



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ratoath Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9:30a.m., 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Maria O'Kane, Gillian Toole.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Des Foley

**Executive Engineer:** Philip Traynor

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation and Pat Shore, Assistant Engineer, Planning provided an update on the works in Ratoath, on which a report had previously been requested. It was pointed out that, as a contract dispute resolution process, for which a conciliator had been appointed, was underway, limited discussion could take place and the final costs were not yet known. The role of the consultants was outlined. A short discussion followed where Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at certain elements of the works. Reference was made to specific issues with responses provided.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald requested an update on the Dunboyne & Environs Transport Assessment Report. It was confirmed that the NTA had sought further information with a further meeting planned for next week. It was pointed out that the issues raised were not considered insurmountable and that progress was being made, including a recognition by the NTA that bus services to Dunboyne and the M3 Parkway needed to improve as did rail services to the M3 Parkway.

Councillor Gillian Toole requested an update on the proposed M3 Service Station. It was confirmed that this proposal was being progressed through the statutory process, the steps of which were outlined, with the full appraisal likely to take some time.

Councillor Maria Murphy requested an update on works planned for the junction at Avoca. It was agreed that interim works would be undertaken with a design for the layout to be undertaken.

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Kieran Coleman, Dunboyne, Director of Elections for Fine Gael in Meath East;
- The family of the late Tommy Donnelly, former GO in Dunshaughlin Electoral Area;
- The family of the late Mrs. Nora Tubridy, Knockmark, Drumree in her 103<sup>rd</sup> year.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Linda McLoughlin, Ratoath, who reached the semi-final of Ireland's Got Talent.

### **4 Planning Matters**

The planning list, circulated in advance, was noted.

### **5 Statutory Business**



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **5.1 Transportation**

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update provided. Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The impact of the 103 Bus Éireann service stopping at Donnellys, opposite the graveyard, on road markings and traffic congestion – it was agreed to raise this with Bus Éireann.
- The need for double yellow lines on the right hand side of The Avenue at the new car park.
- Thanked the outdoor staff for their work during the bad weather, in particular the extra features along the riverwalk in Ratoath.
- Flooding and drainage issues at Rathbeggan N.S.

### **5.2 Corporate Services**

5.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath 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. Reference was also made to the direct construction project in Dunshaughlin, which is at design stage and which will provide 25 units and 10 private sites. A revised policy is being considered by the Housing SPC to determine eligibility, etc. for the private sites.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Welcomed the social housing development in Ratoath that recently commenced and the need to ensure health & safety is a priority due to the number of younger residents in the area.
- Requested an update on land acquisition in the municipal district – it was pointed out that only 1.7 hectares of Council owned land in Meath over 3 sites is considered suitable for social housing. Therefore expressions of interest have been sought for lands/turnkey developments, lands coming to market were being reviewed and state owned lands were also a possibility.
- The level of provision arising from Part Vs – it was agreed to check how many units had commenced.
- The need to consider land zoning to preserve the long term development of towns and villages.
- The number of social housing units in Grange Hall – it was confirmed that there were 13 units in total.
- The replacement of wooden doors with PVC doors to reduce maintenance and improve energy efficiency.

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 Ratoath Municipal District was highlighted across a number of headings including footpath repairs and maintenance and drainage works. It was 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:



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- The need to implement the Part VIIIs for the R156 and R157 – it was confirmed that a Specific Improvement Grant would be sought for the R156, that it was planned to consider a new route for the Dunboyne to Maynooth road in the longer term and that the Part VIII for The Moor was under judicial review. A capital allocation had also been made for the Dunboyne to Maynooth road.
- The need for footpath works on the Main Street, Dunshaughlin.
- The need for additional public lighting at the main entrance Tattersalls on the Fairyhouse Road – it was pointed out that capital funding would be allocated to the public lighting programme.
- Welcomed additional funding allocated to the municipal district.
- Clarification around eligibility for the CIS, including cul de sacs – it was confirmed that cul de sacs were maintained based on available resources, e.g. pothole repair, minor drainage works, etc. but that the CIS was necessary for larger scale works.
- The possibility of funding works on the Mayne estate, Clonee and other community and village enhancements from Facebook levies.

The 2018 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Ratoath was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

### **6 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

“I call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and eir plc, to clarify and provide an update on the planned roll out of eFibre from the Tara Exchange to households in Dunsany, Kilmessan and Kiltale.”



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

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

*The Tara Exchange is Eir's biggest rollout in Co. Meath with 1174 premises to be connected.*

*Open Eir are rolling out Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) during this Commercial Rural Rollout which is capable of delivering speeds up to 1000Mbs.*

*Open Eir have 9 projects in the Tara exchange area. To date five of these are complete with detailed plans for the delivery of the 4 remaining projects in place. Open Eir and their contractor are currently working in several locations including the Baronstown, Batterjohn and Swainstown, Kilmessan rolling out from the Tara exchange. Much of the network from this exchange is ducted and Open Eir has encountered technical difficulties such as blockages in the line and congestion in the ducts.*

*Two of the 4 remaining projects are linked together (this includes Kilmessan) with road opening licences required for 12 new poles under one project and a further pole and carriageway box for the other project.*

*Meath County Council is working with Open Eir on these applications in order to enable the work to progress as quickly as possible.*

*Open Eir believe that once the licences are granted by Meath County Council the work can be completed within four weeks. Once passed, COMREG's Regulations require Open Eir to inform all telecoms retailers that the premises is now able to be connected and to update their systems to accept new orders. This process takes a further 4 weeks.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

The motion was adopted.

### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**

*"That the members of the Municipal District resolve to install a 60km speed limit from the Castlefarm roundabout to the Bogroad junction on the Dunboyne/Maynooth road as soon as possible in the interest of public safety."*



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

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

*The section of the R157 referred to in this Notice of Motion was reviewed in early 2017 as part of the county wide Special Speed Limit review. All locations which formed part of this county wide review were assessed with regard to the mandatory Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland, which were issued by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport in April 2015. The results of the county wide Special Speed Limit review were issued to the Members of each MD in March 2017 and this review recommended no change to the default speed limit on the R157 at this location as a reduction in speed limit was not considered to be in compliance with the guidelines. Draft Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws were subsequently prepared and went on statutory public display from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017, with no submissions received relating to this section of roadway.*

*Works are currently underway on this section of the R157 to improve forward visibility and increasing the warning signage in the area.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise SPC meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 8.3 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

The report was noted.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **9 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **10 Any Other Business**

10.1 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Requested that Ashbourne Connect be contacted and requested not to pull in and drop passengers off on the Inner Relief Road as it is unsafe.

10.1.2 Expressed frustration at the pace of infrastructure development in the municipal district, particularly by other state agencies.

10.2 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Requested an update on the Part VIII drawings and delivery of the cemetery in Dunboyne.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

---

**Cathaoirleach**