



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

7th March 2016, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brian Fitzgerald

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O' Rourke, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Councillors Tom Kelly, Seán Smith, Bryan Reilly

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, Fiona Lawless,

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Ger Murphy, David Jones, Fiona Fallon.

Senior Engineer: John McGrath

Planning Staff: Pat Gallagher, Senior Planner, Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner

Finance Staff: Paul Timoney, Financial Accountant, Sheila Harkin, Management Account, Ger Soady, Administrative Officer

Fire Service: Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th March 2016.

The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th March 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Teresa McKenna, Corporate Services and Rosemarie Dooner, Housing Department, on the death of their father-in-law/uncle, Noel McKenna.
- Aoife McMahon, Environment Department, on the death of her father John McMahon.
- Bernie O'Reilly, Transportation Department, on the death of her mother Marie Meade.
- Loreto Guinan, Community & Enterprise-Heritage, on the death of her father Sean Guinan.
- Joe McLoughlin, Finance Department, on the death of his mother Monica McLoughlin.
- Cllr. Tom Kelly on the death of his mother-in-law Margaret Fleming.
- Vincent Collins, Housing Department, on the death of his nephew.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Deputy Shane Cassells on his election to Dáil Éireann and all the candidates who contested the recent General Election.
- Cllr Ronan McKenna on his appointment as Fianna Fáil Whip.
- All those involved in the ceremony to name the Philip Clarke Bridge on 4th March.
- The Arts Office on organising the Youth Arts Festival in Ratoath.
- Trim Musical Society on the production of The Pirates of Penzance.
- All those involved in the preparation for the Battle of Ashbourne 1916 commemorative event.
- Meath Senior Football Team on winning the O' Byrne Cup title.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Finance

5.1.1 To receive Draft Annual Financial Statement 2015.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, made a presentation to the meeting which included the details of:

- The Revenue Account 2015 - 2014
- Reduction of cumulative deficit 2005 to 2015
- Surplus (Deficit) 2000 to 2015
- Analysis of Annual Expenditure and Income
- Summary of Major Revenue Collections
- Capital Expenditure 2011 – 2015
- Unfunded Capital Balances

It was noted that the cumulative loss as of 31/12/2015 was down to €2.9m. from €10.8m. in 2005. It was also noted that the cumulative unfunded balances as of 31/12/2015 was down to €8.6m. from €43m. in 2005.

Following the presentation, Councillors had an opportunity to ask questions with responses provided by the Head of Finance.

The Annual Financial Statement was received and noted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

5.1.2 To approve (i) revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December, 2015 as set out in Table A in accordance with S104 of the Local Government Act 2001 and (ii) transfers to and from Capital as set out in Table B.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

5.1.3 To receive in accordance with Article 26 (2) of the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2015, a report on schedule of uncollected rates.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Received and noted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

5.2 Corporate Services

- 5.2.1 To adopt the proposal to name the bridge over the M3 near Dunshaughin on Dunsany/Killleen Road the "James Fox bridge" (as agreed by the Ratoath MD Councillors)

Adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

- 5.2.2 To adopt the proposal to name the roundabout close to the GAA grounds in Ashbourne the "Thomas Ashe roundabout" (as agreed by the Ashbourne MD Councillors)

Adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke**.

- 5.2.3 To adopt the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2016.

Adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

- 5.2.4 To agree adjustments to Meath Arts Centre Ltd Memorandum and Articles of Association in line with New Companies Act 2014 and general Arts Council/Charity Regularity Authority recommendations.

Agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.3 Planning

- 5.3.1 Variation 3 – County Development Plan: Having considered the proposed variation together with Chief Executive's report on submissions, if thought fit to resolve to make the variation or to accept the Chief Executive's recommendations with or without further modification, or to refuse to make the variation, in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000- 2015. (as considered by the Planning Economic Development and Enterprise SPC)



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, explained that the Chief Executive's Report on submissions was circulated to Elected Members 23rd February, that 182 submissions were received and that any material amendments will require a further public display period of four weeks.

Councillors then received a presentation which included information on:

- Revisions to the written text of Volume 1 of the MCDP in order to reflect the adoption of Variation No. 2.
- Identification of potential future changes to the settlement hierarchy within the County. Draft on public display 21st December 2015- 27th January 2016.

Following the presentation, Councillors had an opportunity for comment and questions. Councillors expressed strong support for the Variation and also expressed their support for the ongoing implementation of the Economic Strategy and the Council's strong commitment to continued job creation in line with National policy.

The main issues raised during the discussion were:

- Progress made to date in the County regarding employment creation was welcomed. In particular, the positive collaboration with the IDA which has resulted in the Facebook development in the Dunboyne Clonee area was noted. The additional lands adjacent to the Facebook site identified in the variation were strongly supported.
- Core Strategy - that consideration would be given to accepting applications before 2019 so that land would be ready for development in 2019.
- Improvement to moderate growth town of Enfield welcomed but a lack of Post Primary School and Community Hall in the town was noted.
- Concerns regarding the submissions by NTA and TII were noted.
- Large number of submissions re Stamullen was noted and the recommendation was welcomed. It was proposed that the recommendation, as outlined, would be included in the modifications.
- The need for Post Primary Educational facilities in North Navan was noted.
- Sewerage and water infrastructure capacity issues in some of the small towns and villages should be addressed.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Supporting social infrastructure should be provided as part of balanced sustainable development in towns and villages throughout the County.
- Strong support expressed for the concept proposal at Dunboyne North of a live work community which would support the 'lifestyle' requirements of investors.
- Existing LAP for Dunboyne affords Level 2 Retail designation to lands in Dunboyne North which includes residential development subject to an agreed Framework Plan.

Clarification and responses were provided by Wendy Bagnall and by Kevin Stewart, Director of Services.

Having considered the proposed variation together with Chief Executive's report on submissions, it was agreed to include the text of the recommendation regarding Stamullen in the modifications on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

It was then resolved to place the material modifications to Variation No 3 of the County Development Plan on public display on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

5.4 Community

- 5.4.1 To adopt the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2022.

Adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

- 5.4.2 To receive the Annual Report 2015 for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as required by the Local Government Act 2001 S128B(1)(i) as amended by the Local Government Act 2014.

Received and noted on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

6 Reports

- 6.1 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive advised with regard to the Housing meeting that had taken place



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

with the DoECLG and noted that the Council had received approval to proceed, on a quarterly basis, with the acquisition of houses. It was also noted that an official from the Department had been assigned to deal with Meath projects. The Chief Executive also informed that she would be meeting with the Assistant General Secretary on Tuesday 8th March and that a meeting had also been arranged with the new Dáil Deputies through the Housing Community and Cultural SPC.

Councillors raised a number of other issues including:

- The application process re adaptation grants.
- The need for a Community Development Worker to promote inclusion and integration of individuals into established communities.
- The length of time taken with regard to the 'Taking in Charge' process.
- Concerns regarding the future of the SICAP programme.
- The Oral Hearing re North South Interconnector SID application and the role of the Council.
- EU Regional AID funding and how awareness can be raised.
- The problems regarding the use of pyrite in the building of homes in Ashbourne.

Responses to the issues raised were provided by the Chief Executive and the Management Team.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The CPG also received an update, and noted the report, from the Planning Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on the 18th February.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

- The Meetings Administrator advised that the Protocol Committee received and noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors, and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The Protocol Committee considered correspondence from Meath Laterlife Network and agreed that they would make a presentation to each Municipal District meeting.
- The delegations travelling abroad for St. Patrick's Day events were noted as follows: London: Councillors Alan Tobin, Nick Killian and Barry Lynch, Director of Services. New York: Councillors Gillian Toole, Ronan McKenna and Sharon Keogan. It was noted that the Cathaoirleach, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance would accept an invitation to visit Facebook Headquarters in San Francisco in advance of attending the Meath Association events in New York.

The above recommendations were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

7 Correspondence

No correspondence

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

"Can I ask has there been any more consultation with An Bord Pleanála by Meath County Council in relation to a reapplication for the Slane Bypass?"

Response

Officials from Meath County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland met with An Bord Pleanála's consultation team on 21st September 2015. The Council subsequently wrote to the Board on the 18th December 2015 to seek clarification on a number of matters relating to their decision to refuse permission for the bypass in March 2012. It is considered important that the Council has a full understanding of this decision, together with the underlying reasons and considerations, to assist us with the scoping of the project appraisal, preliminary design and EIS for the new application for the bypass. We also wish to ensure that we engage the appropriate professionals and expertise to assist with the preparation of same. Receipt of the letter was acknowledged by An Bord Pleanála on 13th January 2016 and the Council was informed that the Board would revert in due course. The Council awaits the substantive response to the matters raised.

Noted by the Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

"In light of the unacceptable conditions of the roads in our County, in particular those in North Meath, can the Chief Executive please explain why Meath County Council applied for only €1million from the Department of Transport severe weather fund of €106million, from which County Meath has been approved for €400k?"

Response

On the 28th January 2016, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport notified Local Authorities of an overall extra allocation of €106m. for repair works on road and rail infrastructure that resulted from recent storm and flood damage. The Department has designated €90m. for works on Regional and Local Roads. Most of the monies will be allocated in the first tranche but some monies will be retained and allocated in May.

Meath County Council applied for €1,043,000 covering 38 different works. Each Municipal District was invited to submit a list of works to be included in the return to the Department. The Department has now announced the first tranche of funding of an allocation for Meath County Council of €400,000.

Local Authorities will have an opportunity to elaborate on their case for further funding and to refine project implementation schedules up to the 29th April 2016 (or sooner if they can meet an earlier deadline) in advance of the allocation of the 2nd tranche funding in May.

Response noted by the Councillors. Councillor Drew sought further clarification on the response which was provided by John McGrath, Senior Engineer.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I ask the Executive to confirm that there is no Call Vetting going on within the Meath Fire and Rescue service within Co Meath?"

Response

Meath County Council Fire Service attends incident types as prescribed in Section 11 (Operational Procedures) of Meath County Council's Fire & Emergency Operational Plan 2015-2019 and does not participate in the process of 'Call Vetting'

Noted by the Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8.4 Submitted by Eimear Ferguson

“To ask if the Planners at Meath County Council share the concerns of the Irish Planning Institute regarding the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2015 / Ceist a chur ar pleanálaithe Chomhairle Chingse na Mí an roinneadh siad imní Institiúid Pleanála na hÉireann maidir leis An tAcht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (Leasú), 2015?”

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2016/0221/769737-ministerial-planning-powers/>

Response

Planning Authorities are charged with the administration of the proper planning and sustainable development of their areas. This function is informed by the Planning & Development Acts and the policies of the Government or any Minister of the Government.

The Planning and Development Acts make specific reference to the power of the Minister to issue guidance on the framing and implementation of planning policy. The Minister also retains power to direct Planning Authorities in the performance of their planning functions.

The main provision of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2015 relate to:

1. *“Ensuring that planning authorities do not seek requirements above the national standards set out in Ministerial planning guidelines issued under section 28 of the Act of 2000 , for example in relation to apartment standards, and*
2. *Streamlining the arrangements in relation to the making of modifications and amendments to Strategic Development Zone planning schemes“*

Given its role to implement the statutory planning framework, it would be inappropriate for the Planning Authority to offer comment on the provisions of Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2015.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Fianna Fáil Group

“The Fianna Fáil groups calls on Meath County Council to ban German Shepherds, Rottweiller, Bull Terriers, Bull Mastiffs, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers, Dobermans, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Japanese Tosa and Japanese Akita, or any strain or cross of these breeds from housing estates and public parks in Meath.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Rules relating to certain breeds of dog:

The Control of Dogs Regulations 1998 place controls on 10 breeds of dogs namely the American Pit Bull Terrier; English Bull Terrier; Staffordshire Bull Terrier; Bull Mastiff; Doberman Pinscher; German Shepherd (Alsatian); Rhodesian Ridgeback; Rottweiler; Japanese Akita; Japanese Tosa and to every dog of the type commonly known as a Ban Dog (or Bandog).

The controls, which must be observed when the dog is in a public place, require that these dogs, or strains and crosses thereof, must be kept on a strong short lead [only up to 2 metres long] by a person over 16 years of age who is capable of controlling them. The dog/s must be securely muzzled too. Furthermore, the Control of Dogs Act 1986 gives specific powers to the courts to order that a dog, which the court considers dangerous, must be kept under proper control or be destroyed.

Extract from Parks and Playgrounds Bye Laws:

A person shall not cause or allow any dangerous dog, as defined in the Control of Dogs (Restriction of certain dogs) Regulations, 1991 and 1998 or any subsequent amending Regulations or Act, in their charge to enter or remain in the park unless such dog is kept on a strong lead (only up to 2 metres long) by a person over 16 years of age who is capable of controlling them. The dog/s must be securely muzzled and no person shall, in any portion of the park where a notice prohibiting the admission of dogs, (other than guide dogs or dogs used by members of An Garda Síochána in the course of their duties) is exhibited, cause or allow any dog in their charge to enter or remain there.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**. Following a lengthy debate, the motion was noted and it was agreed that it would be referred to the Environmental SPC.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Considering the limited availability of suitable burial spaces and burial grounds, and taking into account the growing trend whereby we see that approximately 10% of funeral services in Meath now choose cremation, I ask if Meath County Council would explore the possibility of providing, on an appropriate site at a Navan graveyard, a Columbarium Wall, in which families could then place the cremated remains of their deceased loved ones?”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Council acknowledges the increasing numbers opting for cremation and consideration can be given to the provision of a Columbarium Wall in Navan or areas where a demand for this type of burial facility exists, and where it can be provided in a safe and secure part of the burial ground at reasonable expense.

However, it is suggested that as an alternative, where space permits, portions of burial grounds can be reserved for interment of ashes in the ground, which can be shallow buried (0.5m deep) and allow space for a small plaque to be placed on top and representing a safer and more cost effective option where families opt for such non traditional burials.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**. Following a debate on the matter, the motion was unanimously adopted.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I call on Meath County Council to introduce a Bye-Law which prohibits Sulky road racing in the interest of road safety and animal welfare."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Members at the Council meeting held in November 2012 adopted the County Meath Control of Horses Bye-Laws which were made in accordance with the Control of Horses Act 1996.

Part 2 Section 4 of the Bye-Laws under the heading "Exclusion of horses from certain public places" provides in particular:

"The Council considering that horses are causing a nuisance or danger to persons or damage to property within its functional area, hereby prohibits a person from having, keeping, riding or driving a horse in a public place, other than in the circumstances and places described in column (1) of Schedule A to these Bye-Laws by a person of a class of persons mentioned in column (2) thereof, opposite the description to which it relates.

While the bye-laws don't specifically make reference to "Sulky Road Racing", the Council's legal interpretation is that sulky road racing is covered in "driving a horse in a public place". Under Section 8, any person who contravenes a Bye-Law shall be guilty of an offence the penalties for which are set out under Section 9 (i.e. Summary Convictions and or fixed payment Notice).

The Bye Laws also provide that an authorised person or a member of the Gardaí may seize and detain any horse where he has reason to suspect that the horse is being kept, or ridden or driven in the control area under these Bye-Laws.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Council is aware that the Gardaí have an issue with this type of activity and notwithstanding the adoption of the Bye Laws, it is suggested that the risks and dangers associated with such activity on public roads are ones that are best dealt with by the Gardaí as part of their implementation of the Road Traffic Legislation. The Gardaí have asked that there would be consultation with them in considering this matter and in determining the most appropriate mechanism for addressing any irresponsible behaviour associated with this kind of activity, and such consultation will be arranged.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**, was unanimously adopted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian

“That Meath County Council’s Public Lighting Section will in future, communicate with Residents’ Associations and or Residents in Housing Estates throughout the county prior to felling trees adjacent or within 7 metres of a public lighting standard.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Where resources have allowed, the public lighting section has, in the past, and will continue to liaise with the public with regard to planned works where possible. However, resources are not available to give an absolute guarantee that every residents’ association or every resident in housing estates throughout the County is notified with regard to public lighting planned works within the public road. Where appropriate the public lighting section proposes to notify the relevant MD Councillors of proposed public lighting works within their Municipal District going forward.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, was unanimously adopted.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on my fellow Councillors to support my motion for the Council to ensure all road signs welcoming people to Meath, speed signs, dangerous traffic bends ahead, stop signs, and slow down signs are all cleaned on a regular basis for easy visibility and for public safety.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly the National Roads Authority) has contracts in place with service providers for the inspection and maintenance of road signage on the national road network.

Routine ordinary maintenance on the regional and local road network is carried out by Meath County Council and is funded through grant aid received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport by means of the Discretionary Maintenance Grant and from Meath County Council's own resources by way of the Local/County Road Ordinary Maintenance budget. Maintenance works carried out under this funding include repair and maintenance of bridges and other structures (other than those which are the responsibility of landowners), grass cutting, maintenance of road drainage including gullies, winter maintenance, pothole repair, maintenance of footpaths and cycle-ways, clearance of debris from storm events and road traffic accidents, maintenance of guard rails, traffic signals, road markings, studs, delineators and road signage.

Funding for these works is allocated to each Municipal District and forms part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works each year. Maintenance requirements are identified in each District by Council staff, representations from elected representatives and from complaints received directly from members of the public through the Council's Customer Service Section or via the Fix My Street Website. Due to the level of resources available and the demand for maintenance works, each Municipal District may have to prioritise maintenance works but all maintenance requirements that are identified are added to the maintenance database for each Municipal District. These maintenance works cover a varied range of works as described above and include replacement and maintenance of signage.

Having regard to the extent of the non-national road network in County Meath(3,200 km) and the available resources for ordinary maintenance and the competing priorities on the network for this funding, it is considered that if a planned programme of sign cleaning were implemented across the entire network, the resources available for other maintenance requirements may be curtailed. It is considered that should this motion be adopted that each Municipal District should have discretion to prioritise parts of the network for any planned programme of sign cleaning, having regard to the available resources and other maintenance priorities within each District.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, was unanimously adopted.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

"That this Council will carry out a thorough safety audit on the conditions allowing Meath school children safe passage to their schools. Working with the local schools, this audit will examine traffic management, set down areas and if appropriate, pedestrian



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

crossings. The findings of this work, will also inform any future planning applications for schools, ensuring that any new schools planned for Meath have safe and effective traffic management plans for the safety of both pupils, staff and parents / Go ndéanfaidh an Chomhairle seo iniúchadh slándála iomlán ar na choinniollacha lena ligtear do pháistí scoile dul ar scoil go slán sábhailte. Ag obair leis na scoileanna áitiúla déanfar imscrúdú ar bhainistíocht tráchta, limistéir thuirlingthe agus, más cuí, trasrianta coisithe leis an iniúchadh seo. Beidh torthaí na hoibre seo mar eolas d'iarratais pleanála scoileanna sa todhchaí, ionas go gcinnteofar go mbeidh pleananna bhainistíocht tráchta slána éifeachtacha ag aon scoil nua beartaithe ar mhaithe sláinte na ndaltaí, na foirne agus na dtuismitheoirí.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council's Road Safety Plan 2015-2020 sets out the Council's strategy in relation to improving safety on the County's roads. It is based on discussions with other stakeholders and a review of road accident trends and sets out ambitious but attainable targets to help reduce accidents on the road network in Meath. The role of Safety Audits in the Plan is covered under Target 3 of the Engineering measures, which calls for the carrying out of Road Safety Audits on roads and traffic schemes in the County, and providing the necessary training for the Road Safety Audit process for relevant staff.

The focus of the Plan in relation to schools is mainly aimed at educating all road users in the proper and safe use of roads in order to change user attitudes and behaviour and to stimulate an awareness of the need for improvement. There is a specific sub-target in relation to supporting schools in delivering road safety education and encouragement to young road users throughout the County. The education of young road users is important in establishing road safety attitudes and behaviour. Exposure to road traffic education and training skills at this early age can increase awareness in the safe use of the road environment.

Parents and teachers have a role to play in ensuring that young people under their charge stay safe while on the journey to and from school. The County Council, along with other stakeholders will continue to support parents and teachers in delivering effective road safety programmes in schools by the following measures:

- Promote the concept of 'Road Safety Awareness' in schools.
- Support and encourage participation of 'Walk to School' day/week and other initiatives.
- Promote and encourage further, the practical applications of the Training Programme in the senior cycle of primary schools.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Continue and support the Programme of cycle Training in Primary Schools.
- Increase road safety awareness in schools through annual exhibitions, and competitions.
- Continue areas of co-operation with an Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Road Safety Authority in the area of Road safety education and encouragement.
- Develop a facilitator programme for School Wardens to reinforce road safety education to young road users in schools.
- Continue to develop and support road safety in schools through the provision of Road Safety booklets, CDs, leaflets, and items displaying road safety messages.

The Road Safety Officer has established strong links with the schools in the County and works with them on an individual basis to implement the measures in the Road Safety Plan and address specific concerns. The Road Safety Officer for Meath County Council, in conjunction with the Gardaí and the Road Safety Authority, continues to roll out Road Safety Education Programmes to all schools in the County, and a target of 10,000 recipients is exceeded each year. These programmes include safety at and outside schools.

The Council considers that better results would be achieved by implementing the targeted approach set out in the Road Safety Plan. It should be noted that there are guidelines and standards covering applications for new schools and that new applications are assessed in the development management process on a case by case basis.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke**. Following a lengthy debate on the matter, it was agreed to refer the motion for consideration by the Transportation SPC.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke

“That all Elected Members of Meath County Council will join together and put on the Meath jersey and attend a symbolic protest at the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in Dublin to highlight the lack of funding for our county and to demonstrate our collective frustration / Go bhfreastalóidh na baill tofa Chomhairle Chontae na Mí go léir, mar gníomh dlúthpháirtíochta, ar agóid siombalach ag an Roinn Chomhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil i mBaile Átha Cliath ar mhaithe le béim a chur ar an easpa maoinithe a thugtar don chontae seo agus ar gcomhfhustrachas a léiriú.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

In July 2015, Meath County Council prepared a comprehensive submission on the funding requirements of the Council. This financial report was prepared to address the scenario of the County's expanding population without the corresponding resources to deliver appropriate levels of service to the citizens of County Meath. As a follow up to the submission, the Head of Finance met with Department officials on two occasions to discuss the issues outlined in the submission and to reinforce the need for increased resources for the Council. The Department's initial response to the submission has been favourable and it has indicated that the Council's funding requirements will be kept under review.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke**. Following a debate on the matter and advice from the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed that the motion would be deferred.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I call on the support of my fellow Councillors to support my motion of writing to Central Government, regarding seeking extra funds for the provision of speed ramps and other traffic calming measures within our housing estates for public safety in County Meath."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, was unanimously adopted.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"That the members of Meath County Council support the introduction of a 10% tax increase on sugar sweetened drinks and call on the Minister of Finance to introduce this at the earliest possible juncture. That if passed this motion be circulated to all other County Councils asking for their support."

Following a debate on the matter, the motion proposed by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** was unanimously adopted.

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

The members of Meath County Council call on the Minister of Health, to reverse the decision to locate the National Children's Hospital at St. James' Hospital and locate the



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

new Children's Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown.

The Connolly site offers 145 acres, vast space for expansion and easier access to major transport networks. Along with extensive parking, co-location with Connolly Hospital and the new Rotunda Maternity Hospital, this will be cheaper and faster to build compared to the St. James' site.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**. Following a lengthy debate on the matter, the motion was adopted following a show of hands vote. (Result: For - 13, Against - 11)

9.11 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Health to prioritise the reintroduction of a Motorised Transportation Grant."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, was unanimously adopted.

9.12 Submitted by Eimear Ferguson

"In the interest of safety on roads surrounding train stations, I call on this Council to write to Iarnród Éireann seeking the scrapping of car park charges for commuters purchasing monthly, bi-annual and annual tickets / Ar mhaithe na sláinte ar na bóithre thart timpeall ar stáisiúin traenach, éilím ar an gComhairle seo scríobh chuig Iarnród Éireann deireadh a chur le fineálacha páirceála do chomaitéirí a cheannaíonn siad ticéidí míosúla, leathbhliantúla agus bliantúla."

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

10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing Construction

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies

11.1 Presentation on the Congress Charter for Fair Conditions at Work

MacDara Doyle from ICTU made the presentation and explained the five key elements of decency at work i.e. fair hours of work, decent pay, Union recognition, respect and decency at work, fair public procurement.

Following the presentation, Councillors raised a number of issues and responses were provided by Mr. Doyle.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Doyle for the presentation and acknowledged the work of ICTU in presenting the Charter to Local Authorities.

12 Any Other Business