

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

**HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,  
DUNGARVAN at 2.30pm with members on Zoom.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. James Tobin

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late:

- Paul Crotty
- Mark Lyons
- Catherine Hourigan, Old Parish
- Kathleen Hogan, Lismore

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

To the Waterford Hurling Team for their contribution and lifting of everyone spirits in a difficult year.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed.

Minutes of Budget District Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness and agreed.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted the local disquiet regarding this years Christmas lights and after considerable investment that remain disappointing, noting that Abbeyside seems to have been excluded, there have been a litany of outages and faults and it is the second year in a row where the contract hasn't delivered. He outlined his dissatisfaction that the requested report on the Christmas lights was only circulated to the members prior to the meeting without time to consider the content.

Cllr. Phelan outlined a number of locations where lights are not working, issues with festoon lighting, feature lighting not being replaced with like for like and summary of observations issued to district manager. Enquired how the issues are being followed up and noted a number of questions in relation to the contract that need to be answered and addressed.

Cllr. Cronin noted issues with lights since last year, substantial money spent on upgrades which is not evident in the lights this year. Need to discuss issues with the contractor and area is not being presented properly, essential that it is addressed so that same issues will not be evident for next year.

Cllr. Geoghegan agree with issues raised noting council had twelve months to get lights right in Dungarvan. Lights in city turned on two weeks earlier than Dungarvan and doesn't seem to be issues with lights in city. Councillors should have been kept informed if there were any issues with supply etc.

Cllr. O'Donnell agrees with issues, received a number of reports with problems and noted lack of lights in Abbeyside.

Cllr. Pratt disappointing that lights were not right when set up, Christmas lights need to add to the town.

K. Kehoe, DoS noted the concerns and issues raised by members, regrets late issue of report. The report highlighted numerous issues with failing lights, unable to source replacement bulbs, replacement of festoons, substantial replacement of feature items, water which entered fittings such as the icicles and couldn't be replaced. Substantial investment into features and supply had commenced in 2020, stating this is the start of the programme to improve lighting in Dungarvan with a commitment to improvements of lights in Abbeyside for 2021. Economic Development will issue answers to members in relation to questions raised by Cllr. Phelan. Acknowledged issues at turning on of lights, issues as occurred were addressed by contractor as raised, noted the festoon lights are up all year around and not part of the Christmas lighting contract and contractor has addressed. There will be a further review in New Year and if any non-compliance with contract will follow up on. Acknowledged work of previous contractor, Conroy Electrical Services, in maintaining the lights. Council went to tender at end of summer for the Christmas Lights and received two tender applications, these were independently considered and assessed. He outlined that lighting is continually monitored, any issues resolved as per conditions of the contract.

### **3. PROGRESS REPORTS**

#### **(a) Environment**

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted issue of dog fouling is continually being raised and the problem is not improving, need to find ways to deal with this reoccurring problem, needs to be a high level campaign to deal with what is anti-social behaviour. Need to solve the issue and come up with a way to address it.

Cllr. Pratt supports Cllr. D. McGuinness and requested presence of dog wardens in areas across the county where the issue is prevalent. Reiterated the need to supply dog-fouling bins and asked if it would be considered for community groups if willing to assist in the managing of these bins.

R. Moloney, SEO agrees that the occurrence of dog fouling is anti-social and need to encourage responsible dog ownership. Have issued a number of fines, increased signage and run campaigns to raise awareness, noting that the council do provide dog bags on the popular walking routes and in 2019 spent in order of €25,000 on provision of dog fouling bags. Need to encourage dog owners to be responsible and will look at increasing awareness and having a dog fouling campaign and using social media to promote.

Cllr. Phelan commended the presentation team and effort by all who put up bunting and flags in support of the Waterford Hurlers. Welcomes 'Picker Pals' initiative enquiring if it's an opportunity for longer term involvement with Tidy Towns and what local schools involved, reported issue with weeds on footpath verge in Hillview Drive and façade of the court house. Bins in Square seem small in comparison to other locations and asked if solar power compactors can be put in place.

R. Moloney, SEO will revert with details regarding the schools involved with the 'Picker Pals', notes report of weeds in locations outlined. Number of bins in Grattan Square are the standard bin provided and noted that have received funding under the governments 'Anti-Illegal Dumping Initiative' to purchase a number of new bins including the compactor bins for the Dungarvan/Grattan Square area. This will

increase the capacity of the bins and the advertising emoji's can be added to the side of the new bins and will be used for advertising of community notices.

G. Hynes, SE noted that would certainly work with communities groups if there is a request but need to be getting message out regarding responsible dog ownership.

**(b) Roads**

Cllr. Cronin noted that the beach car parks are gone into disarray, particularly in Whiting Bay requesting that application be made to the Department/OPW requesting of funding for car parks. Acknowledged the work of the outdoor staff and engineers in relation to the additional funding received under the Stimulus fund.

Cllr. Pratt queried about the footpath funding under the capital programme asking when it will be discussed and agreed. Thanked the council and owners of carpark in centre of Tallow enabling use of additional spaces and hopes there will a long-term plan for it.

Cllr. D. McGuinness welcomed five-year capital plan noting that need to meet early in the New Year to agree priorities and programme for the Dungarvan Lismore District. Note allocation in capital spending plan for fisheries at Helvic enquiring if ongoing work had been stopped and why this is the case. Number of issues with waste water system in An Rinn, requested update on Baile na nGall treatment plant and treatment of wastewater from other areas in Helvic. Noted that 18/19 March 2021 will mark centenary at the Burgery, the memorial at junction of Military Road and N25 is in a state of disarray due to the current works and asked that area by monument is cleaned up and area reinstated. Issue of the drains at An Leacha Beag in An Rinn and issue with access through gaps in the wall at Highfield Estate, Dungarvan.

Cllr. Phelan footpaths in O'Connell street are welcomed enquiring if plastic bollards by Dealz are due to be reinstated, requested update on works at Crotty's corner enquiring about hold ups, signage at location needs to be reviewed. Requested update to repairs to beacons and lampposts at pedestrian crossings in Ballinroad. Requested pedestrian crossing at back of shopping centre to be looked at as issue with pedestrian/traffic priority at crossing. Asked for a number of parking spaces for elderly or disabled in The Square, requested update on dedicated click and collect. Announcement of €50million funding for walkways and cycling to Local Authority and asked if projects ready to be submitted for the funding, noting need to link estates more to the town centre. Acknowledged thanks for works on patching of potholes in Ballinroad, drainage verge up to Garranbane getting congested with debris, concerned about the height of the kerbing by monument on Military Road and outlined that reference to roundabout in capital plan at Touranore will assist in alleviating congestion.

Cllr. Doocey need to ensure access for local landowners and emergency vehicles in beach areas, need to ensure adequate signage and double yellow lines are in place.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on Padre Pio and acknowledged work at clearing of drains in Tallow.

Cllr. Cronin due to issues at some of the beaches during the summer need to look at beach byelaws and update so that they can be improved upon.

Cllr. Nugent requested update on Garranbane Cross and land acquisitions, noted 200m road section on Bog Road where signs need to be put up as nobody can see between road and entrance into deep dike.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that the review of the beach byelaws has commenced, in discussion with SPC and will be out to public consultation in the New Year and will be brought back to the members at a Plenary meeting to approve. Will review Whiting Bay car park, if not excessive cost will undertake repairs to address problem, will need to refer coastal erosion problems with other car parks to OPW for funding. Acknowledged comments in relation to the outdoor staff noting that tremendous work carried out by staff in delivering the roads work programme in what has been a difficult year. Outlined that a fifteen year lease was entered into in relation to Tallow carpark, 46 spaces in total with 28 under current lease, 18 not within the lease and up to now the owner as a goodwill gesture has made these spaces available, in negotiations to finalise arrangements. Draft programme in relation to footpaths, the Active Travel Measures and the Roads Work Programme (RWP), footpaths will be dealt with at a workshop with members in the January so that applications can be considered. Contractor for Helvic pier is on site; works are weather dependent and outlined that work is in two phases, second phase due to start in March / April and is dependent on receipt of additional funding. Considerable works being carried out at the Burgery, note comment in relation to the monument and current programme for contractor to have works completed mid-February. Cones at Dean's corner will be reinstated, Powersriver to Ballinroad will be considered for reinstatement in RWP for 2021. Works ongoing at Crotty's corner and note comments in relation to signage, belisha beacons

installed before Christmas and will be back to complete works on the raised table. Ballinroad Cross to roundabout cycle path will be included in submission for the €50million national funding for walking and cycling infrastructure. Acknowledge issues with access to beaches noting that roads to the beaches are narrow and will be difficulties at busy times, onus on people who are parking that they do not prevent access to the beaches for emergency vehicles or block public road. Submission has been made to the Transportation Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for extension of public lighting at Padre Pio and will revert on response. In relation to Garranbane Cross the difficulty with Covid is that made little progress with negotiations with landowners due to the restrictions and will revert with update in New Year. Will review issue raised in relation to the drain inside road pavement at Bog Road and will look at additional signage for the location.

J. McGrath, SEE outlined that liaising with Housing section in relation to An Leachan Beag and issue of blockage of gullies, query in relation to waste water needs to be addressed with Irish Water. Currently doing a review of the belisha beacons and lights around Dungarvan, undertaken procurement to have repairs carried out and undertaken any lining where needed.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted his frustration with dealing with Irish Water and not being able to hold them to account.

G. Hynes, SE will review pedestrian crossing at Bob Troy's, will review allocation of additional parking spaces in The Square for elderly and disabled, notes there is half hour free parking in The Square that will facilitate click and collect. Outlined additional diversions for the 6/7 January where Ballyduff to Lismore Road will be closed for two days to facilitate embankment work and the N72 from Lismore to Tallow will have closure towards end of January to facilitate final surface layer.

J. McGrath, SEE noted that Housing are liaising with residents in Highfield regarding closure of gaps.

### **(c) Housing**

Cllr. D. McGuinness welcomes that have new Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) policy and hopes that it will strengthen the councils dealings with ASB, requested if another workshop with An Gardaí Siochana and management could be held. Requested Housing section to consider locating some of the homeless services and HAP place finder service in Dungarvan, as many tenants have to go to Waterford to deal with the service, suggesting a clinic basis. Noted the HAP system is not working due to the set-up of the system and lack of houses available under HAP limits. Queried the waiting time for medical priority 2 applications.

Cllr. Pratt enquired if there is progression in relation to council stock adaptation for tenants with disability and is more funding available for it.

Cllr. Phelan acknowledged road widening at An Farrage in Ballinroad in relation to sightlines and noted need for footpath with road widening.

C. Horan, SEO outlined that intention is to have direct engagement with residents in Highfield to agree preferred options. Key point for ASB unit is to work closely with An Garda Siochana as issues of criminality are matters for the Gardaí to deal with and will look at potential of a workshop in the New Year. Outlined that the homeless services in the city is a centre of expertise and provides good service, not intention to dilute this, the work of HAP place finder works well over the phone as provides information and support. Noted that HAP is a national scheme that need to work within, the HAP team works hard with tenants and landlords. Work with those with medical two priority and priority is for medical one applications, working to get streamlined and working where suitable on transfer to properties that meet needs of the tenant rather than adaptation to property that is not always possible. Housing engineer will be working with roads to see what is needed at An Farrage.

### **(d) Planning**

Cllr. D. McGuinness requested two planning items to be combined into one agenda item and for section on economic development and town management to be included on the agenda. Requested update on taking in charge of Railway Gardens and Fainne na Farrage in An Rinn and noted issues with boundaries at An Leachain in Baile na nGall that needs resolution.

Cllr. Pratt raised issue regarding the Piggery application in Ballinamult and concerns of residents in vicinity. Cathaoirleach noted live application that is gone out for further information.  
Cllr. Phelan asked for information on Development Plan workshop to be issued to councillors not present.  
Cllr. Cronin enquired if planning permission is required by an owner for drilling of a well.

H. O'Brien, EP will revert with details on taking in charge issues. If well is for commercial purposes it is not exempt, there are exemptions in planning regulations if boring a well for domestic use. Will circulate report when finalised and requested issues in relation to Baile na nGall to be submitted.

K. Kehoe, DoS suggested a meeting in committee with the members to agree the items and format of the agenda. Clarified that economic development is a rotational item that is dealt with quarterly but can be reviewed as part of workshop. Agreed by all.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**5. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**6. A.O.B**

Cllr. Nugent wished all members a Happy Christmas and acknowledged the family of Kevin Kirranehoping good news will be forthcoming. He noted that 2020 will be remembered by all and hoped 2021 will bring prosperity to all and looks forward to the commencement of work on the North Quays.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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