

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 16th October 2024 in Council Chamber, Dungarvan**

PRESENT

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. Catherine Burke

Cllr. Declan Clune

Cllr. John O’Leary

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Claire Hartley, DoS, Housing, Community and Emergency Services

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, SEE, Roads

Ms. Dawn Wallace, SEO, Environment

Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning

Mr. David Quinn, SEP, Planning

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Siobhan Lonergan, Rose O’Brien, Terese Bolger, Terry Long.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations to Comeragh Rangers women’s football club on recent win over Ballymacarbry FC, mentioned Nora Dunphy and Ruth Kirwan on their involvement with the club, Ger Power manager and selection committee along with Caoimhe Hasset. Also acknowledged the 42 years record of wins for Ballymacarbry.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 18th September 2024 proposed by Cllr. Brazil seconded by Cllr. Burke and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Roads

Cllr. Clune noted issue of safety for drop off and parking at Kilmacthomas National school and sightline and speed issues at Fews National School requesting meeting with principals to address. Enquired if small island can be filled in at the crossroads in Portlaw at R680 and requested update on Carrick Road works.

Cllr. Burke enquired about commencement of footpath works in Kilmacthomas, Stradbally and Portlaw and assessment of road from Kilmurrin to Dunhill.

Cllr. O' Leary enquired when works are due to commence on road from Carroll's cross to Ballyduff and welcomed reinstatement of funding, noted that Railway cottage on this road is vulnerable and needs to be addressed as part of the project. Highlighted need to have works carried out on the Kilmeaden / Carrick on Suir roundabout to address current issues at the location. Noted unsuitability of proposed alternative routes suggested as part of diversion for current improvement works at R680 at the old Cosy Thatch.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if the improvement works at Mahon Bridge/Fews junction will improve sightlines and if speed limits can be reduced from 80kph to 60kph and area covered by reduced limits extended. Requested update on works from Dunhill to O'Keeffe's Cross and proposed traffic calming scheme in Lemybrien. Noted that there are overhanging trees on coast road from Ballyvoile to Durrow and requested update on meeting with TII.

Cllr. Power noted need for safety measures at school in Clonea Power, need road markings refreshed at school and requested meeting with school to review options.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that there will be considerable level of traffic at key times and congestion will happen. National policy is for a shift away from cars, not responsibility of LA to address, can assist with signage and apply for safe routes to schools. Council does not have funding for provision of parking or set down areas at schools, can assist with signage and speed limits. Speed limit review due to commence, waiting on guidance from Department to install new signage on local roads. No update on Carrick road. Kilmurrin to Dunhill will be considered under the 2025 Roads Work Programme. TII have reinstated funding for works from Ballyduff to Carroll's Cross and will commence early 2025. Have reviewed issues at the Railway cottage and intend to widen the road opposite the cottage. Kilmeaden / Carrick Road roundabout works is a PPP project, designs developed and hopeful that improvement works will commence by year end. Waiting on response from TII for date of meeting. High road works, spur road from station to be closed as part of the agreed Section 38, contractor finished mid January. Lemybrien project progressing, intention for works to commence in Q1 2025. Will cut high trees on coastal road where they are the responsibility of the council and acknowledged work of landowners on cutting areas.

M. Goff, SEE, met landowners for low cost safety in Fews, will look at cross and follow up with contractor. Footpath programme contractor appointed, due to commence in Stradbally and proceed with other locations. There will be a temporary road closure on High Road to accommodate current works, traffic to be diverted to Fairbrook.

Cllr. Burke supported suggestion of reducing cars at schools, need increased school transport and also investigate option to have Local Link to drop early to schools.

Cllr. O'Leary noted concern with proposed route used for diversion

G. Hynes, SE, will review.

M. Goff, SEE, will review Ballyvoile Bridge to Durrow, low cost safety improvements at Fews completed and Mahon bridge underway. Mahon bridge works will improve visibility from Fews junction, includes realignment and public lighting.

G. Hynes, SE will review speed at Mahon Bridge as part of process and can look at extension. CIS and LIS underway works carried out and acknowledged works of outdoor crews in relation to strengthening works. Sightlines at Fews, road to be aligned and bridge parapet won't stop view.

Cllr. Clune noted that access by foot and bicycle not in place yet around schools, need to have dialogue as to how the issues can be addressed.

G. Hynes, SE, suggested workshop with Rural transport to look at options.

(b) Planning

Cllr. Brazil enquired about planning applications for the district, if there are any large developments proposed for the district and how long applicants have to build house before they have to pay development charges.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on proposal for further housing development at Ceol na Mara.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that works have to commence by 31st December 024 and have sup to 3st December to complete the works. Planning applications for district slightly reduced but for this month. Do have a number of large pre planning in for district and hope will transpire into planning applicaitons Will follow up on Ceol na Mara.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Burke requested review of housing stock in Comeragh district and options for transfer applications if unit not available in the district. Enquired if Comeragh will be prioritised for additional units and if there are vacant properties that can be used.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on the option to use old Garda barracks in Lemybrien, Kill and Rathgormack. Requested update on landbanks in Comeragh district as there are demands in various locations. Requested update on Pinewood in Kilmacomma and update from Uisce Eireann in addressing the issues there.

Cllr. O'Leary requested information on how many affordable and social houses made available from An Clochán development to date, need to maintain these houses for district.

Cllr. Clune asked in terms of targets identified for Comeragh how we are performing, need to get units into the community. Enquired if EPA contacted in relation to septic tank issue in Kilmacomma and Pine Wood Drive. Stated high trees in Beechgrove estate enquiring who is responsible for addressing them.

Cathaoirleach noted number of vacant houses in district and need to review how to address the issue.

C. Hartley, A/DoS, noted that in relation to transfers out of Comeragh district need to look at housing demand and need, Pinewood and Kilmacomma septic tank damage did not result in leakage, the damaged cover was repaired. Capacity at Pinewood is sufficient and can follow up with Uisce Eireann. Will revert on Part V allocation for An Clochán, will review issue with trees in Beechwood Grove. Will review options for Garda barracks, have housing delivery action plan which includes targets across the 3 districts, will revert with details once housing need for the district has been reviewed. Noted that do aim to meet housing need within the district. Will revert with details on landbanks.

(d) Environment

Cllr. Burke enquired as to what businesses need to do in order to be classified as a cleaner business.

D. Wallace, SEO, outlined that businesses need to make commitment to reduce omissions and climate action team available to assist, information on website as to what businesses need to do in order to get rates discount.

(e) Economic

Cllr. Brazil enquired about works in relation to having the Crough Wood walk re-opened.
Cllr. O’Leary requested update on the proposed works for Benvoy Beach along with update on progress and plans for development in Kilmeaden.

R. Walsh, SEO, Crough Wood at advanced design stage, going to tender in coming weeks with contractor to be on site before end of the year. Waterford Leader Partnership working with group in Kilmeaden to develop plans, recognition of lack of community facilities for the area along with Butlerstown.

M. Goff, SEE, upgrading steps at access to Benvoy beach along with installation of new handrails, consultant currently doing preliminary design and due out to tender early next year.

Cllr. Brazil enquired about extent of the works for Crough Wood and how long it will take to complete.

R. Walsh, SEO, noted that the project will be 3-4 months, aim to be completed before summer 2025, works include stabilisation of the bank, making area safe and satisfying national criteria.

Cllr. Power requested update on Blueway and Greenway route

R. Walsh, SEO, outlined that feasibility study to be published, project led by Tipperary County Council.

(f) Taking in Charge

Cllr. O’Leary requested update on Cruachan Estate.

Cllr. Burke requested update on progress with estates listed.

Cllr. Power requested update on Deerpark Clonea.

Cllr. Brazil noted that there is a crack on the wall in Cruachán View, across from the GAA pitch in Kilmacthomas and if this can be addressed.

D. Quinn, SEP, outlined that in relation to Cruachan View, there is dialogue with water services and roads regarding outcome of surveys and hope to bring on line and have ready to take in charge. In contact with bond holder for Deerpark and working on progressing in coming weeks. Will review wall in Cruachan View and discuss with area engineer. Priority estates are Cruachan View and Cul Rua in Portlaw after which will move to the other estates to progress in 2025 and determine the scope of works required.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

6. AOB

Cllr. Burke requested follow up from CRM to members when update on their CRM.

H. Dunphy, MA, noted that this is include in recommendations as part of current review of CRM.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____