



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

09:30 a.m., 13th September, 2018, 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 July, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th July, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Brian Murray, Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, on the death of his mother;



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The family of the late Kevin Campbell, Main Street, Duleek;
- The family of the late Jim Dorey, Platin Road, Duleek.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All Meath County Council staff and the contractors involved in the coastal protection works at Laytown- the quality and efficiency of the works was commended;
- Meath Ladies LGFA on reaching the All Ireland Intermediate Final, including all local players;
- The Council staff involved in reopening the boardwalk at Oldbridge following the damage caused;
- Councillor Sharon Keogan and Duleek & District News on its 5th anniversary;
- All involved in organising Laytown Races.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of Land at Irishtown Co. Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 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:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The reduced street sweeping programme in Laytown and Bettystown and the sand blocking drains and gullies – it was pointed out that the weekly programme was trialled during the summer but did result in additional costs.
- The street sweeping programme in Duleek of once a month – it was confirmed that this was undertaken in Duleek, Donore and environs at least once a month, with additional works during the summer.
- Commended the works undertaken at the Citynorth interchange and the work of the Beach Warden and lifeguards.
- The road marking programme – it was confirmed that this is due to commence soon.
- The need to enforce hedge cutting obligations.
- The need to undertake a drain cleaning programme.
- The need to prioritise the cutting of verges in tourist areas, such as Newgrange – it was pointed out that verges were cut twice per year to improve visibility at junctions.
- The need to review the synchronisation of the lights in Slane – it was confirmed that Irish Water was dealing with the maintenance contractor for the traffic lights with ongoing monitoring of traffic flows.

5.1.2 To receive an update on the County Meath Special Speed Limit review following on from the Statutory Public Display of the Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.2) 2017 .

Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the update provided, the submissions received and the proposed amendments and next steps. He also provided responses to specific queries raised.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Welcomed the reduced speed limit at the playground at Lobinstown.
- The application of reduced speed limits at other playgrounds, e.g. Station Road, Duleek – it was confirmed that this location was within the speed limit zone with signage at the railway bridge.
- The standardisation of speed limits on roads in different counties with 80km/h and 100km/h limits – it was pointed out that the default limit on national primary roads was 100km/h and 80km/h on national secondary roads. New national mandatory guidelines focused on the character of the road, not county boundaries, and appropriate speed limits applied.

The report was noted, on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

5.2 Environment

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the Beach Management Plan - Architectural Framework Competition.

Bernadine Carry, Environment Department, provided an update on the Beach Management Plan/Natura Impact Statement (NIS), the closing date for submissions being 12th October. Advertisements have been placed and notifications issued to prescribed bodies and those who had previously made submissions. The key issues were outlined. The NIS includes mitigating factors that will reduce deterioration to European sites, involving the amendment of the Foreshore Byelaws, primarily around the restriction of access by animals.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The reasons for the bathing restrictions imposed due to water quality issues – it was pointed out that, whilst the samples during the summer had yielded excellent results, a temporary prohibition had been applied as samples taken earlier in the week did not meet the required standards for unknown causes and that further samples had been taken with the results due tomorrow. One possible cause was the recent rainfall following the very dry summer.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need for remedial works, e.g. the entrance to the beach at Bettystown, the wet section of the beach – it was confirmed that these would be dealt with as part of the Architectural Framework Plan.
- The need to deal with dog fouling and control, including the erection of adequate signage, and the supply of biodegradable dog bags – it was pointed out that whilst signage was already in place, it could be improved on the beach and boardwalk.
- The restrictions on sulkies using the beach for racing – it was pointed out that wider rules regarding horses would apply. It was also pointed out that existing speed limits apply to scramblers.
- The controls on the use of drones on the beach – it was agreed to check what controls could be imposed.
- The need to provide additional support to the annual sandcastle competition.
- The benefits of horses on the beach – it was confirmed that the restriction applied to the dunes and shoreline only.
- The enforcement of byelaws and the authority of beach wardens to issue fines – it was confirmed that the full time beach warden could issue fines.
- Restricting access to the dunes to deter camping and illegal dumping – it was confirmed that access controls would be reviewed. It was also pointed out that some of the dunes were in private ownership and that agreement would be required.
- The responsibility of landowners to provide adequate protection of the dunes.
- The role of National Parks & Wildlife in protections special areas of conservation.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need for adequate parking to eventually prohibit cars for entering the beach.

5.2.2 To receive an update on the proposed Public Realm Plan for Bettystown and Laytown.

Sarah Lynch and Jennifer Murtagh, Forward Planning provided an update, including the tender submission deadline of 15th October. Following the appointment of a consultant and a public consultation period, it is hoped to have a draft plan prepared by the end of the year. In early 2019, funding would have to be identified/sourced and a project management plan prepared.

The plan area was outlined, from the new town centre to Bettystown centre to Laytown, as were the overall objectives of the plan, including the improvement of linkages, the softening of the streetscapes, the improvement of pedestrian/cycling access, safety improvements, enhancement of the entrance to the beach, the use of vacant properties and the overall improvement of aesthetics. The opportunities of car parking would also be examined and Seafields would also be included.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Welcomed the commencement of the process.
- Requested the inclusion of Donacarney and Mornington – it was pointed out that the plan would look at connectivity in/out of this area.
- The difficulties that exist on the coast road, including the width of the roadway and the number of landowners involved.
- Liaison with other council departments to ensure a consistent approach – it was confirmed that other plans prepared or being worked on by various departments would tie in with this plan.
- The inclusion of a walkway at Seafields, a library, community and sporting facilities and a footpath from Bettystown to Donacarney N.S. – it was confirmed that the plans in relation to Seafields were ongoing.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The improvement of the pier at Laytown – it was pointed out that, due to the costs involved, there were no plans currently in place to undertake this project.
- The provision of a park & ride facility at Laytown.
- The provision of a park at Laytown adjacent to the car park - it was pointed out that, at this stage, the plan dealt with general issues with no specific projects identified as of yet.

David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment provided an update in relation to the Architectural Framework Competition and referred to the submission being made in respect of the Urban Regeneration Fund by 28th September. It was pointed out that, due to the areas being considered as part of the public realm plan and funding submission, it would be preferable if the public realm plan is prepared prior to the design being finalised for the plaza/seafront buildings. Therefore it is proposed to appoint the consultants for the public realm plan and the architects at the same time, mid-October, with the contracts ensuring a consistent and joint approach. The presentation of the first draft of the public realm plan in December/January, would coincide with the first presentation of the architectural plans.

Whilst Councillors expressed their disappointment at the delay in appointing the architectural consultants, the benefits in ensuring a consistency of approach were acknowledged.

Dara McGowan provided an update on the applications being made under the Urban & Rural Regeneration Funds. He outlined two schemes being launched by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the criteria for eligible projects. The application process, similar to competitive tendering, was explained, including the onerous nature of information required. Applications were either Category A (ready to go) or Category B (to be developed). Projects, under the urban scheme, had to demonstrate that they would leverage further private sector funding, if completed. A number of projects had been identified for Meath, two of which are in Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District – Boyne Greenway (Rural - Category B) and the public realm plan/beach management plan/seafront buildings/library site (Urban - Category B). 25% Meath County



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Council match funding is required. It was emphasised that not all local authorities would succeed in getting funding, with decisions due in November.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The implications of the National Planning Framework – it was confirmed that the application had to demonstrate how the plan/project fitted into other strategic plans.
- The approach to securing private match funding – the requirements regarding match funding were outlined.
- The timeframe for completion of the process – it was pointed out that, as the seafront project was more advanced, it is hoped to apply for Category A funding in 2019.
- Welcomed the plan to deal with derelict sites.
- The benefits of the Boyne Greenway to the wider area – it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** that a visit to Waterford would be arranged to see the Dungarvan Greenway and to learn how issues/obstacles were overcome.

5.3 Corporate Services

5.3.1 To discuss the 2018 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal budget.

Following a short discussion, it was unanimously agreed, on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, to allocate the budget of €8,000 for festive decoration to the towns/villages as per the table below.

Town/Village	Amount €
Duleek	1,750
Laytown	1,750
Bettystown	1,750

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Slane	1,750
Julianstown	1,000

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded of the deadlines for the receipt of applications and of the amount outstanding for allocation within the municipal district.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“Can Meath County Council please provide a full update on the traffic calming project for Main Street, Duleek; to outline what traffic calming measures will be put in place on Lower Main Street and furthermore, to indicate the timeframe for the completion of the plan.”

Response:

Meath County Council carried out works to the main street in 2017/2018 introducing a number of traffic calming measures. This work is now complete; there are currently no plans or funding for further works at Lower Main Street as requested. Meath County Council will review the area around Lower Main Street and if there are any traffic calming measures that could improve the Street from a pedestrian/vehicle interaction perspective, this item could be added to the list for new works to be considered when funding becomes available.

The response was noted. Councillor Stephen McKee requested that a pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures be provided at this location and it was confirmed, whilst there are no plans for such works at this time, the area is continually being monitored to see if anything further is required.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 26th July, 2018.

The report was noted.

9 Other Matters Arising

9.1 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Concerns regarding the planned bridge closure in Duleek commencing next week.

9.1.2 Requested a speed survey in Castlemartin Estate due to concerns of residents.

9.1.3 The need for hedges to be cut in urban areas along footpaths.

9.1.4 The electrical charging point in Laytown is out of order and additional points are required.

9.1.5 Requested that a letter issue to the Garda Sergeant in Laytown regarding illegal parking on footpaths – it was agreed that the new Garda Superintendent would be invited to attend a meeting of the municipal district.

9.2 Councillor Sharon Keogan raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Street lights out of order in Northlands, which is not yet taken in charge.

9.2.2 The possibility of applying levies from new developments in Duleek to improve traffic management.

9.3 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issue:

9.3.1 The need to reinstate the road markings and review the signage approaching the junction in Lobinstown.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.4 Councillor Tom Kelly raised the following issue:

9.4.1 The need for a raised pedestrian table at Donacarney community centre.

10 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach