

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021 BY ZOOM CALL**

**PRESENT**

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

Roll call carried out by meetings administrator.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms. I. Grimes, DoS, Housing  
Mr. G. Hynes, SE, Roads.  
Ms. M. Goff, A/SEE Roads.  
Mr. R. Moloney, SEO, Environment.  
Mr. S. Doran, AO, Planning  
Ms. B. Kirby, A/ AO LEO  
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

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

- John Fitzgerald
- Mossy O’Keeffe (Snr)
- Paddy Sullivan
- Mary Carey
- Hannah Sullivan
- Dinny Hassett
- Dick Walsh
- Vincent (Vinnie) Kirwan

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 proposed by Cllr. Brazil seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Barron requested update on provision of carpark at Mahon Bridge.  
Cllr. Clune enquired if contact has been made to Coillte to attend council meeting.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that have met with landowners further to concerns about parking at Crough Wood, Mahon Bridge as raised at last meeting, council has agreed to purchase an area of land in the area and acknowledged cooperation of landowner. In short term undertaking work to provide parking for the summer and in the long term will need to go through the statutory process to finalise car park solution.

R. Moloney, SEO, informed the members that invitation sent to Coillte making them aware of the issues and request to meet with the members, hopeful meeting will be scheduled shortly.

### **3. REPORTS**

#### **(a) Roads**

Cllr. Clune welcomed new road lining and designated campervan spaces at Kilmurrin Cove. Noted the lack of toilet facilities in the areas as an issue enquiring if temporary solution can be put in place for summer months. Welcomed new road lining at Bunmahon enquiring if more double yellow lines will be in place for summer and asked if there will be an increase in bins at beach locations.

Cllr. O'Leary welcomed news of funding for the Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) enquiring about details for the district, requested update on commencement of works at Carroll's Cross and installation of public toilets at the Anne Valley walk.

Cllr. Power welcomed LIS funding and requested update on parking at Kilclooney Woods.

Cllr. Brazil welcomed developments at Mahon Bridge, requested update on Mahon Falls carpark, enquired when public toilets will be open at public beaches. Welcome LIS funding for district while disappointed in the funding received in comparison to other counties.

G, Hynes, SEO outlined that parking requirements at beach locations has been reviewed noting that don't have enough parking for the demand at beach location during peak times and will continue to look at options for extending parking facilities. Confirmed that public toilets will be open for the June Bank holiday weekend and currently not the intention to provide temporary facilities. Requested that public need to bring home their rubbish and leave the areas as they find it, will review the bin provisions at locations noting additional resources required for emptying where extra bins are put in. Acknowledged LIS allocation of €278k, disappointed in amount received as there is significant demand in the area and this allocation will result in one scheme being delivered per district. To get all schemes delivered would need in the region of €4.5m. Currently finalising tender documents and designs for Carroll's Cross, envisage tender to issue in July with start date of August/September. No update in relation to Kilclooney Woods as need to get agreement from third parties for the provision of land. The Section 177 for works at Mahon Falls is with An Board Pleanála for approval, cannot proceed with works until get decision which is due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

M. Goff, A/SEE noted that returning bins to locations for commencement of the bathing season and understand there are 13 submissions for Mahon Falls carpark with 3 from prescribed bodies.

Cllr. O'Leary supported Cllr. Brazil regarding lower LIS allocations and enquired as to why this is the case and asked for detail relating to submissions on the Mahon Falls.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined the LIS allocation is done by Department of Rural and Community Development and all local authorities received a 10% increase on last year allocation. Requested members to pursue politically for Waterford and if a second allocation was available if would be very beneficial.

M. Goff, A/SEE noted no sight of submissions for Mahon Falls and outlined will be erecting new leave no trace signage at bin locations.

B. Kirby, A/AO, noted that working with community on provision of toilets at Anne Valley Walk.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on works at Kilmeaden link to Greenway as number of issues outstanding.

**(b) Housing**

Cllr. Clune requested if there has been progress on provision of additional housing units for Comeragh area, update on possible contamination of river by Coolfin Woods, details on staffing compliment for anti-social behaviour unit and tenancy management and details on external security contractor and associated costs.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on progress with new houses in Kilmacthomas and pedestrian entrance for the residents, noted continuing issue with sewerage odour at Kilmacomma estate.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Brazil regarding Kilmacomma and has received number of representations.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that continuously looking at potential for additional housing, driven largely by where the demand is and will update as new development options become viable. Potential contamination by Coolfin Woods was inspected and found evidence of domestic dumping which is being pursued. Current tenancy management and estate management function has a staff compliment of 5 with 2 current vacancies which are prioritised for filling. For several years council has availed of a security company to support in relation to travel accommodation maintenance and serious anti-social behaviour issues and assist staff in investigating cases, will revert with details on the security element of the contract. He outlined that there are two pedestrian access points for the new housing development in Kilmacthomas as approves as part of the Part V111 plan. He acknowledged there was an issue with blocked sewerage at Pine View in Kilmacomma which has been resolved, there is a wider issue in relation to the capacity of the septic tank for the estate which has been referred to Irish Water.

Cllr. Clune outlined there is a demand in major towns in Comeragh district and enquired if there is an issue with getting correct site and zoning for land to enable development.

I.Grimes, DoS, stated while there are potential sites adjacent to existing sites, need to get the tenure mix correct for each area.

**(c) Planning**

Cllr. Power noted increase in planning applications for the district enquiring if additional resources are required to support staff.

Cllr. O’Leary queried high refusal rate on applications and supported need for additional resources.

Cllr. Clune increase in referrals to members for assistance and concerns over how they can be involved in the process taking consideration of obligations under the Lobbying Act.

Cllr. Barron requested update on taking in charge of Cruachán View.

Cllr. Brazil outlined need to assist people in making applications, need to have staff assigned to pre planning meetings.

Cllr. Power suggested workshop with planning to go through what can be done and how to support people.

S. Doran, AO, acknowledged that planners and staff are busy due to the increase in volume of applications and are looking at ways to address the pressures. Noted that year to date there have been 18 refusals in Comeragh area which is what would be expected. Will revert with update on taking in charge and details on workshop with members. Noted current delays in pre planning meetings due to increase in applications and pressures under Covid.

**(d) Economic**

Cllr. Clune requested update on issue with casual trading in Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. Barron requested update on provision of seating on Greenway as received representations from locals on funding a seat.

Cllr. Brazil update on track in Glendalligan Woods in Kilrossanty.

Cllr. O’Leary enquired if businesses who received grant in 2020 under the outdoor dining scheme can avail of further funding in 2021 and noted that need to get clarity on issue in Kilmacthomas for trading.

B. Kirby, AO, outlined that works at Kilmeaden link to Greenway is not complete and issues as raised will be addressed as part of the final works. Noted that casual trading issue refers to trading on public property and trading on private property as is this case is a planning issue. Informed members that Glendalligan Woods proposal is only a concept stage so there are no plans available. Will seek clarification from Failte Ireland on the outdoor dining scheme and revert to members. Will discuss provision of benches on the Greenway with trails officer.

Cllr. Power requested trails officer, Johnny Brunnock to attend next meeting.

(e) **Environment**

Cllr. Clune enquired if there are additional litter/environment inspectors available during busy periods.

Cllr. O’Leary enquired if there is any update on suggestion to identify people on take away packaging.

R. Moloney, SEO, outlined there is an increase in inspections in busy periods and at busy black spots and staff are out of the office as much as possible and will ensure that number of inspections are kept up. The recording of details on takes away packaging has been referred to the regional waste management office, no feedback noting that it would require a change in primary legislation.

**4. SECTION 38 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 – Traffic Calming Schemes – Completion of Process**

**a) Along the L3043 Main Street, Kilmacthomas**

G. Hynes, SE outlined details of proposal for crossing point with raised table and belisha beacons to provide safe crossing for pedestrians and slow down traffic. Noted one submission received which was outside the scope of the S38 and issues raised will be considered separately. Recommended approval of scheme as outlined in report and advertised with no revisions.

Cllr. Barron proposed adoption of scheme and noted need for consideration of traffic situation in Kilmacthomas as a whole and possible one-way system to be considered. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

**b) Along the L4500, Upper Queen Street, Portlaw**

G. Hynes, SE outlined details of proposal for controlled pedestrian crossing with raised table linking to bus stop, will reduce vehicular speed and have controlled crossing for pedestrians. No submissions received; recommended approval as advertised with no revisions.

Cllr. Clune proposed adoption of scheme noting it has been needed in the area due to traffic movements in and ties in with raised table in Brown Street.

Cllr. O’Leary seconded proposal, complimented the safety measures that are being put in place in the district.

Cathaoirleach supported and welcomed both Section 38s.

## **5. 2021 FOOTPATH PROGRAMME**

G. Hynes, SE acknowledged previous works undertaken in the district along with the €1.6m received under Active Travel Scheme. Under the 2021 capital programme budget €150k was allocated to footpaths, the areas to be addressed are based on public liability claims, trips and falls, representations from councillors and complaints from members of the public. Noted that in combination with other funding received that considerable progress is being made in the district.

The 2021 Footpath Programme was welcomed and agreed by all.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted

## **7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

## **8. AOB**

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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