

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

**HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,  
DUNGARVAN at 2.30pm.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services Corporate, Culture, HR & IS  
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency  
Mr. G. Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads  
Ms. J. McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads  
Mr. H. O'Brien, Executive Planner  
Mr. R. Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment  
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Nugent and seconded by Cllr. Tobin.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

None

**3. PLANNING LISTS**

Planning Lists noted

**4. PROGRESS REPORTS**

**(a) Environment**

Cllr. Phelan requested the statistics as presented are reviewed to provide additional detail and comparisons. He outlined that while the presentation of the area was excellent over summer he noted that the flower beds on the Youghal road were poor. He enquired if the flower beds by the old post office are watered by the council and outlined overgrowth on footpaths on both sides of the road from Kilrush roundabout to the spring roundabout that need to be addressed. He requested a water refill station on this stretch of road similar to those installed on the Greenway and asked for detail on the groups carrying out the community clean ups.

Cllr. Cronin raised issue about overflowing bottle bank in areas such as Ardmore, Kinsalebeg and Clashmore and asked if additional bottle banks can be provided.

Cllr. D. McGuinness concurred with Cllr. Cronin outlining he has been made aware of these bottle banks being used by commercial premises. He had requested that a letter issue to public houses and asked for feedback on this. He informed the meeting that Wexford County Council are using mobile CCTV to monitor problem areas and asked for the deployment of mobile CCTV to be undertaken across the county. He requested update on the Poplar trees along the N25, report commissioned by the council outlined that the trees are reaching the end of their lifespan and need to be felled, and he asked that it is pursued with Transportation Infrastructure Ireland (TII). He outlined that damage to ringbouys is a reoccurring problem in a number of areas and requested if there is scope to provide for harsher fines in the byelaws. He noted

the need to increase the items of accessible play equipment in playgrounds across the county and requested that in next round of improvement works that there would be an installation of wheelchair accessible swings.

Cllr. Nugent raised issue of sulky racing on Clonea Beach requesting how the byelaws are enforced. He asked whose responsibility it is to carry out hedge cutting on land where there is no title.

Cllr. Tobin thanked the environment section for assisting with arranging a once off bulk item collection in Knockanore in coming month. He acknowledged all the work carried out in relation to the clean-up in Tallow after the horse fair outlining that the event is recognised all over Europe and has been running well for the last 120 years.

Cllr. Pratt supported Cllr. Tobin in relation to the horse fair stating that the traders were positive and it is very positive for the area. Asked that installation of accessible swings is favourably looked upon. He also asked for clarification on what is eligible under the Housing Estate Lighting Guidelines and if the retro fitting of public lights includes all lights in the County.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted that the good presentation and cleanliness of central areas in the town but outlined that residential areas were poor, he acknowledged that there are biodiversity objectives to be achieved but a balance needs to be reached. Agrees with Cllr. D.McGuinness in relation to the Poplar trees and asked that the work is progressed. Concurs with issue with accessible playgrounds and the need to make it a priority of the council.

R. Moloney, SEO confirmed that he will review the presentation of information in the environment report. He stated that the flower beds on Youghal road are due to be replanted in Q4 2019. He confirmed that the flower beds by the old post office are watered by Tidy Towns committee and area will be addressed. He outlined that the installation of refill stations was under specific funding from the Local Authority Waste Prevention Network and would recommend that people get involved in the refill.ie scheme. Details of groups involved in community clean ups will be provided to members. He noted that there is a system in place for the reporting of overflowing bottle banks along with a collection schedule. A recent survey has been carried out of bottle banks which includes the speed at which the bottle banks fill up so as to properly inform the emptying schedule. He will follow up on letter issued to public houses. He informed the members that the use of CCTV has to abide by GDPR guidelines and he will investigate options for their installation. A tender has issued in relation to the trees on the N25, it is currently being assessed and will require approval from the TII before proceeding. He notes the issue raised regarding ringbous and will review relevant byelaws and confirmed that the enforcement of sulky racing is primarily carried out by An Garda Síochána. He informed members that the one off collection for bulky goods in Knockanore will be in place for the disposal of domestic goods. He confirmed that there are a number of items of accessible play equipment in playgrounds and have recently received funding from the Department of Children & Youth Affairs to install an additional accessible swing and roundabout in the Dungarvan playgrounds. The installation of a wheelchair accessible swing is difficult as it is that the recommendation of the manufacturer that they should only be installed in supervised playgrounds but he will investigate options as suggested by the members. He confirmed that housing estate lighting guidelines relates to public lighting guidelines for new developments. With regard to the retro fitting of public lights this relates to all lights in the county, Waterford is part of southern region which is part of the first role of the project.

Cllr. Nugent noted that the council has been successful in dealing with Japanese Knotweed but there seems to be a difficulty in it being adequately addressed by private landowners.

R. Moloney, SEO noted that multiple applications are required and will deal with individual cases with Cllr. Nugent. He advised that the council have signed up to National Pollinator Plan and it is the aim of the council to minimise the use of chemicals and acknowledges they need to review the approach being used.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted issue with Knotweed and highlighted danger of ragweed that needs to be tackled.

Cllr. Cronin suggested reviewing playground in Clonmel which is specifically for those with a disability and recommended reviewing the equipment used and suggested have a separate playground for those with a disability and may be adjoined to an existing one. Cllr. Geoghegan outlined that we need to ensure that all playgrounds are inclusive.

R. Moloney, SEO stated that the councils aim is to provide equipment and playgrounds for children of all abilities and playground referred to in Clonmel was developed for those with Autism.

J. McGrath, SEE stated that all landowners needs to take responsibility for hedge cutting and the property section has information on local titles.

Cllr. Nugent raised issue of the need for a public swimming pool in Dungarvan and noted that members of the Barracuda swimming club were in the public gallery. Cllr. Geoghegan supported this and proposed that a feasibility study is carried out with the view of providing a 25metre municipal swimming pool in

Dungarvan. Cllr. D.McGuinness noted that he has met with Waterford Triathlon club and Irish Water Safety who have emphasised the need for this facility. Supported by all councillors.

K. Kehoe, DoS congratulated the club on its regional and national success. He outlined that correspondence has issued to the club and members informing them that the council has applied for funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for Dungarvan 2040 which includes funding for the development of sports and communities.

## **(b) Roads**

Cllr. Cronin outlined his disappointment with the CLÁR programme announcement for Waterford. He acknowledged the work of the roads section on the road to Whiting Bay and requested that an additional length of the road is addressed as the site cleaning has had a very positive effect on the road.

Cllr. Pratt asked for an update on Kilbree Road, footpaths in Tallow, completion of work at Woodview Park, tarmacadam at Gallows Hill, Park road in Lismore and cats eyes on the Youghal Road. He noted the bollards are still in place at the boat house and asked when works are due to be completed. He enquired how an area can become part of a CLÁR area

Cllr. Doocey outlined that the fencing that was installed in areas where ditches were removed to improve sightlines are in need of replacing in some areas and need to be addressed.

Cllr. Tobin requested that the council meets with Cork County Council to agree the priority sections of the Youghal to Tallow that need cats eyes to be installed. Stated his disappointment with result of CLÁR funding and enquired as to how many applications were submitted. He enquired if more funding will be forthcoming for the LIS and CIS.

Cllr. D.McGuinness highlighted the issue of traffic lights at pedestrian crossing on the N25 at Coolagh/Tournore and concern that sequencing was incorrect and asked that new sequence is monitored. Informed the meeting that the road surface on N25 at the Burgery needs resurfacing and asked for blocked drains to be unblocked and to consult with residents when works are to commence. As previously raised in the chamber he raised issue of width of parking spaces in Scanlon's Yard that need to be addressed as cars are getting damaged. Asked if letter issued to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine as per his July motion for dredging works in Helvic and asked if a response has been received.

Cllr. Phelan asked if stop go systems are to be in place on future road works that details are put on map alerter. Requested update on campervans at Quanns. Highlighted issue on streets around the town and issue for wheelchair users and challenges faced and welcomes seeing solutions to address the issues. Requested update on finalisation of Safety Audit report for the Square and concurs with issue in Scanlon's yard.

Cllr. O'Donnell raised issue with fingerpost signs going into Clonmel and concern that it will affect the district budget. Noted that cyclists are being diverted onto the coastal route from Helvic and he is concerned that the road is dangerous.

Cllr. Nugent requested update on commencement of works at Garranbane cross and noted that works at Cappagh may create drainage problems and outlined need to consult with residents.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted the completion of works for the resurfacing in Abbeyside and agreed that Scanlon's Yard needs to be addressed, recommending that funding is provided to address all the issues. Requested that the contractor address the deteriorating section on the central carriageway through Grattan Square.

Cllr. Doocey raised concern on speed of traffic on Collins Avenue and need for pedestrian crossing for students attending Coláiste Cathal Naofa.

G. Hynes, SE stated the maximum number of applications (15) were submitted to the CLÁR programme and funding was received for Modeligo, Kinsalebeg and Rathgormack and is considerably less than received last year. There is a programme in place for site cleaning and acknowledged that it does assist with drainage, he will look at continuation of works on road to Whiting Bay. He confirmed that Woodview Park is scheduled to take place in next 4 weeks, discussion have taken place with Cork County Council and a programme of works has been agreed which is dependent on availability of funding. Outlined that the council is currently in discussions with the landowner regarding getting the wall repaired which will allow for the removal of the bollards at the Boat house in Cappelquin. He stated that CLÁR areas are based on population decline and this is reviewed on an interval basis. Meeting was held with fisheries and National Parks and Wildlife in relation to the Kilbree road and they are happy for the works to proceed, in excess of €100,000 will be required and is dependent on a funding source being available. Will review requirements in relation to fences and agreements in place for the improvement of sightlines. CIS and LIS applications submitted in excess of €1million for 2019 and received approximately €200,000 which enabled completion of 1 scheme in each district, an application has been made for an additional drawdown of funds. Will be submitting an application in mid-September for CIS for 2019/2020. Confirmed that the Burgery have a drainage and pavement scheme confirmed that is due to commence in Q1 2010. Confirmed that the letter pertaining to the dredging works issued, response issued with no confirmation of

funding. Will have an update on the camper van submission at Quanns for the October meeting along with an update on the safety audit report for The Square. Funding for fingerpost is an allocation made by Department under the Civic Improvement Grant, it is ring-fenced funding solely for that purpose. He will review the cycle trail at Helvic. He confirmed that the designs for Cushcam are finalised and currently liaising with land owner, anticipates that this will proceed to a CPO and works will not proceed in 2020.

J. McGrath, SEE confirmed that the jetpatcher is scheduled for work on Gallows Hill along with work on footpaths in Tallow. Outlined that Scanlon's yard needs greater funding and will be put into 2020 budget and agreed to programme it for early 2020. Pedestrian crossing was reviewed and will continue to monitor. Will look at options for crossing and traffic calming on Collins Ave.

Cllr. Cronin highlighted issue with block inlets causing flooding during heavy rain by Dungarvan fire station

### **(c) Housing**

Cllr. D.McGuinness requested update on boundaries at Highfield Estate and Silversprings along with issue and associated risks with exits from Highfield onto the N25. He outlined that there have been leaks in houses in Highfield that have created water damage and the issue lies with the council's contractor and needs to be addressed. Welcomed the new policy of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit to deal with anti-social behaviour and commends the work of the ASB Unit. Requested update on provision of emergency accommodation for those in West Waterford.

Cllr. Pratt wished Derek Lyons good luck in his new role and asked for update on replacement. Enquired about council policy in relation to the removal of open fire places in council houses and concerned if it is a general policy.

Cllr. Phelan outlined the housing report is very useful in provision of comparisons and enquired when houses in Ballinroad will be available for allocation. Also enquired if comparable figures to last year can be provided for the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

Cllr. Geoghegan concurred with Cllr. D.McGuinness in relation to the wall between Highfield and Springfield stating the issue of safety is ongoing with the exit points onto the N25 and needs to be addressed. Informed the meeting that a report issued from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to traveller accommodation and a number of people/groups proposing councillors to be removed from the decision. He requested that a letter is issued outlining his opposition to the Local Authority being removed from this process as the provision of housing rests with the Local Authority. Cllr. Cronin supported the proposal.

I.Grimes, DoS noted that D. Lyons has moved to a new role and a competitive process for his replacement is underway. In relation to Highfield it was outlined that the boundary wall couldn't be provided under original development as it was a turnkey development. Specification for the work is to commence in the coming weeks, residents will be consulted with as to their preference and required safety measures to be put in place. The council was informed of the issue of leaks in a number of houses, the developer is due on site to assess cause of the problem and required measures to address. He outlined that it was important to amend the policy in relation to anti-social behaviour and highlighted that estate management have a positive role to play with all tenants emphasising the positive 'Spic and Span' event that is in operation to assist in improving estates. There are developments in relation to provision of emergency accommodation in West Waterford and councillors will be informed when details confirmed. He will check the procedure in relation to the removal of fire places and revert. He confirmed that the housing section is in a position to deliver ahead of targets set by the Minister and confident that the level of demand will be met and will review the presentation of details in the report to councillors. He outlined that the council requested €500,000 under the housing adaptation scheme for council stock and only €190,000 was received. Upon clarification with the Department of the application details the Department has indicated that additional funding will be made available, it is anticipated that this funding may be available before the end of the year and hopeful for increased allocation for 2020. He confirmed that the report produced in relation to traveller accommodation was produced without input from the local authority and outlined that it would be important for councillors to make representation to the Minister, the CCMA is expected to make their own submission.

Cllr. Pratt recognises the Spic and Span event and acknowledged the positive impact on all involved.

Cllr. Cronin outlined his concern regarding pockets of anti-social behaviour in Estuary Heights and the need to address the issues.

I.Grimes, DoS stated that it is his intention to expand the spic and span competition and the timeline for delivery of houses in Ballinroad is mid-2020. He outlined that all complaints of anti-social behaviour are taken seriously and are followed up on, there is a need to focus on the fact that the majority of tenants are completely compliant.

**(d) Planning**

Cllr. Tobin outlined concern with issue of submission of planning retention of illegal windfarm in West Waterford and is opposed to the retention application stating that the planning authority needs to consider how these applications are dividing communities. Enquired if there is a full complement of staff in the planning section and have vacancies been filled.

Cllr. D.McGuinness outlined his concern for wind turbines in An Seanphobal with proposed excessive height. Enquired as to the planning requirements for wind masts. He outlined that Energia are proposing to construct a windfarm off shore and requested that they are permitted to give a presentation to the district.

Cllr. Phelan supported proposal to invite Energia to present and requested information on how Waterford compares to other councils in relation to applications for wind farms.

Extension of Standing Orders proposed by Cllr D.McGuinness and seconded by Cllr Pratt and agreed.

Cllr. Pratt enquired if a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is in place at a location for wind turbines if it can prevent a development.

Cllr. Cronin noted that a number for people from the Gaeltacht highlighted and are concerned that there are a number of wind monitoring masts in the area.

K. Kehoe, DoS stated that in relation to any request for presenting to council that members need to be aware that are designated officials under the Lobbying Act. Any group is encouraged to advise people of proposals by having a public meeting where they are invited to attend.

H. O'Brien, EP is expecting retention application to be submitted and the decision on the application will be carried out on the merits of the case presented. In terms of national picture will get data on comparisons to other counties. There are specific details that need to be identified and considered under SAC's in relation to a planning permission.

Cllr. D.McGuinness outlined that the erection of temporary masts is permitted under certain conditions.

**5. Dungarvan Lismore District Standing Orders**

Revised Standing Orders for the Dungarvan Lismore District meeting were proposed by Cllr. Pratt and seconded by Cllr. Doocey.

**6. Correspondence**

None

**7. Notice of Motion**

None

**8. A.O.B**

Cllr. Pratt Dungarvan acknowledged that the Dungarvan cycling club recently celebrated 150 years and proposed that a memorial plaque is put in place for the memory of Richard. E Brenan outside Willow and Oak on Grattan Square. Seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed.

Cllr. Phelan requested that as Dungarvan hosted the Bahamas team for the Special Olympics that it is recorded that we are sympathetic to their current situation as a result of Hurricane Dorian.

Cllr. D.McGuinness updated members on the recent meeting of the JPC in relation to the proposed merging of the Garda divisions and the need to lobby against proposed decisions. He outlined that a number of fire service personnel are first responders and requested that when 911 calls are responded to that the closest fire station would be alerted so that they could be dispatched to the scene while waiting for the ambulance service to arrive. Commended management of Café Anne LeRoy at the Anne LeRoy Centre, Kilrush, Dungarvan.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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