



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30am, 19th January 2015, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Engineer: John McGrath

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

Administrative Officer: Alan Rogers

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

Also in attendance: Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer; Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner; Aoife Kennedy, Assistant Planner

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 8th December 2014.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th December 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Smith requested an update on resource allocations to Ashbourne Municipal District – it was confirmed that this would be covered under Item 5.2.

Councillor Joe Bonner requested that a response from the Chief Executive be circulated to Councillors with regard to the staffing issues raised at previous meetings.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Darren O'Rourke commended Meath County Council on the works undertaken in The Grange. He also enquired as to when a report on the flooding in November would be available – it was confirmed that the Environment Section had met with the OPW and that tender documents were being prepared for the appointment of consultants to undertake a catchment survey to identify the related issues and that Meath County Council would continue to work with the OPW in terms of applying for funding for any works recommended. Councillors pointed out that all areas affected should be included in the study and that the role of landowners in ditch maintenance was also important. It was agreed that all comments would be forwarded to the Environment Section.

Councillor Alan Tobin welcomed the grit distributed for use by residents associations. He also asked when the report would be available on the bins being trialled on Main Street – it was confirmed that the trial had another week to run and that, whilst a few issues had been identified, overall it had worked well and that a full review would be undertaken.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

4 To receive a presentation from Ashbourne Chamber of Commerce.

Ashbourne Chamber of Commerce delivered a presentation to the meeting, which outlined the role of the Chamber, the ways in which the Chamber and Council could work together and specific issues of concern to the Ashbourne business community, including illegal signage and parking.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors congratulated the Chamber of Commerce on their achievements and complimented the voluntary efforts of those involved. Joe Fahy also acknowledged the work of the Chamber in securing the support of business during the refurbishment works on Main Street.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The need for bye-laws to allow the introduction of a 30km per hour speed limit;
- Parking issues arising from school traffic;
- The need for high speed broadband;
- The need for space in Ashbourne for start-up businesses;



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need to promote Ashbourne for appropriate business sectors;
- The need to provide a pedestrian link between the two main streets.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the presentation.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

- 5.1.1 To receive a report inclusive of presentation on “the general provision of open space in Ashbourne with particular reference to the proposed development of a riverside park in the Killegland area”.

Aoife Kennedy, Assistant Planner, delivered a presentation to the meeting and referred to the report, “Open Space Provision in Ashbourne”, circulated to Councillors in advance. The presentation outlined the key issues and next steps.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The objectives contained in the County Development Plan with regard to open space provision based on population;
- Public access to existing facilities;
- The use of social infrastructure charges to provide facilities within the area;
- The delivery of the Linear Park and a public park;
- The need for adequate infrastructure to access existing facilities.

Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner outlined the role of the Planning Department. He pointed out that the standards contained in the County Development Plan would apply to new developments and that the review of the Local Area Plan would provide an opportunity to revisit the green infrastructure strategy for Ashbourne. He referred to the issues specific to the Killegland West area and reaffirmed that efforts were ongoing to resolve the issues identified. He also referred to the planned review of the Development Contribution Scheme in 2015 and that Ashbourne Municipal District would have an input into this review.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

It was agreed that updates would be provided to Ashbourne Municipal District as appropriate.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Aoife and Bernard for attending and for their presentation.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Claire O'Driscoll and seconded by Councillor Alan Tobin to extend the meeting by one hour.

5.2 To discuss the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Joe Fahy outlined the new structure being established across the six Municipal Districts, with John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation Operations, Jim Colwell, Senior Executive Engineer for Ashbourne and Laytown-Bettystown Municipal Districts and Janet Murphy, District Engineer being the contact for operational issues within the Ashbourne Municipal District. Alan Rogers, Administrative Officer has also been assigned to Transportation Operations.

He referred to Circular LG 27/2014 / FIN 21/2014, which was circulated to Councillors at the January meeting of Meath County Council. The adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works is a reserved function and must be prepared in the context of the adopted budget. Whilst it must be adopted by the end of March, it was hoped that it could be adopted at the February Municipal District meeting, following which, it will be the role of the executive to implement the agreed works. Reference was also made to the customer service approach being adopted.

John McGrath outlined the responsibility of both Transportation Operations and Transportation Design & Strategic Issues. He pointed out that the Schedule of Municipal District Works will outline the works to be undertaken in the Municipal District during 2015 and will include the activities that were included in the former roadworks programme in addition to other operational activities, such as street cleaning, and other departmental activities, such as housing maintenance and repair. He outlined the process to be taken in preparing the Schedule of Municipal District Works and confirmed that Janet would meet with Councillors in the coming two weeks to discuss the programme of works. The different funding streams were also referenced, including government grants, which should be confirmed in the next two weeks, and the General Municipal Allocation. It was agreed that the current 2013 to 2016 roadworks programme would be circulated to Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The need for additional outdoor staff to be assigned to Ashbourne Municipal District was highlighted by Councillors – it was confirmed that additional outdoor staff were being recruited and that these would be assigned to Ashbourne and Ratoath Municipal Districts.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the staff for attending and for the presentation.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“With regard to the Meath County Council website content, are there plans to revamp the website as I note that over the Christmas period a Shop Local Campaign on the website only mentioned Kells, Trim and Navan in their information regarding free parking? Can I inform the Council that there was also free parking in Ashbourne, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne and Bettystown. The website should be more "district friendly" and be all inclusive and not selective especially around the retail sectors busiest trading period.”

A response was provided by the Corporate Services Section, as follows:

The Christmas ‘Shop Local’ campaign is countywide and begins in early December with the Council working in partnership with businesses and the media to promote the local experience when it comes to shopping and entertainment.

It is noted that there is free parking all year round in Ashbourne, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin Dunboyne and Bettystown and that pay parking operates only in Navan, Trim and Kells.

It is acknowledged that pay parking is a disincentive to shopping locally and for many years the former Town Councils provided a period of free parking, at Christmas, to encourage shoppers into the towns. As part of their budgetary process in 2013, the former Town Councils provided for free parking in the towns during the 2014 Christmas period and this was highlighted as part of the ‘Shop Local’ campaign. As Meath County Council is now the Authority for the entire County, it is intended that an all inclusive approach will be taken with regard to any future business promotion in the County. With regard to the Council’s website, the IT Department is progressing the development of a new platform and it is anticipated that this will be live in the near future.

The response was noted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“What measures are being taken by Meath County Council to prevent crime, in particular break-ins to cars at the car park of Balrath Woods?”

A response was provided by the Community Section, as follows:

It is recommended that this matter be brought forward for consideration by the Joint Policing Committee on its establishment later in 2015. The prevention and investigation of crime is the responsibility of An Garda Síochana, but a collaborative approach with the Local Authority through the auspices of the Joint Policing Committee may represent the best approach in attempting to tackle the issue concerned, and will be in addition to measures already undertaken by Meath County Council in respect to warning notices already installed at the car park.

The response was noted.

Councillor Smith requested that an update be provided when available.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“To request the total number of social housing units in County Meath and, separately, the total number of families supported or 'housed' by Meath County Council; for a breakdown by Municipal District and by scheme e.g. RAS, Voluntary Housing, Social Housing, etc.”

A response was provided by the Housing Section, as follows:

Currently, the total number of dwellings in Meath County Council’s stock is 2,975.

Outlined below are the figures in respect to 2014 regarding the number of households who had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council through vacancies in our own stock, the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and through provision of units by the Voluntary Housing Associations.

<p>ACCOMMODATION NEEDS MET BY MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2014 PER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS)</p>
--



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

	VOLUNTARY HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS	RAS	VACANCIES
Ashbourne	-	7	4
Ratoath	13	3	5
Laytown/Bettystown	19	13	6
Kells	4	10	24
Trim	3	5	20
Navan	-	14	38
TOTAL	39	52	97

Also provided for your information is the demand for housing per Municipal District as at December 2014, in respect to Social Housing applicants.

SOCIAL HOUSING APPLICANTS – 1 ST PREFERENCE AREA PER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (DECEMBER 2014)						
	Ashbourne	Ratoath	Laytown/Bettystown	Kells	Trim	Navan
Number of 1 st Preference	457	393	562	559	460	1,478

The response was noted.

Councillor O'Rourke confirmed that he still wished to receive the current breakdown per Municipal District as it relates to the Council's housing stock.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“That the Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors support the new Vacant Site Levy Bill being discussed at Government and a letter is sent to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to state this.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Meath County Council carries out a review of Milltown Road in Ashbourne to the speed sign beyond the golf club entrance. This is to consider previous reviews, road alignment, pedestrian safety with footpath extension and upgrade to the Archerstown road intersection. This review is to be made available to Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors.”

A response was provided by the Transportation Section, as follows:

There are some related objectives included the Ashbourne LAP in relation to improvements on the Milltown Road namely INF OBJ 1, 2, 7 and 9 as follows:

- *INF OBJ 1 To upgrade and to pursue general environmental improvements at Milltown Road.*
- *INF OBJ 2 To upgrade and to pursue general environmental improvements at Archerstown Road and the junction with Milltown Road.*
- *INF OBJ 7 To provide for the improvement of Milltown Bridge.*
- *INF OBJ 9 To improve footpaths and cycle ways on all existing roads.*

In 2007 approximately €350k of works were carried out along the Milltown Road to the north west of the Archerstown/Milltown Road junction to improve drainage, footpaths and public lighting. A design exists for further road widening, kerbing and footpath improvements along this stretch of the Milltown Road. To the south-east of the Archerstown/Milltown Road junction towards the golf course (including this junction and the bridge) no corresponding design has been undertaken to date. The



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Transportation Section will seek to progress the design and construction of further improvements on the Milltown Road in line with the above objectives when resources and the work programme allows.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

Councillor Smith requested a report outlining the timeframe for the delivery of the objectives referred to in the supporting information provided. A discussion followed on the safety issues on the Milltown Road and the developments in the area. It was agreed that the Transportation Section would prepare a report for the April meeting.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Ashbourne Municipal District supports an event under the theme 'Positive Mental Health' for Comhairle na nÓg and other youth groups in the area in light of the recent AGM where this theme was identified.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Ashbourne Municipal District supports the upcoming Marriage Equality Referendum.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“That Ashbourne Municipal District recognises the value of the old water pumps and calls on Meath County Council to catalogue, restore and retain these pumps where possible.”

A response was provided by the Water Services Section, as follows:

The draft County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 -2020 also contains as an action the carrying out of fieldwork using the findings of a Meath Industrial Heritage Survey which focused on all water pumps that were shown on historic mapping of the County.

While it is well known that many of these pumps have disappeared the fieldwork will seek to identify the ones remaining and establish their operational condition. Thereafter decisions will have to be taken in terms of the provision of funding for the restoration and maintenance of these pumps where seen fit.

It is pointed out that the Council have in the past provided grant funding under Pride of Place , Amenity , and Local Agenda 21 to Community Groups who have undertaken to restore and maintain pumps which add aesthetic value to an area even where still not operational.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

A discussion followed on how this might be achieved and Councillor Seán Smith, as a member of Meath Heritage Forum, agreed to discuss this with the Heritage Officer.

It was agreed that the motion would be amended as follows:

“That Ashbourne Municipal District recognises the value of the old water pumps and calls on Meath County Council to catalogue, restore and retain these pumps where possible, with a pilot project to be undertaken in Ashbourne Municipal District.”

The amended motion was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“That the Ashbourne Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to honour it's duties in road maintenance on cul de sacs and at a minimum fill potholes when needed.”

A response was provided by the Transportation Section, as follows:

It is a function of the Council of a County to maintain and construct all local roads in its County. Meath County Council will continue to repair potholes on cul-de-sacs in circumstances where this is an appropriate form of maintenance, and as resources allow. However, given their position in the overall road classification hierarchy, to undertake more extensive repair works on cul-de-sacs, the Council hope that the pilot Community Involvement Scheme introduced by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in 2013-2014 will be extended in 2015 and beyond. This will give an opportunity for communities to have road repair work carried out at relatively modest cost on local roads and cul-de-sacs which are unlikely to be included as a priority on the Council's main road works programme.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

A discussion followed on the Community Involvement Scheme and pothole repair on cul de sacs.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Jamal and seconded by Councillor Seán Smith to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

7.7 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“I ask that Meath County Council make funding available for 4 new pedestrian "Pelican" type crossings immediately as there are serious safety concerns, especially for school children and the elderly, at the following areas:

- 1) Between the Briars and Baldara Court housing estates (R135 south of Ashbourne),
- 2) On Castle St adjacent to the entrance to Garden City Estate (L50192),
- 3) On Castle St at the roundabout adjacent to the DeLacy College (L50192),



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4) On the R135 North of Frederick St adjacent to Castle St.”

A response was provided by the Transportation Section, as follows:

In relation to pedestrian crossings in Ashbourne the following is the situation:

- 1) Between the Briars and Baldara Court housing estates (R135 south of Ashbourne) - This will be considered in the design of phase 2 for Ashbourne Street;*
- 2) On Castle St adjacent to the entrance to Garden City estate (L50192) - We will seek funding for this from the NTA;*
- 3) On Castle St at the roundabout adjacent to the DeLacy College (L50192) - We will seek funding for this from the NTA;*
- 4) On the R135 North of Frederick St adjacent to Castle Street - A fully signalised traffic signal with pedestrian facilities is being included in phase 2 for this junction and in conjunction with the new school campus.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

A discussion followed on the need for timeframes to be provided for these works, the funding sources for such works and the possibility of relocating the school traffic warden to Castle Street.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Claire O’Driscoll raised the following issues:

- i. Issues at the new roundabout at Curraha;
- ii. The erection of a bus stop on the R132 at Gormanstown;



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- iii. The promotion of gritting routes on the Council website.
- 9.2** Councillor Seán Smith requested a copy of the presentation delivered to the Protocol Committee regarding the Battle of Ashbourne Commemorative Committee, which is to be presented at the February MCC meeting, in order to make a submission.
- 9.3** Councillor Darren O'Rourke referred to his request that a representative from Bus Éireann be invited to attend a meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District to discuss issues around bus service provision – it was confirmed that an invitation had been issued but no response yet received.
- 9.4** Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:
- i. Gritting on the Kilbride Road and Castle Street;
 - ii. Development of plans to involve schools in designing a Municipal District flag.
- 9.5** Councillor Suzanne Jamal asked how routes could be added to the gritting programme – the gritting programme and associated resources was outlined.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach