

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Parks Bye-Laws 2014

**BYE-LAWS FOR REGULATING THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS, PLAYING PITCHES AND MUGAS (MULTI USE GAMES AREAS)
OWNED BY, CONTROLLED BY OR IN THE CHARGE OF MEATH COUNTY
COUNCIL**

**Meath County Council
County Hall,
Railway St,
Navan,
Co Meath**

**MADE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ACT, 2001**

*Approved at Meath County Council Meeting held on Monday 7th
July 2014*

Come into Force 1st September 2014

Meath County Council 2014 Parks Bye-Laws

The following Bye-Laws, as set out, are made under Part 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

The Bye-Laws are intended to control, regulate, protect and manage the operation, and day-to-day use of Parks, Playgrounds, Recreational Playing Grounds, Sports Pitches and Multi Use Games Areas (M.U.G.A.s) which are owned, controlled by or in the charge of Meath County Council.

These Bye-Laws are in force to ensure that parks and all recreational playing grounds, together with their associated facilities, which are provided as public amenities, can be used by members of the public in an appropriate and safe manner.

**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
PARKS BYE-LAWS 2014.**

WHEREAS MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL being the local authority for the County of Meath has, by virtue of Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, power to make Bye-Laws in relation to the use, operation, protection, regulation or management of any land, services, or any other matter provided by or under the control or management of Meath County Council or in relation to any matter connected therewith.

BE IT KNOWN THAT MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL the Local Authority for the County of Meath, in exercise of said powers, hereby makes the following Bye-Laws for or in relation to the use, operation, protection, regulation, or management of parks, playgrounds, recreational playing grounds, sports pitches and multi use games areas (M.U.G.A.s) which are owned, controlled by or in the charge of Meath County Council and are wholly situated in the County of Meath.

1. **These Bye-Laws shall be cited as follows:** Meath County Council Parks Bye-Laws 2014.
2. **Commencement of Bye-Laws:** These Bye-Laws shall come into force on the 1st day of September 2014.
3. **Area of Application:** These Bye-Laws shall apply to the parks, playgrounds, sports pitches, recreational play areas and M.U.G.A.s which are owned, controlled by or in the charge of Meath County Council and within the functional area of the Council.

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1. Definitions:

- a.** "Park" shall include parks, both enclosed and unenclosed, recreational playing grounds, Multi Use Games Areas and playgrounds owned, leased by, controlled by or in the charge of Meath County Council.
- b.** "Council" means the Council of the County of Meath.
- c.** "Authorised person" "Employee of the Council" shall include every Supervising Official, Employee, or other person employed by and duly authorised by the Council to administer and enforce these bye-laws.
- d.** "Waters" shall include rivers, estuaries, streams, lakes, ponds, both artificial and natural, reservoirs, canals etc.
- e.** "Controlled drug" means any substance, product or preparation which is specified in the schedule to the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977 or any amending act or regulations.
- f.** "Horse" shall include donkey, mule and ass.
- g.** "Permission of the Council" means the permission in writing of an authorised person.
- h.** "Licence" has the same meaning as "Permission of the Council".
- i.** "Authorised Person" means a person authorised in writing by the Council.
- f.** "Hours of Darkness" shall mean the hours between sunset on any day and sunrise on the next day.

2. Persons to Whom Bye Laws Apply

All persons, to whom the following Bye-Laws apply, shall comply when called upon to do so, by signal or otherwise, by an employee or agent of the Council or by a member of An Garda Síochána.

3. Traffic

- a.** No person other than authorised officials and employees of the Council shall drive or allow to be driven or be a passenger in any mechanically propelled vehicle in any park save with the permission in writing of the Council and then only in such areas as may be designated by the Council.
- b.** Bye-law 3 (a) shall not apply to wheelchairs, perambulators or similar vehicles moved, drawn or propelled by hand or mechanically, which are used solely for the conveyance of children or disabled persons.

4. Animals

- a.** No person shall turn out to graze in a park, or allow or suffer to stray or remain in the park, any cattle, sheep, horse, or other animal without the consent in writing of the Council.
- b.** No person shall lead, walk or ride a horse in a park or allow themselves to be conveyed by a horse drawn vehicle.
- c.** Dogs brought into the Park must be on a leash and every person bringing a dog into the park shall be responsible for its conduct and shall be liable for any damage or injury which may be caused by it. Any person bringing a dog into the park must remove it from the park if so directed by an authorised person.
- d.** Every person in charge of a dog in the park shall prevent it from causing annoyance to any person using the park or worrying, chasing, injuring or disturbing any animals, birds or other creatures in the park.
- e.** If a dog defecates in the park, the person in charge of the dog shall remove the faeces. Guide dogs for the blind are exempt from this Bye- Law.
- 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 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.

5. General Regulations in Relation to Persons Using a Park:

No Person Shall:

- 5.1** Trample upon any flower bed or through any shrubbery, enclosed plantation or other enclosed land in the park.
- 5.2** Destroy or injure any tree, shrub or plant growing in the park or pluck, cut or remove any flower or any blossom or any fruit on any tree, shrub or plant growing therein.
- 5.3** Climb any tree or shrub in the park or climb any fence, railing or wall in the park.
- 5.4** Injure, disfigure, write graffiti on or mark any seat, chair, sculpture or structure, in the park.
- 5.5** Injure, deface, write graffiti on or disfigure or in any way interfere with any notice or notice-board in the park.
- 5.6** Deface, damage or otherwise interfere with any items of infrastructure provided to support the function of the park, including any surface, item of equipment, public light, boundary fence, goalpost, street furniture or any other structural item.
- 5.7** Take from the park or destroy or injure or otherwise interfere with any bird, bird's nest or bird's eggs in the park or ill-treat, worry or disturb any animal in the park.
- 5.8** Throw any missile in the park to damage property or endanger any other person or wildlife within the park.
- 5.9** Threaten, annoy, (including the use of obscene or profane language) or behave indecently with or towards any other person using or enjoying the park, within the confines or proximity of a park..
- 5.10** Take or remove any soil, sand, gravel, stone or timber from the park, save with the permission in writing of the Council.
- 5.11** Dump or dispose of any bottle, glass, china, tin, container, litter or other refuse in the park or into any watercourses/lakes that adjoin the parks or playgrounds except in receptacles provided for the purpose.
- 5.12** Defecate or urinate in the park.
- 5.13** Bring into the park any firearm, air gun, catapult or any other weapon.

- 5.14** Make any bonfire, fire or barbecue or light any firework in the park, save with the prior permission of the Council.
- 5.15** Resist, obstruct or interfere with any employee of the Council or other person in the exercise of his/her duty or disobey his lawful directions.
- 5.16** Operate in the park any model aircraft, model sailing vessel or any model mechanically propelled vehicle save with the permission in writing of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission.
- 5.17** Walk, swim, or bathe, in any of the waters in a park except in those areas where persons traditionally have tended to congregate for swimming.
- 5.18** Exercise or wash or allow any horse to enter any watercourses of any park and watercourses immediately adjacent to any park.
- 5.19** Erect any tent or camp in any part of any park or open space, save with the written permission of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission.
- 5.20** Place or keep any caravan, camper van or dormobile in any part of any park or open space save with the written permission of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission.
- 5.21** Enter or remain in any park or open space while under the influence of controlled drugs.
- 5.22** Consume, inject, inhale or otherwise absorb or have in their possession, controlled drugs or solvents in any park or open space.
- 5.23** Have in their possession, in a park, for the purpose of supply or consumption any alcohol, save with the permission in writing of the Council and subject to such conditions as the Council may prescribe. No person shall have in their possession, for the purpose of consumption any alcohol except in an area designated by the Council for that purpose.
- 5.24** Enter or remain in a park during the hours of darkness without written authorisation from the Council.
- 5.25** Above the appropriate age, specified on local playground signage, shall use any of the equipment or playing appliances in any children's playground specified by notice as being for the sole use of children of that specified age and under.
- 5.26** Refuse to leave a park on request to do by an Authorised Officer or by a member of An Garda Síochána.
- 5.27** Cycling, skateboarding, ballgames or similar activities are permitted within the playground unless otherwise stated.

5.28 Unless they are a family member, shall operate or use a camera, camera phone, video or any other video media device in a playground without the authorisation of the Council.

5.29 Smoke tobacco or tobacco related products including cigarettes, cigars or pipes in a playground area, or within close proximity to children's play equipment.

6. Regulated and Controlled Activities

6.1 Trading in the Park:

Save with the permission in writing of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of permission, no person shall sell, offer, offer for hire, or expose for sale in the park any commodity of any kind whatsoever or exhibit any sign, poster, handbill, or other notice in the park or engage therein in the business of taking photographs for payment.

6.2 Advertising

No person shall display any advertisement, or erect, exhibit, affix, chalk or paint any picture, bill, placard, banner, tract or notice in any open space or on any wall, fence or hedge enclosing any park or open space without the written permission of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission.

6.3 Games and Athletics:

(a) No person, club or organisation shall organise or take part in the game of football or any other game or athletics when an employee of the Council considers the ground to be unfit for such use.

(b) Any person, club or organisation contravening any of the bye-laws set out in 6.3(a) may be liable to have playing facilities withdrawn.

(c) No person shall act or behave in such a manner so as to prevent or disrupt playing of the game of football or any other game or athletics in areas of the park designated by the Council for that purpose.

7. Licences and Letting Agreements:

Every licence and letting agreement granted to any person, club or organisation for the specific occupation by such person, club or organisation of any portion of the park shall be in accordance with such conditions as shall be laid down by the Council from time to time provided always that the Council shall be entitled to add conditions to existing licenses.

8. Obstruction:

- a.** No person shall resist, obstruct or interfere with any employee or agent of the Council or other person in the exercise of his/her duty or disobey his/her lawful directions.
- b.** Nothing in these Bye-laws shall interfere with or affect or prevent the carrying on of any work or duty in connection with any park or open space by employees or agents of the Council or by a contractor instructed by the Council or by an employee of any such contractor.

9. Offences:

- 9.1** It shall be lawful for any authorised person or agent of the Council or for any member of An Garda Síochána to enforce these bye-laws and to exclude or remove from any park or recreational playing ground any person committing any breach of the above bye-laws and to take any other such action as may be deemed necessary in the enforcing of these bye-laws.
- 9.2** Any person offending against any of the above bye-laws may be removed from the park and shall on summary conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding €1,905.
- 9.3** A person who contravenes a provision of these bye-laws shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €1,905.
- 9.4** If the contravention of a provision of these bye-laws is continued after conviction, the person causing the contravention shall be guilty of a further offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €126 per day.
- 9.5** An authorised person may request any person who appears to be contravening or to have contravened a provision of these bye-laws to leave the park or to refrain from any activity and may remove any person failing to comply with such request.
- 9.6** A person who obstructs or impedes or refuses to comply with a request of an authorised person acting in the exercise of the functions conferred on an authorised person by these bye-laws shall be guilty of an offence.
- 9.7** Where an authorised person is of the opinion that a person is committing or has committed an offence to which the bye-laws relate, the authorised person may demand the name and address of such person and if this demand is refused or the person gives a name or address which is false or misleading, the person shall be guilty of an offence.

- 9.8** Where a member of An Garda Síochána is of the opinion that a person is committing or has committed an offence to which these bye- laws relate, that member may arrest the person without warrant.
- 9.9** An offence under these bye- laws may be prosecuted by the Council, which made the relevant bye-law, or by a member of An Garda Síochána.
- 9.10** A person may be served with a notice specifying a fixed payment, not exceeding €75, in respect of a contravention of a bye-law as an alternative to a prosecution for the contravention. Notice of the fixed payment shall be in the general form of the notice set out in the First Schedule to these Bye-Laws.
- 9.11** A person who repeatedly contravenes the Bye-Laws may be barred from the recreational facilities by the Council

10. Commencement:-

These Bye-Laws shall come into force on 1st day of September 2014

Present when the Official Seal of
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL Was
hereunto affixed.

**MEATH COUNTY
COUNCIL**

PARKS BYE-

LAWS FIRST

SCHEDULE

FIXED PAYMENT NOTICE FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 41 OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1994 (BYE-LAW NUMBER----

NAME OF LOCAL AUTHORITY: **MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**

To: Name: _____

Address: _____

It is alleged that you have contravened the provisions of bye-laws made under Part
19 of the Local Government Act, 2001 entitled Meath County Council Parks Bye-
Laws 2014 by

.....
.....

..... (in general terms specify nature of contravention) at

..... on

.....

During the period of 21 days beginning on the date of this notice you may pay the
sum of Euro, accompanied by this notice, at the offices of the local
authority named in this notice located at County Hall, Railway St, Navan, Co Meath

A prosecution in respect of the alleged contravention will not be instituted during the
said period and if the sum of Euro is paid during that period, no
prosecution will be instituted at any time.

Signed Date
..... (Authorised Person)

Important: Payment will be accepted at the offices of the Local Authority
specified above and must be accompanied by this notice.
Payment may be made by post. Cheques etc. should be made

payable to **MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**. A receipt will be given.

You are entitled to disregard this notice and defend the prosecution of the alleged contravention in court.