



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

8th May 2017, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Maria Murphy

Councillors Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O'Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Cllrs. Eimear Ferguson and Trevor Golden

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Fiona Fallon

Civil Defence Officer: Michael Fitzsimons

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 3rd April 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 3rd April 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 24th April 2017.

The minutes of the Special Planning meeting held on 24th April 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the issue of the recent judgment in the European Court of Justice and the implications for rural housing development in the County Development Plan. Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, responded and noted that revised rural housing guidelines are expected to be issued by the DHPCLG.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Rose McManus, Corporate Services, and Ryan McManus, Kells Swimming Pool, on the death of their mother/grandmother Mary Brown.
- The family of the late Jim Condra, Kilmainhamwood, Kells.
- The family of the late Ultan Conway, Kildalkey.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Combine Harvester for Charity group on achieving a Guinness World Record.
- All involved in the organisation of the recent Meath Darkness into Light event.
- Jim Connell Society on the organisation of the annual Jim Connell weekend.
- Battle of Ashbourne Committee on its event to celebrate the Thomas Ashe centenary.
- The Corporate Services team on supporting the recent LAMA Conference held in City North Hotel.
- The Housing Department on securing funding of €850,000 for pre let units etc.
- Councillor David Gilroy on his appointment to the Chair of Boyne Valley Tourism.
- Meath Islamic Community on their recent open day at Navan Mosque.
- Councillor Seán Smith on his involvement in the recent 'Sé mo Laoch' programme on TG4.
- Councillor Ronan McKenna on the birth of his son.
- The Arts Office on the commissioning of Deirdre Kinahan's play which was performed in primary schools across the county.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- St. Mary's Musical Society on its recent production of "All Shook Up"
- All involved in the recent opening of the Francis Ledwidge exhibition in Solstice Theatre.
- Brian Kelly, Slane, on organising the recent charity cycle for SOSAD.
- Drogheda Arts Committee on the recent exhibition at Oldbridge.
- Staff of the Homeless Service on their commitment to providing assistance to a family over the Easter period.

4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To receive an update in respect of a proposal to commence the Part 8 process for the proposed Meath Civil Defence Headquarters and Training Centre.

Michael Fitzsimons, Civil Defence Officer, and Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, made the presentation which included information on:

- The existing facility at Balmoral Industrial Estate
- Civil Defence volunteers and equipment
- Civil Defence training requirements
- Location of development and site layout
- The internal plan of the building and the facilities to be provided
- Details of the Part 8 Process

The Cathaoirleach and the Councillors welcomed the proposal and paid tribute to the commitment and dedication of Michael Fitzsimons, Civil Defence Officer, and the team of volunteers.

- 5.1.2 To seek a replacement nomination to the Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) following the resignation of Cllr. Sarah Reilly.

Councillor Maria Murphy was nominated to LMETB on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5.2 Community

- 5.2.1 To receive details of and approve the allocations under the Community Grants Scheme 2017 as recommended by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on 25th April 2017.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

- 5.2.2 To receive details of and approve the allocations under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grants Scheme 2016, as recommended by the Laytown Bettystown Municipal District Meeting on 13th April 2017.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

- 5.2.3 To receive details of and approve proposed allocations under the Francis Ledwidge Commemorative Grant Scheme.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

- 5.2.4 To seek a replacement nomination to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) following the resignation of Cllr. Sean Drew.

Councillor Damien O' Reilly was nominated to the Joint Policing Committee on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**.

5.3 Environment

- 5.3.1 To receive a presentation in respect of Public Consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.

David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, made the presentation which included information on the following:

- Key learning from 1st Cycle Plan



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- River water quality and details of assessments undertaken
- Objectives and priorities of the Draft River Basin Management Plan
- Programme of measures and implementation strategy
- Proposed implementation structure
- Community engagement

Following the presentation, Councillors raised a number of issues and responses were provided by David Keyes.

5.4 Planning

- 5.4.1 To fix a date with the Councillors for a Special Meeting to consider the Chief Executive's Reports on Variation 1 of the Kells Development Plan, 2013-2019, and Variation 2 of the Navan Development Plan, 2009-2015, and if thought fit to resolve to make the variations or to accept the Chief Executive's recommendations with or without further modification, or to refuse to make the variations in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2016.

It was agreed that the Special meeting would take place on Monday 29th May at 1.30p.m.

6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive provided the following additional updates:

- In regard to the attempted cyber enabled offence it was noted that the final court date was on the 26th April when the garnishee order absolute was issued. It was noted that the court must now issue a sealed order which will instruct the bank to refund the money to Meath County Council. The Chief Executive also noted the costs as follows: €120,964 comprising (€77,000 legal costs, €23,000 VAT, €20,000 withholding tax).
- Buvinda House: It was noted that the Council would take possession of the building on Friday 12th May and that the movement of staff would commence thereafter.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillors sought clarification on a number of other matters in the Chief Executive's report.

The main issues raised and discussed included:

Housing: social housing crisis, Farganstown land, funding re repairs, purchase of land/landbank sites, affordable site scheme.

Transportation: The proposal for the N52 alignment and the Laytown spine road welcomed.

Community: The issue of delay in regard to the opening the Knockharley Grant Scheme.

Environment: issues in regard to illegal dumping and enforcement.

The Chief Executive and the Management Team provided responses on all matters raised.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The reports in regard to the following SPC meetings were noted: Environmental held on 6th April, Housing Community and Cultural held on 25th April, Transportation held on the 27th April. It was noted that the recommendations from the SPC meetings would be placed on the agenda of the June meeting for consideration.

6.2.1 To consider recommendations arising from meetings of the SPC's.

No recommendations.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the recommendations in regard to the following items of correspondence:

- A request from Iarnród Éireann to give a presentation on their re-organisation plans.
It was agreed to recommend that this presentation would be made at the June meeting of the full Council.
- A request from Union of Students of Ireland for their President to give a presentation regarding publicly funded education.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

It was agreed to recommend that the full Council would not be in a position to receive a presentation at this time in regard to publicly funded education.

- Request from class 4A, St. Ciaran's Community School, Kells to give presentation re. compulsory teaching to 1st year students of basic CPR and first aid training.

It was agreed to recommend that, as the Council had recently adopted a motion on this subject, that the class should link with Comhairle na nÓg and write to the LMETB in regard to the matter.

- Request from Cllr. Alan Tobin for Committee involved in proposed National Hunt Museum in Ashbourne to give a presentation.

It was agreed to recommend that a presentation would be welcomed when the project proposals would be at a more advanced stage.

- The Protocol Committee received and noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors, and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.

The above recommendations were approved by the Councillors.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to Notice of Motion 9.2 adopted at the December 2016 meeting of the full Council re. funding for speed limits.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 LG 03/2017 – Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government re. Changes to domestic travel and subsistence rates effective from 1 April 2017.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.3 LG 04/2017 – Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government re. Revised arrangements for subsistence allowances abroad with effect from 1 April 2017.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.4 LG 05/2017 – Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government re. Representational Payment for Elected Members of Local Authorities – Application of 1 April 2017 pay adjustments and related measures in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) Act 2015 and the Public Services Stability Agreement 2013-2018 (the Lansdowne Road Agreement).

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.5 Correspondence from the Department of Justice and Equality in response to Notice of Motion 9.5 adopted at the March 2017 meeting of the Full Council re. Coroner's Bill.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.6 Correspondence from the Department of Health in response to Notice of Motion 9.7 adopted at the November 2016 meeting of the Full Council re. supporting documentation for HPV vaccination for teenage girls.

Noted by the Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“How many solar farms are currently in the pre-planning or planning system in the county and what is Meath County Council's policy on these farms?”

Response

There are currently 12 planning applications in the system for Solar Farms.

Chapter 8 of The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out Meath County Council's policy on Renewable Energy. There are a number of policies set out in this chapter which deal with renewable energy sources, inclusive of solar farms. Currently there are no national guidelines on Solar Farms and as such we have to deal with each application on its own merit. As a Planning Authority we would welcome such guidelines. The review of the Meath County Development Plan is currently in progress



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

and provides an opportunity to include revised and/or additional policies on solar farm applications.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the plan for the Railway Street site when Council staff move to Buvinda House.”

Response

Following the relocation to the Council’s new civic offices, the original County Hall building will remain in use by Meath County Council. The Council Chamber will continue to be used for Council meetings pending the construction of a new Chamber at Buvinda House. The Council is currently considering various options for possible future uses of the remainder of the buildings and site. When these options have been further developed, a proposal for the buildings and site will be brought before the Council.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

“To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the monies refunded, totals refunded and total cost of each project, to Meath County Council for the following Regional Road upgrades & works:

R150 Duleek to Bellewstown

R154 Scurlogstown to Kiltale

R161 Navan to Trim”

Response

| Funding Shortfall based on grant aid of 75% of final cost | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 2017 Final Expenditure | Grant @75% of Final Expenditure | Grant Provided Millions | Funding Shortfall Millions |
| | € Millions | € Millions | € Millions | € Millions |
| | | | | |



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| R150 Duleek-Julianstown | 26.6 | 20.0 | 12.7 | 7.3 |
| R161 Trim - Navan | 17.2 | 12.9 | 9.1 | 3.8 |
| R154 Scurlogstown -Kiltale | 10.5 | 7.9 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| | 54.3 | 40.7 | 25.7 | 15.0 |

Noted by the Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“How many homes in Meath have used the Mortgage to Rent scheme to save the homes of the people that are in mortgage arrears? Cé mhéad bailte i gContae na Mí a bhain úsáid as an scéim Cíos in Ionad Morgáiste ar mhaithe le bailte na ndaoine a bhfuil riaráiste morgáiste acu a shabháil.”

Response

There are currently 22 units in County Meath that are in the Mortgage to Rent Scheme, with a further 42 applications approved but not yet completed.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch (deferred from April Meeting)

“That Meath County Councillors write to the Minister for Education expressing their dissatisfaction with the review of the school transport scheme and the negative impact the current operation of the scheme is having on some students in Co. Meath / Go scríobhfadh Comhairleoirí Chontae na Mí chuig an Aire Oideachais ag cur in iúl a míshástacht leis an athbhreithniú ar an scéim um iompar scoile agus an drochthionchar atá ag an scéim mar atá sé faoi láthair ar dhaltaí áirithe i gContae na Mí.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Sinead Burke** was unanimously adopted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council and all Councillors to endorse and support the proposed National Hunt Museum in Ashbourne.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

It is noted that a presentation was made on this matter at the March meeting of the Ashbourne Municipal District. Meath County Council would welcome any such proposal that would complement existing tourist attractions, increase economic activity and bring more visitors to the County. The Council looks forward to receiving more detailed information on the matter in due course.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**. Following a debate on the matter, and subject to the supporting information, the principle of the motion was unanimously adopted.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“That Meath County Council establishes a committee comprising Tourism, Economic Development and Arts to fully maximise the value to the county of the estimated 200,000 people who will come to Drogheda for the Fleadh Cheoil next year.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council welcomes the announcement that the Fleadh Cheoil will be held in Drogheda in 2018 and extends congratulations to everyone associated with the successful bid for this prestigious event. The potential economic benefit to the entire north east region is recognised, and we are currently considering how Meath can contribute to and benefit from the event particularly in the areas of accommodation, food & beverage, the arts and entertainment.

Councillors are aware that there is already in place a joint cross county tourism structure, Boyne Valley Tourism and, also in partnership with Louth County Council, the Council has recently funded and appointed a Food Development Officer to work with food producers and food and beverage establishments across the region. It is suggested that these existing structures, perhaps expanded to include other relevant interests, should be utilised rather than establish completely new committees. The Boyne Valley



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Tourism Officer, Michele Whelan, will be working closely with both Councils in the run up to the event and input from any other person or organisation will be welcomed.

In addition to the potential economic benefits, it is envisaged that there will be joint operational issues to be considered between the two local authorities, for example in the areas of traffic management and parking etc., the Council will be offering support to our Louth colleagues on these and other practical matters associated with the event.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**. Following a debate on the matter, the motion was adopted subject to the supporting information.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

"That Meath County Council communicates with the Office of Public Works and Fáilte Ireland as to the exact breakdown of the €5 million investment recently committed to the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Attached for the information of Councillors is an extract from the press release from Fáilte Ireland, which specifies how the funding allocation is broken down between the various successful projects.

Meath based visitor facilities will benefit from €5.1m. in funding out of an overall allocation of €11.5m. to the Ireland's Ancient East and Dublin regions. This funding allocation is very welcome and the Council looks forward to working as required with the OPW to deliver the projects concerned. (See below)

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly**. Following a debate on the matter, the motion was adopted.

An extension of time was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor on Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

9.5 Submitted by Kells Municipal District Councillors

"That this Council resolves to commence the process of varying the County Development Plan by adding the following policy to Section 8 - Energy and Communications."



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Proposed variation to Meath Development Plan 2013-2019

In order to, protect Residential Amenity, Wind Turbine Developments will achieve a minimum setback distance from Dwellings and Centres of Human Habitation of at least of ten times the highest tip height, above ground level, of any proposed wind turbines from residential properties and other centres of human habitation.

Centre of Human Habitation includes schools, hospitals, churches, residential buildings or buildings used for public assembly'."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Section 8.1.5 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out Meath County Council's policy in relation to Wind Energy Development. The Council has also been advised on previous occasions that such policies must be consistent with current National Wind Energy Guidelines. The review of the Meath County Development Plan has now commenced and will include a review of our existing policies on renewable energy in line with any new emerging national guidance. As recently advised to Councillors the Draft of the new Plan will be published in Quarter 3 of this year for public consultation and this matter can be considered as part of that process.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

Following a lengthy debate on the matter, Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, outlined the following points for consideration by the Councillors:

- The Council has been advised on a number of occasions that the County Development Plan (CDP) must be consistent with Government policy.
- This requirement extends to any proposed variation of a plan and S.7 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 is clear that in preparing a variation, the Members of the planning authority shall be restricted to considering "... any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or any Minister of the Government" (The full provision of S.7 was read to the meeting)
- In this regard, it was noted that the current wind energy guidelines represents Government policy and that they have not been updated or replaced.
- The Department Circular (PL20-13 issued December 2013) was referenced, which instructed Planning Authorities that they should not vary or amend CDP's in relation to wind energy other than in accordance with current national policy. This was referenced in reports to the Council in November 2014 and December 2015 and was reconfirmed in correspondence from the Department in October 2015.
- Noting the concern that a large scale project could be applied for between now and the adoption of a new County Development Plan, it was pointed out that these



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

large scale wind energy applications were generally accepted by An Bord Pleanála as Strategic Infrastructure Developments and therefore determined by the Bord, not by the Council.

- An Bord Pleanála is not bound by the provisions of a County Development Plan and in cases where National Government policy conflicted with local policies, ABP is required to conform with National policy in deciding applications. Therefore the proposed variation, to the extent with which it conflicts with national policy, would not be considered by the An Bord Pleanála.
- He also pointed out, in response to concerns expressed about a wind energy development near Cormeen, that planning permission had been granted for that development some years ago and the proposed variation would have no bearing on that or any other extant permissions.
- In relation to the Donegal Court cases, Kevin Stewart outlined his understanding of the outcome of those cases which, he believed, were Judicial Reviews of the Minister's decision to issue a direction to Donegal County Council under S.31 of the Act. The proceedings therefore were concerned with the process and procedure followed by the Minister and he said that, as far as he was aware, the Court had not ruled on the validity or otherwise of the Minister's direction. He said that his information was that the appellants had claimed that the Minister had not followed proper process and that the Minister had decided not to contest the case.
- It was pointed out that, as stated in the report to the Council, the review of the County Development Plan is in progress. It is anticipated that a draft plan will be on display by September/October this year and that it made no sense to commence a statutory process to vary a plan that is being reviewed in the same timeframe. It would also be a duplication of scarce resources as the Forward Planning team was fully committed to the CDP review.
- The statutory timeframe for a variation was set out and it was acknowledged that, it is shorter than for the full CDP review once it goes on public display. However it was pointed out that considerable work would be needed before a variation could go on display (AA/SEA etc.) and that it was likely that there would be little if any difference in the timescales to the point where they went on display.
- Responding to a question from Cllr Gerry O'Connor, Kevin Stewart noted that, in his view, a draft direction was more than a possibility. The timeframe from the issuing of a draft direction, through to the confirmation or otherwise of the direction is set out in legislation and would, if invoked, add considerably to the length of the variation process.

Kevin Stewart concluded by saying that he was clearly advising the Council not to vary the existing plan for all the reasons he had outlined.

Following further debate on the matter, the Councillors agreed to adopt the motion.

A further extension of time was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Darren O' Rourke

“That Meath County Council temporarily suspend accepting planning applications for solar farms until such time as absolute clarity is provided, in writing, from the Minister/Department regarding the Government's understanding of, and plans and guidelines for, such schemes. Nach nglacfadh Comhairle Chontae na Mí le le hiarratais pleanála do ghrian-fheirmeacha ar bhonn sealadach go dtí go bhfuil sé iomlán soiléir, i bhfoirm scríofa ón Aire/Roinn maidir le tuiscint an Rialtais faoi agus a phleananna nó treoirlínte i dtaobh scéimeanna iúd.

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Council is not aware of any legal basis that permits a Planning Authority to suspend the acceptance of a particular class of planning application. Each valid application must be considered on its merits and decided accordingly.

There are currently 12 planning applications in the system for Solar Farms. Chapter 8 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out the Council's policy on Renewable Energy. There are a number of policies set out in this chapter which deal with renewable energy sources, including solar farms. Currently, there are no national guidelines on Solar Farms and as such we have to deal with each application on its own merit. As a Planning Authority guidelines on the issue would be welcomed. The review of the Meath County Development Plan is underway and provides an opportunity to include revised and/or additional policies on solar farm applications.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline Lynch**.

Following a short debate on the motion, it was agreed to note the supporting information and that a letter would be sent to the Department seeking guidance and advices in regard to the matter.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke

“Taking into account the underfunding and subsequent lack of infrastructure and amenities in parts of Meath, that Meath County Council will make separate applications in respect of Oldcastle and Athboy under the €20m Action Plan for Rural Development funding announced by the Government recently. An uile ní meáite maidir leis an bhfóchistiúchán agus an easpa bonneagair agus áiseanna in áiteanna i gContae na Mí a lean as, go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí iarratais aonaracha don Seanchaisleán



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

agus Baile Átha Buí faoin bPlean Gnímh €20 milliún ar mhaithe Forbairt Tuaithe a d'fhógair an rialtas le déanaí."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council has advertised for Expressions of Interest under the 2017 Town and Village Renewal Scheme with a deadline of Friday 12th May for submissions. The submissions will then be assessed in accordance with the scheme priorities as set out by the Dept. of Arts Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) in the scheme outline document. Funding awarded by DAHRRGA will be by means of a competitive process, based on applications received and a maximum of 15 applications can be submitted per county. Oldcastle and Athboy are eligible, based on population, to apply for the scheme. In order to succeed in the competitive process, it is essential that the local communities bring forward quality EOI proposals which the Council, working in conjunction with them, can develop into formal applications.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke**, was noted based on the supporting information provided.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"That Meath County Council seeks emergency funding from the Department to undertake essential works on the section of the R162 going through Meath, based on the number of accidents and fatalities that have occurred on this stretch of road."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

It should be noted that following any fatality due to a road collision, it is standard practice to complete what is known as an 'LA16 Form'. The form is completed jointly by a Garda and a Local Authority Engineer following a visit to the accident scene. The purpose of this form is to record factual information pertaining to such collisions and quickly to establish if there are road factors which may have contributed to the collision and which need to be remedied. When completed these LA16 forms are then sent to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for analysis. It is important that any future measures that may be proposed take into account the outcome of this process and the site meeting with the Gardai will take place in due course.

The Capital Programme 2017-2020 contains €300,000 for traffic management measures at Kilberry Cross on the R162. Meath County Council will also contact the Department of



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Transport, Tourism & Sport to enquire about the availability of any other funding for road safety schemes on the R162.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, was noted based on the supporting information provided.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

“That Meath County Council, Transport infrastructure Ireland & the National Transport Authority collaborate and expedite the implementation of an efficient and sustainable transport management plan for South Meath.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

In 2016, Meath County Council commissioned Aecom to prepare a report in relation to the transport impact of the proposed development contained in Variation 3 of the County Development Plan 2013-2019 in the vicinity of the Dunboyne / Clonee / Pace area of South Meath. The aim of this exercise is to develop a multi-modal transport strategy to cater for the increased transport demand to/from the existing and proposed land-use footprint. This work is now well advanced and is due to be finalised in June 2017. Thereafter, it is proposed that the output of the study, including the funding and delivery of any proposed infrastructure, will be discussed with the TII and the NTA. A report on the matter will be brought before the Councillors in due course.

Councillor Toole requested a deferral of her motion to the July meeting. This was duly agreed by the Councillors.

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Sinead Burke

“That Meath County Council writes to Minister for Housing, Planning Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney, asking him to immediately suspend the Help-to-Buy scheme in light of increasing evidence provided by the newly released CSO figures that indicates the scheme is adding to increases in the price of houses. Go scríobhfadh Comhairle Chontae na Mí chuig an Aire Tithíochta Simon Coveney ag iarraidh air an scéim Help-to-Buy a chur ar fionraí láithreach i bhfianaise atá ag méadú as na figiúirí nua-eisithe ón POS a chuireann in iúl go bhfuil an scéim ag cur le costas tithe.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Burke requested a deferral of her motion to the July meeting. This was duly agreed by the Councillors.

9.11 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

“That Meath County Council investigates with Irish Public Bodies Insurance Company, the possibility of seeking better insurance rates for all voluntary, community, charity and non profit organisations that are registered with the PPN in this county.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline Lynch**, was unanimously adopted.

9.12 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O’Connor

“ That Meath County Council, in light of the decision to fund water services from general taxation, calls on the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Transport , to ring fence the specific taxation measures introduced in 1997 (whereby 2% of VAT and 5% of Motor Tax were the previous funding measures for Water Services) and provide these funds for Roads”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, was unanimously adopted.

10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing Construction

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies

11.1 To receive presentation from Meath Comhairle na nÓg

Arianna Owens, Chairperson, and Liam Fagan made the presentation which included information on their current work programme and plans for 2017.

The presentation was noted and the Cathaoirleach thanked the representatives of Comhairle na nÓg and commended the group on their work.

12 Any Other Business