



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 25th January, 2017, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Francis Deane**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Wayne Forde, Jim Holloway, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Paul O'Brien

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Kevin Stewart, Director of Services and Claire King, Meetings Administrator.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 21st December, 2016.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st December 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 19th December, 2016.

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 19th December 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 10th January, 2017.

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 10th January, 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes



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Councillor Joe Reilly referred to the presentation delivered by Stephen O'Connor, SIRO on the broadband initiative for Navan and the correspondence received from SIRO regarding the difficulties encountered with regard to connecting to approximately 3,000 homes. Given that the difficulties are technical issues, it was requested that technical staff would meet with SIRO to discuss the technical issues which are posing a challenge to SIRO.

Councillor Sinéad Burke referred to the Special Meeting on the N51 Navan to Slane Road and, following on from that meeting, the note that was made afterwards regarding the setting up of a Residents Committee. She requested that the Chairman be kept informed of the progress on that development, which will help establish the Residents Committee and keep the lines of communication open.

Des Foley referred to the meeting with Consultants in December regarding the Navan Public Realm Project. It was agreed at that meeting that they would come back early in the New Year. It was agreed that an information briefing for Councillors would take place on Wednesday, 8th February, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Ray Mooney, Navan.
- The family of the late William Smith, retired Meath County Librarian.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

- 4.1.1 To consider a schedule of twinning activities for Navan Municipal District.

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.



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It was also pointed out that Navan Municipal District differs from the other Municipal Districts in that Navan is twinned with two towns, Bobbio and Brocestella in Italy, and that the Ezio Lupo Bursary has been established and is working well.

Councillors were asked if they wished to continue with this next year or if there were other twinning activities they wished to consider. It was agreed that the Mayor would meet Councillors and any submissions would be made by the Mayor.

4.2 Transportation

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

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

- Concern was expressed at the quality of the hanging baskets last year – it was confirmed that tendering for this year’s hanging baskets includes for the maintenance of same.
- Water cuts in rural areas – it was confirmed that these were ongoing.
- Plans to upgrade Abbey Road at the lights – the design of this will be included as part of the public realm scheme. There is provision in the 3-year programme for funding for these works, which will be carried out in 2018.
- The issue of illegal dumping at the bridge at the Boyne at Stackallen.
- The need to carry out improvement works to the roundabout at the Round-O at Flowerhill.
- The footpath works in Dunderry and why the footpath wasn’t started at Horan’s pub – it was confirmed that the necessary width was not available on Horan’s side. In addition, the open nature of the area around Horan’s would not be a suitable location for the footpath to



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start. In the longer term the open space needs to be properly delineated, and funding will have to be sourced for this.

- Trees were cut down in Ferndale on the left hand side and stubs were left one foot high; it was asked that these stubs be cut down to grass level.
- Road repairs required at St. Oliver's cottages.
- The need for street cleaning to be carried out on the weekends – it was confirmed that this is currently in place.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Are there plans by the Executive to hold a civic reception for Bective GFC in respect of their fantastic achievement on winning both the Junior Football Championship and the Tailteann Cup in 2016?”

Response:

A request to hold a Civic Reception for Bective GFC has not been discussed at a Navan Municipal District meeting and therefore there are currently no plans by the Executive to hold a Civic Reception for Bective GFC. However the holding of a Civic Reception in recognition of those who achieved high standards in sport during 2016 was discussed and it could be possible that Bective GFC be considered as part of the selection process for this Civic Reception.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

- a) “What revenue was generated from parking metres in December 2015 in comparison to December 2016?”*



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- b) *Taking into consideration that Navan has been selected as 'the friendliest town in which to do business' by Retail Excellence, would it be possible for Navan Municipal District to introduce one hour free for one hour paid parking on Saturdays going forward?"*

Response:

- a) Total for December 2015 = €67,591.02 , Total for December 2016 = €78,910.60
- b) Based on experience, occupancy rates, turnover of vehicles and customer surveys carried out in Navan, it is considered that it can be difficult to find a car parking space in the centre of Navan (in particular Kennedy Plaza, Trimgate Street, Watergate Street And Abbey Road car parks) resulting in difficulties for customers to access shops/businesses in these localities. Considering this information, the introduction of incentives for longer stays would reduce the availability of parking in the town centre, which in turn could affect the numbers of potential customers visiting the town centre.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

"With planning permission being sought for the construction of another 354 housing units in the Johnstown area, can the Executive provide Navan Municipal District with detailed plans as to how Meath County Council intends to provide community facilities, in a community that has no such facilities, under the Planning and Development Acts 2001-2001."

Response:

The Council, in exercising its role as planning authority, will determine each planning application on its own merits. Where a decision to grant permission is made, conditions are attached, which may include payment of a development contribution in accordance with a scheme in force at the date of the decision.

The Development Contribution Scheme is the mechanism whereby financial contributions are obtained towards the provision of social infrastructure benefitting the area of the planning authority. The application of those contributions is given effect by



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the Council's Capital Building Programme and Members will shortly be advised of the Capital Building Programme for the 2017-2019 period.

Clarification was sought as to how the Council intends to provide community facilities. Director of Services, Des Foley clarified that if facilities were to be provided in Johnstown area they would be done by means of the Capital Programme.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“Navan Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to implement the following traffic measures:

- *The elimination of the right turn allowing vehicles to enter Market Square via Timmons Hill. This would allow for traffic to move more fluently along the Dublin Road and prevent gridlock.*
- *That consideration be given to operating the traffic light system at Blackwater Business Park. It is clearly becoming more dangerous for vehicles turning right towards Kells.”*

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

The prohibiting of right-turning vehicles onto Timmons Hill forms part of the traffic management plan currently being proposed in conjunction with the public realm enhancements. This traffic management plan also includes the reversal of one-way traffic on Ludlow Street and Bridge Street. This will allow access to these streets from the R147 via Circular Road. The prohibiting of right-hand turns onto Timmons Hills in advance of these works would result in additional traffic on Circular Road/Fair Green and Kennedy Road. The works involved would include the replacement of signal heads, re-programming the stages and associated integration into the Urban Traffic Control system, signage and amendment of road markings.



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In order to determine whether the operation of the traffic signals at Blackwater Business Park is appropriate, a consultant would have to be appointed to obtain and analyse traffic volumes and design the traffic signal stages. If the operation of the lights was deemed appropriate, the signals, electrical supplies, loop detectors, etc. would have to be checked and commissioned. Funding would be required for these works.

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

The following amendment was proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**:

“Navan Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to implement the following traffic measures:

- *The elimination of the right turn allowing vehicles to enter Market Square via Timmons Hill and the provision of a right turn onto the Fairgreen from Circular Road. This would allow for traffic to move more fluently along the Dublin Road and Circular Road and prevent gridlock.*
- *That consideration be given to operating the traffic light system at Blackwater Business Park. It is clearly becoming more dangerous for vehicles turning right towards Kells.”*

A short discussion followed and it was confirmed that this matter would be discussed in greater detail at the Public Realm Plan meeting.

The amended motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“That Meath County Council install public lighting on L-3400-0 to link existing lighting at Glenveigh to that at Boyne Road, Athlumney”.

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



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A preliminary lighting design was undertaken to install lighting from the entrance to Boyne Wood to tie in with the existing public lighting on the Boyne Road. In order to install an adequate public lighting scheme along the extent of this roadway, a budget of €67,000 plus VAT is required subject to final detailed design and a competitive tendering process. There is currently no funding available to undertake these works. Perhaps the Members could consider including this work in future roadworks programmes.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.

Des Foley advised that the Schedule of Municipal District Works is listed for the February Meeting of Navan Municipal District and that public lighting will be included as part of this discussion.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive to construct a proper walkway footpath from the Ramparts car park, which will be suitable for bicycles, prams and people walking along the Ramparts out to Ardmulchan Bridge.”

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

The existing walkway along the River Boyne from the Ramparts car park to the bridge at Ardmulchan is in the charge of An Taisce. Future phases of the Boyne Greenway include a phase from Slane to Navan. Should this phase go ahead, it would provide an enhanced walkway.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

A discussion followed and it was agreed that a hard surface is required on the walkway closer to the town but, further out, the walkway should maintain its natural habitat. Concern was expressed about the condition of the trees at the Ramparts and the need for repair, protection and regrowth of these.



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It was agreed that the Ramparts is a great facility but could be a better asset to the town in terms of tourism, health and fitness and nature.

It was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway** that all the key players be invited to set up a Task Force to develop a Strategy Plan for the Ramparts.

Des Foley confirmed that the funding for the greenway from Navan to Kingscourt along the rail line and the Boyne Valley greenway is on hold until a strategy is prepared and a consultation paper is published on greenways throughout the country. However, there are aspects of those works that can be advanced so that, when funding is allocated, the Council is in a position to avail of it. In the meantime various groups can be contacted to see how the existing walkway can be enhanced.

The motion was adopted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive to proactively work with the residents in Silverlawns and Ferndale estates with regard to the closure of both alleyways in Silverlawns - from between house numbers 176 and 177 leading to 129 and 128, and between house numbers 90C and 90 leading to number 11 and the shops along the Rathaldron Road, Navan, and in Ferndale estate between 142 and 143 for public safety.”

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

The information provided in response to this issue for the May 2016 motion (see below) remains the same. Meath County Council will continue to liaise with the residents to find a solution.

Supporting information provided in May 2016:

In order to close off these two alleyways, it would be necessary to extinguish the public right of way in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993. This process requires a public consultation process. If the public right of way is extinguished, the road authority would no longer be responsible for the maintenance of the alleyways. The local authority must ensure the carrying out of any works necessary to effect the

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extinguishment of the public right of way and to ensure that the land over which a public right of way has been extinguished does not become an eyesore.

Simply closing off the alleyways at the ends would not meet the above requirements, and an inspection of the alleyways identified a number of other issues.



- Underground telecommunication cables run along both alleyways, and there is an air cabinet that opens into the alleyway and an air chamber present.
- There is drainage along the alleyways, including chambers.
- In Alleyway 2, the garage walls form the alleyway walls, with gutters, downpipes and gullies located in the alleyway.
- There are gates into back gardens off the alleyway, and in Alleyway 2 this is the only means of external access to the gardens.
- There is a significant difference in ground levels between Alleyway 1 and house no. 90A and the hairdressers.
- House number 128 is currently boarded up.



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Ideally, agreement from the current owner of the land (Meath County Council is not the owner) would be obtained to sell or lease the land to the centreline of the alleyways to each of the eight adjoining property owners. The property holders would then have to construct dividing walls along the centreline of the alleyways and extend their front and back boundary walls to this new wall. Service diversions may be necessary as the air and drainage services would be on private property.

The Silverlawns Residents' Association is in favour of closing these two alleyways, provided access to the back gardens would be considered. However, the successful closing of the alleyways would be dependent on the land agreements outlined above, and the ability and willingness of all 8 property owners to carry out the required works.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

A discussion followed and Fiona Beers outlined the process involved in extinguishing a public right of way, the complications in respect of these alleyways with regard to various stakeholders and the implications it would have. She had advised that they had met with the residents of Silverlawns last year and advised them of the options available. The residents were to consider these and come back with the preferred solution. However, to date, the residents have not come back. It was agreed that a further meeting would be held with the residents of Ferndale and Silverlawns.

It was also agreed to commence the statutory process of extinguishing these rights of ways.

The motion was adopted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I propose that a traffic management report be carried out at Mercy School campus, Leighsbrook entrance/St Benildas Villas, in an effort to address the serious congestion caused by school traffic which directly affects local residents gaining access to their homes."

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



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A full traffic management report would require the services of a consultant, for which funding is not currently available. Double yellow lines, ramps and bollards have already been provided on the public road at this location.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

A short discussion followed and Des Foley advised that this will form part of the Public Realm Project.

The motion was noted.

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Navan Municipal District to write to the NTA asking for an extension of the footpath at Simonstown to facilitate pedestrians who walk to the Navan Racecourse. Some years ago the town council passed a motion regarding a proposed plan for a footpath on this route."

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

The length of this footpath would be over 1km and the cost would be in excess of €250,000. The request for this section of footpath will be placed on the Requests for New Works Database, and it will be considered when prioritising schemes for any future funding from the NTA or other sources. Meath County Council does not write to the NTA with individual requests; rather, applications are based on integrated schemes in accordance with NTA requirements.

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

The motion was adopted.

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Sineád Burke

"That the Council install a second sign indicating "St Mary's Park" at the bottom of the park, there is no signage on this side of the estate."



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

Meath County Council is currently making arrangements to install a second sign indicating “St. Mary’s Park” in this estate.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.

6.8 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to discuss when the road between Casey’s Cross (R153) to Johnstown Village will be improved to allow for access from the Johnstown Educational Campus and to facilitate traffic flow in the locality.”

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

Provision of footpath and cycling facilities between Casey’s Cross and the Grandbrind entrance will be carried out when the distributor road is completed through the Grandbrind development. The remainder of that county road will be improved similarly if and when other funding becomes available.

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

A short discussion followed and it was agreed that clarification would be sought as to whether the distributor road would be completed prior to the Grandbrind Development.

The motion was noted.

7 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

7.1 To receive the report from the Environment & Emergency Services SPC meeting of 16th



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December, 2016.

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Requested CCTV and lighting be installed at Metges Lane due to anti-social behaviour.

- 9.2 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Road markings required at the exit of Canterbrook estate onto the Trim Road.

9.2.2 Requested the entrance to Balreask Manor be highlighted more.

9.2.3 Request for yellow lines at Kilcarn Court as people are parking on Swan Lane and the entrance to Kilcarn Court which is causing congestion.

9.2.4 Requested that the landscaping along the entrance road to Scoil Naomh Eoin from Clonmagadden be upgraded.

- 9.3 Councillor Joe Reilly raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Request that a letter be written to Bus Éireann asking them to consider the provision of a bus stop at Liscarton.



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- 9.3.2 Requested that parts of the playground in Andy Brennan Park, which have been removed, be replaced and that the playground be cleaned up.
- 9.3.3 Requested the number of fines issued in Blackwater Park be monitored and recorded.
- 9.3.4 Requested an update on a safety report for pedestrian movement around the roundabout at the Round O.
- 9.3.5 Requested an update on the appointment of a Design Team for the bridge across the Blackwater.
- 9.4 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issues:
 - 9.4.1 Requested that a big tree outside No. 89 Athlumney Castle be looked at as it is lifting the road.
 - 9.4.2 Requested two bollards be put up outside the Oriental Palace on Kennedy Road next to the Disabled Parking bay.
 - 9.4.3 Asked if there were any plans to change the junction at Cairn Hill and Johnstown Road at Metges Road – it was confirmed that there were no plans at present.
 - 9.4.4 Following the success of the Christmas Market, asked about the possibility of holding this year's Christmas Market on Trimgate Street.
- 9.5 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:
 - 9.5.1 Requested the provision of litter bins around bus shelters in Johnstown area.
 - 9.5.2 The need for additional signage on Circular Road to indicate the location of the tourist office in Solstice – it was confirmed that the sign has been ordered.
- 9.6 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issues:
 - 9.6.1 Reported public lights out of order at Boyne View, Johnstown.



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9.6.2 Requested the gullies be cleaned out at Beechgrove, Johnstown Wood.

9.7 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

9.7.1 Reported section of wall crumbling at St Benilda's Villas and asked that works be carried out to same.

9.7.2 Requested the derelict site at Abbeylands be addressed – it was confirmed that a dangerous structure notice had been issued and no action was taken.

9.7.3 Requested directional signage be erected for Old Johnstown Village.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára