

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

**HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
at 2.30pm in Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Dungarvan**

## **PRESENT:**

Cllr. Pat Nugent (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Tom Cronin  
Cllr. Niamh O'Donovan  
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan  
Cllr. Donnchadh Mulcahy  
Cllr. Thomas Phelan  
Cllr. John Pratt  
Cllr. Joe O'Riordan  
Cllr. Kate O'Mahoney

## **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ivan Grimes, Director of Services, Planning, Corporate, HR, IS & Culture  
Gabriel Hynes, A/ Director of Services, Roads  
Walter Holden, Senior Executive Architect, Housing  
Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads  
Dawn Wallace, Senior Executive Officer, Environment  
Aisling O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Planner  
Conor O'Neill, A/Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development  
Lisa Grant, Meetings Administrator

## **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its sympathies to the families of the late:  
Patrick Boland, Brendan McGinn, Jackie Queally, Tom McMahon, Jerome Power.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

The minutes of District Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Thomas Phelan and seconded by Cllr. Tom Cronin and agreed by all.

### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Progress Reports**

#### **a. Planning**

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed the progress made on the apartments on Richard A. Walsh Street. This was seconded by Cllr. Nugent.

Cllr. Phelan noted that the improvements at Richard A. Walsh Street have highlighted other issues in the area which would benefit from a similar approach.

Cllr. Mulcahy noted the clean up at the Railway Gardens, Lismore and queried if there were plans for housing.

Cllr. O'Riordan complimented the transformation of 4 Davis Street, Dungarvan and queried if there are grants available to assist in improving properties.

A O'Sullivan will pass on the positive comments re Richard A. Walsh Street to the Derelict Sites Team. She noted that the approach undertaken by the Derelict Sites Team has been to engage with building owners by way of agreement and this has proved successful. Planning will follow up on the other issues in the area. Re Railway Gardens, as noted in the Management Report it is the intention to enter the site onto the Derelict Sites Register.

David Quinn, Derelict Sites Team, is to attend the July meeting to cover 'Taking in Charge'.

#### **b. Housing**

Cllr. Phelan raised a query re the footpath at Estuary Heights and Colligan View, Dungarvan which is currently railed off. Cllr. O'Mahoney supported re-instating the permeability of the area.

Cllr. O'Mahoney queried if there was an update on the Fairlane Stage 2 application discussed at the May meeting.

Cllr. O'Donovan requested an indication of timelines for different grant applications to help advise applicants.

Cllr. Cronin queried if there was any progress on housing developments on Council owned lands, serviced sites on land purchased in An Gaeltacht and if there was any progress on Ardmore.

W. Holden advised that due to health and safety issues the footpath at Estuary Heights will not be re-opened until the works have been completed. Re Fairlane, following a meeting with the Dept. there were amendments to costings and the application has been re-submitted.

W. Holden advised that the following are average timelines for housing grants/assistance currently, but times changes weekly:

- 6.2 weeks for Aid for Older People.
- 7.25 weeks for Adaptation Grants.
- 10.73 weeks for the Mobility Aids Grant. This is influenced by a small number of cases requiring occupational therapy reports.
- Croí Conaithe is currently running at 12-13 weeks which is in and around the national average.

A dedicated email address has been set up to deal with grant queries from Councillors and details will be circulated.

Re serviced sites, the Council is not in a position to deliver on these. The council is working with the Dept. and will come back with the process. There will be a full review of delivery on Housing for All at county level as part of the development of the next version of the plan. Admore is ongoing but has been delayed due to staffing changes.

#### **c. Roads**

Cllr. O'Riordan and Cllr. O'Mahoney asked for an update on Childers' Estate lighting. Cllr. O'Riordan also noted the large number of camper vans at Quann's which are impacting on the residents in Cois Trá.

G. Hynes advised that there is an issue with the underground cables for the Childers Estate lighting which will cost approx. €300,000. This will need to be procured and a contractor appointed. Re campervans, the relevant bye-laws will be reviewed to establish what options are available.

Cllr. Mulcahy queried if an allocation was available to upgrade the Lismore public toilets; the plans for the N72 pedestrian crossing in Lismore; spraying of weeds on the N72 exiting Cappoquin; he also noted a number of lights that were on during day light hours.

Cllr. O'Mahoney raised the issue with the upkeep of the area at Abbeyside Strand/ beach; anti-social behaviour at Gallowshill; and an update on the Local Link serving Ardmore Mini Farm and the glamping pods.

G. Hynes updated N72 pedestrian crossing: ducts are going in before surface works. Pedestrian crossing at this location and additional crossings in Lismore to be undertaken as part of one scheme in line with NTA procedures. In relation to weeds on the N72 these can be reviewed for cutting. Re the Local Link stop in Ardmore, this stop is not due to be in place until September. Local Link will be engaged with to establish if this can be fast tracked.

Any issues with public lighting should be reported on the DeadSure app.

D. Wallace advised in relation to Gallowshill that funding had been sought under an anti-dumping initiative for preventative planting but further work was needed with other sections to finalise plans.

Cllr. Phelan asked if the street sweeper can be brought to White Strand; he queried if Davis Street is included under the District Roads works; recent works at Abbeyside have left some possible trip hazards; Fraher Lane has no street name sign in place; Clonea Castle disability parking spot view is blocked by council signage. A request was also made that the Active Travel Team be invited to a future meeting to assist in identifying projects.

G. Hynes advised that the sweeper would be allocated as resources allow. Re Abbeyside, under the Utilities Road Opening Licence, the contractor is required to ensure that surfacing is re-instated and this will be followed up on. A sign will be provided for Fraher's Lane. Michael Murphy, Active Travel, will be invited to attend when plans are being developed.

Cllr. Pratt reported a number of issues in Tallow: speeding on West Street; over hanging branches at the Protestant Church obstructing the pathway; public toilets which are in need of painting.

G. Hynes advised that Roads have engaged with Gardai who have a presence in Tallow. He further advised that it is an issue for motorists to be aware of local speed limits. Regarding the Protestant Church, the landowner has responsibility for private property and it is also not the tree cutting season. Public toilets are open and being managed. A review of opening hours will take place later in the year.

Cllr. O'Donovan noted that in the Waterford County Outdoor Recreation Plan, the main outdoor activities are walking and sea swimming and she noted that provision of public toilets in Clonea would further support these activities. An update was also sought on when N72 re-surfacing works would commence; if parking revenue was allocated to the area in which it was collected; whether Maria Goff could periodically attend to update on projects in her area. Cllr O'Donovan

also took the opportunity to wish all the areas participating in Tidy Towns adjudication process which is currently taking place.

G. Hynes advised that the N72 resurfacing is due to commence in the summer once the Irish Water works are completed. The overall roads budget is €50m which includes parking revenue which is spent across the county.

Cllr. Cronin raised a query about Ardmore's bathing water quality and issues with the public toilets. The requirement for hedge cutting at junctions especially near beaches was also raised.

D. Wallace advised that water quality issue is unrelated to the toilet facilities. The water quality was immediately re-tested and came back clear and the Blue Flag re-instated. The cause of the issue is being investigated, more frequent monitoring is being undertaken and Uisce Eireann are being engaged with. G. Hynes advised that Roads are undertaking hedge cutting at main junctions where there are safety issues or sightline issues and this will continue as needed.

Cllr. Pratt requested that the street sweeper be brought to towns including Cappoquin and Tallow. He asked that consideration be given to the maintenance of Milestone Markers as a unique feature in Waterford. Issues in Cappoquin in relation to speeding and lack of parking were raised. A request for increased provision of dog foul bins in towns and villages. Cllr. Pratt noted his thanks on the behalf of the residents of Aglish and Coolroe and also noted the positive news for Lismore that the underground pipes would be laid in advance of re-surfacing.

G. Hynes advised that the street sweeper will be in Tallow. The point raised re the milestone markers was noted and will be actioned. The comments re Aglish and Coolroe were noted.

D. Wallace advised that there are currently no plans for additional dog fouling bins as there is an issue with those currently in place not being used. A pilot to remove bins in some locations is being developed.

Cllr. O'Donovan asked that in advance Dungarvan Cycling Club's upcoming charity event that the road patcher be used on the route. A number of incidents have taken place on the Lismore Vee Road (R668) 3km north Lismore; there is no signal and the rock outcrop and overhanging trees.

G. Hynes confirmed there would be no issue with the road patcher and asked that Cllr. O'Donovan provide details to J. McGrath. Re the R668, it is not envisaged that significant works will be undertaken and that it is an issue for drivers to be aware of hazards. Roads will review signage.

Cllr. Geoghegan acknowledged the new Local Link bus stop at Ballinameela and noted the work that Cllr. Pratt, Local Link Chairperson and other councillors including Cllr. O'Mahoney and former Cllr. McGuinness in securing this stop. Cllr. Nugent also acknowledged the addition to the Local Link network. Cllr. Geoghegan raised a query regarding where responsibility lies for overgrown trees on private land adjoining the public road.

Cllr. Nugent asked that a reminder be issued to the public regarding Japanese knotweed and also noted overhanging branches in Kilgobinet.

G. Hynes advised that over hanging branches are civil matters if they are not interfering with a public footpath. If there are issues with public footpaths, these should be notified on CRM.

Regarding Japanese knotweed, the advice to landowners is that is an offence in legislation not to treat it.

**d. Economic**

Cllr. O'Donovan noted the benefit of local markets in Dungarvan and Lismore and queried what role the Council had in supporting these markets.

Cllr. Phelan noted that the festoon lighting on the Causeway is not working and queried if enforcement was being undertaken in relation to casual trading.

Cllr. O'Mahoney requested an update on the Dungarvan Community Swimming Pool Business Plan.

Cllr. Pratt requested an overview of works in Cappoquin and an update on the Lismore Bank of Ireland building.

C. O'Neill advised that he would confer with Casual Trading on the markets. There is no update on the swimming pool plan but there is provision in the Capital Plan which will be considered at the next Plenary. Regarding Cappoquin, the main contractor has been appointed for the Uniacke-Fennell building. In relation to the BOI building, the pods are progressing on site and works are due to be complete by mid-July. Heritage grant applications for window and roof repairs are being put forward for Town and Village funding.

L. Grant advised that in relation to casual trading enforcement, the process is usually reactive and that any concerns should be forwarded to Finn Brophy.

**e. Environment**

Cllr. Mulcahy queried if there is an update on CCTV plans. He flagged that the €60,000 spent on bags for dog fouling is not value for money and noted the presentation of bottle and clothing banks needs addressing and contact details should be provided.

D. Wallace updated that a meeting of the Oversight Group to utilise CCTV for waste and litter had been held. The next stages are to develop the tender, undertake a data protection assessment and public consultation. The aim is that CCTV will be operational mid-September/October. The CCTV locations will be based on areas flagged on CRM, so it is essential that all issues are reported on CRM so the proper areas are targeted.

Regarding the provision of bags for dog fouling, the Council is tied to the provider but as previously noted, the current level of bag provision is not impacting on the levels of litter and a pilot project removing bags is being advanced. Bottle/ Clothing bank providers will be contacted to ensure their details are on the banks.

Cllr. Phelan thanked outdoor staff for their work on N25 and wildflower planting. He queried if the Litter Bye-Laws could include requirement that shopping trolleys have locking devices to prevent removal and reduce those abandoned. The change in water quality at Clonea from 'Excellent' to 'Good' was flagged and asked if the CCTV could be used at bring banks.

G. Hynes will pass on thanks to the outdoor crews. It is unclear if the bye-laws could include provisions relating to supermarkets but asked that these incidents be reported on CRM. Regarding water quality, the testing was proceeded by heavy rain and it was clarified that the change in quality was not related to the whale carcass.

Cllr. Pratt asked for an update on community grants for upkeep of graveyards.

A O'Sullivan advised that 15 applications had been received and are currently being assessed. Details will be circulated.

**4. Correspondence.**

None.

**5. Motions.**

None.

**6. AOB**

Cllr. Nugent congratulated Strings & Things, Clashmore on a very successful festival on the June bank holiday weekend.

**Proposal to change meeting time**

Cllr. Pratt proposed that the meeting time be changed from 2:30pm to 2:00pm and this was seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan. The change of time was approved unanimously.

**Proposal to change the start time of the AGM**

Cllr. Geoghegan proposed that the start time of the AGM be changed from 4:30pm to 4:00pm and this was seconded by Cllr. Pratt. The change of time was approved unanimously.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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