



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

09:30 a.m., 11th April, 2019, Duleek Civic Offices

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

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

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 12th March, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th March, 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 Ann (Ena) Tobin, Navan, sister of Meath footballer, Seán.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Duleek Girls School on their production of 'Oliver';
- Irish Cement on their recently launched apprenticeship programme;
- Rathkenny Revels and St. Brigid's Drama Groups on their productions;
- Coláiste na hInse U15s soccer team on winning the Leinster final;
- Gordon Elliot following Tiger Roll's win in the Aintree Grand National;
- Coláiste na hInse and David Hopkins on hosting the All Ireland Debating Finals, with student Laragh Phillips reaching the final;
- All the groups and volunteers who participated in the Anti-Litter League.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

- 4.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Strategic Housing Development application, reference no. ABP-303799-19 (Coreet Ltd) in accordance with Section 4(c)(ii) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Philip Maguire, Executive Planner and Alan Rogers, Administrative Officer, Planning Department delivered a summary presentation on the Strategic Housing Development application for Bryanstown. This included the role and function of the planning authority, the details of the application, consultations that have taken place, background to and overview of the scheme, residential typology, Part V allocation and next steps, including the submission of the Chief Executive's report on 15th April. The decision by An Bord Pleanála is due by 10th June, following which notification of the decision will issue to councillors.

Matters raised by councillors, with responses, included:



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- Acknowledged the benefits of the proposed scheme, including the provision of footpaths, cycleways and the playground facilities.
- Requested that the playground be provided in the first phase of the development and that it include facilities for the disabled.
- Requested that all footpaths and lighting be installed prior to units being occupied – whilst a recommendation to this effect can be made, it would not be a standard condition.
- Queried whether the social housing allocation could be integrated throughout the development rather than adjoining units.
- Concerns expressed regarding the existing traffic congestion in the area, the increased traffic that the development will generate and the associated need for improved infrastructure that can cater for the traffic volumes – the Transportation Department had made comments and had proposed conditions, including a traffic management plan and assessment and the imposition of a special levy to upgrade the distributor road.
- The possibility of providing a roundabout at Beamore Cross and consider the provision of a link road from Colpe to Southgate to McCabe's Garage.
- Referred to the impact on schools in the area, which are already at capacity – consultants had prepared a report analysing capacity, which is limited. There is an area of land zoned for community and education uses.
- Queried the proposed apartment sizes, i.e. whether these would be adequate to accommodate families, and the provision of single storey units for people with disabilities – the proposed apartment sizes meet and exceed the 2018 guidelines for apartment sizes. Whilst there are no proposals for single storey units, the duplex apartments are accessible.

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- Queried the open space provision – the proposed provision meets the standards as set out in the County Development Plan.
- Queried the provision of adequate car parking spaces – it is proposed to provide 2 spaces per dwelling and 1.25 spaces per apartment.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Philip and Alan for the information provided and requested that a copy of the Chief Executive's report be provided to them following its completion.

4.2 Transportation

4.2.1 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:

- Planned repairs following CCTV surveys undertaken in the pipe network on the Pilltown Road and R150 – due to flooding issues on the R150 and Narrowways, a Jetvac and CCTV had been deployed to clear blockages and identify any defects. A blocked pipe on the R150 had been cleared and the information is being reviewed to identify further works needed during the summer.
- Timeframe for completion of works at the toilet facilities in Laytown – a contractor has been appointed and materials ordered, with clean out works due to commence next week. It is anticipated that works will be completed by the summer. To expedite the project, works will be confined to the existing building footprint, with the possibility of adding an extension at a later date to provide disabled facilities. Provision is being made for the installation of external CCTV but it will not be operational immediately. The facility will be managed by council staff.
- Timeframe for works on the footpath and cycleway at Donacarney – the preliminary design will be completed next week. Once a definitive programme of requirements is available, landowners can be informed



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of the proposals, with any feedback to be considered in terms of the layout, and following which the Part 8 process can commence.

- The unavailability of car parking spaces at the playground in Laytown due to commuters using the spaces for long term parking – this area will be included in the traffic survey, due to be undertaken this year.
- The possibility of installing mobile CCTV to deter graffiti at Lobinstown.

4.3 Corporate Services

4.3.1 To agree the 2019 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budget.

It was agreed to defer this item to the May meeting. Councillors were reminded of the alternative sources of funding available for certain projects, events, etc.

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

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

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“Can Meath County Council please outline the status of the proposed HGV ban in Duleek; if the Council has reviewed traffic counts and the impact HGV traffic is having on Duleek; if alternative HGV routes have been looked at and whether or not the Council are committed to implementing a ban which has been discussed in this Chamber & called for previously by myself and other public representatives?”

Response:

At the March 2017 Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District meeting, a report was provided on the request to introduce a HGV ban in Duleek. It was the position of the Council that as there was no alternative route for HGV's that did not involve excessive

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distances, interim traffic management measures were being progressed to reduce the speed of traffic and improve safety in the village. Traffic calming measures have been carried out in the village which included the installation of speed tables at either end of the village in conjunction with the existing one at the Garda station.

Meath County Council has reviewed traffic impact assessments and the continuing impact HGV traffic is having on Duleek as part of the process to assess proposed major developments in the area. The Council has also made recommendations to An Bord Pleanála in respect of these to regulate and minimise flows in the village.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

“Calling on the Department of Communication, Climate Action & Environment that Air Quality Control Monitoring Units be installed in Duleek and South Drogheda area as a matter of urgency.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly**.

A discussion followed on the need for continuous monitoring, publication of results and adequate enforcement where breaches occur. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly** to invite a representative from the EPA to attend a meeting to discuss these issues.

The motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“That this Municipal District would immediately initiate formal meetings with Public Representatives & Council officials from the Drogheda Municipal District in Louth in order to promote and enhance co-operation and jointly develop a sustainable plan to progress the South Drogheda/East Meath area as per the recommendations of the recent Drogheda Boundary Review Report.”



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

A letter, signed jointly by the Meath and Louth Chief Executives and issued to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in May 2017, outlined a series of joint actions to be taken to implement the recommendations contained in the Drogheda Boundary Review Report. Following on from the commitments in this letter, a formal structure for meetings of the Meath/Louth joint Management teams is now in place and operating. Two cross county teams have been established, jointly chaired by the relevant Directors of Service, with a remit to advance an agreed programme of mutually beneficial initiatives and activities. These teams report to the Joint Management Team.

A Strategic Team has been tasked with advancing a number of projects including the Greater Drogheda Area Planning Strategy (to include LAPs and Retail Strategy), the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan, economic development issues, relevant capital infrastructure works and Greenway proposals.

An Operations Team has been tasked with agreeing and monitoring progress on a range of day to day operational issues including Transportation, Fire Services, Housing, Community matters including PPNs, Environment, Library Services and Public Events.

The following are some examples of joint initiatives undertaken/advanced by the teams to date:

Strategic Team:

- Agreement of a framework to advance the review of the Planning Strategy for the Greater Drogheda Area which will inform the preparation of a joint Local Area Plan as required in the R.S.E.S.*
- Inclusion in the forthcoming Draft Meath County Development Plan of objectives to prepare a Joint Vision and Local Area Plan for Drogheda within the life of the CDP.*
- Setting up of a Regional Centre Co-Ordination Group (E.M.R.A. region) consisting of the Senior Planners from Meath, Louth and Westmeath (and potentially Roscommon) to ensure consistency of methodology and approach to the preparation of joint plans.*



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- *Joint actions on the development and implementation of Tourism and Food strategies for the Boyne Valley (Meath & Louth) as part of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative including joint funding of a Tourism Officer, Food Development Officer and strategy implementation including joint marketing.*
- *Joint initiatives between the Meath and Louth Local Enterprise Offices including the development of academic programmes for food producers and support for retailers, manufacturing, women in business and general business support.*
- *Co-operation and support for cross boundary greenway proposals and related funding applications.*

Operations Team:

- *Cooperation on practical cross boundary operational issues such as road and footpath improvements (e.g. Deep Forde/Five Oaks footpath works), winter gritting etc.*
- *The preparation of a Joint Migrant Integration Policy. (Community)*
- *Practical co-operation on homeless accommodation and H.A.P. (Housing)*
- *Review of Fire Services operations, training and billing.*
- *Discussion on the potential for joint PPN initiatives. (Community)*
- *A range of joint Library initiatives including cross boundary extension of the Louth mobile library services into East Meath.*

In summary Meath and Louth have put in place structures and plans for ongoing cooperation and engagement in relation to issues of mutual interest including the preparation of a joint L.A.P. as required by the R.S.E.S.. To date these structures are working and delivering on the recommendations in the boundary report.

In addition, the Minister is also currently considering proposals for towns such as Drogheda where two local authorities are undertaking functions and the outcome of this process is awaited.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

A discussion followed on the relevance of Drogheda to the municipal district, the potential benefits of increased cooperation between elected members, the need to increase economic development and employment opportunities along the M1 economic corridor, the statutory basis of any new committee formed and the need for both councils to agree on such an approach. It was agreed that a request would be made for a similar motion to be brought to the Borough District of Drogheda and, if agreed, a motion would go to both local authorities for consideration.

The motion was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“I call on Meath County Council to ask the relevant government departments to put all community organizations on the same status as GAA clubs and others in relation to charitable status and compliance issues as there is an anomaly at the present time in relation to many organizations.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

A short discussion followed which, whilst acknowledging the importance of corporate governance, referred to the onerous obligations imposed on local community groups, who often have to pay professional fees to meet their responsibilities.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** to refer this motion to the full council for consideration.

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

7.1 To note the report from the Environment SPC meeting of 22nd March, 2019.

The report was noted.

7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting



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of 28th March, 2019.

The report was noted.

8 Other Matters Arising

8.1 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issue:

8.1.1 Referred to the presentation made at the Environment SPC meeting relating to the Beach Management Plan and the need to circulate accurate information on the plan.

9 Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence received from Mr Fergus O'Dowd T.D, in response to the Notice of Item 7.2 – Notice of Motion as adopted at the March meeting.

The correspondence was noted. It was confirmed that negotiations on this matter were ongoing.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

10.1.1 The possibility of limiting access to and/or erecting signage at the car park at the playground in Laytown to ensure accessibility by those using the playground – it was agreed to look at erecting temporary signage and it was suggested that the introduction of paid parking at this location would address the issues.

10.1.2 The need for traffic calming measures on the Eastham Road, where additional houses are being developed, and to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing especially at Northlands.

10.1.3 The need to review the traffic management arrangements at Donacarney, where the carriageway has been narrowed making access by two vehicles difficult – the background to the current situation was outlined and it was



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confirmed that works would be checked for compliance.

10.2 Councillor Eimear Ferguson raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Queried the timeframe for the traffic survey in Bettystown/Laytown to be undertaken.

10.2.2 Referred to the original M1 design from Beamore and the current exit at Beamore and its impact at Julianstown – it was pointed out that previous county development plans, with indicative lines of route, are available on meath.ie.

10.2.3 The possibility of providing a wheelchair accessible area on the beach in advance of the beach wheelchair being provided, with an example given for materials used elsewhere – further information on the example given was requested but it was pointed out that issues may arise in identifying a suitable area.

10.3 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issue:

10.3.1 The need to provide road markings on the L1603, where a number of serious incidents had taken place – the width requirements for road markings were outlined and it was confirmed that the recent accident location would be subject to review by the Gardaí and any recommendations would be implemented.

10.4 Councillor Tom Kelly raised the following issues:

10.4.1 The ongoing issue with trucks, etc. parking on the roadside outside filling stations.

10.4.2 Requested updates on the bypasses for Slane, Duleek and Julianstown.

10.4.3 The planned publication date for the Foreshore Byelaws.

10.4.4 The volume and speed of traffic on the Minnistown Road.



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10.4.5 The provision of raised platforms at the pedestrian crossing in Donacarneey.

10.5 Councillor Sharon Keogan raised the following issues:

10.5.1 The possibility of closing off Platin Terrace, opposite Irish Cement, due to it being a dangerous junction – an application can be made to extinguish a public right of way but this may be subject to objection by utility service providers, if services are in place in that location.

10.5.2 The need for traffic calming measures on the Duleek to Julianstown Road to address excessive speeding.

10.5.3 Requested an update on Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross – an update on the tendering process was provided.

10.5.4 The need to extend the Coastal Protection Scheme.

10.6 Councillor Wayne Harding raised the following issues:

10.6.1 Acknowledged the investment being made for the extension of the Greenway and suggested that, as part of this, a footpath be provided to facilitate local access from the Highlands to the river.

10.6.2 Requested an update on the allocations being made for the community grant in the municipal district – it was confirmed that applications received were being reviewed.

10.6.3 Requested that contact be made with Louth County Council regarding the dangerous junction at the Bridge of Peace.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



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Cathaoirleach