

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 18th September 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

Ms. Mary Conway, County & City Librarian

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Dermot ‘Dod’ Whelan, Tony Kinsella.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations to Portlaw GAA Intermediate Hurling club.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 17th July 2024 proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Planning

Cllr. Clune noted that the Portlaw Area Plan has expired enquiring as to when new plan will commence.

Cllr. Brazil enquired about status of planning applications in the district, noted new planning guidelines due to go through the Dáil and enquired if this will impact on the current Development Plan.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if there are any plans for the development of sites opposite estates in Kilmeaden.

Cllr. Power enquired if the exemption of development contributions charges is extended.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that the Portlaw Area Plan is subsumed into the Development Plan, currently doing Local Area Plans for Dungarvan and Tramore and no immediate plan for separate plan for Portlaw. Planning permissions down slightly on previous year, statutory review of the current Development Plan due at 2 years and will be commencing in coming months. Will be reviewing the impact of the new Planning Bill on the Development Plan. Not at liberty to discuss details of any pre planning meetings for Comeragh area but noted there are a number of significant pre planning for residential areas in the Comeragh area. The exemption of the Development Contribution Scheme is in place until the end of the year.

(b) Housing

Cllr. Brazil noted that issue with odour in Pinewood Drive continues and unacceptable that it is still an issue, requested update on land banks in the Comeragh.

Cllr. Clune noted EPA report on water issue in Pinewood, enquired if there is funding available for residentially zoned sites in Comeragh that can be availed of. Land available in Coolfin and Beechwood Grove and local people on waiting list and no social housing units coming on stream for Portlaw. Enquired about development plans for the Comeragh.

Cllr. O'Leary issue of 16 open files on derelict sites and can these be converted to units.

Cllr. Power stated that towns and villages need houses to keep communities alive and locals living there.

C. Hartley, A/DoS, currently working on options for the delivery of social housing in the district and working on the options with the CE, will have update for the members in coming months. Issue in Kilmacomma has been pursued with Uisce Eireann and will revert with EPA outcome, Funding available for serviced sites and need to ensure the council is not at a loss and sites presented to date haven't suited. 16 sites across the Comeragh being dealt with by planning, internal working group to look at options for housing for some of these units.

Cllr. Brazil requested details on the current landbank.

Cllr. Burke requested any update on the retrofitting leaflet

Cllr. Clune enquired about how to commence process re lands available.

C. Hartley, A/DoS, noted that leaflet is currently in draft, landowners can contact housing regarding available lands and will collate information on currently landbanks for the members.

(c) Environment

Cllr. Burke congratulated support of the Talamh festival on Copper Coast and need to continue support.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on the CCTV cameras roll out, noted new charge to be introduced for removal of material for building sites and what material is it for and where will money go.

Cllr. Power noted that boil water notices in Ballymacarbry continue, issue needs to be addressed and welcomed upcoming meeting with Uisce Eireann.

Cllr. O'Leary noted bottle return scheme and success of it across the county

Cllr. Clune requested update on the code of practice for use of CCTV, noted there are a number of different steps that have to be adhered to within the process, the footage then can only be used for dumping from cars that can be identified and is it our intention to follow a similar process.

D. Wallace, SEO, noted comments regarding festivals, confirmed the process that needs to be followed for the use of the CCTV is as outlined, require an oversight group and need corporate strategy in place first. Will revert on detail regarding the new charges. Boil water notice responsibility of Uisce Eireann and noted the positive impact of return scheme and number of communities using as fund raising mechanism.

Cllr. Burke enquired where apply for the bins to collect bottle returns.

D. Wallace, SEO, stated that council do not provide bins.

(d) Roads

Cllr. Clune acknowledged progress in roads in Portlaw area, noted there are a number of Active Travel projects ready to progress if the terms are amended under the scheme and should be prioritised. Requested updated on Carrick Road and road by Woodlock House. Highlighted issue of speed by Fan Glas in Kilmeaden, need measures to slow traffic in the area.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on Lemybrien traffic calming scheme, enquired if any measures in interim outside Crotty's pub to stop parking of large vehicles as restricting sightlines. Highlighted accidents by Garranbane and diverting traffic onto unsuitable roads, need to meet with Gardaí and residents on plans in the event that they are needed. Need to cut hedgerows on roads where diversions are sent. Outlined need to inform landowners of their obligations in relation to hedge cutting. Requested update on meeting with TII.

Cllr. Burke requested update on footpath replacement in Bunmahon, Stradbally and Portlaw. Lighting issue in Boatstrand where lights are too strong and need to be reviewed. Requested update on works on Carrick Road in Portlaw,

Cllr. O'Leary welcomed improvements works on R680 noting need to keep public informed of the works. Need agreement with Gardai regarding the diversion of traffic, not satisfactory the level of traffic diverted onto High Road.

Cllr. Power noted need to follow up with landowners in relation to hedgerows that need cutting.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that will include the Active Travel projects for the Comeragh area in the submission to the NTA, noting that at present the policy from NTA is for the larger urban centres, only area in Comeragh is the completion of the Carrick Road and no other significant projects to be done. Noted issue with speed through Kilmeaden Village, speed limit review will commence in early 2025 and urban roads revert to 30kph and reserved function if to change this. Rural roads going to 60kph and due to commence this in November/December. Council function to set speed limits and enforcement is for the Gardaí. Currently progressing the design for the scheme in Lemybrien, advising that costs will be in the region of €6m. Acknowledge issues raised in relation to diversions as a result of accidents on the N25, not many options with local roads but in event of serious accident the road is closed. Confirmed that meet with Gardaí and RSA and discuss the use of alternative roads and have given diversion routes to be used. Hedgecutting season commenced on the 1st September, encourage landowners to carry out works. Due to meet with TII, confirming members to attend and welcomed agenda items. Boatstrand and public lighting is a balance between lighting and environment and safety, light has created some issues and acknowledge the intensity of light wasn't correct and will be changed. Progressing issues in relation to the Carrick Road in Portlaw. Works on High Road will continue to end of December, there will be traffic management in place and road users need to be patient while works are carried out.

M. Goff, SEE, will review Woodlock, footpath replacement tender currently being developed and plan to do works in Bunmahon, Stradbally and Portlaw.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired about allocation of public lighting for Mothel.

M. Power, SEE, noted that new lights in place, waiting for commissioning by ESB.

Cllr. Power requested update on Glendine.

M. Power, SEE works in Glendine due in October

Cllr. Brazil requested workshop before speed limit review commences, suggested one way traffic for diversions.

Cllr. Clune noted need for NTA to change policy, there is a contradiction in the current message.

(e) **Culture / Arts**

Cllr. Burke requested update on Kilmacthomas library and issues with Wi-Fi and printing.

Cllr. O’Leary requested update on mobile library for Comeragh area.

Cllr. Power noted number of visitors to libraries and acknowledge work of all library staff.

M. Conway, City & County Librarian outlined that IT working with contractor to resolve issue in Kilmacthomas library and hopeful will be rectified soon. Mobile library funding received and working with other librarians to purchase a van and will develop a schedule for the county and reaching out to rural areas.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

6. AOB

Cllr. Burke highlighted issue of school transport and requested write to Minister and Transport Authority to engage with parents to resolve issues and request meeting with inspectors around concessionary tickets

Cllr. Brazil supported the letter, noted that Stradbally Tidy Towns equipment stolen from group.

Cllr. Power welcomed announcement that SETU selected as location for new veterinary medicine course, supported by the members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____