

MINUTES**COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING****DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH**

**HELD ON 26th SEPTEMBER, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,
DUNGARVAN**

PRESENT:

Cllr. John O'Leary Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Liam Brazil
Cllr. Ray Murphy
Cllr. Declan Clune
Cllr. Michael J. O'Ryan
Cllr. Seanie Power

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Service
 Mr. E. Lonergan, SEE Roads, HR and Emergency Services
 Mr. J. O'Mahony, Senior Planner
 Ms. S. Breathnach, Administrative Officer, Housing
 Ms. A. Jacob, Senior Staff Officer

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:

The Cathaoirleach congratulated the Comeragh Wilds Committee on a very successful festival and the U21 Hurling team on their recent All Ireland victory. Cllr O'Ryan congratulated Ballymacarbery Ladies Football team on their County final win and also remembered the 25th anniversary of the Waterford ladies football all Ireland winning team.

Cllr Brazil also praised the success of the Comeragh's Wild Festival and asked that the Council's sentiments be conveyed to the Committee.

It was agreed to raise the applications for the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme under AOB.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

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

Jody Keane
 Larry Hanley
 Noreen Dunphy nee Walsh
 Kevin Butler
 David "Dab" Fitzgerald
 Catherine Kitt Bagge

1.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of meeting held on 25th July 2016 were proposed by Cllr Brazil and seconded by Cllr Clune and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Planning

Planning lists noted.

4 .Reports

(a)Planning

None.

(b)Roads/Infrastructure

Cllr O’Ryan asked for an update on local road signs, roads affected by melted tar, an update on Kilmacoma project, sight lines at Harneys Cross, clearer road markings for the left turn to Clonmel at the Applegreen Station and the availability of finance for junction improvements. Cllr Murphy asked if arrow markings could be made to assist motorists on the Carrick roundabout on the N25, traffic calming measures for Portlaw, completion of works at Fiddown Bridge, plans for the carpark at the Credit Union in Kilmacthomas, access points for wheelchair users and buggies using the Greenway and the reinstatement of the stone wall at St. Patricks Church in Portlaw. The Cathaoirleach asked for cleaning of drains on the N25 from the Sweep to Kilmeaden roundabout, safety issues with the exits from the Greenway onto local roads and an update on landowners who were not responding to commencement notices for hedgecutting. Cllr Power asked about signs for Rathgormack and Ballymacarbery, the continuation of the footpath in Clonea Power and requested the erection of barriers on the pathway at the entrance to housing estates and also asked about winter planning.

Cllr Brazil said the road at Kilmacthomas GAA field was very rough in places and also asked about a footpath out to the clinic on the right hand side and an update on Downeys Cross. Cllr Clune asked why the ditch at Coolfin, Portlaw was only partially removed, providing barriers on the footpath at Clonea and changing the broken white lines to continuous lines to reduce speeding into the village. He also enquired why the High Road, Kilmeaden is being patched rather than resurfaced and also said that replies going out to the public on CRM should be checked before being sent out to the public.

E. Lonergan, District Engineer responded to the issues raised as follows. He said that the local road signage programme was completed and there is currently no further funding available, works will commence at Bunavoher next week weather permitting, the CPO for the Kilmacoma flood relief scheme is due to be confirmed shortly, there is no budget remaining for junction sight line improvements. The N25 Carrick roundabout is the responsibility of a private company and TII and they have been contacted and are due to carry out a safety audit, the Fiddown Bridge has been sprayed and cleaned up. A workshop on the national speed limit review will take place before the next Council meeting. He said that road markings on the R680 will be put on hold until repair works have been completed and that issues on the Greenway will be referred to the Greenway team. The stonewall at St. Patricks Church, Portlaw will commence in the next couple of weeks but that there is currently no funding for the continuation of the pavement at Clonea Power. He said that the programme for cleaning of gullies will commence in November, that hedge cutting notices had been issued to landowners, that the winter maintenance programme will be before the Council soon, that the Council had identified Graigueshoneen Road as damaged and that he hoped to include it in the 2017 programme. He also referred to the Council’s previous request to meet

with TII on safety issues on the N25 and noted their response which had been circulated under Correspondence. It was agreed that the meeting with TII would be arranged and any Councillors who wished to attend would be facilitated. He said the removal of the hedge at Coolfin will need to be managed to ensure safety for roadusers and this will be discussed with the contractors. He said that the ongoing maintenance on the High Road Kilmeaden is a necessary preventative measure until funding for improvement works becomes available.

(c)Housing

Cllr Murphy asked about the status of the 5 private houses in Ceol na Mara in regard to the fire issues and looked for an update on the Coolfin housing development. Cllr O’Ryan asked about future proofing housing policy to deal with those over the age of 65 who might be able to surrender/swap houses for accommodation to better suit their needs. Cllr Brazil asked about the CBL pilot scheme introduced and raised a number of questions in relation to the operation of the scheme. Cllr Clune asked about land available for social housing in the Kilmacthomas area, if there were grants available to convert commercial properties to residential use and if the IW issue in relation to Coolfin Woods had been resolved. The Cathaoirleach asked if there were any building plans for rural areas as address by Minister Coveney at the recent housing forum in City Hall. Cllr Power also referred to the housing forum and said that the upgrade of the sewerage system in rural areas is crucial to any future development.

S. Breathnach, AO said that the Council would not have any information in relation to the Ceol na Mara private housing costs and outlined the timescale for the tender, design and construction stages for the Coolfin housing development which will be completed by the end of 2018. She said that there is currently no provision for elderly qualifying for the housing list but that it is something that could be brought up nationally. She outlined the provisions of the CBL scheme and offered to give a demonstration on the scheme to Councillors if required. In relation to land for social housing she said that there is no budget at present to acquire land, there are no grants available for converting commercial properties to residential and that the provision of housing is demand led. Cllr Clune enquired if the liaison for the private houses in Ceol na Mara was in place and S. Breathnach, AO confirmed that it was.

(d) Environment

Cllr Clune enquired about staffing levels in the Portlaw and Kilmacthomas Fire Stations and asked for an update on the Greenway in relation to safety at the Kilmacthomas viaduct and carpark. Cllr O’Ryan complimented Ballymacarbery on the recently announced results for the Tidy Towns, asked for an update on Japanese Knotweed, representations received in relation to Council spraying pesticides near a water supply scheme and also mentioned a hedge cutting grant scheme in operation in Clare Co. Co. to encourage landowners to carry out works. Cllr Power voiced concerns in relation to the water cut off in Carrick-on-Suir over the weekend and the effects on businesses and householders and difficulties getting a response from IW.

F. Galvin, DM said he would refer the issue in relation to the Fire Stations to P. Daly, A/DOS for his attention and queries on the Greenway to the Greenway team for response. He said that there was an internal group addressing the Japanese Knotweed and other invasive species with a view to mapping and treating the issues in public areas. He said that a lot of work had been completed recently on tree and hedge cutting and follow ups where notices had issued and also said that the water outage in Carrick-on-Suir was the responsibility of Tipperary County Council and IW.

(e)Arts and Culture

None.

5. Fix date of Comeragh District – General Municipal Allocation Budget Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Clune and seconded by Cllr O’Ryan that the General Municipal Allocation Budget Meeting be held at 4pm prior to the next Comeragh District Meeting on 24th October 2016.

6. Correspondence

Noted.

7. Notice of Motion

None.

8. AOB

Cllr O’Ryan said he was disappointed with the short timescale allowed to applicants for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme given the complex and time consuming application forms required. He also asked that the Council write to the Minister to express concern in relation to the Eir legal challenge against ComReg not to have to provide basic fixed line services to uneconomic rural lines. He said this would be detrimental to rural areas. He also mentioned the Nire Valley Walking Festival on the weekend of the 8th October and the Nire Valley Drop on Sunday 30th October.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____