



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 20th September, 2018, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Jim Holloway**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Francis Deane, Edward Fennessy, Padraig Fitzsimons, Wayne Forde, Tommy Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Paul O'Brien

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18th July, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th July, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matter arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Eilis Sheehy, LMFM on the death of her grandmother.

Congratulations were extended to:



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- Meath County Council staff, ESB staff, the fire and ambulances services and the Gardaí on their work during the recent adverse weather;
- Parkvilla Ladies Soccer Club U15s who won gold at the Community Games and it was suggested that a civic event be arranged to recognise their achievement – it was agreed to refer this to the Protocol Committee for consideration;
- Navan Historical Society Society on their exhibition of the Laurence Photographic Collection in Solstice during Heritage Week, which was extended due to its success;
- Councillor Edward Fennessy on attending his first municipal district meeting.

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 Boyne Road Navan Co. Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update outlined. Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The plans for dealing with flooding issues on Bakery Lane – it was pointed out that the upgrade of this area was included in the initial phase of the Navan 2030 plan.
- The timeframe for works in Athlumney village – it was confirmed that the closing date for the receipt of tenders was next Friday.



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- The safety issues for users of the pedestrian crossing at the Round O and the possibility of installing rumble strips – it was pointed out that a major scheme for this location had been designed but that Councillors had requested that the scheme not proceed until such time as an alternative route to avoid disruption had been identified. This is also a national secondary route and TII approval would be required for any proposed works. Safety issues resulting from speeding should be dealt with by Garda enforcement.
 - A request by residents in Ferndale for two speed ramps and additional signage indicating the speed limit/slow down.
 - Requested an update on the soccer pitch/playground in Claremont.
 - The budget available for hedge/tree cutting – it was confirmed that no specific budget existed and that Councillors could consider allocating a specific fund during budget discussions, bearing in mind the implications for other budget headings. The cost of dealing with tree removal was outlined and, whilst dealing with trees causing footpath damage could be funded from the risk mitigation fund, nuisance trees would not be included. It was agreed to deal with Item 7.11 under this item. It was also suggested that a policy be introduced to replace trees that are removed with more appropriate species in suitable areas.
 - The need to remove trees/hedging at the cantilever bridge/in front of Andy Brennan Park for safety reasons.
 - The allocation of funding to provide Big Belly Bins – it was pointed out that this was a separate capital investment.
- 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.



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Matters raised by Councillors included the introduction of the 30km/h speed limit in estates that were not included in 2017 – it was pointed out that there were separate byelaws for housing estates with no current plans to review these.

5.1.3 Consideration of Proposals for the 3 Year Road Improvement Programme 2019 – 2021.

Paul O'Brien outlined the proposed 3 year road improvement programme for local and regional roads, which is to be agreed at municipal district level and managed centrally to achieve greater value for money. The road selection is based on the pavement condition survey and prioritises the roads in the worst condition.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Planned works on a number of roads that border with Ashbourne Municipal District – it was confirmed that an agreement was reached in terms of the works required.
- Works arising from funding allocated under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme – it was confirmed that efforts would be made to link with works being undertaken by the contractor.
- Timeframe for works – it was pointed out that the earlier an agreement is reached, the earlier procurement can commence, with plans to start works earlier in the year, with surface dressings to follow.
- Queried whether works previously undertaken at Casey's Cross would facilitate the opening of the rear entrance to the schools campus – it was pointed out that the road was resurfaced but not widened and there was limited space for vehicles turning.

5.2 Planning

- ### **5.2.1**
- To receive and consider the Chief Executive's report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for the installation of lighting



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around the looped walkway and carpark in Blackwater Park, Navan, Co Meath.

Aoife Kennedy, Assistant Planner outlined the report and recommendations.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

5.3 Corporate Services

5.3.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan 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 Francis Deane

“With regard to a presentation given by Meath County Council to Navan Municipal District Councillors concerning a gap between Millbrook and Johnstown Wood, where two design options were proposed, may I ask which option has been chosen to address this pedestrian walkway issue?”

Response:

Option 1 has been chosen as the most suitable solution for the provision of the pedestrian walkway. This was agreed at a Special Meeting of Navan Municipal District on 5th April 2017. Option 1 involves maintaining the current walkway width of 2m, and the construction of concrete pavement, dropped kerbs, a public lighting column, railings and suitable planting.

It is the Council's intention to proceed with construction drawings, followed by the construction of the works. Adjacent residents will be contacted and the works discussed with them before any works commence.



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The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde (Deferred from the June meeting)

“Can I ask the Executive what are their plans for the old Meath County Council offices on Railway Street? Is this land being sold for private development and if so could we be informed as to what is happening this prime location with readymade buildings and hundreds of Car Parking spaces?”

Response:

Meath County Council is considering the future use of the County Hall in the short and medium term.

The Council is working on a Framework Plan which will identify the medium and long term development potential of the site.

In the short term the Council is negotiating a licence agreement with the L.M.E.T.B. who will rent the County Hall buildings for an initial 12 month period. The L.M.E.T.B. will take possession of the building in the coming weeks. Arrangements have been included in the licence for the Council to retain use of the relevant parts of the building for Council meetings and car parking for Councillors and staff on meeting days. Otherwise the management and maintenance of the building and car park will be the responsibility of the L.M.E.T.B. during the period of the licence.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“What is the current situation on the plan for the provision of Community Facilities in the Johnstown and Athlumney area, specifically in relation to site selection and design of the facility, following on from the findings of publication consultation which has been completed?”

Response:



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Work is ongoing to identify a suitable site as indicated at the July meeting. There are a number of constraints associated with the sites and we continue to ascertain on how these might be resolved.

We expect to be in a position to provide a further update for the October meeting.

The response was noted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“Can I ask for a commencement date for the resurfacing of the roads in Claremont estate?”

Response:

Due to a substantial rise in this year’s tendered rates, it will not be possible to complete works in all of the three estates that were initially identified within the budget available for works in housing estates. Restoration works in Claremont estate will therefore not be carried out in 2018, but will be considered a high priority for 2019’s programme of works.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde (Deferred from the June meeting)

“Can I call on the Executive to allow and advertise free parking at the old Meath County Council offices on Railway Street which will encourage shoppers to come back to Navan shops from all over Meath which will be great for local businesses that suffered greatly when the new roundabout at Mercy took 5 months to build and we lost a lot of shoppers coming to Navan from Kilmessan, Kiltale , Bective , Bohermeen , Longwood, Trim , and we need to get these shoppers back spending their money in Meath and not in Blanchardstown.”

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



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The car park at County Hall on Railway Street is not a free car park and there is a charge to park during the day. The barrier was lifted to allow free parking during the works at the Circular Road roundabout in 2017. That was for a specific purpose and there are no plans to provide ongoing free parking in that car park.

You will note from the reply to Question 6:2 that the Council is negotiating a licence arrangement with the L.M.E.T.B. and the management of the car park will fall to them during the licence period with arrangements in place for Councillor and Staff parking on Council meeting days.

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

Councillor Wayne Forde clarified that his motion called for free parking during the Christmas period at this location. Reference was made to Item 6.2, which outlined the current plans for the car park and it was agreed to refer this request to the LMETB for consideration.

The motion was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde (Deferred from the June meeting)

“Can I call on the Executive to resurface the following roads in Navan: Claremount Estate, Beechmount Vale, Beechmount Gardens , Beechmount Grove and Beechmount Avenue, St Mary's Park, Clusker Park and Blackwater Park, Kells Road, Navan and Blackcastle Estate, and when do the Executive expect that these roads will be resurfaced for public safety.”

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

Unfortunately, the only estate on the above list where works are planned as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2018 is Blackcastle Estate where a Contractor is due to commence shortly on significant footpath replacement works. If further finance is made available later in the year, the mentioned roads shall be considered as part of any expansion of the Schedule of Municipal District Works. Otherwise, consideration of these roads shall have to wait until the 2019 programme.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

It was pointed out that Councillors would agreed the list for estate works in 2019 and it was also suggested that works could be supported under the Municipal District Allocation Scheme.

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District will hand over the portrait of Fr Andrew Farrell, presently hanging in the now closed reception area of old townhall, Watergate Street, to Credit Union Plus, Navan. Fr Farrell was a founding member of St Mary's Credit Union, Navan. Several members of the community have expressed their desire to have the above mentioned portrait on public display in the credit union building. The board of directors of credit union plus have already approved this request and are happy to place the portrait on public display at their Navan branch.”

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

The Arts Office recommends that a long term loan agreement be put in place with the Credit Union regarding this work. This agreement should include a condition report and state clearly the duration of loan, process for extension of same, roles and responsibilities with regard to maintenance, insurance and security.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

A short discussion followed, it was agreed to consult Solstice Arts Centre with a view to displaying the portrait there and to consider this again at the October meeting.

The motion was noted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

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“I call on Meath County Council’s Housing Section to carry out a feasibility report which would look at the possibility of building social housing bungalows on the infill site at Clusker Park, an area where there are problems with anti social behaviour.”

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

The Housing Department will examine the site at Clusker Park for the purposes of social housing, with a particular focus on catering for the needs of older persons, and/or persons with a disability, if feasible.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“That Navan Municipal District, through the executive of Meath County Council makes an application for funding from the recently announced government initiative "Ireland's Greenway Strategy" to finance construction of the Navan to Kingscourt Greenway project.”

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

An application for funding available from the Outdoor Recreational Scheme has been made for the first phase of the Navan – Kingscourt Greenway (between Navan and Wilkinstown) and we are awaiting a decision from the Department of Rural and Community Development as to whether this has been successful. The Council confirms that it also intends to make a submission to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for funding for this greenway.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was adopted.



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7.6 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“That Navan Municipal District, on the 14th of December this year, mark the centenary of the first Dáil Elections through the placing of a commemorative plaque at Mellows Terrace in honour of the first TD elected for Meath, Liam Mellows.”

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

The Council has a Civic Commemoration Policy which sets out how commemoration proposals should be submitted for consideration by the Council’s Commemoration Committee. As outlined in the policy, this Committee recommends suitable proposals for approval to the relevant Municipal District and with the MD’s approval; the proposal is presented to the Protocol Committee. If this motion is adopted, the proposal will be sent to the Commemoration Committee for consideration.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was adopted.

7.7 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That Navan Municipal District, in the interest of pedestrian safety, constructs a footpath & public lighting from the entrance of the Mullaghboy Industrial Estate to St Finian's Cemetery on the old Athboy Road.”

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

It is approximately 1km from the end of the existing footpath at the entrance to Mullaghboy Industrial Estate to St. Finian’s Graveyard. It mostly falls within an 80kph speed zone, and is in a rural setting. There are 7 properties located on this stretch of road. The construction of a footpath may require the removal of hedgerows and the acquisition of lands. The request for the installation of the footpath remains on the list of new works requests from which a programme of works will be drawn up based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

Whilst it was conceded that this was a long stretch of road for which considerable funding would be required, the problems for people accessing the cemetery were outlined.

The motion was adopted.

7.8 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That the council will explore the viability and cost of installing a Pedestrian crossing on the Dan Shaw Road, and if deemed necessary this project be put on the works list. This road is being used with increasing numbers of pedestrians from Beechmount Shopping Centre, the Beechmount Home Retail Park and local estates.”

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

The Transportation Section of Meath County Council will explore the viability of installing a further pedestrian crossing on the Dan Shaw Road.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7.9 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“In the context of the current development of Navan town, Navan Municipal District will provide for a level of floodlighting that is appropriate with Market Square Monument being the priority.”

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



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Meath County Council will consider the request to repair (and upgrade) the lights at the Bull monument in tandem with the next phase of the public lighting capital expenditure. If these works are included, it is anticipated that the work would be carried out in the first half of 2019.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7.10 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“In relation to works in St. Brigid's Villas, I propose the motion to prune and cut back trees, particularly on the back lane; to remove a bin from the green, and install 2 lights to prevent dumping and anti social behaviour.”

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

Navan Municipal District Transportation Section has appointed a Contractor to carry out significant footpath improvement works within St. Brigid's Villas and it is envisaged that these works shall commence by the beginning of October. The additional works requested shall be assessed in the overall context of needs and available budget. The request for additional public lights shall be directed towards public lighting section for direct reply.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7.11 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“Can we write to the Minister of the Planning, Housing and Local Government seeking funding for a programme of tree pruning/cutting in urban areas, particularly in urban estates.”



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

Navan Municipal District carries out tree pruning works in housing estates to the extent that budgets allow. Funding for these works comes from the Council's own resources and any available road maintenance grants. There are approximately 86 housing estates in Navan Municipal District that are either Meath County Council estates or are in the charge of Meath County Council, and the monies that can be assigned to maintaining trees in these estates is dependent of available budgets. Problems regularly encountered include damage to footpaths by tree roots, low hanging branches obstructing head height on footpaths and roads, and overgrown trees obstructing sight lines, road signs and public lighting.

The Council will continue to deal with issues on a priority basis as they arise and subject to the availability of resources.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.

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 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Commended all involved in organising and supporting the Navan Summer



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Treasure Hunt, which took place every Saturday over 7 weeks during the summer and highlighted the benefits to Navan, particularly local businesses.

10.1.2 Highlighted the amount and quality of works undertaken in Navan during the summer.

10.1.3 Referred to a recent published article, which queried as to whether anyone cared about Navan, and the responses the article elicited. He went on to outlined the many initiatives undertaken by the Councillors and executive for the benefit of Navan and urged those who responded to the article to become involved.

10.1.4 Reminded Councillors of the protocol in place to deal with commemorations, etc.

10.2 Social Housing -

10.2.1 David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department provided an update on the social housing demand and provision for those with a disability and/or the elderly in Navan Municipal District, including plans to provide housing accommodation based on an analysis of the waiting list. A breakdown of these units was provided. An update on the audit of Council owned lands, including infill sites, was also provided with plans outlined for these. Responses were provided to specific queries raised, including Part V delivery and the need for flexible and accessible units to accommodate families.

10.3 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issue:

10.3.1 National 'Make Way Day' takes place next Wednesday in conjunction with Meath Disability Network and the Council's Access Officer.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára