

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

**HELD ON 14TH JUNE 2021,
at 2.30pm with members on Zoom.**

PRESENT:

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

Roll call carried out by Meetings Administrator.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
Ms. Catherine Horan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Ms. Josephine McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Raymond Moloney, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Mr. Richie Walsh, Head of Enterprise, LEO
Mr. Donal Ó Murchadha, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning
Mr. Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

Cllr. Tobin proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to take Items 3(a), 4 & 5 on the agenda before other reports in Item 3, seconded by Cllr. Pratt, agreed by all.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 10th May 2021 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Cronin and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. D. McGuinness outlined a lot of discussion in relation to the use of shared space in Dungarvan, issue around communication, consultation and engagement and how can best manage the public spaces in the interest of all. Suggested need for ongoing engagement to trouble shoot issues and option of a forum for businesses, councillors and council officials for regular engagement to assist with this.

Cllr. Phelan supported need for seasonal forum with stakeholders to deal with outdoor summer issues. Noted report on outdoor toilet facilities not available and requested case to be made for outdoor toilet and last number of weekends shown need for it. Suggested that smarter travel shower/toilet facility is repurposed for use by the public.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on getting list of over 55's on housing list in Dungarvan Lismore district.

Cllr. Geoghegan supported need to open up smarter travel facilities for public use, supported also by Cllrs. Nugent and Doocey.

Cllr. Tobin arranged meeting with district manager and independent traders which was constructive noting town needs to come together to achieve the best for the area.

K. Kehoe, DoS noted huge success with the outdoor dining and the vibrancy it is giving the town. Aim to support the national policy of outdoor dining, as a body met with all businesses to discuss and resolve issues, have a dedicated staff member appointed to deal with issues and also have outdoor presentation crews working to maintaining and sustaining outdoor dining requirements for the summer. Noted recognition of areas in town where there are disagreements between some businesses and will assist where needed, equally there are a number of businesses where working together has benefited the area. Commented on concerns in opening of the smarter travel toilets, it's heavily used by cyclists and is a safe area to park up bicycles. Noted that during opening hours of the libraries the toilets are available for public use, will continue to review issues.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Roads

Cllr. Pratt requested update on outdoor dining area for Barron's in Cappoquin, signage for Dromana bridge, update on works at Tallow bridge works and enquired when sweepers coming to small towns and villages.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted when big belly bins are due to be installed in Dungarvan, acknowledged work of outdoor crew in keeping Dungarvan clean. Requested more bicycles racks around town and in particular on the Quay in Dungarvan.

Cllr. Phelan noted 2 dog waste bins in Ballinroad not emptied after recent bank holiday and requested emptied in timely, noted no through road signage at Kilminnin estate. Noted high usage of bins at Clonea causing overflowing on occasion, signage at approach roads warning caravans of height restrictions needed, parking on double yellow lines on approach to Clonea and also on the Quay causing issues and outlined shortage of bicycles stands in Clonea.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted incident in Bunmahon where cars blocked access to emergency services outlining concerns where cars parking illegally and in dangerous places, requested update on traffic management plans by roads to tackle this problem. Suggested messaging in real time about busy carparks, requested signage on approach roads into Dungarvan alerting motorists as to where there is available parking. Requested update on Railway Gardens, highlighted problems with horses on N25 and need for road sweeping.

Cllr. Nugent enquired on allocation for CIS and asked media to let public know that farmers are currently very busy with silage cutting resulting with heavy traffic on the roads.

Cllr. Cronin noted towns and villages where council installed tables and benches in scenic areas and requested where possible to put in tables that would facilitate wheelchair users and outline that bicycle rack in Ardmore carpark is being obstructed by cars parking requesting markings are put in place to highlight the need to keep clear for bicycle users.

Cllr. Doocey noted there are a number of applicants waiting for the LIS and CIS scheme that need to be dealt with before new applicants are received, supports issue raised in relation to issues for parking at scenic areas and needs to be addressed as previously raised.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested sign on N25 for no overtaking by trucks and noted the need for a right-hand turn at Deise veterinary clinic.

Cllr. Tobin acknowledged appointment of new staff to Lismore area, requested that signage could be put up on new road in Tallow to inform large vehicles of the new road as Chapel Street in Tallow is not suitable for heavy traffic.

G. Hynes, SE, confirmed that two vacancies in outdoor crew are being filled imminently, noted issue with problems being created by large vehicles using Chapel Street, users are aware of the new link road and will look at options for advisory signage. Informed members that a section 254 license needs to be applied for in relation to outdoor dining area outside Barron's so that it can proceed. Have reviewed requirements for Dromana Bridge, physical barriers would look unsightly and cause liability and are looking at erecting additional signage warning people of height restrictions along with additional road markings. Lighting is ongoing at Tallow Bridge and there are additional cleaning and painting works to be completed. Outlined that can provide additional resources for sweepers in coming months, can provide additional bike stands and will review to identify suitable locations. Noted that statutory signage in place at Kilminnin and drivers need to adhere by signage and can look at additional requirements to assist. Outlined that introduced new beach byelaws this year, have liaised with the Gardai and put in place

additional yellow lines and thereafter it is a matter for enforcement which is matter for An Garda Siochana. CIS allocation for 2021 is €670k and currently finalising a number of schemes for the district, will review markings for bicycle racks to assist in preventing car parking in the location and will look at installing benches suitable for people with a disability. The LIS allocation is €280k, currently 50 applications on file which to complete would require an allocation of €4m, have not advertised for additional schemes and noted for a scheme to qualify 2 landowners on road to apply and need to comply with criteria for scheme, noted supplementary funding would be very beneficial in getting on with schemes on file. Outlined that there is statutory lining on N25 as leave Dungarvan also climbing lane to allow passing, nothing else to be done as all statutory lines and signs in place as per the standards. There are right turn lanes requirement that needs where needs to be certain number of vehicles to require it to be in place and current numbers do not justify it and there is a higher risk and hazard by putting in this.

J. McGrath, SEE, outlined that full time small footpath sweeper due to move around to villages, larger sweeper also does full run of the district on occasion. Confirmed that there are extra resources on at the weekends to empty bins at weekends and noted it is a challenge to keep up with the volume at bins at all stages during the day. Confirmed additional bicycle racks are being installed in the district.

Cllr. Pratt noted that signage at Dromana Bridge is not going to be enough to prevent damage to bridge and enquired if there is a process whereby locals can submit their views on the matter.

Cllr. Geoghegan noted newly formed independent retailers group with proposal that up to 1/3 parking spaces in Dungarvan converted to 30 minute parking only, this would be unacceptable and need to encourage people to stay in the town and asked this group to rethink the proposal.

Cllr. O'Donnell supported Cllr. Geoghegan and reemphasised the need for the right-hand turn.

Cllr. Doocey and Nugent supported Cllr. Geoghegan.

G. Hynes, SE, responded regarding roads into Bunmahon emphasising that additional double yellow lines put in place with signage and drivers are not adhering to. Signage in Dungarvan reviewed with additional ones for carparks to assist drivers on all approaches, additional budget required for electronic signage which would need to be considered. Railway Gardens a matter for planning noting that roads not satisfied to take in charge in current state. Signage for Dromana would be electronic signage which will be clear for drivers, noted TII set standards and right turn lanes requirements are national standards that need to be complied by all authorities. Changes to parking requires changes to byelaws and not currently being considered.

4. SECTION 38 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 – TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME – Completion of the process

(a) Tallow

G. Hynes, SE outlined 2 submissions received, recommending commencement noting issues in submissions can be resolved prior to the works and subject to discussions on the ground.

Cllr. Tobin proposed adoption, seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed by all.

(b) Knockanore

Proposed by Cllr. Tobin, seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed by all.

5. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL MAIN STREET, DUNGARVAN

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined background to outdoor dining in the town, challenge of areas by Quays, Grattan Square and their ability to have outdoor dining. Noted previous request for Main Street to close and be pedestrianise and couldn't do last year due to traffic movement. There is a predominance of hospitality on street away from current parking and in conjunction with roads traffic team have designed a scheme, it is not section 38 and statutorily doesn't have to go to consultation but did go out as it was important to get input. Have received 35 submissions with a 50/50 split in relation to support and based on details raised, safe movement of vehicles and supporting businesses recommending the scheme as presented.

Cllr. Geoghegan supports proposal, maintains flow of traffic, Main Street, Mary Street and O'Connell Street deserve opportunities like rest of town to avail of current proposals.

Cllr. Phelan enquired what requires statutory vote to clarify for members. Different streets need different supports to allow hospitality sector to develop, noted quieter areas that need night time vibrancy, need supports with changes to loading bay times, targeted short car spaces. Need criteria for judging success and not disposed to build out where there is a deli with no distinction of surface level. Supports changes to lower end of the street over the upper end.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted need to see more outside spaces but noted concerns raised. Would like to support but need to see how it will work and see impact on businesses enquiring how long it will be trialled for. Need to have certainty about the duration of these changes in line with national requirements.

Cllr. Nugent while supportive has concerns regarding businesses at the top of Mary Street stating importance that decision is communicated to the chamber and all involved.

Cllr. Pratt supports proposal noting need to monitor closely and amend as needed if issues arise.

Cllr. O'Donnell commented and agreed with previous members and need to support proposal as presented.

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined that it is the decision of the members to agree on proposal, confirmed communications will issue to the chamber but also via the district meetings as the primary mechanism to inform the public. Thanked the support of the members noting that this is part of €250k support in grant aid for Dungarvan.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined Scanlon's Yard resurfaced and will cover any loss of car parking spaces, loading bay times will change to set down. Safety concerns raised by objectors, design will be in accordance with the national standards, larger vehicles will be catered for in the design, on balance the scheme has catered for outdoor dining without compromising road safety and ensuring the capacity of Main Street is maintained.

Cllr. D. McGuinness asked to review how proposal is progressing in July and September and need to continuously measure how it is going.

Cllr. Geoghegan acknowledged work carried out in Scanlon's Yard.

K. Kehoe, DoS, noted that stated in report that review will happen at the end of September and can deal with any issues in the interim.

Cathaoirleach thanked district manager for work involved in doing this work and hopes that all businesses will have a successful summer period and welcomes approval of the scheme as presented.

(b) Housing

Cllr. Tobin supported council officials coming back to the elected officials and communicating on representations that are made.

Cllr. Doocey agreed that public understand members have input into the representations and communication is key.

Cllr. Phelan noted need to represent members of the public in best possible way, enquired if HAP finder service is only available to those that are on brink of homelessness or as some as issued with notice to quit.

Cllr. Pratt noted representations made on behalf of the public and members have good input into the local needs that needs to be recognised. Suggested that members are informed of who houses are allocated to. Commended work of estate management and noted need to increase the staff in this area.

Cllr. D. McGuinness enquired how many empty houses in Dungarvan and their status, local knowledge is important and during a housing crisis there is frustration and hardship on people. Few properties for rent in Dungarvan and is leading to difficulties, need to address the vacant houses. Requested update on funding application for council houses for Sean Phobal, the retrofitting scheme is welcomed and enquired where the houses will be and if any in the district. Noted need for an outreach service for homeless services and enquired when they can commence access to the support services to enable early intervention for those at risk of homelessness.

Cllr. Cronin noted new mains water supply to The Cloisters in Ardmore which will result in opening up council land bank, agreement with developers to build 15 affordable houses on the site, this will benefit the local area and in the agreement that the houses will be for local people.

Cllr. Nugent private housing market no housing currently available and enquired what is the connection between Waterford council and Respond and Cluid as regards availability of houses to rent.

C. Horan, SEO, stated regarding councillor input into allocations and applications housing office trying to balance high demand with limited supply while ensuring transparency and operating within the councils allocation policy. Any reps made by councillors is taken into account and housing management appreciate the input and all staff are available to deal with councillor queries. By law people have to receive formal notice to quit which enables time to engage with the necessary services, onus on householder to secure accommodation and HAP place finder service is there to assist if there are difficulties. Note comments in relation to estate management, issues arising from recent workshops highlights need to have people engaging directly on the ground and to do early interventions to solve problems. Empty units is not a static figures, council has a good record of turning around void properties. Some properties can fall into longer term vacancy due to more severe damage. Houses for An Sean Phobal have been agreed with Department with zoning issue to be resolved, list for retrofitted houses being confirmed, gone to tender and will inform councillors when list is confirmed. Noted that work with Respond and Cluid.

Cllr. Pratt enquired House that don't come up on CBL and are allocate and are councillors entitled to receive the details of the allocation.

Cllr. D. McGuinness requested the current number of empty houses for Dungarvan, enquired if a house isn't bid on in CBL how long before it is allocated.

C. Horan, SEO, noted that number of houses may not go on CBL and is done in line with allocation scheme, where there are difficult lettings not availed on CBL then would do targeted letting based on the length of the time of the list. Will get details statistics as requested by Cllr. D. McGuinness and circulate to the members. Need to check the practice in relation to provision of information on tenants allocated units.

(c) **Planning**

Cllr. Phelan outlined that there has been positive uptake on the Section 254 licences for outdoor seating and enquired if planning enforcement has the responsibility of ensuring if the condition of the licence is being adhered to. Enquired if can add into conditions for the future details on waste plan to assist the council and tackle the issue of litter.

Cllr. Nugent enquired if individual planning applications refused by council and referred to An Bord Pleanála and asked for details to be added to the planning lists circulated.

Cllr. Pratt requested update on taking in charge of An Cruachán and Waters Edge estates and Cul Rua in Aghlish.

Cllr. D. McGuinness update on Railway Gardens and enquired if health and safety impact statement is required from telecommunication companies as part of planning application.

Cllr.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that there is verification on current use of compliance on section 254 licence and inspections were carried out on usage over past weekend in relation to compliance and will continue to do so over the summer months. In the first instance will discuss any issues with business owners and can also go down the planning enforcement route. Any issues relating to the 254 licences need to be communicated to planning enforcement and also pursuing businesses that have outdoor seating without necessary 254 licence.

M. Linehan, EP, will discuss lists and notifications from ABP with planning staff to include in circulated documents and noted that there are new policies built into the new development plan in relation to telecommunication applications.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE, Waters Edge and An Cruachán currently engaged with the developers and committed to meet with the residents and councillors as required. Will revert in relation to Railway Gardens.

Cathaoirleach brought the meeting to a close and requested any queries in relation to reports on Environment, Economic Development and Arts & Culture to be submitted to the relevant section for answering.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

8. A.O. B

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____