

# **MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**



## **WATER BYE-LAWS 2007**

**Bye-Laws for preventing the waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of drinking water supplied by Meath County Council**

**MADE UNDER PART 19  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001  
Resolution passed by Members of Meath County  
Council at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007.**

**Meath County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001) and every other power it enabling hereby make the following Bye-Laws relating to the management and conservation of drinking water in its administrative area. These byelaws are to prevent the waste, misuse, undue consumption or contamination of the public drinking water supply.**

## **PART 1 PRELIMINARY**

**Short Title:** These Bye-Laws may be cited as **Meath County Council Water Bye-Laws 2007.**

**Area of Application:** These Bye-Laws shall apply to the administrative area of Meath County Council.

**Date of Commencement:** 8th October 2007

### **1.1.1 Definitions. In these Bye-Laws**

1.1.2 **'Approval'** means approval in writing by the Water Services Department, Meath County Council.

1.1.3 **'Authorised Person'** means a person who is authorised in writing by Meath County Council for the purpose of these Bye-Laws.

1.1.4 **'Bulk Water Meter'** means a meter for measuring the total (bulk) volume of water which is being delivered to a Development.

1.1.5 **'Conditions of connection means'** the conditions as issued from time to time by Meath County Council in relation to connections of developments to public water supplies.

1.1.6 **'Customer'** means any person or body who is supplied with water by Meath County Council or its agents or who is applying to the Council or its agents in relation to a water supply

1.1.7 **'Development'** means a development within the meaning of Planning and Development Acts 2000-2006

1.1.8 **'Displacement device or equivalent'** means a displacement device fitted in a WC cistern to reduce the quantity of water used in a flushing cycle.

1.1.9 **'Domestic premises'** means any building or part of a building used by a person as his or her place of private residence (whether as his or her principal place of such residence or not) and includes accommodation provided in such a residence to one or more students to enable them to pursue their studies but does not include any part of a building used for the provision, for the purposes of reward, with a view to profit or otherwise in the course of business, of accommodation, including self catering accommodation, (other than accommodation provided in a place of private residence aforesaid to one or more students for the purposes aforesaid) unless the person to whom the accommodation is so provided uses the accommodation as his or her principal place of private residence.

1.1.10 **'Free Flow Meter'** means a water meter which does not impede or restrict the free flow of water in a watermain.

1.1.11 **'Housing Estate'** means an estate consisting of a multiple of buildings primarily provided for residential use, including houses, flats and apartments.

- 1.1.12 **'Long Service'** means a service pipe greater than 100m in length from the connection to the public watermain to the customer's premises.
- 1.1.13 **'Material of an appropriate quality or standard means'**
- a) it bears an appropriate CE marking in accordance with the Directive;
  - b) it conforms to an appropriate harmonized standard or European technical approval;
  - c) it conforms to an appropriate Irish or British Standard or some other national specification of an EEA State which provides an equivalent level of protection and performance: or
  - d) it conforms to a specification approved by the Water Services Department
- 1.1.14 **'Meter'** means a device which measures and/or records the rate of water flow in a watermain.
- 1.1.15 **'Non-Domestic Premises'** means any building or part of a building and site or lands which is not a domestic premises as defined in these Bye-Laws.
- 1.1.16 **'Occupier'** means the person or persons occupying the premises whether owner, lessee, tenant or any other person having, for the time being, control of the premises.
- 1.1.17 **'Water fit for Human Consumption'** means drinking water or potable water supplied by the Council and complying with the requirements of EU law as incorporated in national legislation.
- 1.1.18 **'Service Pipe'** means so much of any pipe (including a branch pipe) for supplying water from the public watermain to any premises and which is subject to water pressure from that watermain, or would be so subject but for the closing of some valve.
- 1.1.19 **'Stop Tap(valve & meter) Box'** means an enclosure (usually placed in a footpath) or box, into which devices can be placed to control, measure or monitor the water supply entering a premises.
- 1.1.20 **'Stopvalve' or 'Stopcock'**, means valves, other than a servicing valve, fitted in a customer supply pipe for controlling or stopping at will the flow of water.
- 1.1.21 **'The Council'** means Meath County Council.
- 1.1.22 **'Water Audit'** means a statement by a competent person or body (acceptable to the Council) to be submitted to the Council in respect of an existing non-domestic premises to which a Water Conservation Policy Statement applies as provided for in Part 3 hereof..
- 1.1.23 **'Water Conservation Policy Statement'** means a statement by a competent person or body (acceptable to the Council) to be submitted to the Council for approval in relation to an existing non-domestic premises as provided for in Part 3 hereof.
- 1.1.24 **'Water Management and Conservation Plan'** means a plan prepared by a competent person or body (acceptable to the Council) to be submitted to the Council for approval prior to the commencement of any Development (other than construction of a single dwelling or extension to an existing dwelling) as provided for in Part 3 hereof.
- 1.1.25 **'Water Services Department'** means the administrative divisions of Meath County Council responsible for the supply of water to domestic and non-domestic premises.
- 1.1.26 **'WC Suite'** means any suite consisting of a flushing cistern and pan or urinal into which water is discharged.

## **PART 2 PROTECTION OF WATER SUPPLY**

### **Obligations applicable to all premises (Domestic and Non-Domestic):**

#### **2.1 A customer shall ensure that:**

- 2.1.1 All work associated with the provision of a water supply to a domestic or a non-domestic premises complies with the requirements of these Bye-Laws.
- 2.1.2 A new or additional water supply or connection to the Council water distribution network complies with the requirements set out in the Meath County Council 'Conditions of Connection'
- 2.1.3 The water distribution system in his/her/its premises meets the requirements of the Water Services Department and is maintained so as to protect public health, prevent leakage and conserve water.
- 2.1.4 Approval is obtained from the Council prior to the laying of any new watermain or the making of a connection to an existing watermain or connecting a supply pipe to the Council's water supply.
- 2.1.5 All materials and fittings used in the provision of a water supply to a domestic or non-domestic premises are:
  - a) of an appropriate quality and standard, and
  - b) suitable for the circumstances in which they are used.
- 2.1.6 Any additional pipe, fitting or apparatus connected to any installation supplied with water by the Council including any alteration to any existing pipe, fitting or apparatus is carried out by a competent person in accordance with the requirements of these Bye-Laws and that the prior Approval of the Council is obtained in advance of any proposed major or significant additions or alterations to such pipe fitting or apparatus.
- 2.1.7 The section of the service pipe which extends from the street control stopvalve or stop tap box to the boundary of his/her/its premises is properly maintained and any renewal of the said section of service pipe is carried out in accordance with the Council's requirements
- 2.1.8 Following on installation, renewal, repair of the service pipe the system is tested, flushed and disinfected to ensure removal of debris including excess flux in accordance with the requirements of the Water Services Department.
- 2.1.9 All water systems contain an adequate device or devices to prevent the occurrence of backflow.
- 2.1.10 Any apparatus which would have the effect of rendering drinking water unfit for human consumption is not fitted.
- 2.1.11 The fitting of a pump to the direct water supply from the public mains is undertaken only with the Approval of and in accordance with the requirements of the Water Services Department.
- 2.1.12 His/Her/Its premises is fitted with a cold water storage facility adequate and appropriate for the use of the premises and in accordance with the Council's requirements and is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines or other best practice.
- 2.1.13 The water supplied to his/her/its premises for drinking purposes does not deteriorate to such an extent that it is no longer suitable for human consumption.

- 2.1.14 All fire hydrants are located underground and are of a type approved by the Chief Fire Officer of Meath County Council.
- 2.1.15 Authorised Persons, Employees or Agents of the Council are afforded access to his/her/its premises at all reasonable times to interrupt or inspect the water supply and/or carry out works in order to protect public health or at any time in cases where in the opinion of the Council, an emergency exists.
- 2.1.16 Where a meter is provided on his/her/its premises access is afforded to the premises at all reasonable times to Authorised persons, Employees or Agents of the Council for the purposes of reading, inspecting, disconnecting or removing the meter(s) and for any other purpose in connection with the supply of water.
- 2.1.17 Where the Council requires, in accordance with the provisions of any relevant Statute or Regulation, to disconnect the water supply that it is facilitated to do so.

### **PART 3 WATER CONSERVATION**

#### **Obligations applicable to all premises (Domestic and Non-Domestic):**

#### **3.1 A customer shall ensure that:**

- 3.1.1 A Water Management and Conservation Plan is submitted to and approved of by the Council in advance of commencing any development other than development comprising the construction of a new single dwelling or extension to an existing single dwelling save where the requirement to furnish such a plan is waived in writing by the Council. Such Plan shall set out details of how best practice in water conservation shall be applied in respect of the proposed development to include water mains and internal plumbing and how water wastage, leaks or excessive consumption may be identified and remedied.
- 3.1.2 Each WC suite installed in a newly constructed premises or in a premises converted from another use has a maximum flush of 6 litres using a multi flush or a single flush facility.
- 3.1.3 Each new WC suite installed in an existing premises, whether it is an additional WC suite or a replacement for an existing suite, has a maximum flush of 6 litres using a multi flush or a single flush facility.
- 3.1.4 Each WC cistern with a volume in excess of 6litres is fitted with a displacement device or equivalent with the objective of achieving water conservation save where, in the opinion of the Council, this is not feasible.
- 3.1.5 Each new domestic premises is fitted with a Stop Tap Box.
- 3.1.6 The water mains in new housing estates have incorporated therein a Bulk Water Meter in accordance with such requirements as may be issued from time to time by the Council.

- 3.1.7 Unless approval is obtained from the Council, water is not discharged through a hosepipe (sprinkler or similar fitting) for use either inside or outside any premises during periods of drought as defined by the Council.
- 3.1.8 Fire hydrants or other water supplies laid on solely for fire fighting purposes are not used for any other purpose.
- 3.1.9 Plumbing systems and all fittings used in the supply of water are of a type designed to achieve water conservation.
- 3.1.10 Washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances are economic in the use of water and plumbed in a manner that achieves the objective of conserving water and in accordance with the Council's requirements.
- 3.1.11 The Council is facilitated in installing a meter where it considers this necessary for the purposes of managing or conserving water.
- 3.1.12 Any hand held hosepipe used is fitted with a self-closing mechanism at the outlet of the hosepipe.
- 3.1.13 Porous hose irrigation systems or soil watering systems using fixed sprinkler heads are not used without the Approval of the Council.

**Additional obligations in relation to Non-Domestic Premises:**

- 3.2 **A customer shall ensure that:**
  - 3.2.1 Where it is an occupier of any premises and has been requested by the Council to submit for its approval a Water Conservation Policy Statement that such statement is submitted, within a period not exceeding 3 months from the date of request and that the statement sets out details of all water mains supplying the premises, the internal plumbing arrangements, a full list of all water using appliances with their capacities and consumption rates and details of any leaks on the premises and how such leaks can be protected and repaired. The statement shall also include details of any water recycling and reuse provided on the premises.
  - 3.2.2 Where the customer is an occupier of premises and has submitted a Water Conservation Policy Statement, to submit a new Statement every 3 years thereafter or at such other times as may be determined by the Council.
  - 3.2.3 Where he/she/it is an occupier of premises in respect of which a Water Conservation Policy Statement has been submitted to the Council to carry out and submit to the Council at least in every calendar year, a Water Audit including details of all water using equipment installed in the premises, the number of staff employed in the premises and an estimate of daily water requirements for the following year which Audit would identify any leaks or excessive use of water and identify how such leaks or excessive use is to be repaired / reduced.
  - 3.2.4 The maximum permitted usage of water which may be stipulated from time to time by the Council is not exceeded without Approval from the Council.
  - 3.2.5 The premises is connected to a flow meter or such other mechanism for measuring or recording the water flow in a water main as may be the subject of an Approval from the Council.
  - 3.2.6 Automatic flushing cisterns are provided in the premises and installed in a manner that achieves the objective of conserving water.

- 3.2.7 Free Flow Meters, of a type approved by the Council, are installed in all fire mains save where the Approval of the Council is obtained otherwise..
- 3.2.8 A hosepipe is not used for the purpose of washing vehicles, watering gardens or shrubs or any such purpose except where the use of the hosepipe is essential to the business being carried out and Approval is obtained from the Council. .

#### **PART 4 OFFENCES.**

- 4.1 A person who contravenes any provision of these Bye-Laws shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €1,900
- 4.2 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 €125.00 per day.
- 4.3 An authorised person may request any person who appears to be contravening or to have contravened a provision of these Bye-Laws to refrain from such contravention and that person shall comply with the request of the authorised person.
- 4.4 A person who refuses to comply with the request of an authorised person or who obstructs or impedes an authorised person in the exercise of his/her functions under these Bye-Laws shall be guilty of an offence.
- 4.5 Where an authorised person is of the opinion that a person is committing or has committed an offence in relation to the provisions of these Bye-Laws, the authorised person may demand the name and address of such person and if that demand is refused or the person gives a name or address which is false or misleading, that person shall be guilty of an offence.
- 4.6 Where an offence under these Bye-Laws is committed by a body corporate and the offence is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, that officer or person, as well as the body, shall be guilty of the offence.
- 4.7 Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, Section 4.6 shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his or her functions of management as if he or she were a director of the body corporate.
- 4.8 The Council may issue a person or body corporate that contravenes any provision of these Bye-Laws with a Fixed Payment Notice specifying that if an amount of € 75 is paid within 21 days of the date on which the Notice was issued, the Council shall not proceed with a prosecution. Notice of the fixed payment shall be in the general form of the notice in the First Schedule to these Bye-Laws.

**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL  
WATER BYE-LAWS 2007**

**FIXED PAYMENT NOTICE FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 206  
OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001**

**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 Water Bye-Laws 2007

.....  
by.....  
.....

(in general terms specify nature of contravention) at

.....  
on ..... . During this period of 21 days beginning on the date of this notice you may pay the sum of €75, producing/attaching this notice, at any of the offices of Meath County Council which are located at (1)County Hall, Railway Street, Navan,(2) Town Hall, Watergate Street, Navan, (3) Mornington House, Summerhill Road, Trim, (4) Town Hall, Headfort Place, Kells, (5) Civic Offices, Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin, (6) Civic Offices, Town Centre, Ashbourne and (7) Civic Offices, Main Street, Duleek

A prosecution in respect of the alleged contravention will not be instituted during the said period and if the sum of €75 is paid during that period, no prosecution will be instituted at any time in respect of the said alleged offence.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorised Officer)

**IMPORTANT:**      Payment will be accepted at any of the offices of Meath County Council 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.