



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 18th April, 2018, Navan Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Francis Deane, Pdraig 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 21st March 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st March, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

- The Mayor and Councillors welcomed the announcement that the primary health care centre in Navan was to proceed, with significant employment during construction and operation, and acknowledged the role of the Chief Executive, Kevin Stewart and Planning staff within Meath County Council for their assistance and support.



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- The commencement of preliminary works by SIRO to facilitate the provision of high speed broadband in Navan was welcomed.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

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

- The contractor and supervisor for the pitches in Blackwater Park – it was confirmed that the contractor had commenced last week.
- The need to ensure that clubs are aware that the pitches are available – it was confirmed that the Community Department was working with Meath Local Sports Partnership to increase awareness of the available facilities, manage bookings, etc.
- The need to look at Council owned lands at Beaufort – it was pointed out that this land was under review but that a considerable amount of work was needed, such as fencing, realignment, installation of bollards, public lighting, etc.
- The provision of facilities at Blackwater Park, including toilets and a coffee kiosk – it was confirmed that the Community Department was undertaking a tender process for the provision of a kiosk but that the provision of toilet facilities was a longer term project with funding to be secured. The lighting of the walkway was well advanced and should be in place by next winter.
- The removal of the pitch at Claremont – it was confirmed that the wording for the consultation was being finalised but that funding was also required.



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- Welcomed improvements in traffic movements in the town.
- Update on the junction at the Trim Road/Borallion.
- Update on the provision of the pedestrian crossing at the Mercy School on Brews Hill.
- The possibility of working with Irish Rail to deal with illegal dumping at Windtown.
- Welcomed the provision of anti-litter signage at various locations.
- The need for businesses to present waste for collection without creating litter.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting and referred to a number of projects which, whilst representing investment in the town, would lead to some traffic disruption. Public consultation had taken place in January with regard to the three route options for the local distributor road LDR4 from the Kells Road to the Windtown Road, with an emerging preferred route corridor to be subject to public consultation on 1st May. It is proposed that a meeting take place with Councillors to go through the information prior to a public consultation taking place. Reference was also made to the redesign of the junction at the fire station following a number of serious incidents. It was agreed that the meeting with Councillors to discuss both projects would take place on 30th April.

With regard to the traffic lights on the Inner Relief Road at St. Paul's, it was confirmed that, following a number of adjustments, these were working better. It was suggested that these be checked for sensitivity as any nearby work seemed to affect them. Kerbside detectors had also been installed to minimise the pedestrian sequence when nobody was waiting to cross. The aim is to reduce the cycle time, with traffic getting through quicker. The longer term solution is the LDR4 or linking the Slane and Proudstown Roads, costs for both options to be discussed on 30th April.

Matters raised by Councillors included the possibility of applying for LIHAF funding for the LDR4 or the Slane to Proudstown Road and the need to review



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the town bus service and school transport. It was confirmed that applications were being considered for a new round of funding under the LIHAF.

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation provided an update on the cantilever bridge, including an outline and benefits of the project, the junction upgrade with the R147 and improved pedestrian safety. Reference was made to the recent closure to facilitate the diversion of services and a planned one night closure in May for the installation of a fibre connection. It is intended that a contractor will be appointed by the end of May, subject to NTA funding, and would be on site in June. It is also proposed to close the bridge to west bound traffic to 22nd June and close it to two way traffic from 23rd June to 31st August, with pedestrian access maintained. The aim is to mitigate any delays to the contract and localised closures may be required.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to implement an awareness programme to promote the benefits of the project and likely disruptions.
- The need to consult with businesses in the area that are likely to be adversely affected by the road closure – it was pointed out that the Council was willing to work with businesses and traders to promote business in the town during these projects.
- The possibility of retaining traffic flow on one side of the bridge during works – it was pointed out that the works needed would extend beyond the centre line of the road and this requires the closure of both lanes.
- The works to take place over the weekend – it was confirmed that the contract did include Saturday works.
- The installation of adequate bridge lighting – whilst it was agreed to look at the existing lighting, the constraints on lighting in relation to the river and ecological system were outlined.
- The need to ensure the wider benefits of this project for pedestrians and cyclists as it relates to further improvements on the Kentstown



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Road – it was confirmed that the proposal for Convent Lane was still live.

- The impact of the recent bridge closure on traffic volumes on the Dublin Road – it was pointed out that, whilst this will cause some disruption for three months, the benefits of the project will be felt long into the future and that efforts will be made to keep disruptions to a minimum.
- The need to accelerate the delivery of the LDR4 to deal with the traffic issues within the town.

- 4.1.2 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.

Kevin Stewart referred to the request made by Councillors at the March meeting that legal advice be sought in relation to the options available to deal with access by service providers and this advice was outlined, as were issues relating to land ownership and a possible course of action to enable the extinguishment of the public right of way whilst retaining access by service providers. The matter was now being considered by the land owners and an update would be provided when available. It was suggested that the decision to extinguish the public right of way be deferred at this time and this was unanimously agreed.

- 4.1.3 To consider a report on the proposal for the Extinguishment of Public Right of Way on the footway between the Fair Green Car Park and Circular Road (R161), Navan, Co Meath.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the report, including the submission and recommendation.

It was unanimously agreed, on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**, to accept the recommendation and to extinguish the Public Right of Way between the Fair Green Car Park and Circular Road (R161).



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It was also unanimously agreed that a plaque should be erected at this location acknowledging its history and association with the market.

4.2 Community

- 4.2.1 To receive a presentation on the current LEADER programme & updates to the scheme.

Michael Ludlow, CEO and Colin Ludlow, Senior Project Officer, Meath Partnership delivered a presentation on the LEADER 2020 programme, including an overview of the programme, the thematic framework 2014-2020, eligible project areas, ineligible activities, available grant rates, benefits of changes to programme delivery, progress 2017 – 2018 including progression of applications in 2018 and applications approved 2017 – 2018.

It was also pointed out that a new Social Inclusion Programme was being rolled out, with one focus being on areas of disadvantage, and with an office to be established in Navan by the end of June to service the fourteen local authority housing estates.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The reason why projects were deemed ineligible – it was pointed out that applications for certain sectors and activities, such as horticulture and running costs, were ineligible.
- The criteria to apply for funding – groups are encouraged to make contact with and submit a brief on the nature and costs of the investment to Meath Partnership, who will then advise as to what can be funded.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked Meath Partnership for attending and for the information provided.

4.3 Corporate Services

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



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

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“With regard to litter blackspots which have been identified in the Navan area and while trying to enhance the appearance of the town, would Meath County Council Community Section be willing to facilitate a weekly litter collection resulting from the efforts of local voluntary community groups?”

Response:

The Council as part of its environmental remit strongly support and promote Community involvement in tackling litter issues including in including in such schemes as The Litter League, Pride of Place, Tidy Towns etc and with a welcome increase in the number of participants taking part in such initiatives in recent years.

With regard to Navan as the members will be aware a very successful Clean Up Navan project has been ongoing now for a number of years and involving community, sporting and school groups and various litter black spots have been tackled as part of same. Also the Council have submitted a litter /dumping black spot application for approval under the Anti Dumping Initiative 2018 Scheme for lands near the Community College in Navan.

It is suggested that any Community group involved in weekly clean ups contact the Environment Department with regard to collection of litter picked up by the group and any other assistance that the group might be offered.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“When does the Executive plan on resurfacing the worst road in Navan St Mary's Park?”

Response:



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The resurfacing of roads in St. Mary's Park, Navan, is not included in the 2018 Schedule of Municipal District Works. This estate can be considered for resurfacing if any additional funding becomes available, based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering evaluation. It is not possible at this time to predict if any additional funding may become available, or which roads would be prioritised at that point in time. Roadworks programmes for future years have not yet been compiled, and these will be subject to agreement by the Elected Members.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“As summer approaches, I propose that Meath County Council will consider opening the former Navan Town hall premises, Watergate St., as a tourist office, for a trial period during the months of June, July and August.”

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

Currently, Navan is serviced by a Fáilte Ireland accredited Tourist Information Point in the Solstice Arts Centre, which is open all year. The staffing and funding of tourist offices is a challenge as they don't generate income. Should additional funding become available to open a tourist information point in Navan, we will pursue it.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

A discussion followed on the need for a central tourism information point, the need to open the Town Hall to the public, the potential for the kiosk on Kennedy Plaza to act as a tourism information point, the resources needed to operate such a facility and the community run tourism groups in Trim and Kells. It was agreed to circulate information on this approach for consideration.

The motion was adopted.



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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I call on Navan Municipal District of Meath County Council to look into the provision of facilitating a walking trail along the River Boyne from Old Kilcarne Bridge to Sion Road at St Martha's Bridge (IDA business park side of the Boyne).”

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

This walking trail was considered as part of the (Trim Navan Drogheda Cycling Feasibility Study) carried out in 2009. Meath County Council is currently awaiting the outcome of the Strategy for the Future Development of Greenways from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, that will identify walkways of strategic importance, which may then be eligible for funding. If this proposed route is identified in the Strategy and funding becomes available, Meath County Council will then look at progressing this proposed route further.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

The motion was adopted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive to consider purchasing part of the land across from Beechmount Vale to set it out as allotments to grow vegetables and flowers for our community.”

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

There is no allowance in the capital programme for the development of allotments in Navan. There have been very few requests over the years for the provision of allotments in the town therefore it is not proposed to purchase land for same at this point in time.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.



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A short discussion followed on the ongoing requirements of maintaining and managing allotments to ensure their sustainability, the land ownership of the lands referred to and the limited evidence of demand for such a facility. Reference was made to a project in Kells that provided small pocket allotments in strategic locations and it was agreed to circulate contact information to Councillors on this.

The motion was noted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I call on the Executive to tarmacadum surface the green area behind numbers 36 to 46 St Brigids Villas."

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

This is an unsurfaced lane accessing the back gardens of houses in St. Brigid's Villas. The surfacing of this lane is not included in the 2018 Schedule of Municipal District Works. Surfacing/stoning of the lane may be considered for future work programmes, subject to the prioritisation of schemes.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

7.1 To note the report from the Environment SPC meeting of 29th March, 2018.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.



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9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:

9.1.1 The possibility of the road sweeper going to Woodlands estate.

9.1.2 Referred to a motion adopted in 2016 regarding the erection of a memorial and plaque in memory of young people who had passed away in Blackwater Park and confirmed that Tara Mines had agreed to provide a boulder whilst Councillor Forde would fund a plaque and seating.

9.1.3 Requested that Meath County Council contact the owners of the former Jackie Skelly building in Johnstown requesting that they secure the building to prevent anti-social behaviour, particularly at night.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára