



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 16th January, 2017, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Eugene Cassidy, Seán Drew, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Johnny Guirke, Bryan Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 19th December, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th December were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Emma O’Keeffe, Wilkinstown, Navan and formerly of Kilmainham, Kells and Nobber.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Athboy Hub on being nominated as a finalist in the IPB/LAMA 2017 Community and Council Awards under the category Best Connected Community.

4 To meet with Adrian O'Loughlin, Bus Éireann to discuss issues affecting bus services in the Kells Municipal District.

Adrian O'Loughlin, Services Manager, Bus Éireann attended the meeting and updated Councillors on the 109, 109A and 109X services. A draft timetable was now available on the website inviting comments prior to its introduction in late February/early March, subject to union negotiations.

The following issues were raised by Councillors:

- Changes to schedules in the Athboy area on Routes 111 and 111X and communication of changes to service users.
- The need to ensure the timing of the new 190 service enables users to transfer to the other service without long delays.
- The provision of a terminus on the south side of the city – the issues affecting services in Dublin city centre were outlined, including the Luas works and Dublin City Council initiatives, and it was confirmed that the priority was to access the city centre but that the NTA would review the routes and timetables once the Luas works were complete and taking into account other traffic initiatives.
- The reliability of service schedules and capacity on routes – it was confirmed that there had been a number of service failures that were being addressed but that limited resources meant double deckers could not be provided on every route.
- The possibility of providing services to rural villages with increased populations, such as Carlanstown – it was confirmed that all locations including Carlanstown was being reviewed by the NTA as part of the PSO contract.



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- The provision of bus stops and bus shelters – the processes for requesting these were outlined and it was agreed to provide Councillors with the contact information in the NTA regarding bus shelter requests.
- The need to ensure fare structures are adequately communicated and the possibility of reducing fares on off-peak services – it was pointed out that the NTA decides the fare structure and that, in order to encourage the use of Leap cards, cash fares are likely to continue to rise.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Adrian for attending and it was required that Councillors would submit any other queries or issues direct to Adrian.

5 To receive the presentation from Rockfield/Gardenrath Residents Association.

Michael Brennan, Jim Deignan and Miriam Manning attended the meeting on behalf of the residents association and delivered a presentation to the meeting which provided a background to the estate and residents association, and the issues arising in the estate including the road surfaces, footpaths, public lighting, tree maintenance, speeding and traffic calming.

A short discussion followed as Councillors acknowledged the condition of the road surfaces but also the footpath works that had taken place; the need for funding to upgrade infrastructure in older estates and the role of residents in dealing with issues of speeding.

It was confirmed that the Council was aware of the issues raised and was awaiting guidance from the Department in relation to the assessment of urban footpaths but that funding was required to remediate these. It was also pointed out that watermain works in the estate were due to commence at the end of this year and to be completed in 2018 and roadworks would not be considered until these works were completed. Whilst there is no specific funding for tree maintenance, trees that are of concern would be assessed and works undertaken if required. It was confirmed that the junctions would be assessed and road markings improved as required.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the group for their presentation, commended them on their work over the years and committed their support for the group in achieving their objectives.



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6 Statutory Business

6.1 Corporate Services

- 6.1.1 To consider a schedule of twinning activities for Kells Municipal District for 2017.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services attended the meeting and reminded Councillors of the protocol adopted in 2016. The available funding was outlined and it was pointed out that proposals are being invited with a view to finalising the annual schedule of twinning activities by the end of January.

- 6.1.2 To discuss the proposal to name a roundabout after Brian O' Higgins.

It was confirmed that TII did not support the naming of roundabouts after individuals but that a bridge had been identified that may be suitable. It was however pointed out that this bridge was in close proximity to a GAA pitch that was also named after Brian O'Higgins. It was also pointed out that local research had resulted in a proposal to name this bridge after John Sweetman, from Drumbaragh, and the reasons for this proposal were outlined. Any naming of the bridge would first require the approval of TII.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** to proceed to name the bridge after Brian O'Higgins.

It was also agreed that Meath County Council should arrange the plaque and any related naming ceremony.

6.2 Heritage

- 6.2.1 To discuss issues relating to older burial grounds.

Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer, attended the meeting and provided the following updates:



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- Dulane graveyard - A detailed inspection had been undertaken, a lot of the preliminary works were complete and a structural engineering assessment was now required to identify further works required. It was agreed that these works should proceed.
- Rathmore graveyard – The OPW had been contacted and we are awaiting reply. The collapsed wall had been inspected and we are in discussion with a local group to make an application under the graveyard scheme.
- Site near Cormeen – The site was overgrown and grants were available to groups under the Community Grants Scheme, with a seminar held last year on the maintenance of older graveyards and advice provided to new groups. Groups should be encouraged to make an application under the Community Grants. Assistance was also available on the purchase of equipment.

A short discussion followed on issues relating to access/rights of way to older graveyards that were either on or were only accessible by private land. It was pointed out that this was a complex issue, with individual examples differing, and may require legal intervention in some cases.

6.3 Transportation

- 6.3.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- The new format for the selection of roads under the CIS and the number of roads in the Kells Municipal District that require attention – it was confirmed that this would be discussed at the Transportation SPC meeting on 26th January.
- The issue with litter bins being filled with domestic refuse – it was confirmed that efforts had been undertaken to deal with this issue.



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- The possibility of enforcing fast food outlets to display their business name on packaging to deter littering and whether this could be done as part of bye-laws on a county or municipal district basis – it was agreed to refer this to Environment.

6.3.2 To consider taking in charge the following Road/Lane and the making of a declaration of a Road over which a public Right of Way exists to be a public road in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 .

- Coolaliss Lane Staholmog, Carlanstown, Co.Meath.

A report was circulated on the taking in charge of Coolaliss Lane, including a recommendation not to proceed for the reasons outlined but that junction improvements be considered.

A short discussion followed on the issues relating to this lane, the implications of taking it in charge and the alternative options that could be considered. Following this discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew** to proceed to take in charge Coolaliss Lane, Staholmog, Carlanstown.

It was also agreed that the issue of taking in charge private lanes be discussed further the at the Transportation SPC meeting.

7 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“That Meath County Council includes a Traffic Management Plan for the village of Drumconrath in its 2017 Works Programme.”

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



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In light of requests for the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing in Drumconrath, Meath County Council carried out an assessment on the 17th November 2016 in the village at two locations (outside the school and at the Carrickmacross Junction).

The assessment was based on the National Roads Authority Pedestrian Crossing Specification and Guidance document and showed that the pedestrian and vehicular numbers/movements were insufficient to justify the provision of a pedestrian crossing.

The assessment was carried out scientifically on traffic and pedestrian counts and was not a subjective opinion based survey.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke**.

A short discussion followed, where Councillor Gallagher accepted that pedestrian crossings may not be justified but stated that other measures to slow traffic, especially HGVs, must be examined. A number of suggestions emerged including the provision of signage alerting drivers to their speed, putting in a traffic island to slow traffic, asking the Gardaí to carry out speed checks, and trying to identify the main offenders and approaching them directly. Reference was also made to the Drumconrath Local Area Plan, which indicates that the long term solution is to put in formal on-street parking arrangements in the context of future road works in the village.

The motion was noted.

9 Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- 9.1 To receive the report from the Environment & Emergency Services SPC meeting of 16th December, 2016.

The report was noted.

- 9.2 To receive the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural SPC meeting of 21st December 2016.

The report was noted.



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10 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11 Any Other Business

11.1 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:

11.1.1 Complimented the contractor on the works being undertaken on the Headfort Road.

11.2 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

11.2.1 The need to improve visibility for cars exiting from the road on the Nobber to Kingscourt road near the Council depot.

11.2.2 The status of the Council policy in relation to abandoned cars – it was agreed to refer this to Environment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach