

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 15th January 2025 in Council Chamber, Dungarvan**

PRESENT

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Liam Brazil
Cllr. Declan Clune
Cllr. John O’Leary

Apologies: Cllr. Catherine Burke

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Helena Dennehy, DoS, Housing, Community and Emergency Services
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads
Ms. Maria Goff, SEE, Roads
Ms. Louise Tobin, AO, Environment
Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning
Mr. Des Hctor, Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Edward Danny Dooley, Bridie Cullinane, Bridget Morrissey, Fancie Crowley.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 15th November 2024 proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Housing

Cllr. Clune requested update on Convent development in Kilmacthomas, raised issues regarding the Anti Social Behaviour policy for council tenants, noting issue with current bullying and intimidation that is occurring with some council tenants. Stated that the policy is not strong enough to deal with the behaviour requesting changes to be considered by the Housing SPC.

Cllr. Brazil requested progression of housing in Stradbally where council have a site for development, need to access the relevant funding to enable development. Requested contact is made with the OPW regarding three vacant Garda barracks in Lemybrien, Kill and Rathgormack and options to having them brought back into use.

Cllr. O'Leary requested details and reasons for non-approval of housing applications in 2024.

Cllr. Power noted his concern about the removal of stoves and fireplaces in council properties asking for this policy to be reversed and the ceasing of the grant for upgrade of existing heater and boilers is a concern.

H. Dennehy, DoS, outlined that expect Stage 4 approval from the Department by end of the month, contractor due to be appointed in March with commencement in April/May. The Anti-Social Behaviour policy is currently being discussed by a subgroup of the Housing SPC. Will revert with plans for land in Stradbally and OPW buildings. Outlined that non approved housing applications are generally returned due to missing information, will revert with details. Noted that current standards that the council have to comply with require that open fire places are not used and need to be replaced with more energy friendly heating systems. New EU directive outline that grant cannot fund fossil fuel boilers.

Cllr. Clune support Cllr. Power in relation to housing grants for older people, issue with more vulnerable in the society enquiring if the directive is flexible.

H. Dennehy, DoS, outlined that guided by national legislation that has to be adhered to.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Brazil raised issue of use of CCTV to tackle the problem of illegal dumping in the Comeragh district enquiring if bags etc will be provided for community clean ups. Enquired if the mattress amnesty was successful and if it reduced the issue of dumping of these items.

Cllr. Clune supported Cllr. Brazil regarding need to use CCTV noting lack of respect of people in dumping in scenic areas. Noted new regulations are onerous enquiring when CCTV will be deployed.

Cllr. O'Leary complimented all people involved in community clean ups.

Cathaoirleach supported Cllr. Brazil regarding need to use CCTV.

L. Tobin, AO, noted that the CCTV regulations are being considered with no decision yet in relation to its roll out. Litter pickers and bags are still provided to community groups and are available on request from the environment section. Mattress amnesty was a great success with only one item dumped after the event.

(c) Roads

Cathaoirleach complimented the outdoor staff in dealing with the severe weather event, thanked the first responders in assisting and farmers who assisted in clearing roads.

Cllr. Clune complimented outdoor staff noting all main roads were kept clear. Requested update on the Carrick Road project in Portlaw noting need for alternative option for crossing the road and need to progress finishing the project. Acknowledged work in relation to low cost measures, outlining challenges at Fews school. Welcomed funding for active travel measures at Kilmacthomas primary school, noted disappointment in allocation to Comeragh for Active Travel in comparison to other areas and policy of NTA in relation to what projects are funded.

Cllr. O'Leary welcomed funding for Kilmacthomas around national school noting there are a number of other areas in the district that need the funding. Outlined that have received representations regarding need for a controlled pedestrian crossing in Kilmeaden. Requested update on project on Old Kilmeaden

Road. Noted issue regarding Carrick on Suir roundabout requesting details on the modifications needed at the location.

Cllr. Brazil outlined his disappointment in allocation from NTA to Comeragh district and need to have more funding for the district, hedge cutting season due to cease and need to issue information to land owners and forestry to cut their hedges. Requested update on traffic calming tender for Lemybrien. Complimented all staff regarding work during the recent weather event and asked that this is communicated to all staff. Complimented works carried out on road from Dunhill to O'Keeffe's Cross.

Cllr. Power enquired if additional funding will be provided to deal with damage from the water and snow.

Cllr. O'Leary complimented all staff and suggested that more can be done in relation to the smaller roads and work with farming community and contractors to assist in tackling the distribution of salt etc. Requested that options for dealing with snow and ice around schools is looked at to prevent schools closing.

G. Hynes, SE, acknowledged the work of the outdoor crews during recent weather events. Outlined that priority routes were kept clear on 700km of road network, did extra gritting as resources allowed. WCCC will provide gritting salt if there are containers to store it and encourage communities to look at this. Additional resources did utilise agricultural contractors, have over 20 local contractors that can engage to use them when required, communities gritting at locations can lead to inconsistency in treatment of roads as can give rise to safety issues, will review options. The Active Travel allocation for WCCC was €17.5m, with €300k for Comeragh district. Allocation are focused on large urban centres as you have more footfall so getting more value for the expenditure, we can only do the programme of works where funding is received. Severe weather events before and after Christmas which are affecting the surface of the road network, DTAS hasn't issued allocation yet for 2025, currently in process of sending off severe weather application for an additional €7m. Noted that the type of works on the Dunhill road needs to be replicated across the district in order to improve the road network. Noted that currently in legal discussions regarding the completion of the Carrick Road project and need this process to be completed before can continue with the works. Noted that will be completing pedestrian crossing in Kilmeaden at Centra, works at Carrick on Suir roundabout was due to be completed in 2024, TII have committed to carrying out the required works and will request update from TII. Hedge cutting season open until 1st March where all hedges and overhanging branches need to be addressed, acknowledged those that have carried out works to date. Finalising the design for works in Lemybrien which is a priority project for the Comeragh district.

M. Goff, SEE, noted considerable damage to roads due to weather. Old Kilmeaden Road, road surfacing this week and main works to be completed by end January, footpath works, boundary works and lighting to be completed early February. Thanked landowners who have been compliant with carrying out hedge cutting noting that guidance documents are available for landowners on the Council website.

Cathaoirleach noted need for sightlines on all roads to be kept clear.

(d) Planning

Cllr. Brazil enquired if the Council will be making an submission on the Scart Mountain windfarm application, asked for update on any extension on the Development Charges exemption.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on the Taking in Charge of An Cruachan estate along with an update on the development of the vacant site in Kilmacthomas where the distillery was to be developed.

A.O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that as Scart Mountain application is a Strategic Infrastructure Development it will be a decision for An Board Pleanála. WCCC has a role in preparing a Chief Executive report and will come to the members for consideration. Public have up to 28th February for submission and council have additional 2 weeks up to 10th March, WCCC will be making a submission. Informed members that have received no correspondence in relation to the exemption for Development

Contributions, they are currently being levied the same as prior to the exemption. Taking in Charge will be update on a quarterly basis, no update on Distillery site in Kilmacthomas.

4. Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111 - Kilmacthomas Fire Station

D. Hoctor, ACFO, outlined the details of the proposed new fire station in Kilmacthomas, noting plan to go to tender in Q2 2025 with start date in Q4 2025, due to be operational in Q3 2026.

Cathaoirleach welcomed the development of the new fire station for Kilmacthomas with additional facilities for the service.

Cllr. Brazil noted that current facility is not fit for purpose and delighted to see the new facility being developed which will greatly support the work of the fire service.

Cllr. O'Leary noted that it is a great news story and noted the appreciation to all personnel in the fire service. Enquired if all the fire personnel in the station are part time.

D. Hoctor, ACFO, noted that all fire personnel are retained fire service and will increase from 8 to 12.

Proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. O' Leary and agreed by all.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

6. AOB

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Resolution of the Elected Members
Waterford City and County Council, Metropolitan District
15th January, 2025
Ref: R2025/02

In accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) the Chief Executive's Report provides for:

The development will consist of the construction of a single storey fire station to contain two appliance bays and all supporting fire station welfare facilities.

Site works to include:

- construction of carpark (inclusive of electrical vehicle charging points), service yard, training tower, fire tender set down areas, water supply borehole, packaged sewage treatment plant and percolation area.
- the construction of 2m high paladin fencing to all boundaries with the exception of boundary to Local Primary Road L3042.
- the construction of two vehicular entrance access points unto the Local Primary Road L3042 inclusive of all ancillary accommodation and associated siteworks at Graigueshoneen, Kilmacthomas, Waterford.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Comeragh District of Waterford City & County Council, proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. O'Leary and agreed unanimously.

Signed:

Councillor Seanie Power
Cathaoirleach

Witnessed:

Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator