

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

**HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021,  
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
Cllr. James Tobin

Roll call carried out by Meetings Administrator.

**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  
Mr. J. Doyle, A/HIS  
Mr. R. Walsh, Head of 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:

- Derry Twomey, Cappagh
- Ned Keane, Villierstown
- Birdie Conway, Dungarvan
- Noel Kiely, Kilmacthomas
- Mary Geary, Tallow
- Brendan Hartigan, Tallow
- Lieutenant Des Hearn (Retd), Dungarvan
- Joan Kenneally, Ballyduff Upper
- Jacqui O'Connell, Dungarvan
- Mary Curtin, Thomas Terrace
- Jim Walsh
- Michael Buckner, Dungarvan

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020 proposed by Cllr. Cronin seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Phelan acknowledged receipt of information relating to canopy design for The Square and noted that responses to questions posed regarding Christmas Lights received and circulated to all members.

Leas Cathaoirleach proposed suspension of Standing Orders to take Item 4 before Item 3, seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed by all.

#### **4. NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN (NBP) PRESENTATION**

Presentation given by Jack Doyle providing update on the current National Broad Plan rollout for Waterford, broadband connection points for the community locations and WiFi4EU Project.

Cllr. Nugent enquired about survey carried out in Clashmore area at end of last year.

Cllr. Phelan asked what speeds are expected in the rollout of NBP and if it will meet requirements.

Cllr. Pratt welcomed progress outlining it is not adequate in some areas noting poor coverage in areas in Cappoquin town that needs to be highlighted.

Cllr. Cronin requested additional detail relating to breakdown of areas surveyed noting biggest problem with rural broadband is the quality and unreliability for people working from home, enquired when this upgrade is due to commence.

Cllr. D. McGuinness enquired what metrics/targets are measured to ensure efficient rollout takes place. Areas in West Waterford with poor connectivity, enquired if will see more facilities such as broadband connection points like Knockanore hub.

Cllr. Doocey noted concern with number of houses in a location not included in provision of service.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed Wifi4EU initiative noting that working from home has increased and having reliable broadband is seen as an essential service. Requested half yearly updates on progress of rollout.

J. Doyle, A/HIS noted no notification of survey for the area outlined but could have issued to Cork broadband officer. Service launched in Cork last month with minimum speeds of 500megabits per second which is good service for future needs as fibre technologies provides speed. Aware of the issue in Cappoquin which falls within the remit of EIR as is in a commercially serviced area and constituents need to contact them to address or regulator if service not provided to a standard. Additional map detail not available yet but will become available when more detailed surveying carried out. KPIs in contract in place with government, provision of connection will take a number of years to roll out. Quarter of all premises in Waterford require connection which is 15,000 homes. EIRs rural fibre rollout didn't always provide connection on full road, its within EIRs power to decide what to connect as it needs to be commercially viable. Broadband Connection Points identified as community centres where EIR wasn't servicing and will be available for the community to use. Additional updates as requested can be given.

Cllr. Cronin noted that survey also carried out in Ardmore, Kinsalebeg and Clashmore areas relating to the 02-phone code and asked for this information to be requested.

#### **3. PROGRESS REPORTS**

##### **(a) Economic Development**

R. Walsh, Head of LEO noted need to support Local Enterprise Week events from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March, highlighting Eamon Lonergan of Knockanore Cheese as he is the local representative in the 2020 National Enterprise Awards. Project Manager appointed to the Cappoquin project, development of strategic framework for Dungarvan has issued to tender. Noted that Covid construction restrictions delaying a number of projects. Funding confirmed for West of the county for three town portals (Lismore, Tallow and An Gaeltacht) and will work with communities to develop. Noted new economic incentive scheme launched, new banners to be erected in Dungarvan along with new footfall counters for Dungarvan Centre.

Cllr. D. McGuinness enquired about possibility of mountain bike trail in Glendalligan noting there is an unofficial trail in use in the area, suggested looking at similar examples such as Ballyhoura in order to develop outdoor tourism offering for the area. Welcomed briefing on 2040 brand noting huge potential for the city with potential of contribution of West Waterford to the initiative. Welcomed new signage for An Gaeltacht and need to roll out to other areas, acknowledged work of the council and Comhairle Forbartha involved in the project. Noted additional areas in West Waterford appointed for use under the Casual Trading Byelaws due to be approved at Plenary meeting, welcomed appointment of consultants for Cappoquin project and requested presentation on the project in the coming months.

Cllr. Phelan noted the report illustrates the success of accessing funding for the area. Welcomed Minister for Transport announcement of funding for Active Travel and enquired about impact for the area and if there is scope for funding of such areas as widening track from Clonea to Ballinacourty, assistance for maintenance of existing infrastructure, boardwalk in Abbeyside, review of path from Quann's to Western Bay. Also enquired if there is a current funding stream for owners to paint their business premises which would encourage owners to upgrade their buildings.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed increase in funding and requested that an additional substantial portion of walkway at Quanns could be developed and asked council to revisit project.

Cllr. Nugent noted that previous council had supported trail at Glendalligan noting it would be a wonderful amenity for the area.

Cllr. Cronin requested extension of cliff walk in Ardmore to Whiting Bay asking if a survey could be carried out to determine feasibility and funding options.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO noted that a mountain bike trail would be a welcomed amenity, will review options for its development and funding sources. Outlined that Waterford 2040 important document due to be launched in March, primarily centres on city and need to ensure municipal districts are also included outlining main rural development priorities for the areas. Will arrange a presentation from the Cappoquin project in a few months, outlined that there is a new sustainable transport team to be set up in the council under the Active Travel programme. Noted that options for walkway at Quanns and Western Bay can be reviewed and noted there is no current painting scheme for Dungarvan although there is one for Cappoquin. He outlined there is an objective in the Programme for Government to develop an Irish sea route from Bray to Cove and to have all coastal areas accessible to recreational users, will review previous work on Ardmore Bay and option for new feasibility study on the route.

K. Kehoe, DoS welcomed rural development strategy with particular inclusion of the municipal districts which will help inform and advise on projects to be included into a schedule of projects for the area. Confirmed that the council have advertised the posts for the active travel programme with WCCC which has the potential to be transformational for the area. Confirmed that there will be a presentation from Vinnie O'Shea on the area of rural development for next meeting.

## **(b) Environment**

Cllr. Pratt outlined that he has contacted residents' associations in Cappoquin, Lismore and Ballyduff to work with the environment section to address dog fouling issue.

Cllr. D. McGuinness engaging with residents and colleagues and noted need for new dog waste bins in some locations and need for enforcement element to address the problematic behaviour and request for reallocation of resources or additional resources to be allocated to this area. Need for social media campaign to raise public awareness regarding patrols and inspections. Noted the public toilets at Clonea Strand not open as out of season and requested they are opened for extended times. Enquired if legal advice has been sought in relation to the data commissioner's decision on use of CCTV for illegal dumping enforcement.

Cllr. Phelan noted issue with illegal dumping at Fr. Twomey's well and need to address the area, requested update on trash compacting bins for Dungarvan and acknowledged prompt responses to instances of illegal dumping.

Cllr. Geoghegan concurred with dumping at Fr. Twomey's and importance for keeping it clean, highlighted ongoing issue with illegal dumping on the banks of River Colligan at Shandon that needs to be addressed. Agrees with need for opening of facilities at Clonea and need to empty bins more frequently.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted that illegal dumping has increased since the local authority ceased their waste collection service and need to provide this service again.

Cllr. Cronin noted that contacted Senator Malcolm Byrne regarding the issue of CCTV usage and it was raised in the Seanad recently to have the issue addressed.

R. Moloney, SEO acknowledged working with Tidy Town groups in Tallow and West Waterford area on a dog fouling campaign which will be used across all media platforms to get message across. Looking at development of app whereby the public can report on instances of dog fouling which will enable identification of black spots so that resources can be targeted in those areas, will also use joint patrols between environmental inspectors and dog wardens. Will revert to water services regarding the toilet facilities nothing that additional budget would be required for opening outside of the bathing season.

Confirmed that work is underway to have the necessary amendments made to the legislation to ensure council can use CCTV for prosecutions. Noted that an initial clean up on Fr. Twomey's Well has been undertaken and will need additional work to address the problem. Aware of dumping at estuary in Colligan adjacent to the halting site and addressing issue with housing staff. Noted that the waste collection service was uneconomic for council to continue at the time and those dumping were not using any waste collection service. Campaign for dog fouling will include three elements, education piece, enforcement with inspectors and cleansing with provision of bins in appropriate areas.

(c) **Housing**

Cllr. Pratt noted that house recently advertised on CBL was presented poorly and needs to be addressed, he outlined long delay in relation to grant applications where acknowledgement letter not issued.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted issues with incidents of anti-social behaviour in Comeragh Crescent and Hillview with people using estate as a conduit for traffic and asked that estate management team could meet on site to discuss the issues. Thanked maintenance crews for work on getting heating issues repaired quickly.

Cllr. Geoghegan requested update on boundary wall at Silversprings, noted number of private housing developments in the pipeline and cohort of people who are not eligible for these houses, need to talk to developer about provision of affordable housing scheme in Dungarvan.

Cllr. Phelan noted that maintenance teams continue to provide essential repair services and enquired if in longer term there are plans to replace oil fired central heating with people in situ rather than waiting until house becomes vacant. Lack of footpath from Ballinroad Cross to Clonea roundabout and noted need to address and if a low-cost solution has been sought, acknowledge and welcome anti-social behaviour workshop.

Cllr. Cronin raised issue for need for serviced sites in towns and villages as part of the new Development Plan.

C. Horan, SEO will review issue of CBL photographs with team and will talk directly to Cllr. Pratt regarding the case raised regarding lack of acknowledgement of application which would not be the norm. Will discuss anti-social behaviour issues with team to address action to be taken. Acknowledge thanks in relation to the maintenance team who are working well in current conditions and will pass on. Wall at Silversprings will be progressed once current restrictions are lifted and conscious of need to engage with the residents. Noted that affordable housing guidelines due from Department and will progress schemes once confirmed. Outlined that the policy is to retrofit heating systems once house is vacant due the disruption involved and will get update on footpath to from Ballinroad to roundabout.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested update on commitment for five houses in Sean Phobal, noting there is an imbalance in the houses that are built across the county.

K. Kehoe, DoS will ask housing to revert directly with response.

(d) **Planning**

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted request to have a workshop to deal with application that has gone to An Bord Pleanála so that members can develop a submission in relation to the application.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if it is in the scope of the district to have workshop to agree on a submission and collective response to An Bord Pleanála. Requested inclusion of data regarding planning enforcement actions along with comments as to the planning enforcement action taken in the planning report.

Cllr. Tobin thanked Cllr. Pratt for chairing the meeting on his behalf. He noted his dissatisfaction with the wind turbine developers lodging planning application during a pandemic when the community cannot meet to discuss. Outlined that the planning notices are located at ground level and not in a prominent position and noted the disgrace of fee of €50 for lodging an objection to An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. Cronin supports Cllr. Tobin and welcomed workshop to support submission of observations of members and highlighted the need to support people in getting planning in rural communities.

Cllr. Pratt noted that submitted parliamentary question with regard to legality of €50 charge on submissions and outlined that legislation regarding revised set back distances to wind turbines has not issued.

Cllr. Doocey supported issues relating to local applicants not getting planning permission and agreed with need to change charging for submissions.

H. O'Brien, SEP, outlined that when responding with a submission on a strategic infrastructure development that a written report is developed for An Bord Pleanála, the executive has given a commitment to come back to the members with report before any submission is made to enable comments to be included, this will need to be done before end March. Noted members dissatisfaction with submission fee and regulator. Issue of rural development noted from previous workshops with members, there is a commitment to a discussion around one off rural housing, the executive and team involved in the new development plan are actively engaged in addressing this area.

(e) **Roads**

Cllr. Pratt requested update on filling of outdoor staff for Lismore area and when will be filled.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted agreed on €800k for footpaths and requested for meeting to agree a scheme of district priorities for footpath repairs.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if delay in allocation of road works funding will delay completion of works for the district, requested inclusion of a light in tunnel from Mary Street to Scanlon's Yard.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted council are currently seeking applications for the Commemoration Committee with regard to the War of Independence – as a council should put forward a proposal for a permanent memorial for the West Waterford Brigade of the Old IRA suggesting a submission is made to have this put in place where an all-party working group come together with members of the community to develop the proposal.

Cllr. O'Donnell welcomes cats eyes from N25 to Robinsons Cross and need to extend to Old Parish and hope they will be included when work on the road is continued.

Cllr. Doocey request grit to be available in depots and for communities to use with upcoming bad weather.

Cllr. Cronin supported Cllr. O'Donnell.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that replacement of staff for Lismore area is dependent on lifting of restrictions so interviews can be held. There will be an impact on road programme until confirmation of funding is received but hopeful that will get full road works programme completed and will rearrange workshop once allocation received. Will revert to the members with details on footpath repairs and noted need to review the allocation under the Active Travel Scheme for 2021 which will be done as part of rescheduled workshop. Review of footpath priorities will be done the following month. Will revert regarding monument and outlined that there is a priority for cats eyes on regional roads with other areas dealt with once completed. Requested members to advise the areas engineer of locations that may need available grit. Informed the members that advertising for a one-way system on Bridge Street next week which will have a four-week submission period. A Section 38 at Garranbane School for new footpaths and crossing also due to be advertised for submissions. Lismore to Tallow Road to be closed for a period of three weeks to enable re-surfacing works and diversions will be in place.

K. Kehoe, DoS, noted need to extend standing orders to deal with last item on the agenda. 15-minute extension proposed by Cllr. Pratt, seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness and agreed unanimously. He outlined that details on the casual trading byelaws due to issue this evening and will be dealt with by Plenary council. The request for memorial will be referred to the Commemoration Committee.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **6. NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **Motion in the name of Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness**

*“That the R674 from Crosaire na Rinne to Ceann Heilbhic would be included in the Winter Maintenance Gritting scheme as Priority 1, on a par with the similar and smaller roads in the Ballinacourty and Clonea areas. Although the R674 is generally gritted ahead of low temperatures it remains at the lowest level of priority identified within the scheme. The density of population in An Rinn, coupled with the*

*strategic location of the RNLI Lifeboat Station at Ceann Heilbhic require that this stretch of road is recognised as a Priority 1.”*

**Reg. No. 8 (dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021)**

Cllr. D. McGuinness outlined need to include the R674 as a priority route on the winter maintenance scheme, it is a strategic route that terminates as a strategic piece of infrastructure with An Ceann Heilbhic which is the headquarters of the RNLI lifeboat station.

Motion seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan supporting its inclusion and wanted to have it recorded that at no point did he oppose that this stretch of road is not gritted. Outlined that the roads in the Ring area should be included in the gritting priority programme. Supported by Cllr. Phelan.

Amendment by Cllr. Cronin to include additional roads the R673 from Kiely’s Cross to Clashmore and Ardmore to Cleary’s Cross along with R671 from Piltown Cross to Clashmore Village and onto Whitechurch. Noted three roads have very heavy traffic and need inclusion as priority routes.

Cllr. Doocey noted need to look at inclusion of Clogheen to Lismore road.

Cllr. Pratt supported motion.

G. Hynes, SE noted that routes are divided on basis of traffic volumes and strategic links with P1 and P2 routes accounting for 480km of road for gritting. In Dungarvan Lismore there are an additional 220km of P3 routes and would need an additional budget of €250k to include these routes, resources not available to undertake this, it is not possible to grit all regional roads in the district. Noted that not reasonable to change the winter maintenance plan in the current winter season.

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined that resources are not available to cover the motion as presented.

Cllr. Nugent proposed additional extension of standing orders to extend meeting for an additional 15 minutes, seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed by all.

Cllr. Tobin supported the original motion.

Cllr. D. McGuinness understood limitations and noted that the road is of strategic importance and needs to be included due to the emergency service at the end of the road and has no objection to amendments and if for operational reasons can be changed as a priority for 2022.

Cllr. Phelan noted that criteria and definition for strategic roads should be reviewed so that additional road in Ceann Heilbhic is included for 2022.

K. Kehoe, DoS noted the council would prefer to grit all roads but there is a resource issue that needs to be considered and he committed to reviewing the roads as outlined. The areas are strategically reviewed in line with current criteria.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that the winter service plan is approved and agreed for this year so cannot be changed, will review the measures as outlined as part of the 2022 plan.

Cllr. Pratt seconded the amendment to the motion as proposed by Cllr. Cronin and unanimously supported.

**7. A.O. B**

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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