

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

**HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2024
at 2.30pm in Conference Room, Civic Offices, Dungarvan.**

PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Paul Johnston, A/Director of Services Corporate, Planning, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. Ivan Grimes, Director of Services Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Ms. Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Ms. Dawn Wallace, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Ms. Aisling O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Planner
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its sympathies to the families of the late: Tommy Reynolds, Ned Quill, Joe Dalton, Emma Charles, Celine O'Connor, Tom O'Riordan, Bridie Martin, Ann Stevens nee Parker, Catherine Foley, Josephine McCarthy, Bishop Lee

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its congratulations to Jimmy Taffee on successful career and his retirement from Waterford LEADER Partnership, community councils Phobal na Rinne outgoing Cathaoirleach McGrath. Congratulations to Aaron Doocey on recent breeding success in Cheltenham.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 11th December 2023 proposed by Cllr. McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. McGuinness requested addition to minutes under Planning to state that he had requested a written report from the executive in relation to the outstanding issues to be addressed in Ringnaphuca, amendment seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

Cllr. Nugent noted that contact with engineer in Youghal will be followed up on for next meeting. Reference to voids under Housing reports should reference Ballinameela instead of Ballymena.

Change issue as referred to as Cllr. Pratt under Planning report to be changed to Cllr. Nugent stating that house levels in areas of flooding should be raised for future applications. Seconded by Cllr. McGuinness and agreed by all.

Cllr. Doocey requested update on repairs to lights that are not working.

Cllr. Cronin supports issues of lights and on the by-pass and approach to roundabouts that are not working, requested update on provision of signage in relation to the restriction on breed of dogs.

Cllr. McGuinness noted that have not received response from Minister Humpries in relation to the €2m cut in LEADER funding and requested additional letter is issued. Outlined the issue with the Local Link service and issue with West Waterford passengers and people left to walk distances to approved stops resulting with less people using the service enquiring if any update from the NTA in relation to the matter. Informed members that Údarás na Gaeltachta have committed funding to proceed with affordable housing scheme and working with stakeholders to progress. Requested update on progressing the annual parking scheme as discussed at budget meeting.

Cllr. Pratt noted that issues are ongoing in relation to Local Link, the service is being reviewed and cannot stop at certain locations due to safety reasons.

Cllr. Cronin outlined that James O'Donoghue of Local Link presented at recent Roads and Infrastructure SPC, commitments to meet in coming week with solution to solve the issues that have arisen.

Cllr. Doocey noted Local Link time schedule is an issue along with access on certain roads.

G. Hynes, SE, informed members that have met with lighting contractor who has increased resources to address issues on the ground and have commitment that by end of February will have minors public light issues resolved.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted need to have the public light issues resolved in a more efficient manner, many outages are long standing issues.

Cllr. Phelan noted that many public lighting faults remain open for a long length of time and requested report on top 10 open issues. Requested update on provision of street lights in front of Knocknagranagh in Ballinroad.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that the provision of annual parking permit is not currently part of the Byelaws so will need to commence a process to review the Byelaws, will bring to the next SPC meeting for discussion. Outlined that have assurances from contractor that will progress public lighting outages, has allocated additional resources to address. Noted that underground services are in a poor state and need considerable investment to improve.

D. Wallace, SEO, outlined that new signs are currently being redeveloped and redesigned.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that as part of the LED retrofit programme will identify areas of deficiencies, area of Knocknagranagh will be included.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Planning

Cllr. McGuinness requested an update to issue to the residents of the Ringnaphuca estates in relation to the outstanding issues that need to be resolved. Enquired if a special meeting will be held in relation to the Scart wind farm application. Enquired about the powers of local authority in relation to applications for large housing development and reserving for local families and local need and that the units are planned for as family homes.

Cllr. Phelan outlined issue of sewerage smell and issue with pump in Ringnaphuca requesting it is resolved.

Cllr. Pratt raised issue of removal of access steps to the post office in Cappoquin which continues to cause issues for users.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, will review issue at Cappoquin post office and noted that it is a protected structure. Issue with pump station for the Ringnaphuca estates due to be resolved and will revert with update. Will discuss issuing of update in relation to Ringnaphuca with the Taking in Charge team. Waterside and Riverside there are live planning and will resolve the outstanding issues. Scart mountain is currently at pre application stage with An Bord Pleanála and will have a special meeting if it is a SID. In relation to

housing developments and if land privately owned need to deal with applications on own merits and entitled to sell on and cannot restricted sales.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Pratt requested update on playground for Cappoquin and enquired the dog control legislation has been updated, enquired about staffing for dog wardens.

Cllr. Geoghegan highlighted issue regarding inability to empty bins in Clonea Strand during the winter months, this location is busy all year round and needs the service to be extended to cover all year.

Cllr. Phelan supported Cllr. Geoghegan regarding need to address Clonea Strand and need to apply resources to this area. Reported that timber deck prom in Abbeyside is very slippery and needs attention. Flag in front of courthouse tangled in branches of trees requested it is resolved.

D. Wallace, SEO, noted that no update to the current dog control, same compliment of dog wardens with one currently on sick leave. Will have issue at boardwalk addressed.

G. Hynes, SE, informed members that the Cappoquin playground equipment is on order and will be in place in 4-6 weeks. Presentation gang confined to Dungarvan, if extend out will diminish work in Dungarvan town. The Ballinroad/Clonea areas comes under general roads duties, limited resources and will prioritise as see fit.

Cllr. Geoghegan need to ask presentation team to go out to Clonea.

G. Hynes, SE, will review as an Executive, examine options and revert for next meeting.

Cllr. McGuinness concurred that council is under resourced to provide year round service at Clonea Beach noting that toilets in Clonea also need to be made available all year round. Requested provision of beach wheelchairs for Clonea. Enquired as to when small street sweepers will be back in the district and also needed on the Greenway by Durrow.

Cllr. Nugent compliment hedge cutting on Greenway.

Cllr. Doocey raised issue with cloths banks and bottle bins enquiring if there are sensors on them to notify when need emptying. Noted that dog owners need to keep dogs on leads when walking then in public areas.

Cllr. Tobin commented that the council cannot be held responsible for the publics use of the bins and community need to respect the public amenities that are provided.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that people are using bins to dispose of household waste.

D. Wallace, SEO, outlined that have tendered for new street sweeper. Some of the bring banks have sensors, should be numbers visible to also call if full. Clear guidance on dog leads is outlined in the legislation and on public signage.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that public toilets in Clonea are open during summer season and outside that needs additional resources and will look at in accordance with budget provision.

(c) Economic

Cllr. Phelan welcomed that Waterford is 1 of 6 counties to have new County Outdoor Recreation post and need to see that amenities are available at our outdoor areas. Outliend that the Christmas lights in Dungarvan were not switched on until 4.30pm and still some issues with them, need to review and address for Christmas 2024. Enquired if new Acting Director will attend the Town Centre Management Group meetings. Requested update on Courthouse project for next meeting and enquired if there is any information on the Buildings Acquisition Measure to be available this year.

Cllr. Geoghegan commented that letter issued from finance to businesses regarding collection of rates going forward, noting they will not be allowed to pay for in two instalments during the year but can do over 12 months. Issue of availability of taxis at weekends, contact NTA and express concerns re licences and need to make it simpler for taxi drivers.

Cllr. McGuinness requested that proposal to develop a mountain bike trail in Glendalligan Woods is progressed as will extend our outdoor tourism offering. Paid tribute to all involved with Santa at The Strand in Lismore.

R. Walsh, SEO, noted that the pilot recreation officer position is welcomed noting it is a positive statement to the counties commitment to outdoor recreation and will be assigned to the Waterford Sport Partnership. Update of Courthouse and Irish Language Centre will be provided at next meeting. Building acquisition measurer to be repeated and will revert with details when received. The issue of getting night time taxis in Dungarvan is an issue across the county and need to talk to national bodies to make it easier to enter the market. Coillte concentrated on other trails across the country and need to progress the proposal for the mountain bike trail, new officer to be involved in it.

I.Grimes, DoS, commented that the rates payment is a Plenary issue and will revert with rationale.

P. Johnston, DoS, commented that he will be involved with the Dungarvan Town Centre Management Group and will follow up on issue with Christmas lights.

Cllr. Cronin supports issue regarding rates, enquired about update on courthouse in Ardmore and update on extending the cliff walk in Ardmore to Whiting Bay.

Cllr. Doocey requested update on the proposed Greenway route noting need to organise meeting with property owners regarding concerns.

Cllr. Pratt concurred with Cllr. Doocey noting some issues regarding the proposed that need to be addressed. Requested update on the rural regeneration project in Cappoquin.

Cllr. Nugent acknowledged great work at Ballinacourty enquiring if title had been secured for adjacent site to the works and requested update on the proposed cycleway feasibility study from Youghal to Dungarvan.

R. Walsh, SEO, outlined that the courthouse in Ardmore placed on Derelict sites register and may be CPO'd to integrate into town regeneration. Cliff walk extension on list of trails developments and need to detail proposed works. Greenway extension Mallow to Dungarvan, all property owners and relevant stakeholders contacted by post before Christmas outlining the current issues and preliminary route, once reviewed will revert to council and Executive before going to full public consultation. Will liaise with Cork County Council as to next steps with TII. Works in Cappoquin currently out to tender and anticipate commencement of works in March. Works at Ballinacourty progressing well, area undone is due to lack of title and as not in council ownership cannot proceed with any works. No update on feasibility study and currently finalising options report.

(d) Housing

Cllr. McGuinness enquired about progress for the development of serviced sites scheme in the district, Enquired if the Ormonde House development will be allocated this month and will there be a workshop scheduled for the Fairlane development to allow councillors to input into the mix of tenure type. Noted lack of community facilities in Dungarvan and enquired about role of community section in helping deliver community centre for Abbeyside and Dungarvan.

Cllr. Phelan requested update for allocation of units at Ormonde House, noted use of the Building Acquisition Measure for provision of community centre.

Cllr. Cronin requested update on housing development on own land in Ardmore and options for small developments in villages and demands in each of the villages.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted concern about increase in rents for housing tenants, particularly where houses are in poor condition.

Cllr. Nugent noted that no private or public houses being currently built at the moment in Dungarvan enquiring as to how serious is the Uisce Eireann situation as regards water supply for the town.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that the team are working towards launching the serviced sites scheme, the allocation of the Ormonde House units is a number of months away. It is the intention to have a workshop in relation to the Fairlane development which will be of mixed tenure. Welcomed that community are discussing the options for a community facility and section will support where possible. It is the planned to go to tender soon for the affordable housing development in Ardmore, there is no information on level of demand in smaller villages and can look at in workshop. Outlined that the housing section carried out a rent review last year, anyone who experienced a rent increase was as a result of undeclared changes in circumstances and was based on income earned in the household, highlighted that the WCCC rent scheme one of the fairest in the country. Accepted that older properties require upgraded and hope to address

through the retrofit scheme. Noted that capacity is not the issue in Dungarvan but the location of potential development sites.

Cllr. Pratt enquired if there is council owned land for development in Lismore and Cappoquin, issue of water outages in Lismore and could this be a deterrent to the development of houses and need to have Uisce Eireann in support to ensure development.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that actively looking at lands in these locations, the utilities are separate entities to be dealt with.

(e) Roads

Cllr. Phelan acknowledged engagement regarding flooding in Ballinacourty and enquired about addressing the ongoing issue, requested ongoing repairs on footpaths where trips occurring and dealt with on an emergency basis noting issue at bottom of Friary Street at junction of Main Street.

Cllr. McGuinness acknowledged salting as part of the priority scheme, sought that the R674 added as priority 2 due to connecting the lifeboat station in Helvic, needs to be a level of discretion and review of scheme of priorities and would welcome input by the councillors. Suggested provision of bunkers in housing estates where salt could be provided for residents to look after. Highlighted issue at Brideview close in Tallow and coming out onto main road due to sight line issues. Noted issue with responsiveness of lighting contractor and enquired about process to address the major faults and do we have to go to tender every time. Noted that dredging at Cean Helvic is still a requirement and can we look at own capital programme to address this. Requested that Uisce Eireann meet with the district council, can this be progressed so that councillors can outline their concerns.

G. Hynes, SE, noted flooding issue in Ballinacourty, will do a survey to see if can discharge from the location and will estimate the costs and review solutions. Will revert regarding footpath repair and can review tackling localised areas for repair. Considerable resources are involved in salting, not reasonable or practical to salt all roads, priority 1 and 2 roads are salted and are outlined on the council website. Winter service plan provides direction and will not change mid season, will address other roads during the day when resources allow and follow same approach as other counties. Will look at issue at Brideview, contractor is due to revert with costs regarding issues with underground cabling for lights, does not require individual tendering but does require due diligence. Dredging in Helvic requires surveying which costs in the region of €200k and council does not have the funding to cover this work.

Cllr. Pratt noted that Brideview Close has been previously reviewed, requested salting around schools as access to them is difficult.

Cllr. Cronin highlighted issue of flooding in Clashmore, Glenbeigh and Ferrypoint and need to draw up plan to relieve flooding in the future. Need to upgrade regional road network as no hard shoulder or lighting to Youghal and need for second bridge to Youghal.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested extension of cat's eye from Roberts Cross onto Flemings.

Cllr. Doocey supported provision of grit for locals to distribute.

Cllr. Nugent outlined that the cobble lock on The Quay is causing trips and supported provision of sand/grit to schools during cold weather events.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted issue at bottom of the Quay, issue by Castle and gap opening up.

G. Hynes, SE, seeking funding for Glenbeigh and Ferrypoint flooding under climate adaptation fund, there is an issue with hydraulic capacity at the bridge in Clashmore village that needs significant investment to address the problem. Policy for cat's eyes relates to provision on all regional roads, road as outlined is not in current programme and may include in future if resource available. Will review bollards at Glenbeigh road. No issue with providing salt and grit to schools, issue in housing estates as no one to manage and results in inconsistencies. Acknowledge issue on The Quay and will address.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None

6. A.O. B

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____