

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

**HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024  
at 2.30pm in Conference Room, Civic Offices, Dungarvan.**

**PRESENT:**

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

Apologies: Cllr. Damien Geoghegan

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Paul Johnson, A/Director of Services, Planning, Corporate, HR, IS & Culture  
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  
Mr. Conor O'Neill, SEE, Economic Development  
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its sympathies to the families of the late: Michael Ronayne, Kathleen Kelly, Ella O'Neill.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its congratulations to senior team Blackwater Community School in All Ireland hurling final.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 proposed by Cllr. Tom Cronin seconded by Cllr. Declan Doocey and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Phelan noted correction to minutes under roads report stating it should read installation of new street lighting required rather than repair of lighting and update on review of the requested inadequate lighting at the location. Requested follow up on festoon lighting on the Causeway as not working again and more works need to be done on lights that remain out, update on timeline for opening of Ballinacourty trail, update on visit to Highfield estate in relation to the boundary wall.

Cllr. McGuinness enquired if letter issued to Bord Failte for WAC and if response received.

Cllr. Cronin requested update on affordable housing for Ardmore.

Cllr. Nugent outlined that lights outside Ballinameela church and Ballyheeny in Clashmore remain out.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that public lighting programme in place with Killaree Lighting and prioritising lights out with significant outages and matching resources to get greater result, dealing with backlog to address all issues.

I. Grimes, DoS, outlined that Highfield estate built in accordance with the planning permission and no provision for fence, visit to estate to be scheduled to review. Affordable scheme in Ardmore finalised by Department, commence procurement process by competitive dialogue by end of the month.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated in relation to issue raised at last month's meeting about parking and issuing of tickets, no intention of being critical of the traffic wardens as they have a hard job to do and apologise if that was the case.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that traffic wardens very dedicated staff and have responsibility of enforcing the byelaws as set by the members, difficult job and do it in a very professional manners and enforce without favour.

C. O'Neill, SEE, works in Ballinacourty due to be finished by end of week with view of it being opened by the bank holiday. Will revert regarding letter to WAC.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that at present as part of LED programme looking at deficiencies in public lighting and will look at Strand Side as part of this.

### **3. PROGRESS REPORTS**

#### **(a) Economic**

Cllr. Phelan noted in this month's report Minister Humphries announcing funding to support town team enquiring if we can look for funding to upgrade TCMG to town team and to look at community focus as well as economic. Requested workshop around initiatives for Dungarvan.

P. Johnston, A/Dos, if funding available will be making an application and can look at workshop.

Cllr. Doocey low support in relation to the Greenway development to Youghal, noted issue with pedestrian crossing in Lismore from school and now to be part of the Greenway development so will have to wait for it to be developed.

Cllr. Pratt supportive of Greenway but communication is lacking in keeping people informed.

C. O'Neill, SEE, outlined that Greenway extension is still at feasibility study stage and since last summer PRO has been meeting with all landowners which takes time. Delay in public display of feasibility study, ready to go to public consultation shortly and will be workshops with councillors and landowners. Work happening in background and changes and associated design being developed.

Cllr. Tobin outlined issue that councillors representing the area need to have proper information out to the community and people are worried that homes and livelihoods will be affected, need to ensure that their concerns will be taking into consideration and people listened to. Clear information is what is needed.

Cllr. Nugent noted that Cappagh into Dungarvan also concern for the Dungarvan district councillors, lack of communication and time between information.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted concern over costs.

#### **(b) Housing**

Cllr. Cronin land purchased in Ring and acknowledged DoS involved in the closing of the agreement, will be of benefit to the community, promote purchase of land in small villages as there is a demand. This type of project only occurring in a small number of localities across the country and hoped that a planning permission will be lodged as soon as possible. Supported by Cllr. Nugent.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested update on 12 new houses in Sean Phobal.

Cllr. McGuinness progress to stage 2 approval for houses in Sean Phobal and any update on this, update on Ormonde House and status of internal works and what is timeline on project. Need for affordable

houses in Gaeltacht area and speaking with community there is a need for serviced sites in the Gaeltacht area. Need to have cultural aspect included in the planning permission.

Cllr. Pratt issue regarding 1 house 2 bed need and if person has an extra need and need to ensure that make a case for 2 bed rather than 1 bed as need to have supports facilitated.

Cllr. Phelan requested update on walkability audits, community responsible for oversight of Waterford Age friendly strategy, 9 months into the strategy and who is responsible for carrying out the walkability audits and any interdepartmental meetings to commence it.

I.Grimes, DoS, acquisition of site in An Rinn opens an opportunity to deliver a broad range of options for the location, requirements around Irish language speaking is important. Council constantly on lookout for appropriate sites across the county as they are needed in many locations. Will be looking a plans for longer term development of site in Ardmore. In contact with Department and hopeful to get phase 2 approval for An Rinn. Ormonde House internal works scheduled and hopeful to be advertising on CBL end Q2, need to advertise and get timing right. Note comment regarding allocation of 1 bed and 2 bed, we are driven by national legislation to guide the process. Community co-ordinate age friendly strategy,

Cllr. Doocey grants for derelict houses, issue with requirements.

Cllr. Nugent requested additional detail is provided to communities in relation to €10k for septic tanks.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that the septic tank grant is limited to those who have been inspected by national inspectors. Vacant homes grant, 2 officers and due to the volume of interest there are 150 applications received to date and need to carry out inspection. Compliance with planning or roads need to be adhered to.

D. Wallace, SEO will review options for communicating details on the septic tank grants.

Cllr. Nugent left meeting, Cllr. Tom Cronin to chair meeting.

### **(c) Roads**

Cllr. Pratt noted issues with Active Travel and change in funding mechanism for rural areas, need to continue to ask for these projects to be funded for the district. Acknowledged work of Uisce Eireann in Tallow and issue with reinstatement of surfaces, will occur when their works are finished.

Cllr. Phelan thanked work in relation to potholes and remedial works at Ballinacourty flooding spot, issue for need to repair parking meters in town. In seawall defences could Seapark area be reviewed along with houses overlooking Abbeyside Strand. Re-examine review of small-scale dredging at Ballinacourty Pier. Concrete drainage channel on climbing lane at Garranbane to be cleared. Acknowledge council do as much as possible with scarce resources and challenge of lack of funding for areas with the change to Active Travel funding requirements.

Cllr. McGuinness highlighted need for dredging in Helvic and Dungarvan Harbour, not fit for purpose and putting peoples livelihoods at risk, need as a council to get a change in approach from Minister McConalogue and build political pressure. Cobble lock is a continuous problem at Davitt's Quay, enquiring if the area can be tarmacadamed. CIS and LIS waiting on funding announcement and when will this be forthcoming and will older applications be pursued that are on file. State of footpaths and street surfaces in wake of Uisce Eireann works are in poor state and as part of licences to undertake works assume they have to reinstate to same condition. Requested details on sewerage upgrade to waste water in An Rinn and if any engagement with roads section in relation to the works.

G. Hynes, SE, Active Travel and issue regarding pedestrian crossings, accepting that Greenway development to Lismore could take a number of years. Acknowledge pedestrian crossings are needed, do intend to progress with the design and will comply with any Greenway in future and recognise safety and need S38 to come to district to progress it. No short term dredging in Ballinacourty, any work in foreshore requires foreshore license, statutory process is the same for large scale and small scale dredging. Dredging at Helvic, cost in getting licence and have applied for funding on numerous occasions and unsuccessful, without funding source will not be progressing. Currently working on repair of parking meters with contractor. Priority for seawall defences at Duckspool, in consultation with OPW on Clonea and accept other areas need addressing and will be looked at in medium term. Note comment at Cushcam drainage channel. Accept gap regarding lack of funding for smaller schemes in footpaths. In relation to

Davitt's Quay while tarmacadam is more flexible, cobble lock is more aesthetically pleasing and assist in distinguishing from normal road, slows down traffic and promotes mixing of pedestrians and vehicles. Uisce Eireann are issued with road opening licences which includes criteria to be adhered to for both temporary and permanent reinstatement and are monitored. Currently applications for sewerage upgrades, roads oversee road closure.

Cllr. Tobin requested details as to what TII hope to achieve at top of Tallow Hill, need to get more funding for the works that are needed there.

Cllr. Pratt enquired if the road layout will be changed at Tallow Hill.

Cllr. O'Donnell acknowledged Coillte addressing hedge cutting and noted that footpath from Wolfstone Road to top needs to be addressed.

Cllr. Doocey welcomed pedestrian crossing in Lismore being addressed, even though hedge cutting season closed landowners need to address areas where there are sightline issues. Traffic control at top on Tallow Hill required and need to have the speed limit review signage at location.

G. Hynes, SE, allocation for Tallow Hill doesn't restrict in relation to expenditure, have feasibility report for location with recommendations to remove more of hedge and looking at flashing lights at location which will flash as certain speeds and also gateway signs and changing pavement surface at the gateway and over coming months will see action at location. Hedge cutting season closed at 1st March but exemption to cut where there is a road safety issue, landowner to contact for advice to proceed. Footpath programme for this year will be brought to the next meeting. Aware of required pedestrian crossings in Lismore, will progress with Active Travel.

Cllr. McGuinness note response regarding dredging applications and work of the executive, political pressure needed to change the regulations for the preparatory works.

#### **(d) Planning**

Cllr. Phelan enquired about number of total derelict applications and how advanced. Derelict properties update on thatch at The Pike and addressing it. Unfinished development at Ringaphuca, number of planning conditions not met by the developer and has any formal notification issued.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, will revert re derelict site. Ringaphuca contacted developer, actively trying to resolve issues with all stakeholders, have looked at enforcement process and will use if needed.

#### **(e) Environment**

Cllr. Phelan thanked town presentation team for St. Patrick's Day, enquired if daffodils can be planted along at the Youghal Road as entrance area to the town.

Cllr. Doocey decision made that people with contractors with dump trailers need certain licence road tyres and white diesel and welcome change. Credited community groups that carry out litter picking.

D. Wallace, SEO, will review Youghal Road with presentation team in relation to the planting. No details regarding the licencing as not council function. Acknowledged the work of the community groups

### **4. ROADS WORK PROGRAMME**

G. Hynes, SE, outlined details of the proposed Roads Work Programme for 2024, acknowledged funding from the Department and recommended the programme to the councillors.

Cllr. McGuinness proposed, seconded by Cllr. Doocey and agreed by all.

Cllr. McGuinness acknowledged the work of the roads department, allocation is still inadequate, need to be doing works on roads every 1 in 20 years and not 1 in 40 years. Enquired if funding has increased or decreased while taking into account construction inflation.

Cllr. Phelan acknowledged work on flooding in Ballinacourty, would like more to be done and commended the roads section on how make the funding stretch.

Cllr. O'Donnell need to keep potholes filled and tarmacadam of roads rather than surface dressing.

G. Hynes, SE, in relation to the funding, allocation is similar to last year, considerable damage with Storm Babet accounted for a cost of €7.5m, received €6m to carry out repair works. Allocation in area of tarmacadam and strengthening roads is not adequate for what needs to be done. Department grants for surface dressing noting that tar and chip longer life.

Cllr. Doocey extended thanks to all in roads department on quick repairs carried out during storm weather. Cllr. Cronin thanked all involved in presenting the Roads Work Programme and getting the funding that was received. Work carried out is of a great quality.

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

None

#### **7. A.O. B**

Cllr. McGuinness noted issue arisen in An Rinn where long serving post mistress is retiring and concern that post service will cease in the area. Asking Minister Martin and Minister Ryan to give a realistic contract to local business to have service in the area and proposed that the district write to the Ministers to ensure the public service remains in the area. Seconded by Cllr. Phelan. Supported by Cllr. Cronin and Cllr. O'Donnell. Need to support local post offices for small communities.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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