



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 12th February 2018, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Leas-Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Seán Smith**, presided.

Councillors Present: Suzanne Jamal, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Alan Tobin.

Apologies: Councillor Joe Bonner

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 15th January, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th January 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O'Rourke referred to the working group set up in relation to the Linear Park and it was agreed that this would be dealt with under Item 4.4.1.

Councillor Alan Tobin requested an update on the request to broadcast a meeting with Irish sign language – it was confirmed that this would be considered at the March Protocol Committee meeting.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

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- Councillor Joe Bonner on the death of his brother in law;
- The family of the late Gabriel Howard, Stamullen who recently died in a farming incident and who was a leading figure in Irish and local cycling.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ashbourne Rugby Club on winning the All Ireland Junior Championship;
- Mary Lou McDonald and Michelle O'Neill on being confirmed as Sinn Féin President and Vice-President respectively.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included the negative impacts of illegal dumping on Archerstown Road from the Dublin border, Milltown Road from the golf club to Donaghmore church and Robertstown Road and the possibility of using a drone to monitor these areas before and after any clean ups taking place.

4.2 Environment

- 4.2.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme.

A report prepared by David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment was circulated, which provided an update on the scheme, including confirmation that the final design would be brought to a future meeting with works due to commence thereafter. Councillors welcomed the update.

4.3 Planning/Heritage

- 4.3.1 Matters Arising

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Reference was made to the amount of dirt on the road arising from the development at Churchfields and it was confirmed that contact had been made requesting that the roadsweeper be used more frequently and an internal wheel wash be used. Reference was also made to the planning application to direct construction traffic to the Ballybin Road, thereby relieving traffic in the town.

- 4.3.2 To consider the nomination of a Councillor from Ashbourne Municipal District to sit on Steering Group for Hill of Tara Conservation Management Plan.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Darren O'Rourke and seconded by Councillor Alan Tobin that Councillor Claire O'Driscoll would sit on the Steering Group when available and that Councillor Suzanne Jamal would attend if Councillor O'Driscoll was not available. If neither were available, another Councillor should be requested to attend.

4.4 Community

- 4.4.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

An update had been circulated in advance and Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community attended the meeting and provided a further update on Zones 3 & 4 and on the lands adjacent to Lidl.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The options for the area containing the castle remains – it was pointed out that the amphitheatre would be set back from the ruins and that the National Monument Service requested that a storyboard be erected to outline the history of the castle and local history.
- The replacement of the playground equipment – this was confirmed.
- Welcomed the consultation regarding the access gate to the rear of Deerpark.
- Negotiations with the OPW to ensure the delivery of the pedestrian path on the riparian strip in Zones 1 & 2 – it was confirmed that

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negotiations were ongoing with the need to ensure that whatever is provided will be sustainable and allow for maintenance access, etc.

- Progress update regarding the Department of Education & Skills land in Zone 3 – it was pointed out that discussions were ongoing between the Department of Education & Skills and the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.
- The change in the proposal by Cairns for linking with the Linear Park – it was confirmed that more information was being sought.
- The need to work with Broadmeadow Castle to enhance the area along the river in Zone 5.
- The outcome of the tree survey in Zones 6 & 7 – it was confirmed that the tree survey had been received last Friday for review with work ongoing on identifying land boundaries and ownership. It was agreed to circulate an update on this separately.
- The options to progress a Community CCTV scheme in Zone 4 – it was confirmed that there was provision in the design for such a scheme with the Department of Justice's grant scheme referred to. Whilst the Council's GDPR Risk Assessment must first be completed, the application forms can be progressed in the interim.
- Accessing anti-dumping funding – it was pointed out that this was available to community groups.
- The provision of further updates and the working group – it was pointed out that it may not be possible to attend Municipal District meetings on a monthly basis and that efforts would be made to facilitate the working group as requested.

4.4.2 To receive an update on the Stamullen Playground.

Fiona Fallon confirmed that advertisements had been placed in relevant local media seeking expressions of interest for the provision of a playground site in Stamullen with a closing date of 16th March, following which any submissions would be received and a report presented to the Municipal District. It was

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pointed out that a capital allocation had been made and that, subject to a site being secured this year, the playground could be delivered next year. Concerns were raised by a number of Councillors in relation to one publication used to advertise this and it was agreed to check the advertising protocol regarding publications to be used.

4.5 Corporate Services

4.5.1 To discuss Ashbourne 2020.

Fiona Lawless outlined a proposal for Ashbourne 2020, which would benefit from the experience of the Ledwidge events in 2017, and for which a maximum budget of €40,000-50,000 would apply. Included in the proposals are a commemorative book, a community grants scheme, a festival event promoting arts, sports, culture and music with a civic reception and a community garden feature in the Linear Park.

A short discussion followed with the grants scheme being welcomed and reference made to the Ashbourne 2020 group who hoped to form a full committee in March with their first meeting in April. It was agreed to invite the group to the March meeting to deliver a presentation. It was also suggested that ideas might be gained from Westport 250 which had won a top LAMA award.

