



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

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

An Meára, **Councillor Sinéad Burke**, presided.

Councillors Present: Shane Cassells, Francis Deane, Wayne Forde, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly.

Apologies: Councillor Jim Holloway

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Engineer: John McGrath

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Ronan McEnroe

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 18th February.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th February 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

Following a request from Councillor Shane Cassells, the Mayor agreed to suspend Standing Orders for ten minutes to discuss issues relating to anti-social behaviour in Beechmount Estate. Reference was made to the ongoing issues in the estate, including recent incidents, and the efforts made by residents and Councillors to resolve these over a period of 18 months. Councillors pointed out that there were three key agencies involved - Meath County Council, the HSE and the Gardaí – but that one agency needed to take the lead in bringing all agencies together to identify and address the issues in the estate. It was agreed that a multi-agency approach was needed and that Meath County Council would convene a meeting of the three agencies involved and would examine the options



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open to the Council in terms of any landlord agreements for units occupied by private tenants in receipt of rent supplement and responsible for any anti-social or criminal activity.

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 Sr. Alphonsus Farrell, who had dedicated many years to Our Lady's Hospital, Navan.
- The family of the late Patsy Brady, former member of Navan Town Council. A minute's silence was observed.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Sinéad Burke and the Shamrock Festival Committee on the 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 To adopt the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

John McGrath outlined the process to date and the steps that would follow the adoption and non-adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works. The need to plan and procure works was also referred to. A discussion followed with the following matters raised by Councillors, with responses received:

- Clarification on the actions taken since the February meeting of Navan Municipal District and the March meeting of Meath County Council to secure the reinstatement of funding – it was confirmed that the Director of Services for Transportation, on behalf of the Chief Executive, had formally sought a meeting with the Department of



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Transport to seek additional funding for Meath but that this meeting would not take place before the end of March.

- The works needed in local authority estates and those being taken in charge and the level of funding available for these works– it was pointed out that further funding could be made available from the available NPPR fund and the Special Improvement Grant.
- The impact of traffic volumes and population density on the road network in the Navan Municipal District.
- The need for refurbishment of the streets in Navan.

The discussion concluded with no proposal to adopt the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works and therefore it will be presented to the April meeting of Meath County Council for adoption.

4.2 Planning

4.2.1 To consider taking in charge the following estates and the making of a declaration that the roads within the estates shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Act 2000-2014.

- Athlumney Wood, Navan
- Clonmagadden Fort, Navan
- Clonmagadden Park, Navan

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly



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“Can the Executive provide an update on progress regarding the Regional Hospital?”

A response was provided by the Director of Service, Planning, Community & Enterprise, as follows:

This matter was the subject of a Notice of Question at the September 2014 meeting of Meath County Council and I attach a copy of the response to that Notice of Question. The response summarises the history of the proposal and the steps taken by the Council to assist the project following the identification, in 2008, of Navan as the preferred site for a new Regional Hospital for the North East. The reply also indicated that specific sites have been identified, that lands have been appropriately zoned and that the Council will immediately make a planning team available to assist anyone wishing to advance the project. Reference is also made to reports at the time that there was some private sector interest in providing the hospital. However since then no proposal has been put to the Council by anyone, public or private.

I can confirm that Council officials subsequently met with the owners of one of the 3 preferred sites (Site 22 - Nevinstown) and the landowners confirmed that the site remains available for the project and that they are positive to working with anyone willing to develop the hospital project.

Notice of Motion and response from September 2014 Meath County Council Meeting:

“To ask the Chief Executive, to outline to the Council, the steps that have been taken to secure the provision in Navan, of the proposed new regional hospital, for the Dublin North East area, including details of any studies carried out by Meath County Council. And also to ask the Chief Executive, to further confirm, that the Navan Development Plan, contains policies, and objectives, that support the proposal, and confirm that sufficient appropriately zoned land is available, for the hospital in Navan.”

Response

Process to date:

A firm of consultants, The Health Partnership, was engaged by the H.S.E. in 2007 to “recommend the location of a new regional hospital that will serve the needs of the people in the North East Region.” taking into account various criteria including demographics, access, planning and development and interdependencies. Meath County Council was consulted as part of the process in relation to matters relevant to the



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Council's remit such as planning policy, availability of services, infrastructure capacity etc.

The final report was published in April 2008 and concluded that "examination, evaluation and sensitivity analysis of the evaluation criteria identified in this report leads to Navan being recommended by the Consultancy as the location for the new Regional Hospital for the North East Region" (Paragraph 10.3 – page 64). The report did not recommend any specific site in Navan.

Following publication of the report, the then County Manager met with senior representatives of the HSE to establish what their timeframe was for proceeding with the development and to discuss how Meath County Council, within its remit, would work closely with them to deliver the hospital. The HSE responded at the time that proceeding with the project required decisions at Government level including making funding available. Councillors will recall that this was at the start of the downturn and the H.S.E. officials expressed the view that in the circumstances it was very unlikely that public funding would become available in the short or medium term and therefore they were unable to outline a timeframe within which the project would proceed.

The County Manager offered to start a process to identify potentially suitable sites in Navan and to examine what changes would be needed to local planning policies and objectives to facilitate the planning process for the development. R.P.S. Planning & Environment were engaged by the Council to examine potential locations and to make recommendations on suitable sites. The R.P.S. report was concluded in January 2009. A total of 23 potential sites were examined of which 10 were shortlisted for further examination. Of these 3 were identified as potentially suitable as follows:

Site 22 – Nevinstown

Site 11 – Balreask Old & Limekilnhill (part of)

Site 10 – Limekilnhill

The Elected Council was briefed on the outcome of the study, the report was forwarded to the H.S.E. and it was indicated to them that the Council would immediately put a high level team in place to work with them to advance the project. To date, no proposals have come forward from the H.S.E. Councillors will be aware that the previous Council met on two separate occasions with local Oireachtas Members who indicated that there is a possibility of private funding being made available.

In relation to Planning policy, I confirm that both the County Development Plan and the Navan Development Plan support the development of the hospital and both plans



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contain appropriate policy statements and objectives to facilitate its development. I also confirm that sufficient land is zoned to support the project and that the plans are flexible to enable the hospital development on any of the preferred sites should a proposal come forward.

Meath County Council is fully committed to assisting the H.S.E. or the private sector to develop a regional hospital in Navan and this is supported by the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan and the Navan Development Plan. The Council will make all necessary resources available to assist anyone bringing forward a development proposal for a hospital in the town.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Given the seriousness of the extent of dog fouling in the Blackwater Public Park would Meath County Council consider installing dog fouling bins on the loop walk route?”

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

The Council will examine the adequacy of litter bins in general within Blackwater Park for, while it is appreciated that the park is widely used by dog walkers, it is suggested that a sufficient supply of general litter bins to cater for all litter /waste is what is required and facilitating better use of resources in emptying just one type of bin.

It is pointed out that the Council in an effort to address health and other issues associated with dog fouling have initiated a number measures in Blackwater Park including the provision of an appropriate number of Dog Fouling warning signs and the installation of an Audio Device on poles which emit a verbal warning to remind dog owners that they have an obligation to clean up after their dog.

The Councils' Litter Wardens are also being assigned to amenity areas such as the Blackwater Park Navan to enforce the Litter legislation and the Litter Strategy to be prepared will also focus on this problematic area. The Parks and Play Grounds Bye Laws adopted by the Council in July 2014 also provide for controls in respect of responsibilities associated with dog fouling.

The response was noted.



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Councillor Francis Deane sought clarification as to whether dog bins, as used in Northern Ireland, could be provided in Blackwater Park. It was suggested that a dog walking area had been planned and that a warden was needed in the park.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“What are the conditions of planning attaching to the grant of planning permission for Blackcastle Lodge Estate, Navan (incl. P.R. No.), in relation to boundary treatment for the entire site with particular reference to:

- entrance to the estate (gated entrance or otherwise);
- boundary fronting on to wooded area at River Boyne.

To include map showing nature and extent of specific boundary construction?”

A response was provided by Planning Department, as follows:

Please find attached a copy of An Bord Pleanála’s decision of 13th May 2003 together with a copy of the site layout submitted with that permission. It is our understanding that Navan Town Council called on the Bond for this estate and undertook works to the boundary walls and other estate infrastructure prior to May 2013. The Planning Authority will review the file to identify any impediments to commencing the taking in charge process.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive of Navan Municipal District to erect safety railings on the middle aisle on the footsteps on Preston place going onto Kennedy plaza in the interests of public safety.”

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



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This issue will be investigated to determine any requirement for railings. The provision of any railings is subject to the availability of funding.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Navan Municipal district to facilitate the showcasing of the Meath Artisan Food group together with Boyne Valley food on Kennedy Road, Navan during the hours of 11 am to 4 pm on Saturdays from May until September. The proposal would be to display and sell local cheeses - sheep and goat produce - as well as locally produced dairy products. This group is in the early stages of planning a food hub to work with the Enterprise board in Navan. All producers are Bord Bia approved and under the Health and Safety regulations."

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

While the Council warmly welcome and support the development of a food hub in Navan and the associated employment generated, it will be appreciated that enterprises such as this must comply with all required statutory consents including under the Casual Trading Act 1995, as well as FSAI and HSE approvals.

Under the Casual Trading legislation the Council can introduce bye-laws which set out the criteria under which trading is allowed and designate areas for casual trading – trading is prohibited in an area other than a designated casual trading area and only traders who possess a license to trade from the Council are permitted to trade in such areas.

Both Meath County Council and Navan Town Council adopted such bye-laws in 2002 and designating areas where casual trading may be carried out and specifically in areas in Athboy, Oldcastle, Laytown/Bettystown and Navan.

On examination of the schedule of locations attached to the Navan Town Council bye-laws it is evident that that the permitted trading area is primarily focused around the Fairgreen but does not extend to Kennedy Road. It is pointed out however that following



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the abolition of the Town Councils, new countywide bye-laws designating areas where casual trading is permitted in Navan and other locations have to be prepared. The preparation of such bye-laws will involve statutory consultation and allowing members of the public, traders etc make in respect of permitted trading areas. Work on this is about to commence.

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

A short discussion followed on the potential for Navan and Meath to become a food hub, the other markets in the town, the impact of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws and the impact on ratepayers in the town.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane** to immediately start a process of reviewing the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.

It was also agreed that an invitation should be extended to the Meath Artisan Food Group to make a presentation to a meeting of Navan Municipal District.

The motion was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“St Mary's Park Residents Association has reported an urgent requirement for extra parking spaces in their estate. I call on Navan Municipal District to carry out a report on the green area of St Mary's Park with a view to identifying a way to create 10 to 12 additional car parking spaces.”

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

A survey carried out on parking at St. Mary's Park identified that there is approximately one parking space per house, taking account of existing driveways and parking spaces. It would be possible to accommodate additional parking spaces similar to the existing spaces within the oval green area. This may involve the removal of some trees. The carrying out of these works would require the agreement of the residents and would be dependent on the availability of funding.



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

The motion was adopted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the executive to implement traffic calming measures for all four approach roads entering into Robinstown village, especially on the Robinstown to Trim road where there is a school, as the residents of Robinstown are very concerned with the speeding traffic passing through this village, to prevent a tragedy or death on these roads and for public safety.”

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

This matter will be investigated when resources become available to determine if traffic calming measures may be suitable for Robinstown. The implementation of any measures deemed appropriate would be subject to prioritisation and to available funding.

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

A discussion followed on the speeding traffic through the village, particularly on the Robinstown to Trim and Trim to Dunderry roads, and the role of the Gardaí in enforcement. It was agreed to investigate the issues and to undertake a full study, when funding became available.

The motion was adopted.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Correspondence from Private Secretary of Minister for Education and Skills re. Johnstown Education Campus.

The correspondence was noted.

8 Any Other Business



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- 8.1 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:
 - 8.1.1 The ownership and licensing of the kiosk on Kennedy Road – it was confirmed that this was owned by Meath County Council and that a report would be sought for the next meeting.
 - 8.1.2 The progress made in relation to the pedestrian crossing from Leighsbrook Lane to Smyths Pub – it was confirmed that a list of motions had been forwarded to the Transportation Department for review and prioritisation.
 - 8.1.3 The need to finish off works at Benildus Villas.
- 8.2 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:
 - 8.2.1 The need to again serve notice on Travellers who had moved from Beechmount to the former Scoil Naomh Eoin site on the Rathaldron Road.
 - 8.2.2 The flooding at Watters Lane, Navan.
 - 8.2.3 The receipt of trees by Meath County Council as part of National Tree Week – it was agreed to seek clarification from the Environmental Awareness Officer.
- 8.3 Councillor Joe Reilly raised the following issues:
 - 8.3.1 The need for Meath County Council to decide on the use of the former Scoil Naomh Eoin site on the Rathaldron Road and the site opposite, also in Council ownership.
 - 8.3.2 The need for an accessibility audit in Navan for wheelchair users, the elderly, etc. and the need for minor works on footpaths to accommodate wheelchair users.
- 8.4 Councillor Shane Cassells raised the following issue:
 - 8.4.1 The need to continue the maintenance works carried out by the Parks Department in Navan during the summer months.



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- 8.4.2 Complimented the outdoor staff for the clean-up following the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára