



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 11th February 2016, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paddy Meade**, presided.

Councillors Present: Eimear Ferguson, Wayne Harding, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Sharon Tolan, Stephen McKee.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 14th January, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 14th January 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Tom Kelly requested an update from Irish Rail in relation to the fencing at Laytown train station – it was confirmed that Irish Rail had sent an engineer to the site and that the specific issue in relation to the completion of the fence had been submitted to Irish Rail.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Amy O'Donoghue, Clonakilty, County Cork, who died in a traffic accident at Beamore Cross.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Community

- 4.1.1 To consider the Draft Local Economic Community Plan (LECP).

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation to the meeting, including the background to and overview of the plan, an outline of the sections and objectives, and the next steps. The plan was endorsed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly**.

4.2 Transportation

- 4.2.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

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

- Complimented works undertaken at a number of locations.
- The need to liaise with the OPW regarding flood defences in Mornington – it was confirmed that a number of issues had been identified and that resources had been deployed as required.
- The possibility of changing the colour of the poles in Bettystown Square and tidying up the area for the summer – it was agreed to check this.
- The works needed on the verges on the Beamore Road – it was confirmed that drainage to alleviate flooding had been undertaken and that more works were planned within the next fortnight.



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- The possibility of a permanent solution to flooding on the Pilltown Road – it was pointed out further information was being sought, that some pipework was on private property and that the effects of pipe clearance would be assessed.
- The timeframe for the completion of works in Ardrea – it was confirmed that a camera survey had indicated the extent of the issues and that, whilst works had alleviated the main problem, further works would be carried out if required.
- The availability of a map indicating the streams and agricultural drainage in the Municipal District – it was confirmed that efforts had been made to locate the historic drainage network but that this had proven difficult, with some of the network passing through estates, etc., and that works could be undertaken in accessible areas.

4.3 To consider and adopt the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Housing Department outlined the categories for housing maintenance and repair and explained the background to the allocations, including those managed centrally. It was pointed out that the 2016 budget for Housing had increased significantly on 2015.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The age of the housing stock and the impact on the allocations – it was pointed out that the 2015 expenditure had been analysed and 2016 spend aligned to the percentage of housing stock, with consideration given to the age of the housing stock under the preventative maintenance programme.
- The warranty period associated with new heating systems – it was confirmed that this would be considered as part of the procurement process.
- The number of housing units acquired in the Municipal District – it was confirmed that 16 units had been acquired to date, with construction due to commence in Q1, with a further 15/16 units planned.



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- The possibility of providing a smart tech energy saving scheme allowing people to remotely control their heating systems – it was confirmed that this was not currently being considered as it was not proven to improve efficiency and would present an additional cost for maintenance but that the experience of other local authorities would be considered.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, 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. The three year road programme for the restoration improvement grant was also outlined.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to consider road safety measures following road improvements due to increased traffic speed, e.g. Station Road and Platin Road.
- The need for measures on the Beamore Road due to ongoing road safety concerns and the recent fatal collision – it was confirmed that the junction would be assessed and the options discussed with the Gardaí.
- The need to focus the Low Cost Safety Schemes at school locations.
- The possibility of securing private funding for traffic calming measures at certain locations and the benefits of moving flashing lights to different locations – it was confirmed that a draft policy on solar speed signage was being brought to the next Transportation SPC for consideration.
- The need for road maintenance where culverts have been filled in and to prevent flooding.
- The need for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District to receive its fair share under the various headings contained in the Schedule of Municipal Works – the efforts being made to ensure that allocations are made based on more sophisticated information models were outlined.



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The 2016 Laytown-Bettystown Schedule of Municipal District Works was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly**.

The 2016-2018 Roadworks Programme for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“Can Meath County Council outline the current status of Cill Carban housing estate in Duleek; whether there are plans to take it in charge and what is being done to ensure that the estate is finished in accordance with the planning conditions set down for its development given that the roads through the estate are in a poor condition?”

Response:

The Council can confirm that an inspection has been carried out by the Clerk of Works, Meath County Council. The roads and services in and attached to the development at Cill Carban, Duleek, County Meath are not of a standard which may be considered as fit for taking in charge by Meath County Council. A list of remedial works identifying a fair reflection of the condition of the estate and the scale of works required to complete the development issued to the Developer on the 15th January 2016.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“Can I have a copy of the letter sent to Minister Alan Kelly, in relation to new development being built on a flood plain in Bettystown, proposed by motion adopted at the October Municipal District Meeting of Laytown-Bettystown? And also, a copy of any response received?”

Response:



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I refer to the emergency motion proposed by Cllr Ferguson at the October Municipal District meeting. The motion read as follows:

“I am calling on the Council to write to Minister Alan Kelly requesting that he investigates the flood risk in areas around the vicinity of the estates Brabazon, Roseville, Northlands and Castlemartin in Bettystown, County Meath. This area has already been identified as a flood risk and further residential development may exacerbate the problem. We are asking the Minister to re-examine this area with a view to de-zoning or down-zoning as a matter of urgency.”

Following adoption of the Motion, Corporate Services consulted Planning in connection with the drafting of a letter to Minister Kelly.

Planning advised that the Motion asked the Minister to exercise a power which he does not hold. The Ministers powers under Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act as amended are limited to directing how an LAP or a Development plan are to be made during the plan making process.

In this instance, the lands have been zoned for housing since 2000 and enjoy the benefit of a number of planning permissions for residential development. Members are asked to note that even in the event that there is a change of land use zoning; it does not affect the entitlement of a developer to implement an extant validly held planning permission, which he can pursue even where the underlying land use zoning has changed.

It should also be noted that the East Meath LAP, when drafted, took full account of the FEMFRAMS flooding study led by the OPW. The East Meath Plan is based on the most recent and extensive flood study available to the OPW and Meath County Council.

Meath County Council reiterates its view that the land use zoning and the relevant planning permissions relative to the Cois Na Mara site have been considered and granted in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

In light of the foregoing, Meath County Council did not deem it appropriate to petition the Minister to act, other than in accordance with his statutory powers.

The response was noted.



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6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“That this Municipal District imposes a ban on all HGVs through the village of Duleek, in order to improve the lives and safety of the community in Duleek.”

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

If a ban was imposed on HGVs through the village of Duleek, the alternative route for HGVs would be considered onerous. Meath County Council proposes to carry out a design of traffic management measures to regulate the movement of traffic through the village.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

A discussion followed on the impact of HGV traffic through Duleek, the alternative route options, the traffic calming measures implemented and planned, the need for a proper study to consider a bypass and HGV ban and the need for regular liaison with companies to ensure that trucks are not using the village.

The motion was noted.

7 Other Matters Arising

7.1 Councillor Eimear Ferguson raised the following issues:

7.1.1 The need for lighting at Pilltown Cross for safety reasons – it was confirmed that lighting was not erected at junctions on regional roads due to the cost implications but that this junction would be assessed from a safety perspective.

7.1.2 The need to review the junction at the graveyard at Duleek for safety reasons – it was confirmed that the junction had been monitored during recent works, that the junction was within the speed limit zone and that visibility was within accepted standards.



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- 7.1.3 The issue of anti-social behaviour in the car park at the Village Hotel, Bettystown and the need to block up the car park – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section.
- 7.1.4 The footpath from Bettystown to Laytown – it was confirmed that funding for this project had been ringfenced.
- 7.2 Councillor Tom Kelly raised the following issues:
 - 7.2.1 The status of the grass cutting contract for public areas – it was confirmed that an invitation to tender would issue in the coming weeks.
 - 7.2.2 The timeframe for the advertisement of the casual trading licences on the beach – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section.
 - 7.2.3 The possibility of erecting bollards to prevent parking outside petrol stations on the R132 as this was affecting visibility – it was agreed to refer this to the Road Safety Officer and ask that he liaise with the Gardaí and landowners with regard to possibly erecting signage.
 - 7.2.4 The status of traffic calming measures on the Minnistown Road.
- 7.3 Councillor Sharon Keogan raised the following issue:
 - 7.3.1 The status of the footpath from Donacarney NS to Bettystown – it was confirmed that no NTA funding had yet been made available for this project.
- 7.4 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:
 - 7.4.1 The need to contact the landowner with regard to the overgrown hedge at Laytown primary school – it was agreed to check this.
 - 7.4.2 The responsibility for the storm drain on the Eastham Road as rubbish was being dumped there – it was agreed to check this.

8 Correspondence



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There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach