



Clár / Meeting Agenda

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 18th February 2015, Navan Civic Offices

An Leas-Mheára, **Councillor Wayne Forde**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Shane Cassells, Francis Deane, Jim Holloway, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Tadhg McDonnell

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Ronan McEnroe

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Also in attendance: John McGrath, Senior Engineer; David Jones, Senior Executive Officer; Tom Traynor, Senior Executive Engineer; Padraig O'Shea, Assistant Planner.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 21st January 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st January 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Joe Reilly referred to the update received from the Transportation Department regarding legal advices sought on the parking issue and confirmed that he was happy with the response received.



Clár / Meeting Agenda

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Councillor Wayne Forde paid tribute to his late father, whose 10th anniversary would take place on 19th February, and for his work in relation to maintaining services at Our Lady's Hospital.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 To consider and adopt the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Tadhg McDonnell provided the background to the Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW), including the major service divisions, housing and transportation, to which it applies in terms of repair and maintenance.

David Jones outlined the categories for housing maintenance and repair and explained the background to and rationale for the allocations, including those managed centrally. He confirmed that the 2015 allocations had not yet been confirmed and that the allocations were therefore based on the 2014 funding but that it was hoped that the allocation would increase in 2015.

Matters raised by the Councillors, and responses received, included:

- Updates on progress were requested – it was confirmed that, whilst this was not a statutory requirement, updates would be provided.
- The length of time for making vacant units available – it was confirmed that all efforts were made to make units available as quickly as possible, using a contractor, but that occasionally external factors will impact, for example abandonment of properties, the condition of units, etc.
- Regular checking of housing stock and halting sites for abandoned properties, damage, etc.
- The responsibility of tenants for the maintenance of windows and doors – it was confirmed that traditionally tenants were responsible for small maintenance works and that an information sheet is being prepared for



Clár / Meeting Agenda

Councillors on the rights and responsibilities of tenants, which can be followed up by a presentation at a meeting, if required.

- BER testing on units and the effectiveness of pumping cavity walls – it was pointed out that Phase I of the Department’s energy upgrade scheme covered insulation and that Phase II would include boiler upgrades and controls, external insulation, etc.
- Poor or no heating systems in houses – it was confirmed that, whilst Navan Municipal District had a higher percentage of older houses than other municipal districts, all houses had some form of heating installed and that issues are dealt with as they arise.
- Adaptation grants and how they are allocated – it was agreed to provide information on the waiting list at the next meeting.
- Homelessness service – whilst this was outside the scope of the SMDW, it was pointed out that a quality service was being provided in despite the increased demand.

John McGrath, Transportation Department provided an overview of the breakdown of funding relating to transportation, the sources of funding and how these can be spent, the rationale for the allocations to the Municipal District and the central budgets that are allocated over the six municipal districts.

Matters raised by Councillors, and responses received, included:

- The need to allocate funding to remove trees and shrubs from bridges.
- The possibility of providing year round street sweeping, the need for a change of culture around litter, the role of the community and business owners – it was pointed out that whilst everyone had the same objective, a year round service may not be possible and that more innovative initiatives were being trialled, for example the big belly bins are to be trialled in the Market Square area for 6 weeks.
- The poor condition of several estates in Navan, many of which are older and larger than those in other towns.
- The abolition of the block grants in the former town council areas and the need to upgrade and invest in streets and estates in Navan town.



Clár / Meeting Agenda

- The need for proper design of estates and the role of the Planning SPC.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde** that, whilst the allocations contained in the SMDW were not the issue, a decision on its adoption would be deferred to the March meeting, the executive would be requested to seek additional funding on behalf of Meath County Council and this issue would be raised with the CPG at their March meeting.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

4.2 Planning

4.2.1 To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared pursuant to Section 20 (C) (1) of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2014 on submissions and observations received with respect to the proposed revocation to the following Local Area Plans

- Navan LAP 1 2011-2017
- Navan LAP 3 2006-2012
- Navan LAP 4 2007-2013

Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report, to make a recommendation to Meath County Council to revoke or not revoke the stated Local Area Plans.

Padraig O'Shea, Assistant Planner delivered a verbal report to the meeting that outlined the background to the process to date and also the submissions received and recommendations made.

Matters raised by the Councillors included residential development as part of LAP4, flood risk zones and schools as part of LAP1.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway** to accept the recommendations made in the report.



Clár / Meeting Agenda

4.3 Transportation

4.3.1 Report on notice to extinguishing of public rights of way on the R161 Navan – Trim Road.

Fiona Beers referred to the reports circulated in advance of the meeting and outlined the key points contained therein. She confirmed that no objections had been received.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde** to approve the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way as detailed.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can the executive please include the resurfacing of footpaths in Beechdale Drive in the 2015 capital works programme, as they are in a very poor state and in need of urgent resurfacing?”

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

The inclusion in the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works of resurfacing of sections of footpaths in Beechdale Drive can be considered, subject to priority over other estates and sufficient funding.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

“Can the executive provide an update on the lands at Liscarton?”



Clár / Meeting Agenda

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

The Council has instituted Proceedings against 11 local residents and that Defences and Counterclaims have been received from 4 against whom the matter will be proceeding to trial.

Also, the Defendants have sought discovery of documents and the Council are currently working on this.

Realistically it could be next Autumn before a court date would be available.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Regarding the green area at Kennedy Crescent on Proudstown Road, adjoining St Mary's Park, I wish to enquire as to the timeframe proposed for completion of landscaping and re-seeding of this area?”

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

The re-seeding will be completed in late Spring or early Summer, when weather and growing conditions are more favourable.

The response was noted.

Councillor Deane queried as to whether Meath County Council would maintain the green area. It was agreed to check this.

5.4 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“Can the Executive please inform us of the current status of the taking in charge process of Leighsbridge Estate where there remains several outstanding works such as surfacing of roads requiring immediate attention?”



Clár / Meeting Agenda

A response was provided by the Planning Department, as follows:

Meath County Council forwarded details of the outstanding works to the developer in 2012, some of which were completed at that time.

It is noted that works relating to the tarmac finish top coat remain outstanding and that Meath County Council has not received a valid taking in charge request for this estate from either the Developer or the residents (via Plebiscite).

The response was noted.

Councillor Cassells requested that Planning Enforcement be requested to engage with the developer and the residents association.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“That two “No Parking” signs be erected at the bottom of St. Patricks Terrace, Navan and that the entire footpath on both sides of the road be resurfaced, as they are in urgent need of repair and resurfacing for public safety.”

Supporting information was provided by the Transportation Section, as follows:

Two “No Parking” signs were erected at the bottom of St. Patrick’s Terrace on 9th February 2015.

The inclusion in the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works of footpath works at St. Patrick’s Terrace can be considered, subject to priority over other estates and sufficient funding.

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

The motion was adopted.



Clár / Meeting Agenda

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“That the resurfacing of all the roads in Silverlawns be included in the 2015 Capital Works Programme, as there are certain parts of the road in urgent need of repair and resurfacing.”

Supporting information was provided by the Transportation Section, as follows:

Certain works were carried out in Silverlawns in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. The inclusion in the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works of further areas of Silverlawns can be considered, subject to priority over other estates and sufficient funding.

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

The motion was adopted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District writes to the Department of Education and Science in relation to Sion House on the Johnstown Education Campus, to investigate the possibility of using this building for the purpose of facilitating progression in further education for learners in the county of Meath with special needs who are over the age of eighteen years.”

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

The motion was unanimously adopted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That the Navan town paint enhancement scheme be extended to include the Corn Market, thereby giving a facelift to a derelict site and eyesore. Community groups, traders and stakeholders have expressed a willingness to be involved in carrying out the work.”



Clár / Meeting Agenda

Supporting information was provided by the Community Department, as follows:

The community department will now process all community grants for the county from 2015. Community section is currently carrying out a review of all community grants that were administered throughout the towns and county. A new formal funding application system will then be put in place following this review.

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

The motion was adopted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“In line with the Government's Positive Ageing Strategy, which seeks to promote physical activity for senior citizens in local communities (Objective 1.4.1) that Navan Municipal District applies to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (Lead Authority in respect of objective) for funding towards the provision of outdoor physical exercise equipment for Blackwater Park to add to the playground equipment already installed and display that the park is inclusive and respectful of all ages.”

Supporting information was provided by the Community Department, as follows:

Meath County Council has facilitated the work of the Meath Age Friendly County Alliance in its aim of making Meath an ‘Age Friendly County’. Considerable progress has been achieved since 2011 in attaining this goal.

The Community Department remains committed to progressing the Age Friendly agenda, and will pursue all opportunities that will assist in the realisation of the Meath Age Friendly County Strategy. The lack of recreational areas for older people is one of the issues raised by older people during the consultation for this strategy, and compliments the sentiment of the Government's Positive Ageing Strategy on the promotion of physical activity for senior citizens.

Accordingly, the provision of outdoor physical exercise equipment in Blackwater Park will be investigated by the Community Department, within the context of the overall



Clár / Meeting Agenda

development of the park, and specifically, the promotion of the well being of older people in the County.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

Councillor Cassells referred to a meeting held with the Later Life Network in 2014, at which concerns and issues were expressed. He proposed that the installation of this equipment would not only compliment Blackwater Park but would also demonstrate that Councillors were willing to address those issues identified. He also referred to the government strategy under which funding could be applied for.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“That Navan Municipal District will engage with the residents of Athlumney Hall and provide for the replacement of trees felled in this estate and substitute these with some planting that would respect the fine work done by the Residents Association.”

Supporting information was provided by the Transportation Department, as follows:

The trees were removed in the interests of facilities and safety in the estate and replacement planting was not envisaged. Consideration would have to be given to the priority of this request compared to necessary road and footpath repairs in all other estates.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

A short discussion followed on the responsibility of the Council in communicating with residents with regard to the works undertaken.

It was noted that this estate is not taken in charge and the works were not carried out by Meath County Council.

The motion was unanimously adopted.



Clár / Meeting Agenda

7 Correspondence

7.1 Launch of 2015 Anti Litter Initiative – Application Form.

The correspondence was noted.

7.2 Community Requests

7.2.1 Correspondence from Pdraig Fitzsimons, Chairperson, Navan Shamrock Festival.

The correspondence was noted.

7.2.2 Correspondence from Navan Mental Health Association.

The correspondence was noted.

7.2.3 Correspondence from Special Olympics Ireland.

The correspondence was noted.

Councillors requested that the Community Department consider the role of Councillors at Municipal District level in endorsing community fund applications. It was agreed to refer this to the Community Department.

7.3 Correspondence from the Legal Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Equality regarding CCTV.

The correspondence was noted.

7.4 Correspondence from the Legal Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Equality.

The correspondence was noted.

7.5 Correspondence from Superintendent's Office, Navan Garda Station.



Clár / Meeting Agenda

The correspondence was noted.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

- 8.1.1 The wall at the Abbeylands junction, where the right of way is unclear;
- 8.1.2 The need to replace the railings at Abbeygrove;
- 8.1.3 Whether there had been any correspondence from the ESB with regard to tree pruning at St. Brigids Villas;
- 8.1.4 The dangerous tree at Balreask Manor;
- 8.1.5 The need for the OPW to clean the rivers in Navan Municipal District, especially at Athlumney;
- 8.1.6 The possibility of Gateway staff being deployed to clean up the derelict site at Scoil Naomh Eoin.**

8.2 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the issue of the provision of a public playground in Johnstown as part of the 6 acre park, which would need the agreement of the various stakeholders involved.

8.3 Councillor Shane Cassells raised the following issues:

- 8.3.1 Complimented the lighting at Poolboyle and the need to maintain this investment;
- 8.3.2 The need to get clarification on the ownership of the old wall at Blackcastle Lodge, which was in danger of collapse and needs remediation.

Councillors paid tribute to Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Service who is due to leave Meath County Council in the coming weeks and they wished him well in his new position with Kildare County



Clár / Meeting Agenda

Council. Tadhg thanked Councillors for their comments and good wishes and informed the meeting that Kevin Stewart would be attending meetings of Navan Municipal District from March.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára