

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, and remotely, on Monday 20 November, 2023 at 6:02 pm**

**PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor A Gowan

Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave

Alderman J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, P Catney, D J Craig, A P Ewing, A Givan, G Hynds, P Kennedy, C McCready, A McIntyre, U Mackin and N Parker

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Aldermen O Gawith, A Grehan and S Skillen

Councillors P Burke, S Burns, N Eaton, J Gallen, B Higginson, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, T Mitchell, M McKeever and G Thompson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive (Remote)  
Director of Regeneration & Growth (Council Chamber)

Member Services Officer (BS)  
Member Services Officer (EW)  
IT Officer  
Technician

Department for Infrastructure – Roads (Eastern Division)

Des McFarlane – Divisional Roads Manager  
Colin Woods, Deputy Secretary, Transport & Road Asset Management  
Graeme Salmon - Network Traffic and Lighting Manager  
Joe Torney - Acting Section Engineer

**Commencement of the Meeting**

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, welcomed those present to the Special Meeting of Council. For the purpose of the livestream the Member Services Officer read out the names of those Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Order 8.5.

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor asked that mobile phones be turned off or put on silent for the duration of the meeting. The Director of Regeneration & Growth outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillor G Hynds entered the meeting at 6.04 pm.

1. Apologies (00:03:25)

Apologies for non-attendance at the special meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Aldermen M Gregg, M Guy and S P Porter and Councillors R T Beckett, K Dickson, A Martin and Hon. N Trimble.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:04:18)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Deputations

3.1 Department for Infrastructure, Roads (Eastern Division) – Annual Report 2023  
(00:04:46)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, extended a welcome to representatives of Department for Infrastructure, Roads (Eastern Division): Des McFarlane (Divisional Roads Manager), Colin Woods (Deputy Secretary Transport and Road Asset Management), Graeme Salmon (Network Traffic and Lighting Manager) and Joe Torney (Acting Section Engineer) who were in attendance to present the 2023 Annual Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. A copy of responses to pre-submitted Members' questions to the Department had also been circulated in advance.

At the outset Mr McFarlane provided Members with an update in regard to the undernoted major projects and other issues.

Royal Hillsborough Signage

Six large signs on the A1 dual carriageway had been updated the previous weekend to include Royal Hillsborough text and advised that it was the intention to bring forward a programme to replace a number of other signs on a yearly basis initially concentrating on remaining signs on the A1 and adjacent roads subject to availability of resource and finance.

The previous week the Department's Permanent Secretary had met with representatives from Royal Hillsborough and District Committee to discuss a number of issues including the possibility of introducing a weight restriction for traffic in the village, the Hillsborough public realm scheme and provision of pedestrian crossings. At this meeting a video had been shown to demonstrate the extent of the traffic situation in village and the Permanent Secretary had expressed his empathy in relation to the traffic difficulties that

### Royal Hillsborough Signage (Cont'd)

the people in Hillsborough were experiencing. The committee had been advised that an external consultant had been briefed to carry out a study in relation to movement of heavy vehicle in the village and also in terms of potential impact of additional traffic on any alternative routes should a weight restriction be introduced. The locations of the pedestrian crossings had also been discussed.

Alderman O Gawith joined the meeting at 6.09 pm.

### Eastern Transport Plan to 2035

The Eastern Transport Plan had been publicly launched on 4 September 2023 and the engagement survey had closed on 30 October with over 500 responses having been received and which would be reviewed and reported on in due course. Mr McFarlane advised that at a glance there appeared to be much positive support of the proposals and guiding principles of the Transport Plan.

As part of the launch, the Eastern Transport Plan team had presented the launch material to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council at an engagement session on 25 September 2023.

### Belfast Rapid Transit (Glider) Phase 2

Work on the Outline Business Case for the extension to the Glider routes had been progressing however there was currently a shortfall in funding for this project. The Department was considering options on how to progress options in line with Minister's announcement in October 2022 and works had been carried out to assess the feasibility of extending routes to Glengormley and Carryduff. Consideration as to how these routes could pass through the City Centre was also being considered and additional technical guidance was being sought by the Department.

### Work at Prince William and Ballymacash Road

This was a developer-led scheme and the developer's representative had reported that work should be completed by May 2024. The team at Eastern Division continued to work with the Developer's representative to minimise disruptions alongside required road safety issues.

### North Lisburn Feeder Road Phase 3 (on the B101 north of Lady Wallace Avenue to tie in with Pond Park Road above Old Park Road)

This was a developer-led scheme being carried out by North Lisburn Development Consortium Limited. A legal agreement between DfI Roads and the Consortium was complete which secured the final part of land to enable the new road construction. All other lands required for construction had been transferred by the Consortium to DfI Roads.

Alderman A Grehan joined the meeting at 6.13 pm.

### Staffing and Resource Issues

Mr McFarlane discussed the on-going difficult financial position that DfI Roads faced currently. He also drew attention to the difficult staff resource position which, he stated, affected the Department's ability to deliver essential maintenance and development work in the district and also explained why the team cannot respond as quickly as it would like.

Mr McFarlane elaborated on the current extent of vacancies across the Division as outlined in the report. He also discussed the significant increase in workload due to other major initiatives such as the Eastern Transport Plan, the Belfast Rapid Transit/Glider, on-going support for active travel initiatives, development of the Titanic Quarter/Queens Island master plan and development of the Casement Stadium.

Mr Woods also addressed the Council and elaborated on some of the points raised. He emphasised that the Department continues to operate under a significantly constrained budget position and staff pressures. Within TRAM Group alone in the Department there were about 450 vacant posts but only 38 of these were currently funded.

Mr McFarlane was hopeful that the Council appreciated the pressure his staff were under and requested Members to make use of the online reporting system rather than emailing the Division directly. He explained that the online reporting system ensured that the issues were passed to the appropriate person as quickly as possible.

### Presentation of the 2023 Annual DfI (Eastern Division) Report

Mr McFarlane provided a comprehensive overview of the principal aspects of the 2023 annual report to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, as circulated.

A number of significant points were noted including the following:

- DfI Roads were operating at a significant budget reduction this financial year compared to the previous year.
- the policy on grass cutting had changed this year to a focus on road safety and protection of wildlife and promoting biodiversity. The aim was to carry out a single cut along roadside verges and siteline grass twice per year between April – October on heavier trafficked roads and once per year on other roads.
- the number of planning consultations responded to within target was 51% in 2022/2023. Mr McFarlane said that this figure had increased to approximately 79% this year between April and the end of September.
- McKinstry Road/Derriaghy Road/The Cutts. Mr Salmon in providing a detailed update in regard to this major improvement scheme at the above location advised of the commencement of the tender process. His team had been working hard behind scenes for many years to come forward with a suitable scheme and also to get a funding package in place to take this scheme forward. Mr Salmon discussed the extensive improvements to the junction

Presentation of the 2023 Annual Dfl (Eastern Division) Report (Cont'd)

and also the planned replanting of native trees. He stated that the scheme would take around eight months but assured that it would be taken forward as quickly as possible and would include a number of active travel aspects with enhanced safety which would link into a number of future proposals.

- Phase 2 of the A1 Upgrade - Mr McFarlane advised that the phase 2 upgrade works would be taken forward by Southern Division who would continue towards preparation of these works prior to the key decision on procurement.

Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting at 6.40 pm and Councillor J Gallen left the meeting at 6.52 pm.

Question and Answer Session

The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor A Gowan, thanked the Departmental officials for their presentation and invited Members to submit questions. A summary of the additional questions raised at the meeting and the respective responses were as follows:

Alderman J Tinsley

- requested an update on Maghaberry crossing which he stated had been on-going for a number of years and asked in particular in relation to the appointment of a new contractor. Mr Salmon stated that it was still the case that the contractor was not yet in place but assured that it was near the end of that process. He also advised that construction works would take approximately 4-6 weeks.
- enquired about the vesting of one last piece of land at the scheme at Prince William Road/North Lisburn/Pond Park Road. Mr McFarlane advised that this was a developer-led scheme and that work on the Prince William Road/North Lisburn Feeder/Pond Park Road was being carried out by a private consortium. The relevant legal agreement was in place and Dfl Roads, through its vesting powers, was in the process of securing that final piece of land to enable work to commence. All other lands had been transferred by the Consortium.
- flooding under the A26 Bridge at Moira. Alderman Tinsley described the extent of the damage to verges on the Lisnabilla Road which was used as a diversion route during the recent flooding on the A26. Alderman Tinsley enquired if it would be possible to have a sign erected to state larger vehicles only could pass through the flooding on the A26. He also enquired if a one-way system would be a better option if/when diversions were required. Mr McFarlane advised that this was an issue for the PSNI. He also was of the opinion that it would be difficult to sign it appropriately and felt that this type of operation would require to be manned and it was often the case that diverted roads become affected as these roads often cannot cope with the level of diverted traffic. Mr Salmon stated that if time permitted a one-way plan could be considered but stressed that Dfl Roads needed to understand exactly what was going on in that instant.

- cleaning of gullies – the issue being that leaves gather between the gullies which block again quickly and asked if jet cleaning was an option in such cases. Mr Woods advised that there would not be sufficient resources to do this additional cleaning and explained that jet cleaning would be carried out where possible on those issues that had been highlighted to DfI Roads in advance.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave

- the Cutts Improvement Scheme – the Deputy Mayor welcomed the announcement about the commencement of the tender process and the funding package being in place for the major works at the Cutts. He enquired about the provision of cycle paths going from the lights to the roundabout and the McDonald's fast food outlet or on to Boomers Road. Mr Salmon advised that cycle paths would be in place the full length of the scheme on both sides of the road and that there were proposals to extend the cycle path to Lagmore Avenue with resurfacing and widening of the footpaths for shared use. Once completed this would be a good link for the primary school, and improved and enhanced facilities for all.

The Chief Executive joined the meeting at 6.48 pm

- enquired about where the reduction in speed limit would commence at the Cutts, ie. from the traffic lights to the roundabout or further on up Boomers road. Mr Salmon advised that the reduction from 40 mph to 30 mph as part of the roundabout scheme would be extended to Wilmore Road junction to Boomers Way, and likely to include McKinstry Road towards Lisburn as there was already a 40 mph at Queensway. Discussions on these issues were on-going with the PSNI.
- requested an update on the pedestrian crossing at St Alloysius Primary School on the Ballinderry road. Mr Salmon advised that this project was at the preliminary design stage. He made a number of comments about safety issues for pupils crossing this busy road and emphasised that in the absence of a crossing patrol person at this location, the new pedestrian crossing would be only part of the solution. He stated that he had reinforced with the schools their need to be proactive in getting a crossing patrol person re-instated. Mr Salmon reported that a letter drop to the residents adjacent to the scheme had been progressed which had asked for comments and also advising of the offer of an informal meeting with residents and the schools in the next number of weeks. The aim was to come forward with the best scheme possible to suit the needs of the schools and residents.
- requested an update on the timeframe for the Crumlin to Glenavy footpath (part of which was within Eastern Division). Mr Salmon advised that this was a particularly long scheme and that our active travel team had advised that this was at the design stage currently.

Alderman J Tinsley left the meeting at 6.53 pm.

- requested an update in relation to Rock Road speed reduction. Mr Salmon advised that discussions with PSNI were still ongoing on this matter and assured that as soon as these discussions are concluded a member of his team would come back to the Deputy Mayor. In relation to the issue of a footpath at Rock Road Mr Salmon advised that this project had been referred Development section (included minor works section) and stated that he had asked them to look at this again and to come back to the Deputy Mayor directly.

Councillor D J Craig

- expressed thanks to DfI Roads in regard to the upgrade to the Cutts/ McKinstry Road junction which, he stated, had been lobbied for over the past 10 years. He very much welcomed the news that work was about to start and in this regard paid a special tribute to the efforts of the late former Councillor Margaret Tolerton along with the efforts of Oakwood Integrated primary school and Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP who had first raised the dangers of this junction.
- blocked gullies – there was an obvious pattern to the occurrence of blocked gullies at Lambeg Road under the railway bridge and another at Railway Cottage. Several houses had flooded recently due to the blocked gullies due to leaves gathering. Councillor Craig asked if there was any form of engineering solution that could improve these gullies and which would prevent them from blocking. He stated that another gully that blocked often was on the Lambeg Road, and enquired if wider grills may be an option. He stated that despite the best efforts of local residents this problem continued. Mr McFarlane stated that he was not aware of any engineering solution but that Mr Torney would investigate the gullies in question to ensure that everything was working correctly. Mr Torney also indicated that a site inspection was the best course of action in the first instance.

Councillor P Catney

- welcomed the announcement on the programme of works which was about to commence at the Cutts. As a cyclist himself he welcomed the active travel plans within the programme of works and enquired if a date had been confirmed as to when these works would start. Mr Salmon stated that the start date depended on the procurement process. The aim was to start work as soon as possible. He also referred to the number of trees that required to be removed at the end of the nesting season. The commitment had been made to commence as quickly as possible. He gave an assurance that the Department would work with the contractor to ensure the scheme progressed as quickly as possible. It was hoped that the works would be complete in eight months but it could be 10 months depending on weather conditions at the time.
- requested an update on the feasibility study for a pedestrian crossing at St Coleman's Primary School. Mr Salmon advised that his team had been working on the design and that there had been some technical issues which were being worked on. He undertook to keep Councillor Catney informed.

Councillors P Catney and D J Craig left the meeting at 7.07 pm.

Alderman S Skillen

- parking at Brooklands Primary School – Alderman Skillen asked if DfI Roads could look at this again as she was concerned someone would be seriously injured or killed at this location. Mr Salmon acknowledged that this was a very difficult situation due to the high density of housing and stated that the needs of the school and the needs of residents required to be considered side by side. He mentioned the one-way system that had been introduced and undertook to contact Brooklands Primary School again in regard to the issues raised.
- tree that had pushed up a pavement in Lismore Drive, Ballybeen. Alderman Skillen asked if DfI Roads could look into this matter as apparently NIHE had asked if DfI Roads could open up this pavement. Mr McFarlane stated that his team would deal with tree root issues from time to time but was not familiar with this particular issue in Lismore Drive.
- speed of traffic along Dunlady Road which was causing problems for drivers turning left or right coming out of Lambert. Alderman Skillen asked if this issue could also be revisited.
- street light that was out behind 6 Karen Walk (at numbers 22 and 23). Alderman Skillen asked if this could be looked at. Alderman Skillen acknowledged that another issue of a faulty street light which she had reported via the DfI Roads' online system had been attended to promptly. Mr McFarlane advised that the matter in Karen Walk would be looked into.
- massive pot hole on the Upper Newtownards Road at Carrowreagh Road – Alderman Skillen enquired how do DfI weigh up what pot holes are prioritised for repair (ie. is it related to depth of pole hole or numbers of cars being damaged). Mr McFarlane asked that all pot holes be reported via the on-line reporting system. He stated that whilst there was a reduced level of service there was a priority approach to ensure roads were in as good condition as possible and that the Department could not deviate from that approach. Mr McFarlane also emphasised the importance of any roads affected by water to be reported as quickly as possible.

Councillor A P Ewing left the meeting at 7.14 pm.

Councillor U Mackin

- emphasised the urgent need for flooding issues to be addressed. He stated that his area of Downshire East had been particularly affected by flooding as it was predominantly a rural area. He expressed concern that gullies were blocking easily due to large amounts of overgrowth. He referred to Dromara being a focal point currently due to particularly severe flooding which resulted in dwellings and shops having flooded three times in three months. He stated that he did not see any gullies being cleared by DfI Roads during that period which, in his opinion, was not good enough. Councillor Mackin also referred to



the inter-agency group that the Council had agreed be established and the difficulty in getting DfI Roads on board.

- issue of blocked gullies on the A24 Carryduff Road at the junction at Carr Road. He stated that of the 21 gullies, 15 were blocked, three were partially blocked and only three were clear. He stated that this was not good enough as this was an arterial route.
- issue of the poor condition of the road surface at Ballymagarrick Road at the junction at Upper Mealough Road and sought clarification on the response provided to his question that had been submitted in advance. He stated that he was unsure if the response to his question or the response in the report was correct response.
- raised pot holes on the Magheradartin Road particularly between house numbers 15 to 53. Councillor Mackin also stated that it was not possible to see the road from the verges after the heavy flooding and a week after heavy rain the flooding was still there today.
- areas of concern along the A49. Councillor Mackin acknowledge that a scheme was in place which was now at the design stage but emphasised that people were being severely hurt due to the dangers on this road and stated that a wall had been taken out a few times.
- junctions at Crossan Road, Lisnastrean Road, Ballymacbrennan. Councillor Mackin acknowledged that an improvement scheme had been identified over a year ago after many years. He was concerned that it would take many more years to be completed which he stated was frustrating and appealed to DfI Roads to endeavour to progress this scheme as quickly as possible.
- dangerous junction at the new development on the Saintfield Road. Councillor Mackin stated that the problem was cars coming down in the wrong lane and that this was a traffic management problem. He also mentioned that this road layout was eventually signed off by DfI Roads despite Roads having recommended refusal.
- Saintfield Road access to Barbour Playing Fields. Councillor Mackin referred to the large numbers of children coming to/from Largymore Primary School every day and expressed concern that there was no pedestrian crossing. This road was particularly busy due to heavy traffic travelling to/from Plantation Road, Merlyn Road, Thaxton Village and Ballentine Village and also the Largymore link. Councillor Mackin requested that this matter be re-visited.

Councillor N Eaton left the meeting at 7.25 pm

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan

- echoed the sentiments expressed on the flooding matters raised by Councillor U Mackin. He said it was regrettable that there had been no response from the statutory bodies and that the cleaning of gullies was a basic function.

- highlighted the Ballycrune Road which, under the recovery fund, one section had been repaired however on having received correspondence from a resident this week who complained about the quality of the repairs, enquired what inspections were made to the standard of repairs.

Mr Woods, in response, discussed the limited service provision since 2014 due to the lack of budget which meant that DfI Roads could not be as responsive as it would like to be. This year the allocation for repairs and essential maintenance work was £27m which was well below the £55m required for this work. Mr McFarlane concurred with the capacity issues raised by Mr Woods and acknowledged that many of the issues raised were flooding related. He advised that he was not aware that the Council had attempted to set up a meeting with themselves and Rivers Agency, and assured that he would look into this matter. He also stated that it was important to understand the cause of the flooding in the first instance. Mr McFarlane explained that repair work was required to be completed to a certain standard but there were also occasions when it would be necessary to carry out temporary repairs.

In regard to the flooding issues in Dromara Mr Torney emphasised that it was important to understand that it was the responsibility of NI Water to de-silt lines in the system and stated NI Water had been emailed about this and undertook to follow up again on seeking a response from NI Water. Councillor U Mackin advised that the Council's Chief Executive had written to the Chief Executive of NI Water and also to DfI Roads on this matter.

In regard to the re-surfacing of the Ballynagarrick Road, Mr Torney advised that this road was included in the 2023/2024 programme for re-surfacing for DfI Lisburn and Castlereagh Section Office.

#### Councillor D Bassett

- Mealough Road, Carryduff, behind Lets Go Hydro. Councillor Bassett expressed concern that the hedgerows were very run down and deteriorated. Also the middle part of the road was coming away and there were numerous pot holes particularly at Upper Mealough Road. The contractor had filled the pot holes in with stones but due to the number of vehicles on that road the pot holes were as deep, if not worse. Councillor Bassett whilst acknowledging that these issues were due to budgetary constraints and staffing issues stated that these repair works were scheduled for resurfacing and asked if DfI Roads could give him a timeframe on when these roads would be resurfaced. He advised that a lot of constituents had been contacting him about this particular issue as they had suffered damage to springs, tyres, etc, and that this was especially difficult during the current cost-of-living crisis. In response Mr Torney confirmed that resurfacing on Mealough Road was included in the 2023/2024 programme for re-surfacing for DfI Lisburn and Castlereagh Section Office with the details included in the response to the pre-meeting questions.
- Ballynahinch Road, Carryduff from Cyril Johnston's down to the junction at the shopping centre and the GP surgery. Councillor Bassett thanked DfI Roads for their response to his previously submitted question and enquired if there was a date confirmed for that project, and if not asked DfI Roads to forward this information to him. In relation to Ballynahinch Road towards the shopping

centre Mr Torney stated that this was a difficult scheme as the majority of the Scheme would likely be completed using overnight closures. It was not appropriate to lay asphalt at night during the winter months due to inconsistent road temperatures. He stated that March 2024 may be a possible start date.

- thanked the DfI Road officials for their response to the incident in Barronscourt Mews which involved a child having come off their bike due to a loose kerb. Councillor Bassett explained that he had phoned DfI a couple of hours after that incident had happened and had followed up every week. He also advised that from May to early October there had been a number of similar incidents. He understood there were budget requirements but expressed concern that the repair work had not yet been completed. Mr Torney advised that his officials would need to go back to look at the specifics and asked if Councillor Bassett could provide him with an email address in order that he could respond to him directly.
- salt boxes and grit boxes – Councillor Bassett stated that he had phoned in a request in August for salt boxes at Winchester, Carryduff, having had a similar request last year declined. His same request had been declined again due to gradient. He explained that residents often have to go to the Muskett to avail of salt and asked if it would be possible to have at least one installed in that development. Mr McFarlane advised that if the area in question had been assessed twice and found that it had not met the standard, it would not be examined again. It was important to target the areas in greatest need.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave, left the meeting at 7.42 pm.

#### Councillor A Givan

- filter lanes in two areas in Lisburn: heading down the Grosvenor road (facing Halford's garage) at the left turn onto Hillsborough Road heading towards the hospital. Councillor A Givan expressed concern in regard to the two lanes which go into one lane as soon as you turn right and that this was an extremely busy junction.

The other junction of concern was at Sprucefield roundabout where traffic are coming off the motorway often at speed and have to merge with traffic from the roundabout who are travelling to the M&S/shopping centre or wanting to take the left lane to go into Lisburn. Councillor Givan was concerned that there were no signs to warn visitors and suggested that a sign may be useful to indicate merge alternatively, if appropriate.

In relation to the Grosvenor Road issue, Mr Salmon stated that whilst it would be ideal to have just one lane turning into Grosvenor Road the options were limited. He undertook to look at the road markings at this location. He also advised that right lane traffic always goes into the left lane and that it would not be possible to merge in turn. He also undertook to consider if there were any additional road markings that would be beneficial at the lane issue at Sprucefield roundabout.

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 7.44 pm and Councillor D Bassett left the meeting at 7.53 pm.

- A6 Culcavy Road Bridge – Councillor Givan expressed concern that this bridge had been damaged four years ago and had never been repaired. He welcomed the fact that this was scheduled for repair. He enquired about the Department’s policy regarding repairs to damaged roads, etc. Mr McFarlane undertook to have the damage inspected.

Councillor N Parker

- the Cutts Improvement scheme – Councillor N Parker welcomed the update on the works at the Cutts especially as she was being contacted by constituents about this on a daily basis. Councillor Parker enquired about the nesting season and if there were any other set backs envisaged on this scheme. She also enquired if there any options for a filter lane at this junction. Mr Salmon advised that it was not practicable for the option of a temporary filter as it was a crossroads situation. A filter would make it very unsafe for opposing traffic and therefore the solution in the plans at the Cutts is the only possible solution. He elaborated on a number of other areas to be addressed in relation to this scheme and also mentioned the lengthy procurement process. He gave an assurance that the team would progress the scheme as quickly as possible.

Councillor S Lowry

- advised of positive feedback in relation to the flooding issues at Ferndene, Dundonald where there had been ongoing issues due to the new development. Councillor Lowry expressed thanks to the DfI Officials for having responded quickly.
- Councillor Lowry enquired if there was any update on the delay with Lagan on the traffic light provision at the exit to Millmount and Old Mill. Several residents had been in touch complaining about the delays in getting out of the development. She also advised that similar questions were also being asked about Coopers Mill.
- Councillor Lowry also enquired about an update in relation to the one-way system around Brooklands and stated that she would be happy to attend any meetings on these matters.

Mr Salmon advised that in relation to the signals on the Comber Road there had been no delay on DfI Road’s part. He stated that this piece of work was at the design stage by the developer and that only when finalised can DfI issue the licence for work to proceed. Councillor Lowry asked if there was anything the Council could do to push the developer along as it is becoming a major issue. Mr Salmon was of the opinion that there was nothing further that the Member could do but assured that Roads were meeting with the developer soon.

Councillors A Givan, B Higginson and C McCreedy left the meeting at 7.59 pm.

Alderman A Grehan

- reduction in gully cleaning - enquired if DfI Roads would not consider reverting to two cleanings per year as it would be likely to be more cost effective to clean twice per year Mr Woods advised that the Department continued to review engineering policy and standards. He stated that it would not be possible to have two gully cleanings per year until budget was available to obtain the necessary equipment, etc.. Alderman Grehan agreed to put her request in writing.

Councillor S Burns

- regarding Brooklands Primary School - Councillor S Burns advised of the new street light scheme which was in progress and enquired if the information and appropriate signs for the benefit of school and residents, could be in place prior to the new surface going down. Mr Torney advised that this scheme would commence in the next few weeks and undertook to look into this request and come back to Councillor Burns.
- Park Avenue, Dundonald, had flooded four times last seven weeks. Councillor Burns advised that NI Water had advised that there was a defect in the public sewer but had also asked Councillor Burns to go back to DfI to advise that the gullies needed cleaning. Mr Torney advised that the main drainage line was the responsibility of NI Water and therefore there was no point in DfI cleaning the gullies until NI Water de-silt the lines. Mr Torney asked if the letter in question could be sent in to DfI Roads and that they would have a look at this issue.

Councillor J Laverty

- understanding and guidance around yellow box junctions - enquired why there was not a box junction at Robb Road moving on to Dunlady Road (intersection at Upper Newtownards Road) where he stated where there were significant problems with traffic trying to move out of Robb Road and left into Upper Newtownards Road. The left lane was a designated bus lane so basically the junction was blocked. Councillor Laverty asked the Officials if this issue been looked at previously and if so, what was the reason not to put a box junction in place.

Mr Salmon confirmed that DfI had commenced works at Robb Road and would continue to observe the situation. He explained the purpose of yellow box junctions which served to control the flow of traffic and was of the opinion at this moment in time that there would be no benefit in a box junction at this location. Councillor Laverty reiterated the issue of the bus lane which meant that traffic did not get the opportunity to turn left and that he failed to see how a box junction was not necessary. He stated that he would like to see data that justified why a box junction was not required. Mr Salmon undertook to look at that issue again.

- Comber Road traffic lights at Old Mill – Councillor Laverty followed up on Councillor Lowry's issues at this location. He queried if this was it a different developer and wished to get a better understanding why that work was not

happening. He stated that this was a significant development and that it was important to get a timeframe when it would get moving.

Mr Salmon confirmed that Old Mill Heights was a developer-led scheme and undertook to provide an update on that scheme for the Member.

Councillor S Lowry left the meeting at 8.12 pm and Councillor N Parker left at 8.13 pm.

#### The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan

- request for a review of the speed limit in Glebe Road, Annahilt back in April 2022 - it was noted that this matter had yet to be completed. The Right Worshipful the Mayor enquired if a timescale had been confirmed for this project. He also referred to the ongoing need for a pavement at Glebe Manor to Carricknadarriff Road.

Mr Salmon apologised this has taken so long and was hopeful this would be actioned by the end of the financial year. He stated that Annahilt was not planned for imminently but undertook to provide an update to the Member on that project.

- proposed study for proposals for Royal Hillsborough – The Right Worshipful the Mayor enquired about the timescales for this study. Mr McFarlane advised that DfI Roads had briefed the consultants but had not had an initiation meeting, therefore no timeframe had been established but it was likely to be next financial year. Mr McFarlane referred to the study focusing on HGV patterns in the village and also looking at impacts on possible alternative routes for HGVs.
- Roads Recovery fund which had been reduced significantly from last year – The Right Worshipful the Mayor sought information on this budget reduction as that scheme delivered a lot of good. Mr McFarlane acknowledged that many of the budgets had been cut and also stated that rural roads benefited from other budgets and initiatives.
- Active Travel – The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested a full list of Active Travel schemes. Mr McFarlane undertook to speak to his Active Travel colleagues and reiterated that DfI Roads were operating at a massive disadvantage in terms of resources in the Division.

During the question and answer session The Right Worshipful the Mayor indicated that Members with additional queries should email their issues directly to DfI Roads.

During the question and answer session a number of Members expressed thanks and appreciation to the DfI Roads staff in regard to the work they carried out on the ground.

At the conclusion of the question and answer session the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, thanked the DfI representatives for their presentation and also for the genuine and honest feedback. He asked that the Council's thanks be conveyed to the DfI Roads Eastern team in the section office and to all the staff across the Division.

There being no other business for consideration the meeting concluded at 8.16 pm.

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Mayor/Chairperson