He highlighted that the costs of illegal dumping continue to increase, additional costs going into tackling illegal dumping. There is a need to invest in this area, suggesting the purchase of additional covert cameras which could be placed in strategic hotspots to dissuade people from dumping.

Cllr. Brazil concurred that rubbish is a continuous problem and supports the need to have additional cameras in the area. He noted that the fine is not enough stating that there needs to be a name and shame campaign put in place. Raised the problem with eligibility for controlled burning for households.

Cllr. Barron stated that he was appalled with photographs of illegal dumping in the report and asked about requirement of land owners to secure their property, requesting that Coillte are liaised with to tackle the issue on their lands.

Cllr. O'Leary asked if a presentation can be made in relation to the progress of the Climate Change Strategy.

Cllr. Power outlined that it is a small number of people that are causing the issued in relation to illegal dumping and tackling the problem needs to be prioritised.

L. O'Brien, AO, will follow up on Tannery report and revert to the members. He outlined that the council are serious in relation to tackling illegal dumping and have taken a significant number of actions against people. Additional CCTV cameras can be deployed but need to be cognisant of GDPR requirements, can't have them in every location and rely of the public communication issues to the environment department. The publishing of names of offenders is guided by the courts process. Council continues to liaise with Coillte in relation to wooded areas and have requested that they secure properties. The council are continuously running campaigns around the areas of environmental education and awareness which have been successful in communicating the message. He confirmed that the legislation provides an exemption for the burning of waste that arises from an agricultural process, notification needs to issue to the Local Authority and the Fire Service in advance of any burning.

Cllr. Clune proposed that the Stimulus Programme was brought forward on the agenda and dealt with, seconded by Cathaoirleach and agreed by all.

5. JULY STIMULUS PROGRAMME

G. Hynes, SE outlined a summary of the additional funding received under the stimulus programme and divided into 3 streams. Waterford City received €2.3million and under the 2 other streams the Comeragh district qualified for received €304,000 under the Active Travel Allocation and €60,000 under the Climate Adaptation Allocation. The successful areas under the Active Travel Allocation are Portlaw, Annewstown, Bunmahon, Lemybrien and Kilmacthomas villages. Funding under the Climate Adaptation Allocation for Mahon Bridge and Copper Coast Road.

Cllr. Clune welcomed the receipt of the additional grant funding, noting the successful projects have been requested works by the members over the last number of years. Noted his disappointment with the lack of inclusion for traffic calming measures for Kill village and asked for a timeframe for delivery.

Cllr. Brazil delighted to welcome the projects and thanked for their work

Cllr. Barron asked why separate applications were made for the districts rather than one application for the full council.

Cllr. O’Leary noted that the poor condition of footpaths is an ongoing issue so welcomed this being addressed along with recognition of the issues in rural areas.

Cllr. Power welcomed additional funding to address issues with footpaths.

G. Hynes, SE stated that the requirement is that funding is spent in the current year with work completed by mid-November. Hopeful that the stimulus programme will also be available in 2021 and unsuccessful projects from this year will be included in that application. He confirmed that it was one application on behalf of the local authority. The city is funded by the National Transport Authority and their primary focus is on the large cities in relation to bus routes and insuring connectivity into the cities, this resulted in the cities in the country received a larger allocation. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport funded the two streams that the Comeragh district were successful in.

4. REPORTS

(b) Roads

Cllr. Clune outlined that there was an issue with heavy traffic in the village of Bunmahon during summer and an incident whereby the Bunmahon Lifeboat and Lifeguard couldn’t get equipment into base. Asked that the Gardaí carry out additional patrols during busy times and asked if the council we can do anything to mitigate the issue at the Lifeboat station. Issue of speed with cars coming onto Darrigal Cross on R680 from Kilmeaden and need for traffic calming at the junction. Requested prioritisation of traffic calming on the Carrick Road and Queen Street in Portlaw in the 2021 road works programme

Cllr. O’Leary meeting recently held with the Kilmacthomas group and Tidy Towns group whereby a number of issues were highlighted. The success of Greenway has resulted in some challenges, there is a need for a traffic management plan in the village and possibly a one-way system in the village. Also looking for improved signage within the village and repainting of the bridge. Requested that area engineer meets with the groups and councillors to look at agreeing a plan for the village.

Cllr. Barron supports Cllr. O’Leary and also highlighted need to review the dangerous corner in the Square where footpath ends.

Cllr. Brazil asked for update Lemybrien, fingerpost in Clonmel, issues with capacity on carparks at Mahon Falls and Kilclooney Woods and repairs to Mahon Bridge as a result of storm damage.

Cllr. Power noted that there is increased traffic at our public amenity sites highlighting that there is a need for a plan going forward for additional parking and to ensure access for emergency vehicles. He also met with the groups in Kilmacthomas, noting the need to address footpaths and derelict buildings in the village, suggested that the trails officer also meets with the area engineer and groups.

G. Hynes, SE acknowledged the work of the groups in Kilmacthomas and agreed to the suggestion of walkabout with area engineer and Economic Development. He acknowledged the issue with traffic congestion as a result of the transformation of the village and see what measures can be put in place. He noted that considerable funding has been spent in Portlaw and currently working on Brown Street and will look at issues raised for the 2021 Programme. He noted that there was congestion in Bunmahon during the summer that did give rise to issues, will look at double yellow lines and will talk to local Gardaí. He acknowledged that additional parking spaces are needed in our amenity sites and working with economic development to source funding. Currently finalising design for Mahon Falls car park and will revert with Part VIII. Outlined that difficulty in Kilclooney woods is getting land for additional parking. Due to commence construction at Lemybrien in 2021, design and tender documents completed and finalising agreement with land owners. Works progressed well in relation to the fingerposts, final surface layer and commissioning of footpaths remain and expect work to be complete in next 6 weeks, flooding issues will be resolved by the scheme.

M. Goff, A/SEE stated that aware of list of issues in Kilmacthomas, there are elements that can be delivered but some will require a specific funding stream. Town and Village renewal scheme funding allocated for Kilmacthomas which will address some items and will meet to progress items. Outlined that design for Mahon Falls carpark is being finalised and be prepared for Part VIII and will apply for funding under the Outdoor Recreational Scheme. Will review issues highlighted in Portlaw.

Cllr. Barron enquired how plan for a one-way street plan in Kilmacthomas would be progressed.

G. Hynes, SE will look at what is feasible and bring back for further discussion.

Cllr. O'Leary appreciate the need to look at one-way system and noted that the Kilmacthomas Social Enterprise Group also met with the councillors.

Cllr. Clune asked for update on Carroll's Cross and negotiations with Transportation Infrastructure Ireland.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that there is a process involved in relation to the development of any scheme, feasibility report and funding submission to TII completed and they have approved €500,000 for traffic calming scheme as previously outlined. Next stage is a preliminary design report which will finalise the exact design, this is then submitted to TII for final approval and conduct road safety audit to ensure compliance. Then come back to council with a Section 38 which outlines the scheme, then goes out to public consultation and then reports back to council for approval of scheme. Once the statutory process is completed it will proceed to preparation of tender documents and out to tender. Hopeful that will be back with S38 for approval before end of year, tender process commences with a Q1 2021 start date.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Clune requested full number of voids for the areas to be included in the report and for update on fire station in Portlaw.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on new housing estate for Kilmacthomas, what funding received for the Disabled Grants and noted that there is no funding to assist people in private houses and that Age Action can only deal with people in the city and Tramore requesting that it is extended out to the county.

Cllr. Clune supported Cllr. Brazils request for extension of Age Action area.

Cllr. Power enquired if additional funding will be available to assist community groups, resident's associations, noting that Pinewood Drive outside of Clonmel require funding to purchase lawnmower.

Cllr. O'Leary asked what the procedure is for the dealing with conditions external to houses allocated.

I.Grimes, DoS confirmed he will add additional information on voids to the report. Currently working with fire brigade in Portlaw to progress issues and confirmed the tender for new estate in Kilmacthomas are due to issue shortly and expect contractor to be on site by the end of Q1 2020. Received an additional allocation for the Disabled grant allocation which will reduce waiting list. Private housing grant refers to the Care and Repair grant operated by Waterford Area Partnership which operates with its boundary. The council provides modest funding and is looking at possibility of extending scope of the scheme out to the West of the County. The community enhancement funding was oversubscribed and there were disappointed groups. Only other grant provided by the council is the Supporting Waterford Community Grant where funding was allocated earlier in the year. Will review with estates management team regarding other options. Will be advertising in coming weeks a new Community Centre and Building fund. Standards that apply to allocations are set done by legislation and requested details to be provided on individual case.

(d) Planning

Cllr Brazil welcomed an Bord Pleanála decision regarding Lemybrien while disappointed that WCCC refused in first instance and that Irish Water haven't provided the necessary infrastructure. Noted the need to be serious about the work on the Development Plan and outlined his request for SPC meetings to be held in the chamber and not remotely. Outline that need a tourism plan for Waterford.

Cllr. O'Leary welcomes development for Kilrossanty

Cathaoirleach requested extension of Standing Orders for meeting to be extended by 10 minutes, proposed by Cllr. O'Leary and seconded by Cllr. Brazil.

L. McGree, SP, outlined that currently working with Irish Water in relation to addressing the issues in Lemybrien noting that there are constraints in relation to capacity and it is not currently on the IW Capital Programme. Irish Water have a new initiative called the 'small towns and villages growth programme' and confirmed that Lemybrien has been submitted as a number one priority. The determination of holding SPC meetings remotely was made by the CPG. Outlined that 227 written submissions received in relation to the Development Plan Issues Papers, also had a series of webinars and seminars and the quality of the public consultation was acknowledged by the Office of the Planning regulator and full report to council on the submissions by the 9th November. Noted that presentation by Gortinore Distillery will be arranged for future date.

Cllr. O'Leary welcomes Irish Water approach to Lemybrien and asked that Dunhill is considered also.

Cllr. Brazil seconded Cllr. O'Leary request and welcomed planning for graveyard in Faha.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

7. AOB

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____