



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

09:30 a.m., 14th February, 2019, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Wayne Harding**, presided.

Councillors Present: Eimear Ferguson, Sharon Keogan, Paddy Meade, Stephen McKee, Sharon Tolan.

Apologies: Councillor Tom Kelly

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 17th January, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th January, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Andrew Thomas, Bettystown.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Aoife Forkin and Lara Philips, Coláiste na hInse on representing Ireland in the World Debating Championship in Cambridge.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

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

- The timeframe for the connection of the lights at Rosevale – the ESB is due to make the connection but no timeframe is available.
- The possibility of installing solar compactor bins, additional bins or increase the frequency of bin emptying in areas where bins fill up quickly, e.g. roundabout at Bettystown Court, Eastham Road to Castlemartin and the Golf Links Road.
- Commended the works on the Pilltown Road to Colmcille's, the drainage works at Tankardstown and the signage in Bettystown.
- The need for drainage works and a footpath at Mosney.
- The need for grass cutting on the Garrow Road and at Woodtown.
- The timeline for the provision of the footpath in Donacarney – it was confirmed that a consultant is to be appointed and it is anticipated that the project can be delivered within the tender timescale.



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4.2 Planning

4.2.1 To receive an update on the preparation of a Public Realm Plan for Laytown-Bettystown.

Orla O'Brien, Executive Planner was in attendance and Mehron Kirk and David McGann, BDP Consultants delivered a presentation on their brief, considerations, the current situation including the issues and challenges, and the suggested contents for the plan. It was confirmed that a community event had been provisionally scheduled for 6th March. It was pointed out that this was a non-statutory document, which will be fed into the County Development Plan review and funding applications.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The need to link the plan to the Beach Management Plan, to maximise the potential of the beach to attract tourism, host events and to improve the area for residents.
- The need to fully engage with the community and businesses.
- The need to aim to achieve Blue Flag Status.
- The benefits of planning infrastructural improvements, including roads and footpaths, in a holistic way.
- The need to widen footpaths to soften the landscape, through tree planting, etc.
- The number of vacant units and the need to attract investment.
- The vehicular damage caused to the cobblelock footpaths and the need to provide adequate parking to facilitate access to retail and business premises.
- The need for alternative parking for commuters.
- The possibility of reducing the overall timeframe from 10 to 5 years.



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- The challenge associated with the provision of areas for people to gather.
- The need to enhance the sense of identity in the three urban areas through signage, etc.
- The need for a promenade in Bettystown centre.
- A number of venues were suggested for public meetings, including Coláiste na hInse.

4.3 Environment

- 4.3.1 To further consider the draft Beach Management plan and associated Natura Impact Statement and to resolve, if thought fit, to recommend same for approval by the full Council at the March 2019 meeting.

Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Bernadine Carry, Environmental Education Officer presented the minor changes required to the original draft plan based on submissions received, the key issues and the issues raised as part of the Natura Impact Statement. The criteria needed to qualify for Blue Flag Status were outlined. It was confirmed that a preferred architectural consultant had been identified and would attend the March meeting to gather the views of councillors. It was also pointed out that, should councillors agree, the required byelaw revision process would commence and comment sought from the public.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The role of the Beach Management Committee and the need for a Beach Manager and additional Beach Wardens – it was pointed out that the council would work in consultation with the committee regarding some of the activities.
- Concerns expressed regarding the need to have dogs on leads at all times, the need to enforce the current byelaws with regard to dogs and the possibility of providing a dog friendly area/dog free zone.



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- The impact of the restriction on beach activities on the activities already in place.
- The possibility of gradually introducing car free days, no parking areas, etc. with alternative parking being made available.
- The impact of removing cars from the beach on tourism and restricting access by horses, with the possibility of mapping out a dedicated route to walk horses through the dunes.
- The need for access controls at night to deter anti-social behaviour.

It was confirmed that any material changes to the draft plan would require the draft plan to go on public display for a third time and that there would be an opportunity for further comment during the byelaw revision process. It was agreed that the suggestions made would be considered.

Following a show of hands vote, with five in favour and one against, it was agreed to accept the findings of the draft plan and recommendations there from, and noting that the specific provisions from the Natura Impact Statement relating to dogs on leads and horses will require revisions to the 2010 Foreshore Bye Laws, the ultimate approval of which come before the full Council following the statutory consultation process.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Bernadine and Larry for the significant work undertaken on this project.

4.4 Corporate Services

4.4.1 To discuss the 2019 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

Audrey Norris, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services confirmed that a budget of €8,000 was available and referred to the allocations made in 2018. Councillors were reminded that the deadline for applications under the Community Grants Scheme is 8th March.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to make the following allocations:



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Town/Village	Amount €
Slane Tidy Towns	€1,750
Bettystown Tidy Towns	€1,750
Duleek Development Association	€1,750
Julianstown & District Community Association	€1,000

It was agreed that a decision on allocating the balance of €1,750 would be made at the March meeting.

- 4.4.2 To discuss proposals to be considered by the Protocol Committee in relation to the allocation of the 2019 Twinning budget.

Reference was made to the exchange visits with Downpatrick in 2018 and it was agreed that proposals to further develop this twinning initiative would be submitted to Corporate Services for consideration.

- 4.4.3 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

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

4.5 To consider and adopt the 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The plans for upgrades in Alverno Heights – it was confirmed that funding had been secured for refurbishment works in Alverno Court, with a council contribution being made, and that this process was ongoing. With regard to the wider Alverno Heights programme, maintenance works continue and, once works are completed on Alverno Court, a wider refurbishment programme will be advanced.
- The voids in Alverno Court that cannot be filled.



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- Acknowledged the work of Housing staff in dealing with sensitive and difficult issues.
- The availability of bungalows to meet housing needs.
- The number of adapted homes in Phase II of Shepherds Lodge – it was confirmed that the provision of units for those with physical difficulties was a priority.
- The average time taken to re-let units – it was pointed out that the budget for works had increased in recent years and that the 2018 re-let time was not yet available but was likely to be in the low 20 weeks. A number of issues affect the re-let time, including the volume of works undertaken by contractors, with this being monitored closely.
- The planned completion of energy upgrades – it was confirmed that the majority of Phase I energy upgrade works in suitable units in Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District had been completed. The remaining units either did not require works or were older and unsuitable for Phase I and would require Phase II energy upgrade works, which will commence once all Phase I works are completed.
- Acknowledged the success of the adaptation works programme and requested further information on the number of applications received, eligibility criteria, etc. – it was pointed out that the SMDW referred only to adaptation works on council stock. The private adaptation scheme was outlined, which requires a percentage of council match funding. The funding and applications dealt with were outlined.

Des Foley, Director of Service, Transportation referred to additional resources, including funding and staffing, allocated to transportation services in recent years. As funding for roads represents approximately one third of the overall council budget, the challenge is the delivery of the programme taking into account issues such as tender prices and securing the services of contractors. In addition to the works outlined in the schedule, works are ongoing on footpaths, public lighting and CIS/LIS and capital works such as the Julianstown Traffic Management System. The SMDW refers to the revenue budget only, with the capital programme to be presented at the April full council meeting.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the schedule of works in detail, under the various headings.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Welcomed the funding allocated to the Laytown to Bettystown link road, the footpath and traffic management in Donacarney, minor works in Garballagh and Mount Hannover, the increased budget for street sweeping and drainage works, and the works planned for Lobinstown, Slane and Rathkenny.
- Requested an update on the TII funding for the N2 Rath to Kilmoon – it was confirmed that €250,000 had been allocated by TII to commence the design process for a major upgrade scheme. Consultants are being engaged to consider the different options around the existing and alternative routes.
- The possibility of adding the Pilltown Road and the road from Colpe to Platin to the winter gritting programme – it was confirmed that new fleet is to be available from March with a review of the winter maintenance programme to be undertaken for the next winter season. Currently over 80% of regional roads are gritted and this may be increased as a result of the additional capacity.
- The need for significant upgrade works on the Pilltown Road due to the level of commuter traffic.
- The need to ensure advance works on the Spine Road is completed so that delays to the commencement of construction works are minimised – the detailed design is being advanced and tender documents prepared whilst the response from An Bord Pleanála is awaited.
- The need for a safety improvement scheme at Harry's Garage to facilitate the users of Ozanam House.
- The need to provide raised tables at all pedestrian crossings to reduce traffic speed and increase safety – it was pointed out that raised tables are not appropriate for every crossing.
- The repair works needed on the bridge at Mornington.
- The cost of the footpath at Deepforde – the works are estimated at €80,000 shared between Louth and Meath County Councils. Construction is due to commence in approximately 3 weeks.



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- The priority projects in the municipal district being the Spine Road, the N2 and Julianstown – it was confirmed that a detailed draft report had been submitted to TII before Christmas, containing a number of options, and that the interim traffic management measures were planned for 2019.
- The possibility of closing off the road opposite Irish Cement to Beamore Road.
- The allocation of funding for repair works on the boardwalk at Oldbridge – it was pointed out that practical repairs had been undertaken and that, whilst prices were being sought for reinstatement, no funding allocation was currently available. External funding would be sought and it may be considered for the 2020 capital programme – due to new standards and materials required, the cost would likely be in excess of €1 million.
- The use of in-house expertise for the design of the various schemes – a mixture of consultants and council staff is used in the central delivery of the roadworks programme.
- Queried the rationale for the allocation of funding across the municipal districts – the increase in funding for the municipal district was highlighted, as was the basis for road selection, i.e. the condition surveys, population, etc.
- Requested an update on Slane Bypass – it was confirmed that the emerging preferred route would be subject to public consultation in March.

The 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Laytown-Bettystown was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors acknowledged the work of the executive and the municipal district engineer and staff in the works undertaken in 2018 and planned for 2019.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee



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“To ask what measures are being taken to improve road safety and traffic management in Donacarney; if Developers are adhering to their planning conditions on developments on Church Road (R-150-18) and the timeline on the provision and means of delivery of much-needed footpaths in the Donacarney area.”

Response:

Tenders have been received from consultants on 2nd February 2019 for the proposed Footpath Cycleway from Donacarney School to Bettystown and are currently being evaluated.

The developments are being regularly inspected for compliance with conditions of Planning Permission.

Works are due to start on the widening of the road in mid February as per design which has been agreed with Meath County Council. The works are due to be completed by the end of March.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 7.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise SPC meeting of 19th December, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 1st February, 2019.

The report was noted.



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8 Other Matters Arising

- 8.1 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issue:
 - 8.1.1 Requested that a litter bin be installed at the top of the hill in Lobinstown, where pedestrians and cyclists pull in.

- 8.2 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:
 - 8.2.1 The public lighting from the roundabout to Tesco is switched off.
 - 8.2.2 The possibility of undertaking a speed survey at Castlemartin, where residents are looking for speed ramps.
 - 8.2.3 Progress regarding the provision of bus shelters – it was pointed out that a new service provider was responsible for bus shelters and they were seeking the council to undertake civil works.
 - 8.2.4 A dip on the Eastham Road following a road opening – liabilities relating to road opening licences are explained and any issues arising are checked and pursued.
 - 8.2.5 The need to ensure the wall at Sevitt Hall is repaired – this has been raised with the residents association, who are to pursue it.

- 8.3 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:
 - 8.3.1 The need to check the road at Kingshill following resurfacing – it was confirmed that this was not an issue.
 - 8.3.2 The possibility of erecting dog fouling signage in estates that have been taken in charge – it was agreed to check this but these are subject to certain restrictions.
 - 8.3.3 Query regarding planned traffic calming works in Coney Hall opposite Ozanam House – it was confirmed that there are currently no plans in place.
 - 8.3.4 The provision of speed signs on Garrow Road – it was pointed out that signs are already in place.



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8.3.5 Update on negotiations with residents regarding Boyneside.

8.3.6 The footpath works at Donore school – this is being dealt with centrally with a number of areas listed for risk mitigation measures.

8.4 Councillor Eimear Ferguson raised the following issues:

8.4.1 The possibility of erecting warning signs on the Minnistown Road to East Meath Utd, similar to Colmcille's GAA – it was pointed out that there are signs in place regarding concealed entrances.

8.4.2 The repeater speed limit signs on the Garrow Road are very small – it was pointed out that these were intended as reinforcement but it was agreed to refer the speeding issue to the Gardaí.

8.5 Councillor Wayne Harding raised the following issues:

8.5.1 A number of lights missing on the square in Slane.

8.5.2 Sign in need of repair opposite Ledwidge Cottage.

9 Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence received from Julianstown & District Community Association Ltd.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



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Cathaoirleach