

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Navan Municipal District

10:00am, 14th February 2024, Bohermeen Community Centre.

An Meára, **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Councillors Francis Deane, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Tommy Reilly, Emer Tóibín, and Yemi Adenuga

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Absent/apologies: Councillor Alan Lawes

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Executive Engineer: Shane Durcan

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Ann Monaghan

Councillor Eddie Fennessy welcomed everyone to Bohermeen Community Centre and said that this was a historic event as it's the first time that the Navan Municipal meeting has been held outside of the district offices.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 17th January 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of January 2024 were proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There was none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

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- The family of the late John Bruton former Taoiseach and TD
- Deirdre McDermot (Staff) on the passing of her father Colm.
- The family of the late John Harkin.
- The family of the late Brian Brady, Navan
- The family of the late Dickie Brady, Navan
- The family of the late Julia McDermott-Roe, Navan
- The family of the late Bridie Shiels, Navan.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

There was none.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 To consider and adopt the 2024 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works includes two service divisions Transportation and Housing. The SMDW is prepared based on identified needs and priorities throughout the local authority area and where possible a multi annual approach has been adopted.

Caroline Corrigan SE Transportation gave a presentation on the schedule of Municipal District Works for the upcoming year. She advised that this is the final year of the three-year, 2022-2024 Restoration Maintenance and Improvement scheme. She said that last year had been a challenging year due to impacts from energy and fuel costs, inflation, and the availability of materials. She said that the weather also affected works with July been the wettest month causing flooding and damage to infrastructure. She gave a breakdown of funding allocated and said that the allocation from the council own resources of €18,561,460 is an increase on last year's allocation. She advised that the allocations from the Department have yet to be announced.

The members raised the following queries:

- Commended the staff and crew on the works being carried out.
- Referred to the large volume of road opening licences and the monitoring of these.
- Enquired if the new pothole machine is in place.
- Referred to the EV points and the number to install.
- Reference to the SEAI grant scheme and who can apply.
- Requested an update on the status of the EV points strategy.
- Enquired to the amount allocated under the active travel budget.

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Caroline Corrigan SE responded to the above:

- Liaise with the utilities regarding road opening licences.
- Looking at acquiring new tar machines.
- Awaiting TII strategy for installation of EV points on the national road network.
- Advised that a local plan is being prepared between Meath, Louth, Kildare and Wicklow to identify EV location points, installations may commence from next year.
- SEAI grants are available to community groups to apply for.
- An increase in Active Travel funding to €13.5m with additional funding allocated during the year.

On the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** the members agreed to the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Transportation as presented.

Corrina Elder SE Housing gave a presentation on the schedule of Municipal District Works for the upcoming year. She outlined the proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be completed during the year in the Municipal District. She said that funding is sourced from both the annual revenue budget of the council and central grant allocation from the Department of Housing which has yet to be announced.

The members raised the following queries:

- Commended the team and the works being completed.
- Enquired when the adaptation grants will be available.
- Asked how often inspections are carried out on housing units.
- Enquired on the turnaround time for an empty unit to allocation.
- Referred to the panel of contractors in place and if they have their own business.
- Enquired if boilers are being replaced if there are issues.
- Advised that windows in Claremont estate were replaced in 2001 and why are they being replaced again.
- Referred to the delays at Christmas on the maintenance of boilers.
- Asked if heat pumps are now the option to replace boilers.
- Enquired if boilers could be serviced by a contractor not on the council's approved panel.

Corrina Elder SE responded to the above:

- That the adaptation grants are continuous and take time to progress.
- Inspections are carried out every 4 years on social units, and the new data survey of units will assist in the planned maintenance programme.
- The turnaround of empty houses takes 9-10 weeks with no retrofit, 16-20 weeks with a retrofit and could take up to 9 months to allocate to a tenant.
- Contractors have their own companies with each MD assigned a contractor and plumber.
- Windows in Claremont are being replaced as they are in poor condition.

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- Emergency cover only was provided over the Christmas for call outs.
- Boilers are repaired first before replacing them.
- Boilers are being serviced regularly due to an additional plumber in place.
- All new properties that are B2 rated and insulated have heat pumps installed.
- It's a breach of tenancy if boilers are not serviced by the councils panel of contractors.

On the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** the members agreed to the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Housing as presented.

5.2 Transportation

5.2.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report circulated in advance was noted and the following raised:

- Commended the works of the outdoor crew during the storms.
- Referred to the loose paving in Kennedy Place – engineer advised that this is on list.
- Referred to Trimgate lane onto Kennedy place can be littered on Sundays if they can be reviewed – noted by engineer.
- Requested pothole filling on the Rathholden road – included on the list.
- Enquired if bollards have been installed into Beechmount Vale – advised that active travel section doing this.
- Referred to potholes in Ferndale, Farganstown, Bohermeen cross – included on the list.
- Enquired about the unsightly hoarding on Metges Lane – advised that the council has acquired the property which will be tidied up.

5.2.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Canterbrook Estate in the Navan Municipal District

The members agreed to the proposed Traffic Calming at Canterbrook Estate, Navan as presented.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 **Submitted by Councillor Emer Toibin**

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To ask the Council to send a quarterly update to Councillors on the status of housing estates in Navan that have been taken in charge and those that are waiting to be taken in charge.

RESPONSE:

All Councillors have access to the Housing Estate register as part of Serve CRM where they can view estates that have been taken in charge within their District. Any Estates that are to be taken in charge in the Municipal District are presented to the members at a meeting where it goes through the statutory process, whereby Members will make a decision on same.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

To ask the Executive for an update on the installation of public lighting in Bohermeen from the Community Centre to the National School

RESPONSE

As previously indicated Meath County Council are engaged in a regional programme (with 8 other counties) to upgrade all existing street lighting to LED. This will improve existing lighting standards of existing street lighting.

In relation to the request for additional lights between the community centre and the National School at Bohermeen, the scheme has been logged and added to the list of potential future capital public lighting schemes. It is however noted that this is a significant lighting scheme and there is currently not the requisite level of available funding to the public lighting team to prioritise a scheme of this scale.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

Have Meath County Council any plans to install CCTV in litter blackspots in the Navan area.

RESPONSE

While the Waste Management Acts and Litter Pollution Acts provide the necessary legislative backing for the use of CCTV and other mobile recording devices used in the

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fight against dumping and litter, this is for the purpose of GDPR compliance, subject to the preparation of Codes of Practice for the operation of such equipment.

These codes of practice have now been prepared, approved by the Minister and laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas and we now await commencement of the legislation which will provide greater assurances to Local Authorities when initiating Court proceedings for offences under both Acts.

Meath County Council currently have CCTV cameras at several locations throughout the County including one in Navan and principally in the vicinity of the bottle banks which are regularly the subject of illegal dumping and littering. The Council will consider the necessity for additional CCTV based on the level and frequency of dumping and littering.

The response was noted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

Can Meath County Council provide an update on any discussion they have had in relation to the reopening of Tara Mines.

RESPONSE:

The Council is maintaining open communications with the management of Tara Mines, and we are committed to supporting them where we can ensure the reopening of the mines as soon as possible.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

To call on the Executive to request from the NTA, permission to install bus stops on the new 189 Route at Robinstown Village and at Shambo Cross.

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

The responsibility for the provision of the bus stop infrastructure is a matter for the relevant bus operators and the National Transport Authority (the Authority) in the first instance. It is noted that Section 44A of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (the

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“2008 Act” -please see relevant extract below) provides that the Authority has the function to secure or provide public transport and cycling infrastructure in the State in relation to, among other things, bus stops, bus shelters, bus stations, stands and bus fleets.

Extract: Dublin Transport Authority Act, 2008

PART 3 - Transport Matters -Chapter 1

Public Transport Infrastructure

Functions of Authority in relation to public transport infrastructure.

44.— (1) In relation to public transport infrastructure in the GDA, the Authority shall have the following functions:

(a) to secure the provision of, or to provide, public transport infrastructure,

Meath County Council provides assistance to the National Transport Authority in respect of the delivery of the sustainable infrastructure, such as the project management of the construction works relating to bus stops and those necessary to facilitate the erection of the bus shelters by the Authority’s bus shelter installation contractor.

All requests for new bus stop at locations in County Meath should therefore be directed to the National Transport Authority. Public representatives can send queries via email to oireachtaslaiison@nationaltransport.ie

Alternatively, written communications can be made to:

National Transport Authority

Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2 D02 WT20

The response and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

7.2 **Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

To call on the Executive to carry out a full windows and doors replacement programme on the Tailteann Estate at Windtown in Navan.

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

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Meath County Council will be part of the National Asset Management System which is scheduled to be rolled out in Meath in Q2/2024. As part of the streamlined approach to asset management we will establish a dedicated team to undertake surveys of existing housing stock on a four yearly cycle. This will inform a planned maintenance work schedule over the coming years.

Meath County Council currently owns 158 properties in Tailteann Estate, Navan which was completed 2002-2004. During 2023 MCC received 8 complaints about issues with timber windows for Tailteann out of 158 properties which we have responded to. MCC is currently undertaking a window & door replacement program in Claremont Estate, Navan which was built in 1975. It should be noted the expected lifespan of timber windows can be up to 60 years and beyond, and under the tenancy agreement is the responsibility of the Tenants to varnish/paint to maintain windows. We will endeavour to carry out a stock condition survey of windows and doors in Tailteann Estate in 2024 to then allow for long term planning of replacement windows subject to funding being made available. Any urgent window repairs will still be carried out on an ongoing basis.

The response and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

I call on Meath County Council to erect digital traffic signals from Athlumney Close to the R153 heading in the direction of Navan, and in the opposite direction, towards Kentstown, located at the Viaduct Bridge

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

The Transportation Department will arrange for a traffic speed survey to be carried out at this location. Once this has been undertaken, any traffic management measures deemed necessary will be put forward for consideration in a future programme of works.

The response and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy**.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

I propose that Meath County Council put a tree pruning programme plan in place for the next five years for housing estates in Navan in which residents can avail of funding if Meath County Council are unable to carry out the work.

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Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Navan Municipal District Operations has a yearly maintenance programme for trees. This programme is generated from an Arborist report on all trees reported to the Council through the CRM system. This programme aids the District Engineer to plan works on trees.

Having a programme for trees aids in reducing unqualified persons pruning trees themselves which can lead to other issues. The District Office encourages and promotes the public to report trees to them and all are logged on the CRM for the attention of the District Engineer.

The response and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

I call on Meath County Council to consider a BMX park in Blackwater Park adjacent to the new bridge over the Blackwater. These lands are currently not in use as part of the park but are within the park boundary.

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Since the original masterplan for Blackwater Park was prepared, the potential uses of the park have evolved. Therefore, it is proposed to carry out an updated feasibility study for the potential uses of the park to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible. The development of a BMX park can be considered in this context.

The response and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

I call on Meath County Council for a left hand turn only from Kilcarn Hill onto the old M3 coming from the Borallion and Cannistown area.

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Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

“The junction in question is not suitable at present for an extra lane due to the proximity of the L-34148 and the R-147 Slip Rd onto the M3. Transportation Design Team applied for safety scheme funding for 2023 but was unsuccessful. Further assessment and design are ongoing for a future application for funding.”

The response and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy**.

7.7 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

I propose that the Council put in traffic lights at the junction of the Trim Road and the Borallion (at Balreask) to allow safe passage for all motorists.

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

A traffic count and review of collision data will be undertaken to assess if signalisation of the junction or other appropriate measures are required at the junction in question.

The response and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

Martin Murry, Director advised that under the pathfinder programme this junction will be assessed for traffic calming measures when works commence this year.

7.8 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

I propose that the Council carry out a study on traffic at the junction of Clonmagadden Road and the Proudstown Road to see if it necessitates traffic lights.

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Meath County Council have undertaken traffic studies and counts at the Clonmagadden Rd x Proudstown Road junction and it is intended to signalise the junction to coincide with the completion of the LDR4 project subject to all relevant technical assessments and

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allocation of appropriate funding. A procurement process is in progress for a consultant designer for the junction.

The response and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy**.

8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1st December 2023

The minutes were noted.

8.2 To note the Protocol Committee Minutes of 1st December 2023

The minutes were noted.

8.3 To note the Draft Minutes of the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC of 23rd January 2024

The draft minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was none.

10 Any Other Business

The members raised the following:

- Requested a public light on the back lane to St Mary's Park, Blackcastle, Navan due to anti-social behaviour – advised will refer to PL section.
- Referred to St Patrick's Day parade being held on 17th March in Navan.

The meeting concluded at 11.40am.

Signed:

An Meára