

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

**HELD ON 8TH MARCH 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

Apologies: 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, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. R. Walsh, Head of LEO
Mr. V. O'Shea, AO, Economic Development
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Peggy Power
- Justin Coonan
- Mary Houlihan
- Melissa Keith
- William O'Keefe
- Joanne Kett
- Michael Kirrane
- Michael Coleman

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Acknowledgement of International Women's Day

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held on 8th February 2021 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed by all.

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 22nd February 2021 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Cronin and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Phelan acknowledged thanks to Housing for update on footpath from Ballinroad.

Leas Cathaoirleach proposed suspension to Standing Orders to take Item 4 & 5 before Item 3, seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed by all.

4. RURAL FUNDING – DUNGARVAN LISMORE

V. O'Shea, AO noted there are numerous funding opportunities to avail of with health checks carried out to identify priorities for areas and identify funding mechanisms. Suggested that need to have a more proactive and strategic approach to accessing funding. Outlined that expressions of interest for 2021 Towns and Villages scheme being advertised on 15th March with likely June application date for submission of projects.

Cllr. Pratt noted that need to avail of all funding opportunities and members need to assist with this, enquired as to how an area can be included for Clár funding.

Cllr. Phelan agreed with need for coherent strategic approach and how councillors can assist, asked if data coming from health checks informs what projects are needed in an area, if there are linkages from health checks to help inform local area plans, Dungarvan 2040 and the new development plan.

Cllr. Doocey noted need to have a meeting to develop what is required.

V. O'Shea, AO suggested that the members could have interest groups to look at long term plan for areas and to look at funding schemes to deliver on key infrastructure and noted that Clár status is done nationally.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired when town and village health checks will be completed, suggesting a workshop with the members to go through the various schemes available and ensure taking full advantage of them.

Cllr. Cronin supported need to meet regarding funding options and noted requirements for Dungarvan, Helvic, Baile na nGall and Ardmore.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted the need for government to look at areas adjacent to Clár regions, would like to see more focus on the initial objectives of the FLAG grant aid and concurred with need to discuss and look at plans for next 5-6 years.

Cllr. Nugent enquired if there is scope to get feasibility study for swimming facility for Dungarvan under the town and village renewal scheme.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted need for public toilets in Dungarvan and along Greenway.

V. O'Shea, AO outlined that health check documents are available to review and would welcome workshop to look at rural funding programme for the district. Noted that there is potential to access additional funding under FLAG scheme and the feasibility study for swimming pool will fall under Dungarvan 2040.

K. Kehoe, DoS thanked all staff in economic development and noted the achievement of accessing in the region of €5m of state funding for the district in the last number of years which has been transformational for the area. There is a need to work together and have a rural development strategy for the district with a long term plan which will avail of funding mechanisms.

5. FAIRLANE PARK UPDATE

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined plan for proposed Fairlane Park, acknowledging the Dungarvan Lions club for their support, have engaged with local skate park enthusiasts who have inputted into the tender documentation. Have submitted Sports Capital grant application and also looking at other funding options.

Cllr. Nugent welcomed the exciting project and how open and accessible it will be for everyone.

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed the expansion of the plans beyond a skateboard park, enquiring as to the timeline for the delivery of the project and thanked the district manager on his work to date on the project.

Cllr. Phelan noted the need for a facility for young people, asked if any changes can be made to the proposal at this point suggesting a sensory garden or dog park and biodiversity planting and if there will be public consultation on the project.

Cllr. D. McGuinness congratulated all on development of the project and provision of safe areas for families in the town. Welcomed biodiversity planting suggesting signage in relation to planting and wildlife at the location. Made suggestion of idea of skate park to be made of geometric shapes and using STEM education and use of space for public art.

Cllr. Pratt commended all involved in the project and no doubt that it will be a big addition to the locals and tourists enquiring if it will be accessible to those with disabilities.

Cllr. Cronin stated very positive project for town of Dungarvan noting need for a public toilet in the location.

Cllr. Doocey supports plan and need to access the necessary funding for the project.

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined that sports capital grant submitted recently, securing funding for performance areas and noted that only council to receive funding for safe cycling project for children. Anticipates works commencing in early Autumn, will look at sensory garden and geometric shapes suggestions and outlined that there will be biodiversity and pollinator planting in the park. The park will be fully accessible and available to all users. Formal public consultation took place in 2014 and will engage with local groups regarding the different elements of park. Noted there are plans to look at options for public toilet in town centre location.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired if a basketball court can be considered for the park.

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined that basketball court is not compatible in this location but looking at another location as it is an identified need for the area.

Cllr. Phelan enquired as to how robust the equipment and finishes will be.

K. Kehoe, DoS stated there will be concrete and tarmac finishes, the park will be robust and meet the required safety standards and will be designed for all ages to use together.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Economic Development

Cllr. Phelan enquired if the shop front improvement scheme will be available to ground and upper floors. Enquired about outdoor seating for outdoor dining and asked if there is a plan for Dungarvan and linking with those that applied for section 254 licences, requested update on canopy installation.

Cllr. Pratt congratulated Knockanore Cheese on winning recent National Enterprise Award.

Cllr. Geoghegan asked to contact owners of Dungarvan Shopping Centre in relation to the condition of the apartment block across from Civic offices and to resolve current issues.

Cllr. D. McGuinness requested opportunity to discuss outdoor eating proposals for the summer as a number of businesses will be relying on this and need to progress it.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO outlined that the shop front improvement scheme does not include upstairs elements as it is currently only for commercial element of buildings. Will discuss issue of presentation of apartment block with owners and relevant sections as to what action needs to be taken.

K. Kehoe, DoS will circulate final proposed drawing for seating and canopies for Dungarvan and will have on agenda for next month's meeting, need to promote that Dungarvan is ready for business for the summer.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired about options for increasing the emptying of bins at Clonea Beach.

Cllr. Phelan supported Cllr. Geoghegan and noted case of illegal dumping in report and enquired as to progress into investigations into the cases.

Cllr. Pratt outlined serious issue of illegal dumping in Glenshelane Woods and thanked locals who cleared the area enquiring if council is checking up on people as to how they dispose of their rubbish. Noted trees

currently being cut and perception that we are telling people to cut down trees, need to communicate correctly as to the reason for their removal.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted that there is a balanced approach to providing images of illegal dumping and illustrating the issue enquiring to what extent is the council successful in catching people who dump and need to look at exercise to see what households are not availing of a registered company to dispose of their waste. Noted illegal dumping of construction waste by Cruachán estate enquiring if there has been any follow up in relation to the matter. Enquired about the spraying of glyphosate weed killer by farmers, noting its need for proper land management and asking what recourse people have if this is used close to properties and have concern about its usage.

Cllr. O'Donnell noted a number of people have raised issue in relation to rats by Dungarvan Linear Park.

Cllr. Nugent outlined the population of Sika deer is growing and enquired about the need for cull as causing damage to land and transmitting disease.

Cllr. Cronin noted agriculture sector use sprays and under current legislation farmers and contractors using sprays need to have a course done in order to carry the work out properly.

R. Moloney, SEO outlined that frequency of the collection of bins responsibility of roads section, illegal dumping as highlighted recently was publicised as it was an area of reoccurring dumping and it led to additional information being submitted to the council which assisted in the case. Commended the locals in Glenshelane for cleaning the area and noted that litter wardens can check the rubbish for evidence, confirm that some recent cases have resulted in fines being issued. Environmental inspectors are out on daily patrols and do undertake checks as to how households are disposing of their waste. Use of glyphosate is permitted under EU regulations and not aware of recourse for people on its usage but will revert. Will review rodent issue and will enquire about options for addressing issue of number of Sika deer in district.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Geoghegan requested update on construction of wall between Highfield and Silver Springs.

Cllr. Phelan asked for update regarding anti-social behaviour workshop.

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted that An Leacain Beag estate in Baile na nGall are having significant issue with groundwater and sewerage with any severe weather events and enquired as to how the problem can be resolved.

Cllr. O'Donnell requested update on new houses for Sean Phobal.

Cllr. Pratt noted that only essential works can currently be carried out asking if there will be a difficulty in catching up on works.

C. Horan, SEO outlined that wall in Silver Springs delayed due to restrictions and intention to proceed once permitted and expect workshop will be held in coming weeks. Will talk to engineer regarding An Leacain Beag, scheme in Sean Phobal currently with the Department, currently only carrying out essential works and will review work to be carried out once restrictions are eased.

(d) Planning

Cllr. D. McGuinness noted large number of people concerned about a couple of applications in the Carrigroe area, enquired if the additional information would be uploaded to the council website and how long before decision made.

Cllr. Phelan noted completion of CPOs in Dungarvan advertised and enquired if any impact for the district. Enquired if there is a SHD (Strategic Housing Development) for the district if it would be notified at district or plenary level. Would like to see information on planning enforcement included in the report and need to have process in place to follow up on issues raised.

Cllr. O'Donnell enquired about planning permission in Gaeltacht and would like to see if possible, to relax planning in this area to allow people build on own land.

Cllr. Geoghegan supported Cllr. Phelan in need to follow up on complaints regarding enforcement and in cases where housing section is involved that a process is in place to address the matter, noting the issue in the Burgery, supported by Cllr. Cronin.

Extension of Standing Orders proposed by Cllr. Phelan seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness and agreed by all.

H. O'Brien, SEP stated that if additional information not submitted application is deemed withdrawn, if it is submitted there is another 4 weeks before decision and information would be on the website, SHD referred to Plenary council. Note points regarding planning enforcement reporting and will work with SPC to see how to progress reporting. Currently looking at new housing policies for houses in countryside and need to maintain villages and settlements as part of new development plan and will engage with the Gaeltacht community as a means to meeting objectives of the area. Noted points regarding lack of enforcement and is an area that is being reviewed by the Director of Planning.

(e) **Roads**

Cllr. Pratt thanked team for work commenced by the Rock on the Tourin Road and noted issue of erosion still occurring at the location. Noted that councillors in Lismore area are making representations under the Comeragh budget which causes difficulties as don't have sight of this district, enquired when works under Active Travel will commence in Tallow.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired about recent storm damage at the Cunnigar requesting survey of damage to be undertaken, appreciates work to be carried out at Ballyvoile Tunnel in relation to water coming through roof. Welcomed works at Garranbane school crossing and asked for drawings to be circulated to the members and asked for update on question raised on emptying bins in the Clonea.

Cllr. Phelan requested update on process of OPW regarding the Gold Coast Road and commended roads section for quick response to tackling potholes. Enquired when can expect workshop to deal with footpaths funding. Noted pedestrian entrance to greenway and asked if opportunity to enhance link greenway to castle end of Clonea. Work ongoing at entrance to Helvic pier and pier has narrowed which has added to problems for access by boats. Parking spaces come available in area of Youghal road enquiring if these could be used out of hours for school buses at drop off and collection times.

Cllr. D. McGuinness roadway crash barriers on N25 repaired and need for them at Kinsalebeg area and if opportunity to link with TII regarding the matter.

Cllr. Doocey update on plan to raise road from Red bridge to the Rock to make accessible when river floods.

Cllr. O'Donnell outlined need for a roundabout at Cushcam Cross.

G. Hynes, SE notices sent out relates to landowner's duty to cut overhanging branches and hedges that encroach on road users. Outlined that don't have weekend resources outside of Easter and end of September to empty bins at Clonea, noting people need to be responsible for their rubbish. Wall works at Kilbree have recommenced and need additional resources to do additional works to deal with the erosion and under climate adaptation may access. Acknowledge flooding issue but funding not in current resources and noted there is an alternative way in if need access, long term priority to raise the road. Active Travel in Tallow hope to complete Section 38 and works completed over next year. Will talk to OPW regarding the Cunnigar, doing further investigation into Ballyvoile tunnel with works to follow. Section 38 commenced for Garranbane and documents on website. Have looked for funding for the Gold Coast Road for coastal protection works and will continue to liaise with OPW, no approved funding as of yet. Hopeful over coming weeks to review capital programme for district footpaths and will revert to members. Note comments regarding Clonea and greenway and will review. Damage to Helvic pier last year, half works completed to restoring and remediating damage, any narrowing regarding access/egress is limited with minimum change and dredging is a matter for funding to be make available. Will review parking spaces out Dungarvan road to see what it appropriate. Crash barriers on N25 need to comply with national standards, not policy to install crash barriers at every location on the network, need to review accident history for locations so will revert. Noted that Part VIII for Cushcam Cross approved and currently finalising design, roundabout not appropriate for this location.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

8. A.O. B

Cllr. Geoghegan suggested a workshop to deal with running of meetings, agreed by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathairleach

Dated: _____