



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30a.m., 16th May, 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

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

Apologies: Claire King, Meetings Administrator.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th April, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th April, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Nick Killian asked if lights would be installed at Tattersalls this year under the Public Lighting Programme for 2018. It was confirmed that public lighting projects for the county have gone out to tender. This wasn't included in the original tender however, it will be looked at to see if it can be advanced at this location.

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald requested an update on reducing the speed limit to 60 kph on the Maynooth to Dunboyne Road. Des Foley confirmed that a meeting would be held with the residents to discuss this issue.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Fergus O'Rourke, employee of Meath County Council.

Good wishes were extended to Sean Cox from Dunboyne who is recovering in hospital.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Dara Heinz, the first individual winner of Aldi Foróige All Ireland Youth Citizenship awards for Volunteer of the Year.
- Megan and Lucy Kelly, Holly Hagan and Sophie McLoughlin from Ratoath Foroige for their silver medal at Aldi Foróige Youth Citizenship awards for setting up a Junior Foróige Cub in Ratoath.
- Rathbeggan National School who came second in Ireland in primary schools category of "Mission Possible", a mental health and wellbeing project run in conjunction with St. Patrick's hospital.
- Sam Pidgeon, Karta Martial Arts Athlete, who won individual 3rd place in the EU Championships in Budapest.
- Devin Toner for his achievements in rugby.
- Stephen Daly for his success in UK Formula 3 Motor Racing.
- Mags Coogan, ABC Playschool in Dunboyne for her recent Inaugural award for Educator of the year.
- The success of the Darkness into Light walk.
- The success of Ratoath Athletic Club at the Community Games and Nationally.

4 To meet with Garda Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy



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Garda Chief Superintendent, Fergus Healy outlined how the District is set up, staffing levels and how they are divided up, and the Traffic Core Unit, which is working out of Dunshaughlin. He also outlined issues within the District including a current vacancy for Superintendent following the retirement of Superintendent James Cannon, ongoing serious investigations, some of which involve organised crime, and staffing issues. Meath has currently the lowest head of Gardaí per population in the country. Accommodation is also an issue which requires investment.

Matters raised by Councillors and responses included:-

- Barbara Kelly, Community Guard was complimented for her great work.
- Gardaí on the beat in Ratoath was very well received and it is hoped that this continues as there is no Garda Station in Ratoath.
- Expressed concern over the increased number of drink driving in younger people – The Gardaí are pro-active in dealing with this. Drug driving is also an issue.
- Asked how many retirements are expected in 2018 – It was explained that this is very hard to say as people can retire at 50 with three months notice. They must retire at 60.
- Issue with public counter in Dunboyne Station – This was brought to the attention of the Acting Superintendent recently.
- Neighbouring stations will not sign forms for people who cannot get to their local station when it is open – Once the person has the proper documentation, it should be acceptable.
- Commended the Gardaí for their efforts with the community in Text Alert and Neighbourhood Watch.
- Commended the two Gardaí who run the LAR Project.
- Having the Traffic Core located in Dunshaughlin, it was asked about the possibility of lightning speed checks carried out at various locations within the district.
- Asked if a low cost premises could be looked at in Ratoath to facilitate Gardaí on the beat and the LAR Project.
- Previously when an email was sent to the Ashbourne Garda Station email address, it would have been acknowledged. It was asked if this could be considered again.
- Asked if there was much progress in relation to Civilian staff coming into our stations – There is a National Plan to bring the strength of the organisation up to 21,000 by 2020 which is ongoing at present. Athlumney House in Navan is the centre for managing Civilian staff. There are Civilian personnel in all Garda Stations and the recruitment process is ongoing.



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- Following a recent announcement for funding for CCTV schemes, there appears to be an issue with data control – Part of the condition that involves public funds is that the Local Authority have to be the Data Controller.

5 Statutory Business

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 matters raised by Councillors included:

- There are a number of projects in the Municipal District for which the resources are not available to fulfil them. It was asked that the staff numbers for the Ratoath Municipal District be reviewed again.
- Requested an update on the N3 – It was confirmed that all the documentation has been submitted and officials have met with the TII who have advised that no further meeting is necessary. If necessary the Chief Executive of the TII will be contacted to finalise this.
- St John's Well is not listed as a protected structure. It was asked if the process could commence to having it listed as a protected structure – It was agreed to invite Robert Miles, Conservation Officer to the June meeting to discuss this.
- An update was requested on removing the old phone box in Dunboyne as it is unsightly.
- High number of traffic light outages in Dunboyne village and the top of the Rooske.
- Requested verge trimming at main junctions in all villages.
- Requested an update on the Avoca Junction.



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- Asked if directional arrows could be repositioned on the roundabout where the horses had been installed.
- Asked if farmers have been compensated for helping out with the clearing of the snow during the spell of bad weather – it was confirmed that any agricultural contractors who were instructed to do works have been paid.

5.1.2 To receive the design for the upgrade of the junction at Moulden Bridge.

Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer and Gearoid McCarthy, Executive Engineer, Transportation Department attended the meeting and provided an update on the LIHAF Scheme on the Ratoath Outer Ring Road. He outlined the scheme description, background and what is included in the proposed road i.e. junctions, footpaths, cycle-tracks, public lighting, service duct provision, water and wastewater services, boundary treatment, accommodation works and landscaping. The advanced works have started which require the construction of a new culvert at Moulden Bridge. It was a condition of a planning permission that the developer carries this out. The road design is ongoing and it is hoped to have tender documents ready by the end of June and it is anticipated that the Contractor will be appointed by the end of September this year. The construction period for the LIHAF Scheme is approximately 12 months.

It is proposed to construct a traffic light junction on the Ashbourne Road. Traffic surveys were carried out which showed high levels of vehicular and pedestrian activity at this location. Design standards for roads recommend the use of signalised junctions with designated pedestrian phases. Signalised traffic will also tie in with the Kilbride Junction if it goes ahead.

Maurice Kelly also provided an update on the Kilbride Junction, outlining it is an objective of the Local Area Plan for Ratoath to redevelop this junction. It was deemed necessary by the Planning Department to prepare a Part 8 for this junction as it bounds the urban area of Ratoath. Documents are currently being prepared to appoint a design consultant. It is anticipated that a consultant will be procured by the end of May and appointed by the end of June to prepare contract documents. The Council have been in contact with the landowners and a valuation is being carried out on the lands, following which negotiations will take place with individual landowners. A Part 8 is required for the Kilbride Junction.



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Matters raised by Councillors included:-

- Disappointment that they had not been informed of the signalised junction as the Part 8 was for a roundabout – It was clarified that this road scheme was granted planning permission and not a Part 8 approval.
- Requested a copy of the Traffic survey.
- Requested a meeting with Officials and residents of Moulden Bridge – It was agreed that a meeting with residents would be arranged.
- Asked that the roundabout at Jamestown be looked at again.
- Queried whether traffic lights were chosen over a roundabout due to the tightness of the junction.
- Asked if the Ballybin road could be looked at in conjunction with these works due to the intensity of traffic in the area – It was confirmed that there is a long term plan for the Ballybin road but it is not part of this scheme.
- Until such time as the land is freed up and it is a developer led road, it will remain a cul-de-sac.
- The need to include the extension to the Fairyhouse road.
- Expressed concern for the gap between the entrance to the college as it looks incomplete – It was confirmed that Officials met with the school and they will pay for the design and construction of this section and Meath County Council will carry out the work.
- The need for bigger yield signs on roundabouts and road markings on the Jamestown roundabout.

5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To consider taking in charge of and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11



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Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017.

- The Laurels Housing Estate, Dunboyne

This item was deferred until such time as an issue with Irish Water is resolved.

The following other Planning matters were raised by Councillors:-

- Frustration of residents and businesses in the Bracetown area due to lack of community engagement – it was advised that the situation in Bracetown is being looked at and the Council will be led by Councillors in terms of community engagement and will attend a meeting if required. It was suggested that a meeting take place in Dunboyne Castle.
- An Bord Pleanála have granted planning permission for Kilsaran project at Swainestown. It was asked if there was an outline of what will be required in the wider area with regard to traffic management. – It was advised that Kilsaran will submit a traffic management plan and the Council will decide if it is adequate or not.
- Referred to the 12 acre field that Kilsaran has allocated to the community and the need for someone to take it on board. There is no local group to take it on due to ongoing costs and insurance costs. As an alternative it was asked if a community fund could be explored instead of giving over the 12 acres. It was asked if Meath County Council could facilitate discussions with Kilsaran in relation to their plans together with traffic management.
- Skane Valley would be interested in the site at the pumping station in Kilmessan. They are coming into possession of portacabins and require a site to locate them. That site is overgrown and no longer used. It was asked if a meeting could be facilitated with Skane Valley in this regard.
- Referred to money in the Capital fund for Kilmessan. The Church has agreed a price of €10,000 for the hall in Kilmessan and it was asked if the capital acquisition money could be used to purchase the hall and



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how to get it drawn down. It was agreed that a meeting would be held with Skane Valley to discuss these two issues.

- A project proposed by Fingal County Council for a halting site on the Dublin side. It was asked if Meath County Council would be making a submission on this.

A 15 minutes extension of time was proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.3 Water Services

- 5.3.1 To receive an update on Ratoath Rehabilitation Works and wastewater connections for Bracetown and Avoca.

Councillor Nick Killian handed a petition received from the business owners/occupiers opposing the Irish Water works due to commence in the village of Ratoath and proposed that the works be carried out at night time to enable the free flow of traffic and keep businesses functioning as normal.

Pat Wickham, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services attended the meeting and outlined the objectives of the scheme and the route for the works. It is anticipated that the works will commence on Monday, 21st May for a duration of approximately 16 weeks and will be undertaken in two phases.

Works will commence local to the R125/R155 (Supervalu) and proceed towards the Corballis Shopping Centre. The Contractor will commence at 9.30 a.m. and will finish at 4.30 p.m. every day until they reach local to the Corballis Shopping Centre. From the Corballis Shopping Centre it is anticipated to open up the working hours from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and possibly longer and also to work on Saturdays and to avail fully of the School summer holidays.

Traffic Management in the form of stop/go will be in operation during working hours. Outages will be kept to a minimum however there will come a period where essential connections will be necessary and where the new water mains will be made live. Advance notification will be provided to Businesses and Residents in advance and notifications will also be on Irish Water and MCC



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media platforms. Meath County Council will also have a site supervisory team on the ground to address any issues with residents, businesses, access etc.

Matters raised by Councillors included:-

- Welcomed Sergeant Barry McCann from the road traffic unit who had concerns regarding traffic control in the village and who suggested diverting traffic from the village to alternative routes.
- Businesses have requested that works between Supervalu and the Shrine be carried out at night as they have concerns regarding the viability of their business.
- Lack of consultation or notification of the project taking place. Communication is critical.
- 16 weeks disruption is unsustainable for small businesses.
- Asked what the cost factor would be in carrying out the works at night.
- Asked what type of signage would be erected as 2/3 of the traffic is not Ratoath bound and need to be redirected to alternate routes. Also are there plans for signs and advertising to say “Business as Usual”.
- Businesses have been asked to monitor their turnover and if there is a drop in this how will it be dealt with. What PR and radio advertising will be done to support businesses?
- Asked if village enhancement works could be carried out as part of the scheme as a good will gesture – It was advised that this would not form part of the scheme.

Pat Wickham responded to issues raised as follows:-

- The cost factor for carrying out the works at night would be substantial and there would be delays in the timescale and start date. They are



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trying to cater for morning traffic in the first stage hence the delayed start in the mornings to allow for commuters, deliveries, etc and finish up early in the evening again to allow for traffic. There are health and safety issues around night time work and the availability of materials, e.g. road surfacing materials are not readily available at night. There are some residents in the vicinity and noise will travel. Efforts are being made to facilitate everyone.

- Diverting traffic had been considered and can be reviewed. However, it is preferred not to send traffic out of the village and if a diversion was set up, everything has to go a particular route which may not facilitate buses, HGVs, etc. It is planned to put up VMSs on all incoming roads into Ratoath highlighting traffic delays and business as usual to get the message out that Ratoath is fully open. Additional signage will be sought for Businesses and erected about the village as required.
- Water Services Staff had gone round to all businesses in Ratoath before a notifications letter was issued and gave their names and numbers and an outline of the scheme. Water Services staff have also been in contact with the local schools and got the Caretakers name and number should any issues arise.

It was agreed to circulate contact names and numbers of personnel working on the scheme to Councillors.

Councillor Damien O'Reilly proposed a one hour extension of time which was seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

Pat Wickham also provided the following update on wastewater connections for Bracetown and Avoca.

Presently there is a discharge pipe (rising main) being laid on the R147 toward Shire which will take wastewater into Fingal. Unfortunately a direct connection for other Businesses cannot be made to such a pipe as it is pressurised. However, there is a proposal and potential for a new pumping station at Bracetown which would pump into this new rising main. This would involve some gravity pipeline runs but ultimately there is the potential for all wastewater to be pumped to Fingal via the establishment of a new Wastewater Pumping Station at Bracetown.

Matters raised by Councillors included:-



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- The needs of existing businesses have to be taken into consideration.
- Residents in Bracetown are interested in tapping into the main sewerage – A pumping station at Bracetown would facilitate residents and Avoca to tap in by gravity and connect into the rising main and pumped to Fingal. – It was advised that the Chief Executive is aware of this and is talking to Gerry Boyle to figure out how best to deal with this issue.
- It is pivotal to improve the economic development of the area. €300,000 has been approved for consultation and scoping exercise for Economic Development. It was asked if that money could be spent in this area.

5.4 Corporate Services

- 5.4.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District.

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

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

- 8.1 To note the report from the Housing SPC meeting of 10th April, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 26th April, 2018.



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The report was noted.

8.3 To note the report from the Housing SPC meeting of 4th May, 2018.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach