



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 21st February, 2018, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Francis Deane, Padraig Fitzsimons, Wayne Forde, Jim Holloway, Joe Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Executive Engineer: Paul O'Brien

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 24th January, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 24th January, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

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

4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of Land at Moathill, Navan, Co. Meath.



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This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for water cuts to prevent damage to roads caused by flooding – Councillors were asked to submit locations for water cuts, which would be undertaken in the coming weeks.
- The deadline for hedge cutting – this was confirmed as being the end of February and notices have been served for a number of locations.
- Queried whether Blackwater Park maintenance included the maintenance of trees overhanging gardens in Silverlawns – it was confirmed that this was not included but that an arborologist report would be prepared identifying trees causing issues.
- The poor condition of Neilstown Road – it was pointed out that this was included in the CIS.
- Signage in Dunderry – it was confirmed that the statutory signage was in place but that the stone sign, which had been in poor condition, had been removed with the agreement of the Tidy Towns group.
- The derelict site on Flower Hill attracting anti-social behaviour.
- Requested that the OPW be contacted in relation to the tree on Flower Hill.



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- 5.1.2 To consider a report on the proposal for the Extinguishment of Public Right of Way on the footway between no's 142-143 Ferndale estate, Navan, Co. Meath.

A report was circulated at the meeting, outlining the submissions received and recommendations. Following a short discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde** to defer this item to the March meeting.

5.2 Corporate Services

- 5.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan Municipal District.

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

5.3 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:

- Welcomed the increased efficiencies achieved in the maintenance of the housing stock.
- Requested clarification around the allocation of the halting site maintenance budget and the planned capital works for St. Francis's Park – it was confirmed that the maintenance budget was for routine maintenance in both St. Francis's Park and St. Patrick's Park including repairs, clean up, etc.
- The need to expedite works in St. Francis's Park to avail of the funding allocation made – it was pointed out that agreement still had to be reached with residents but that discussions at the end of 2017 had resulted in agreement for a proposal, for which a design was now being prepared. This would be brought back to residents and a Part VIII to the Municipal District.



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The agreed proposal included houses and cultural accommodation suitable to a halting site.

- The cost of dealing with illegal occupations.
- The status of the energy efficiency upgrade programme – it was confirmed that all works relating to attic insulation and pumping walls had been completed with door and window replacement to follow, prioritising wooden and single glazed units. Phase II works would involve a deep retrofit, e.g. external insulation, boiler replacement, etc. Phase I works to be completed countywide before Phase II works to commence.
- The numbers of social housing units delivered and planned for the Municipal District – these were outlined, with a total of 207 units to be delivered over the next two years by the local authority and Approved Housing Bodies. This figure excludes further direct acquisitions, pre-lets, casual vacancies and Fearganstown.
- The possibility of using the large green area, c. 2 acres, to the front of Reask Green and the soccer pitch at Claremont for social housing – it was pointed out that the zoning would need to be appropriate and consultations would be required with residents so these may be considered in the longer term. It was confirmed that expressions of interest had been sought for land banks/turnkey developments countywide to ensure a consistent supply from 2021 onwards.
- The potential for housing on the Council owned land on the approach road to Scoil Naomh Eoin – it was pointed out that, given the amount of social housing in the area, this site may be suitable for affordable housing in the future, for which a national strategy is imminent. Other groups have also expressed an interest in this site.
- The provision of suitable housing to meet particular needs, e.g. elderly – reference was made to the Disability Strategy, which states that at least 5% of units delivered under Part V and in the right locations be disability/elderly friendly. Housing also participate in relevant pre-planning meetings.

The Mayor congratulated the Housing Team on their work.



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Des Foley 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 Navan Municipal District was highlighted across a number of headings particularly footpath repairs and maintenance and drainage works. Planned capital projects were also outlined, as were changes to the CIS/LIS. Two capital projects are planned for construction in 2018, i.e. the Cantilever bridge and the upgrade of the junction on the N51/R147 at the fire station.

Matters raised included:

- Welcomed the increased funding.
- The timeframe for the implementation of the Navan 2030 plan – it was confirmed that this was a priority scheme, with the detailed design process, programming and procurement ongoing with a view to some elements commencing in 2019.
- The need for pedestrian safety measures at the Round O roundabout – it was pointed out that the timing for works at this location was paramount with regard to traffic management.
- The planned works in Blackwater Park- it was confirmed that the cost for the procurement and design of facilities was included in the capital programme with plans also to tender for a coffee dock facility.
- The road closures required to undertake works on the Cantilever Bridge and at the fire station junction – it was confirmed that works would be timed to alleviate impacts with summer works included.
- The need for road maintenance and repairs in estates.
- The reduced street sweeping budget – it was pointed out that the street sweeping programme would continue as normal.



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- The need to provide for adequate pedestrian and cycling access on the Kentstown Road.
- The request received from St. Joseph's Secondary School for a pedestrian crossing on Brews Hill.

The 2018 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Navan was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Prior to Irish Water, Meath County Council called out to houses with sewage flowing out from a blocked sewer connector and the problem would be resolved within minutes. Now, when a member of the public calls Irish Water regarding sewage overflowing, Irish Water say that they cannot enter onto private property and, in most cases, a private contractor will have to be called to fix the problem. Where are all the long rod pipes and other unblocking equipment that were used by Council staff now stored? Are the long rod pipes and unblocking equipment still in the ownership of Meath County Council? Were the staff that were assigned to these duties prior to Irish Water redeployed?"

Response:

Meath County Council is no longer the Water Services Authority for County Meath. Irish Water now has the responsibility for the provision of water services nationally. Meath County Council acts as an agent for Irish Water and provides services on behalf of Irish Water in accordance with their procedures and protocols.

*While previously the Council did assist property owners with sewer blockages on their properties, it is now Irish Waters clear policy that they can only maintain **public** sewers.*

Irish Water has a document on their website outlining pipe responsibility and it can be found at the following location;

<https://www.water.ie/docs/IW-Pipe-Responsibility-2017.pdf>



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The staff employed to carry out the clearing of blockages are still responsible for the maintenance of the extensive public sewer network and still use their equipment for such purposes. They are also now more involved in the maintenance of a number of sewage treatment plants and pumping stations.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Could I please request details of:

- a) how many tenants in the Navan Municipal District are registered under the HAP scheme for 2017 and
- b) what are the projected figures for residential units to be delivered in the Navan Municipal area (in relation to housing agencies such as Cluid and Tuath) in 2018?”

Response:

- a) *In 2017, 331 HAP tenancies were set up in the Navan Municipal District area;*
- b) *Based on current approved projects, 90 units are to be delivered in 2018 by Approved Housing Bodies in Navan.*

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“Can the Executive confirm the projected time line for upgrading the green areas outside Scoil Naomh Eoin and if the school has been contacted and asked to work with the council on this worthy project?”

Response:

It is proposed that site clearance and landscape improvement works to the area preceding the entrance to Scoil Naomh Eoin on the rhs on approach from the Clonmagadden Road shall take place in the Spring period of 2018 when ground



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conditions are more favourable to this type of works. The proposed works to be carried out shall consist of clearance of old bushes/overgrowth, profiling of open space area, introduction of topsoil, seeding and the planting of some trees.

The response was noted. Councillor Sinéad Burke requested clarification on the costs associated with undertaking works on both sides be prepared to facilitate Councillors in contributing under the Municipal District Allocation scheme.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“Can the Executive outline the roles and responsibilities of Iarnród Éireann regarding dumping and overgrowth on tracts of land in their ownership in the Navan area? Has our relationship improved or otherwise in recent years in requesting works to be done and what, if anything, can be done to make these requests more successful?”

Response:

The Council are in occasional contact with Iarnród Éireann in respect of dumping and littering, which is visible from the public road and most recently in Navan as part of the Clean Up Navan Campaign when they sent personnel to participate in a clean up at the crossings on the Commons and Windtown Roads. The Company state that, in general, they take a proactive approach to litter and dumping, and will follow up directly on complaints by visiting the site and removing waste where it occurs on land in their charge.

With regard to overgrowth, Irish Rail state that they manage vegetation control on a priority programme basis. They try to cover the total network at least twice a year, for more info on this go to <http://www.irishrail.ie/about-us/trees-vegetation>.

The response was noted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

“What is the position on street cleaning in the Navan Town Centre, specifically with regard to holiday periods and weekends?”

Response:



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The normal protocol for street cleaning in Navan at weekends is for 4 operatives to attend to the central areas of the town; 2 hours on Saturday morning from 6am to 8am and 3 hours on Sunday morning from 6am to 9am. 2 operatives attend to bin maintenance and 2 operatives attend to direct litter picking on the streets and footways whilst also being available to attend to non-regular incidents of dumping or waste accumulation.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive to erect gates in Silverlawns at the alleyways between 176 and 177 leading to 129 and 128 , also alleyway from 90C and 90 leading to 11 and Adam Gayles on the Rathauldron Road to allow controlled access for the residents and service users to discourage anti social behaviour in these alleyways during the hours of darkness.”

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

There are currently no plans to erect gates on the mentioned walkways as this would require the existing public rights of way to be extinguished. The current County Development Plan contains aspirations of pedestrian permeability in existing and new housing developments and removing current pedestrian routes could be seen to be a direct contradiction of this requirement.

Navan Municipal District has discussed the option of upgrading the existing public lighting system with the dedicated Public Lighting Team in the Transportation Section with a view to including Silverlawns Estate on its future capital upgrade plans which would introduce a better standard of lighting to the mentioned areas and lead to better social oversight.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

It was agreed to defer this motion until such time as Item 5.1.2 was finalised.



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The motion was deferred.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive to address the issue of trees from Blackwater water Park becoming overgrown , blocking Light , and restricting plant growth in the rear of the gardens of residents houses of the Silverlawns estate that back on to the Park.”

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

The condition of the trees in Blackwater Park along the boundary with Silverlawns estate shall be considered in the next assessment to be carried out by a County Council appointed Arborologist and recommendations addressed at that stage.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That this Council will, at the earliest convenience, install an accessible parking bay big enough to accommodate a mini bus at either or both of the following locations: Outside the gates of Blackwater Park and/or inside the car park within Blackwater Park.”

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

Navan Municipal District shall investigate this proposal and revert with a recommendation of best solution in the near future.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

The motion was adopted.



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7.4 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That the Engineer will examine the viability and cost of upgrading the current signal-less pedestrian crossing from Columban's Crescent to Beaufort College.”

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

Navan Municipal District shall investigate and assess this proposal and revert with findings in the near future.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I propose that Navan Municipal District gives permission to Johnstown Tidy Towns Association to erect 'Welcome to Johnstown' signage on the green areas in Johnstown Wood/Metges Road. Also permission was given, through Navan Town Council, to erect signage for Johnstown Wood Avenue some five years ago but this signage as yet has not been erected.”

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

Navan Municipal District shall require to see a plan which contains proposals and details of signage and their intended locations before any permission can be granted. Navan Municipal District Transportation Operations Sections is open to working with Community Groups with regard to proposals which enhance such areas and looks forward to the receipt of any such proposals.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.



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7.6 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District will write to owners of derelict sites within Navan Municipal District to secure their properties and that Navan Municipal District will investigate the possibility of passing a by law to enforce property owners to take responsibility for their derelict properties, several of which are targeted for fires or anti social behaviour.”

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

Where the Council receive complaints about properties which have fallen into a derelict state and which lends itself to easy access contact is made with the owners and seeking initially, and as a minimum to have measures taken to secure the site and to prevent access by persons who may be intent in engaging in anti social behaviour thereon.

While in many cases this approach has the desired effect there are circumstances where co-operation is not fort coming and stronger action is required in the form of statutory notices served under the Derelict Sites or Dangerous Structures Legislation . It is submitted that this legislation provides for penalties where the owners fail to comply with the requests and without the need to make any additional bye-laws.

The Council will respond on a case by case basis to complaints received about derelict properties where security of access is not provided for and which facilitates anti social behaviour as a result.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**.

As short discussion followed, outlining relevant information including the assignment of an engineer to dealing with derelict sites, the appointment of a Vacant Homes Officer and regulations allowing the conversion of former retail units to residential accommodation without the need for planning permission.

The motion was noted.



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7.7 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

"Meath County Council will restore road pavement and footpaths at The Grove Athlumney."

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

The roads and footpaths in The Grove estate shall be examined and assessed in accordance with the 'Pavement Condition Survey' and 'Footpath Condition Survey' parameters that are set in place on a Nationwide basis by the Pavement Management System under the Roads Management Office and recommendations brought forward for action if deemed to be required.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7.8 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

"That Navan Municipal District calls on the Executive of Meath County Council to meet with the owners of commercial derelict sites in Navan so to ascertain what plans if any they may have to upgrade their properties."

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

The Council do engage in discussions with the owners of various commercial properties in Navan and which have fallen into a derelict or unsightly state and will continue such engagement in respect of any additional properties coming to our attention. Such discussions initially seek to ascertain details of any development proposals the owners may have for the properties and to facilitate early preplanning where same is required. .

The Council will consider using the processes prescribed in the Derelict Sites Act where the initial contacts are not achieving the desired results.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

Councillor Joe Reilly referred to the need for the Executive to bring together the relevant people to outline a vision for Navan and the opportunities that exist to work together.

The motion was adopted.

7.9 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to seek funding for the upgrading and resurfacing of roads in Abbey Grove, specifically to cover the works at the second turn on the left hand side of the estate.”

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

Works consisting of the improvement to the structure and condition of the mentioned road in Abbey Grove Estate is proposed to be included in the draft Schedule of Municipal District Works plan for Navan which is to be considered by the Members at the February meeting of Navan Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.

7.10 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to seek funding for the upgrading and resurfacing of part of the road from Bohermeen to Greetiagh, specifically where the road had previously been covered with an anti skid surface.”

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



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Works consisting of the improvement to the structure and condition of the mentioned road at Bohermeen is proposed to be included in the draft Schedule of Municipal District Works plan for Navan which is to be considered by the Members at the February meeting of Navan Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was adopted.

7.11 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

“Calling on Meath County Council to connect the lights at Abbeylands Rathaldron road junction to the SCAT system.”

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

The traffic signals at the Ratholdren Rd/N51 junction can be connected to the SCAT system. Meath County Council are currently looking at the potential works involved in connecting this junction to the existing SCAT system. When the costs are known and funding can be sourced, it would be the intention of Meath County Council to undertake these works.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was adopted.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

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

The report was noted.

8.2 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise SPC meeting



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of 23rd January, 2018.

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

9.1 Copy of Submission to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Requested that Councillors on the Board of Aura Leisure Centre highlight the plan prepared for landscaping works at Scoil Naomh Eoin.

10.1.2 Requested an update on the second sign for St. Mary's Park.

10.1.3 Requested an update on the review of the junction at Balreask Arms – it was confirmed that this was included in the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

10.1.4 The provision of a pedestrian crossing at Metges Road, Johnstown – it was pointed out that this may be on the 2018 programme.

10.2 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issue:

10.2.1 The poor condition of the green area at Ferndale.

10.3 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issues:

10.3.1 The need for businesses to present waste properly to prevent litter pollution,



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e.g. on Watergate Street.

10.3.2 The initiative underway in Carrick-on-Shannon, as part of the Purple Flag initiative, whereby young people collect litter for a nominal fee.

10.4 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

10.4.1 The damaged pipe under the bridge at Andy Brennan Park causing surface water onto the pedestrian path.

10.4.2 The tree on the right hand side on Flower Hill requires attention.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára