

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Conference Room, Dungarvan**

**PRESENT**

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Ger Barron

Cllr. Declan Clune

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. John O’Leary

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Ivan Grimes, DoS, Housing, Community and Emergency Services

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, SEE, Roads

Mr. Niall Kane, SEE, Environment

Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning

Mr. Conor O’Neill, SEE, Economic Development

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Daithi Foran, Louise Dunne, David Cohen, Vince Power, Jack Sheehan, Nancy Aulsberry.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations to the team in Mount Congreve on winning the Irish Building and Design Awards in the Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure project of the year category.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

None

### 3. REPORTS

#### (a) Housing

Cllr. Brazil raised issue regarding vacant land in Comeragh district and options for developing with Department funding. Enquired if there is any progress on derelict building on the Old Pike and the unused Garda Barracks so that they can be brought back into use. Enquired if there is an update from Uisce Eireann in relation to Kilmacomma and issue with odours.

Cllr. Barron requested update on units in the Old Convent site.

Cllr. Clune supported Cllr. Brazil in terms of council land banks available for development, noted work previously carried out to identify suitable land banks in the Comeragh district and Department funding available to finance this.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that are actively looking at available land for potential social and affordable units, need to ensure that any sites selected are serviced. Following up with OPW in relation to unused Garda barracks and options for development. Planning and derelict sites unit are reviewing the Old Pike building reiterating that need to ensure viability for the use of the building. Continue to raise issue of Pinewood estate with Uisce Eireann as outside the remit of the local authority. The development at the Old Convent in Kilmacthomas is currently out to tender, hope to appoint contractor by end of quarter 2.

#### (b) Environment

Cllr. Clune noted suction sweeper in district has proved to be very effective, however in short time after the area is re-littered again, any way to put in an identifier on the takeaway packaging so that could identify who has littered.

Cllr. O'Leary supported Cllr. Clune, noted information day held in Portlaw on food waste and queried the attendance at this and if there are plans to have further sessions in other areas.

Cllr. Brazil supported issues raised regarding illegal dumping noting need to have CCTV put in place to address and catch the offenders. Need to name and shame illegal dumping as having a detrimental effect on communities, need bigger fines and prosecutions.

Cllr. Barron supported members in relation to illegal dumping and that it is still an issue at monthly meetings, need to educate and get message out to community.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seanie Power supported members with the issues they raised and need to tackle illegal dumping.

N. Kane, SEE, will review options for putting details on takeaway packages, will revert on food waste information day noting it is one of the priorities for the local authority. In relation to the use of CCTV, the code of practice is adopted, and Act has been enacted, currently working on the establishment of an oversight committee then need to prove justification for use of CCTV and need to show repeated instances of littering etc noting it is important that it is reported to the council on CRM which will show the history and give the justification. Will follow up on any evidence found in litter, increased fines allowed in the new act and can be amended, these sections need to be enacted to enable their implementation. Education is very important along with respect by everyone, acknowledged that there are great teams of volunteers doing clean ups but shouldn't be relying on them for clean ups.

Cllr. Clune noted that tackling illegal dumping is not any one solution but needs to be a combination of approaches to address the problem. c

Cllr. O'Leary commented that the use of CCTV is going to be a lengthy process to implement.

N. Kane, SEE, outlined that the system needs to protect peoples right of privacy and need to show evidence of littering before can use CCTV cameras. Need safeguards on personal data and the storage of

evidence. Process will include a data protection process to show camera is on relevant area, will need to make the case to the oversight committee to approve and recommend to the Chief Executive for their use.

**(c) Roads**

Cllr. Barron enquired if footpath replacement works could be carried out with footpath funding and enquired if a signal crossing could be installed in Kilmacthomas at location of the crossing from primary school into the village. Welcomed work on Annestown storm wall and Bunmahon.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired about update on improvement grant for Kilmeaden junction, noted increase in volume of traffic at Orchardstown and Tramore Cross junction and if funding available to carry out improvements at the junction.

Cllr. Clune requested update on street light outages, noted that lights out for a number of weeks on the Carrick Road in Portlaw, noting that associated communication to the residents was very poor with no notification to the elected members or via Map Alerter. Outlined that driver feedback sign being installed at Newtown but seems to be far away from the school location and enquired when it will be operational. Noted issue with water flooding onto road at Upper Ballycahane Portlaw and need to address the lack of drainage on the road.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on traffic calming for Lemybrien, noted poor road surface in Dunhill where works carried out on replacing water mains, enquired if footpath repairs funding is for provision of new footpaths or just for repairs.

Cllr. Power noted that the driver feedback sign approaching school in Clonea Power is not working, enquired if there is an option for safety plan for Dunhill to see what measures can be undertaken and meet with the community to discuss.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that capital funding is for footpath repair and not new footpaths, only other source of funding is low cost safety which is allocated for this year, can include additional requests for next year's funding. Specific improvement grant for Old Kilmeaden Road, currently in process of going to tender and planned to have works commencing in June/July. Site improvement works previously carried out at Orchardstown junction, accept there is a high level of right turning movement, no short term plans, long term could consider roundabout as part of a specific improvement grant. Acknowledged communication issue with public lighting outage in Portlaw. Outlined that a large number of repairs carried out on the public lighting network along with a large number of faults reported, there are challenges with old lights which will be addressed with the roll out of the LED replacement programme which will result in less repairs needed. Some old public lights connected directly to the mains and need permission from ESB to repair which can cause delays. Trying to prioritise where there will be greater impact and working with contractor to address issues noting there are challenges with sourcing electricians. Lemybrien scheme progressing from design point of view and is a priority to get out to tender. Currently no funding source for works in Dunhill, can look at road markings.

M. Goff, SEE, outlined that drainage works carried out in Ballycahane, there is an issue with water run off from land and can review for solution. Dunhill to O'Keeffe's cross water main complete and permanent reinstatement to happen in April. Footpath repairs in Stradbally to be part of capital funding. Driver feedback sign in Newtown is solar powered resulting in the location.

G. Hynes, SE, noted there has been unprecedented rainfall and need weather to pick up before repair works can be carried out.

**(d) Planning**

Cllr. O'Leary noted that derelict sites team dealing with number of properties with 15 open files in Comeragh and enquired when can expect properties to be back in use.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if the Development Contribution Waiver Scheme will be extended beyond the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr. Power raised issue about exemption for planning for undercover storage when farmers applying for the Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS), IFA looking to get exemption from planning and enquired if underground slurry storage would be exempt from planning.

A. O’Sullivan, SEP, noted that waiting on details on extension of scheme, there is a process to be followed for derelict sites which takes time for the stages to be progressed and to get a site back into active use. In relation to a TAMS application, each application is dealt with on a case by case basis suggesting that anyone making an application contacts the planning office who will assist and guide through the process.

**(e) Economic**

Cllr. Barron noted that the Comeragh Development Group looking at Crough Wood to Mahon Falls project where there is a delay, area is an SAC, essential that route follows the river up to the Mahon Falls and is developed as part of the walking strategy for the Comeragh mountains. Need to look at link between Greenway at McGraths Cross and Mahon bridge which would refresh the Greenway offering.

Cllr. Clune requesting update from trails officer in relation to the Greenway Blueway project along with update on the Copper Coast walking trails with timeline on this as has great tourism potential.

C. O’Neill, SEE, outlined that tenders are currently out in relation to the Comeragh Mountain Recreation Plan which will look at feasibility of projects along with the long term plan for the region and commence consultation process. Carrick Greenway at early feasibility stage and will include a public consultation stage. Agreed to have a workshop with Johnny Brunnock to discuss projects.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**5. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**6. AOB**

Cllr. O’Leary commented on the deputation from IFA at Plenary meeting, noting that the farming community have increasing challenges in an overregulated area, farming community at heart of Comeragh district and fully support the ‘Enough is Enough’ campaign. Supported by Cathaoirleach who outlined that feedback from IFA is positive as to reception by the council.

Cllr. Brazil informed members of the annual Waterford Charity Cycle taking place on 31<sup>st</sup> March welcoming all to attend.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_