

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRAURY, 2021 BY ZOOM CALL**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach
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Cllr. Liam Brazil
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Cllr. John O’Leary
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Cllr. Ger Barron
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Cllr. Declan Clune
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**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. I. Grimes, DoS, Housing, Community & Emergency Services

Mr. G. Hynes, SE, Roads.

Ms. M. Goff, A/SEE Roads.

Mr. R. Moloney, SEO, Environment.

Mr. H. O’Brien, EP, Planning

Mr. J. Doyle, Broadband Officer

Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY:**

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

- Noel Kiely
- Jimmy Lyons
- Peter Dalton

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of District Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> January proposed by Cllr. Brazil seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Clune requested if information on the number of active applicants on housing lists was available. I.Grimes, DoS outlined that currently working on the presentation of this data and will have for next meeting.

Cathaoirleach requested suspension of standing orders to take agenda items 4,5 & 6 before item 3 on the agenda. Proposed by Cllr. Clune seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

**4. PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF SLIP LANE FROM N25 TO R676**

G. Hynes, SE provided a summary of the proposed work noting that reasons for revision of the junction is that the slip road is not appropriate as it is conducive to higher speeds and is a risk to vulnerable road

users. Found from the speed surveys that speeds at slip road have exceeded 70kph and following consultation with TII they are requiring that the slip road is removed as part of the traffic calming scheme for the area.

Cllr. Power noted his concerns with changing the junction and possible knock-on effect on the next junction.

Cllr. Barron asked if proposed changes would still allow pedestrian and cyclist access.

Cllr. Brazil concerned about the closure of the road noting it may make the area more dangerous and hazardous and suggested reverting back to original design passed in 2020.

Cllr. O’Leary enquired why the TII are making this recommendation and asked for more information and clarity on the proposal.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that this is a traffic calming scene with preliminary aim of slowing down traffic and in order to be effective need to remove the slip road. The Part 8 was previously approved and was subject to a safety audit by TII whose recommendation was removal of the slip road. Need to proceed with consultation, advertisement of the scheme and revert back to council for consideration in April, he noted that it is unlikely that the scheme will proceed if unable to remove the slip road.

Cllr. Clune enquired what speed traffic will be permitted to travel when coming to other turn off if slip road is removed.

Cllr. Brazil amazed that TII can come back to have slip road to be removed and doesn’t agree with it.

Cllr. Barron noted issue with abandonment of road and concerned about loss of funding so hope a compromise can be reached.

G. Hynes, SE reiterated that the scheme is not about facilitating vehicles but to protect vulnerable road users and reduce speed, need to slow vehicles down which in turn slows down other traffic. Requesting that proceed with consultation and will talk to TII and following closure of submissions will revert. The speed limit will be 50kph which is the statutory speed limit through Lemybrien.

Proposed by Cllr. O’Leary seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

## **5. SECTION 38 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT – TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME ON N25 AT CARROLLS CROSS – COMPLETION OF PROCESS**

G. Hynes, SE outlined details of proposed rural traffic calming scheme at Carrol’s Cross with main objective of reducing speed through engineering measures which includes traffic calming islands, reduced carriageway width, public lighting, enhanced road signage and markings and hard shoulders. Estimate cost of €1.25m and went on display on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Submission closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and circulated members list of submissions received. Proposing approval of scheme as advertised with amendment at Carrol’s Cross Inn where will allow in and out access from car park and left turn from entrance beside the Inn also.

All councillors supported the proposal with amendment as presented, noting the work involved by all to have the junction amended. The scheme will greatly improve the safety of the junction and need to continue the argument for a dual carriageway from Kilmeaden to Youghal Bridge.

Proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

## **6. NATIONAL BROADBAND PRESENTATION**

J. Doyle, Broadband Officer gave presentation providing overview and update on the National Broadband Plan.

Cllr. Power welcomed the presentation noting the issue where connection is not always carried out along the full length of a roadway.

Cllr. Clune queried survey map for municipal district as it is only taking in a third of the district and asked is this the full extent of the survey or will it take in full area. Enquired about timeline for deployment and if inputs from councillors on reps received can be passed on as concern about lack of broadband along the Copper Coast. Requested detail on type of infrastructure and speeds and noted need for public Wi-Fi access for Comeragh area around the greenway, enquired if specific centres for this been chosen.

Cllr. Barron enquired about roll out of fibre broadband in some areas noting it did not cover all rural areas. Noted in the Rathgormack area there is no line of sight and asked how this will be addressed and will providers provide service in areas that are not necessarily commercially viable.

J. Doyle noted this is the initial survey map and would expect further updates for the area, will be fibre-based technology with minimum speed of 500megabits per second. There are a number of challenges in getting access to buildings for public Wi-Fi due to current restrictions but hope to roll out in next 4-6 months. Survey will be completed in 6-8 months and build phase up to 24 months, noting Comeragh area is a large district to cover. The scheme referred to by Cllr. Barron was the EIR rural fibre rollout and if not financially feasible it would not be extended. New rollout hoping to cover 95% and will use wireless to get into premises where there are problems.

Cllr. Brazil not happy with areas not shown on map as there is a big demand on families with working from home and schooling at home and difficulties in areas in the district that have been unable to get broadband, noting in particular the area of Stradbally.

Cllr. O'Leary noted the programme is to be rolled out to 63,000 households per year and enquired if Covid19 has affected the roll out and timelines.

J. Doyle noted frustration with EIR rollout and will provide more up to date map with other areas included noting it will take time to build out the framework. NBI will be connecting all premises in the county, it is a project that will take a number of years to reach all households.

#### **4. REPORTS**

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

Cllr. O'Leary noted 50% increase in calls in relation to dog fouling, he has received a number of calls in relation to it with particular reference to the Greenway and requested a concentrated campaign with the public to tackle the issue and need to provide more dog fouling bins.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. O'Leary noting it is an issue that has got out of hand and dog owners need to be responsible for the issue. Raised issue of illegal dumping outlining that the Kilrossanty group working hard to address the problem in the community, asking if any update on issue with use of CCTV. Enquired if any update on Knockeylan forest noting that Coillte need to ensure all access gates are kept locked.

Cllr. Clune noted green dog walkers launch, a lot of pledges initially and asked if the website is operational again and if necessary stock in place to meet the requests. Noted the harvesting of timber of Portlaw Woods and asked for response on what the plan is for the woods and replanting. Issue with use of quad bikes and motorbikes in Portlaw Woods causing problems which is against the byelaws, need to address the problem and have solutions for all users of the amenity. Requested update on the tannery site in Portlaw.

Cllr. Power agreed with issues raised and noted an increase in number of complaints received in Rathgormack regarding dog fouling. Outlined that illegal dumping is done by the minority and need to check on who has bins and how they are disposing of their rubbish.

L. O'Brien, AO outlined that council is launching in mid-March a yearlong campaign in relation to dog fouling. The focus of the campaign will be on advising the public through all media platforms the necessity of dog owners to take responsibility for their dogs. Campaign includes green dog walker, after initial publicising of campaign the council was overwhelmed with number of applicants and had to temporarily close the scheme to enable stocks to be replenished. Noted that all bins can be used for dog fouling disposal and will provide additional where deemed necessary and appropriate. Will be enforcing the message and will also be taking enforcement action, have issued 14 fines for dog fouling and one currently in court. Noted that dog fouling can lead to disease and will be included in the promotional material as part of the campaign. Awaiting resolution regarding use of CCTV for tackling of illegal dumping and will revert with update when available. Aware with issues at woods in Knockeylan and will revert. Have engaged with Coillte regarding securing of properties and will continue to work with them in relation to black spots. Will engage with Coillte to determine plans for Portlaw Woods and issue of quad bikes to reach a solution. Currently in process of engaging with owners of the Tannery site to discuss report and options for site.

**(b) Roads**

Cllr. Clune enquired about recent roads funding announcement asking for update on impact for the Comeragh district and any indication of what the funds will be used for. Requested update on activation of zebra crossings in Portlaw.

Cllr. Barron requested traffic calming on High Road into Kilmacthomas due to speeding issue and asked for speed survey to be carried out on the road.

Extension of standing orders for 15 minutes proposed by Cllr. O'Leary seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

G. Hynes, SE noted funding of €13million received for Active Travel of which €1.6m allocated for Comeragh, details will be outlined at upcoming workshop. Funding of €16m for roads is allocated for strengthening works, bridge rehabilitation works, low-cost safety and improvement grants and will also be agreed upon at workshop. Allocation for €5m for Comeragh district. Will review High Road as part of overall project for Kilmacthomas.

M. Goff A/SEE expect that Coolfin and Brown Street lights in Portlaw will be activated in coming weeks.

Cllr. O'Leary asked if any information on Local Improvement Scheme allocation and if the funding this year is on a parity to last year.

Cllr. Power noted number of potholes increased with the bad weather, enquired if signs can be erected on small rural roads as Sat Navs are giving direction to use unsuitable roads. Noted that solar panel on light at top of Seskin Hill is not working and requested update on lighting and pedestrian crossing at fingerpost.

Cllr. Brazil supports issue on directions given by Sat Nav, requested Coillte representative to be invited to district meeting as vehicles causing numerous issues on the rural roads.

G. Hynes, SE noted no LIS allocation to date and will revert when received. Noted that the directions given by Sat Nav is an issue and will discuss with the Department in order to prevent directions down local roads. Agree with issue raised on impact of Coillte trucks on local roads, will take up with Coillte and invite them to meeting, will take up issue with the Department inspector as to how to address the problem. Awaiting ESB connection at Fingerpost to power up lights and hope it will be operational in coming week. Not a significant increase on allocation from last year, would need an additional €5m to improve standards and will have additional information at workshop.

M. Goff A/SEE noted have a team out addressing potholes and will follow up where notified. Will review and address light at Seskin Hill.

(c) **Housing**

Cllr. Clune noted issue in relation to the CPO relates to the disposal of the CPO properties. Enquired and asked about total amount of people on housing list asking if can see numbers per LEA. Noted Comeragh area is neglected for affordable housing and want to compare to other LEAs. Issue with broadband in Coolfin where houses not cabled for broadband and asked for this to be investigated. Outlined that No. 8 Beechwood Grove is boarded up and asked if this property can be CPOd and if the public can enquire about mortgage on the property for purchasing.

Extension of standing orders for further 15 minutes proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

Cllr. Brazil asked for update on houses in Kilmacthomas, noted issue with getting three quotations for grant applications and asked if it can be reviewed. Supported by Cllr. Power.

I.Grimes, DoS noted point regarding CPO and disposal, currently undertaking review of vacant homes action plan and will revert to Plenary with amendments. Should be noted that between city and county there are over forty areas of choice on housing form which causes problems when collating the information, will have report for next meeting. In addition to council capital projects which require council to have land to develop, council have also been proactive in Comeragh area in promoting the repair and lease scheme, currently have 20 enquiries in relation to this with majority in Kilmacthomas and will hope these units will come back into allocation. Will review and revert with regard to broadband in Coolfin Woods. Will review property at Beechwood Grove and noted that private residents can make enquiries to the Property Registration Authority in relation to ownership of a property. Site clearance has commenced on the Kilmacthomas site. Noted that there is no discretion in getting three quotes for grants and will raise with auditor and Department.

(d) **Planning**

Questions to be emailed to planning staff.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence noted.

**6. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**7. AOB**

Cllr. Brazil raised issue regarding proposed track for Glendalligan and requesting clarification. Request will be followed up on.

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

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