4.5.2 To discuss the proposed visit to Corcubion by a delegation from Ashbourne Municipal District, as part of the Meath County Council 2018 twinning activities.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services confirmed that €1,000 was being made available towards activities to coincide with the visit by a delegation from Corcubion in April and that three Councillors and one official would travel to Corcubion in July. As Councillors Bonner, O'Driscoll and O'Rourke had not previously travelled, it was suggested that they would form the delegation. It was also suggested that if one of these Councillors were unable to travel, it would be appropriate for the Chair to be included, which would be decided at the AGM.

4.5.3 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District.

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The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

4.6 To consider and adopt the 2018 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Housing Department outlined the categories for housing maintenance and repair and explained the background to the allocations, including those managed centrally. It was pointed out that the proposed programme of works was based on the 2017 funding allocations, as the 2018 allocations had not yet been confirmed but should be similar to that in 2017.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The allocation of resources based on existing social housing provision and the impact on allocations in Ashbourne Municipal District.
- The provision of units arising from Part V – the complexity and general time taken to deliver Part V units was outlined. It was agreed to see what the current status was with regard to Part V delivery in Ashbourne Municipal District.
- The inclusion of units delivered by Approved Housing Bodies – it was pointed out that these were not included in the figures presented as they were not owned by Meath County Council and had no budgetary implication. However it was agreed to provide the numbers of these units.
- The timeframe for the energy upgrade of all housing stock in the Municipal District – it was confirmed that Phase I had been completed.
- The potential to develop sites on lands within existing council estates – it was pointed out that the four sites owned by the Council in Ashbourne Municipal District were not zoned residential and could not currently proceed. Reference was made to the current advertisement seeking expressions of interest for land and/or turnkey developments throughout the county, of which one was in Ashbourne Municipal District.
- The percentage of people on the housing list for homes within the Municipal District – it was confirmed that approximately 10-11% of those on the housing list were within Ashbourne Municipal District.

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Des Foley, Director of Service and John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department provided an overview of the breakdown of funding relating to transportation, the sources of funding and how these can be spent, the rationale for the allocations to the Municipal District and the central budgets that are allocated over the six municipal districts. The increase in funding to Ashbourne Municipal District was highlighted across a number of headings including footpath repairs and maintenance, drainage works and a pre-appraisal study for Primtestown. It was also pointed out that the figures presented did not include planned capital expenditure and changes to the CIS/LIS were outlined.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors welcomed the increased spend. Matters raised included:

- The need for new footpaths in a number of locations – it was pointed out that the primary focus was footpath repair/restoration and risk mitigation.
- The possibility of combining the CIS/LIS to facilitate works on public/private roads – it was confirmed that there was a precedent for this.
- The realistic timeframe for the delivery of works to resolve the issues at Primtestown – it was pointed out that this was one of 17 national projects that will be considered for funding to progress in 2019.
- The provision of pedestrian crossings at schools – it was pointed out that this was included in the capital programme.
- The need for a plan to improve Milltown Bridge.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** that Transportation would be invited to the March meeting to discuss the Brindley Park/Milltown Road projects – it was pointed out that NTA funding allocations had not yet been announced.

The 2018 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Ashbourne was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

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5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“In the interest of child safety, can I ask when the traffic warden in Ashbourne will be moved from the current position on Frederick Street to the Thomas Ashe roundabout on Castle Street?”

Response:

Transportation will need to arrange to assess the road safety issues at both locations before any relocation of resources is agreed as no additional school warden has been budgeted for, for 2018. Other measures may be appropriate at the junctions in question.

Once this assessment has been carried out, a report will be brought back to the Municipal District meeting.

The response was noted. It was pointed out that lights and a pedestrian crossing are proposed for Castle Street and that the warden would be moved to that location until such time as these were installed.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“Is Balrath Woods included within Meath’s Parks Bye-Laws 2014 for the purpose of dogs needing to be on their leads?”

Response:

It can be taken that the provision as contained in the Parks & Playgrounds Bye Laws outlined below applies to dogs within Balrath Woods:

f. A person shall not cause or allow any dangerous dog, as defined in the Control of Dogs (Restriction of certain dogs) Regulations, 1991 and 1998 or any subsequent amending Regulations or Act, in their charge to enter or remain in the park unless such dog is kept on a strong lead (only up to 2 metres long) by a person over 16 years of age who is capable of controlling them. The dog/s must be securely muzzled and no person shall, in

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any portion of the park where a notice prohibiting the admission of dogs, (other than guide dogs or dogs used by members of An Garda Síochána in the course of their duties) is exhibited, cause or allow any dog in their charge to enter or remain there.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"To ask Meath County Council the number of social and affordable houses currently planned for Ashbourne town and for a timeframe for expected delivery of same; and if they will outline the practical way the new schemes announced by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on 22nd January will improve access to affordable housing in the town in the time ahead."

Response:

Eighty five social units were delivered in 2017 through the various capital mechanisms available in the Ashbourne Municipal District, including Part V (11), acquisition programme (7) and through the Approved Housing Body sector (67).

In the absence of a land bank in the ownership of Meath County Council in Ashbourne, delivery of additional social units in the short term will be through the continued acquisition programme, Part V obligations and opportunities identified through the Approved Housing Body Sector.

An Expression of Interest has been issued to the market by Meath County Council seeking turnkey developments and land sites for the purposes of social housing, with a closing date of receipt of submissions set at 22nd February 2018. Lands identified through this process will also be considered in the context of the recent measures announced regarding affordable homes.

Furthermore, discussions are still ongoing between the Department of Education & Skills and the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government regarding the possible transfer of the Department of Education & Skills owned site in Ashbourne to Meath County Council. The site concerned could potentially yield up to 50 social units, while the opportunity to provide affordable housing through the recent measures announced would also be examined, subject to agreement on the site transfer between the two Departments concerned.

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The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Meath County Council progresses with putting in place a byelaw to allow for a designated taxi rank area in Ashbourne.”

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

Under Section 25 of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013 (No.37 of 2013), Meath County Council has the powers to make a byelaw in this regard. To allow us to proceed with this, we would request that the Members agree a list of preferred locations that can then be discussed with the Municipal District Engineer, with a view to finalising the ideal location for the taxi rank.

It was agreed to take Items 6.1 and 6.2 together.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

The process, which can take some time, was outlined and, whilst reference was made to a number of locations considered preferable by the local taxi company, Councillors agreed to undertake further consideration and consultation and revert to Transportation with suggested locations.

The motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Joe Bonner

“That, as a matter of urgency, Meath County Council appoints the places (“appointed stands”) at which taxis may stand for hire in Frederick Street, Ashbourne (in accordance with the Taxi Regulation act 2013) and to also include the erection and provision of the appropriate signage.”

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

Under Section 25 of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013 (No.37 of 2013), Meath County Council has the powers to make a byelaw in this regard. To allow us to proceed with this, we would request that the Members agree a list of preferred locations that can then be discussed with the Municipal District Engineer, with a view to finalising the ideal location for the taxi rank.

See Item 6.1.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Joe Bonner

“That Meath County Council identifies the N2 Brink Cross through TII’s HD15 safety process as requiring upgrading and the installation of public lighting and that Meath County Council submit a proposal and make an application for funding under this scheme.”

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

Transport Infrastructure Ireland’s HD15 Network Safety Ranking uses collision data to identify high collision locations on the national road network which the TII then forward to Meath County Council for review re possibly applying to the TII for funding for a road safety remedial scheme.

The TII carries out Network Safety Ranking on an annual basis by using the latest three years of collision data to estimate collision frequency and collision rates for the national road network taking into account traffic volumes.

High collision locations are identified and, following a review and site inspection by the TII’s Regional Road Safety Engineer, the high collision locations which may have a suitable engineering countermeasure are then forwarded to Meath County Council for assessment re possible implementation of road safety remedial schemes.

The section of the N2 at Rathdrinagh was shown as being twice below the average expected collision rate in 2017. The 2018 HD15 High collision locations have not yet been received from the TII.

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Note that a preliminary appraisal for a proposed lighting scheme at Rathdrinagh Cross on the N2 based on the advice contained in NRA TA 49/07 was carried out in March 2015. This concluded that this location does not meet the requirements for a new lighting scheme on a National Road.

It should be noted that there are no recorded personal injury road traffic accidents during the hours of darkness at this location and the overall recorded accident rate is 26% lower than expected based on national average figures for similar locations.

The motion was deferred to the March meeting due to Councillor Bonner's absence.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"To ask the Transportation and Planning Departments to engage with the new owners of the Ashbourne Retail Park to investigate the feasibility of providing a Park n' Ride facility within the location. This should form part of an overall parking and public transport strategy for Ashbourne. I can confirm that the new owners are willing to engage."

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

The Transportation and Planning Departments have agreed to meet to discuss this proposal and the overall parking and public transport plans for this area in advance of arranging contact with the owners of Ashbourne Retail Park.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

A short discussion followed on the parking issues in the town and the potential opportunity to provide a Park & Ride facility at the retail park.

The motion was adopted.

7 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

- 7.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 23rd January, 2018.



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The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise SPC meeting of 23rd January, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 24th January, 2018.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Due to his unavailability to attend meetings of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, he intended to step down as the Ashbourne Municipal District representative and requested that consideration be given to replace him but pointed out that the work of the Committee had limited relevance to the Municipal District. It was agreed to check with the Housing Department as to whether each municipal district was required to be represented on the committee.

- 9.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Requested that a letter issue to the HSE asking why the delivery of the primary care centre in Ashbourne had been delayed and whether the proposed facility had been downgraded.

- 9.3 Councillor Seán Smith raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Requested that a letter issue to the Boundary Commission acknowledging that the estate in Duleek formed part of the Duleek community and, for that reason, should be retained within Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District and that



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Baltrasna, as part of the Ashbourne community, should be contained within Ashbourne Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach