



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 22nd March 2017, Navan Civic Offices

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Wayne Forde.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Executive Engineer: Paul O'Brien

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

Apologies: Claire King, Meetings Administrator

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd March, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd February, 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to the following:



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- The family of the late Martin McGuinness. It was agreed that the meeting be adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect.
- The families of the missing air, sea and rescue professionals those are lost at sea.

Congratulations were extended to the following:

- All committees around the county for the St. Patrick's Day Parades, in particular Navan Shamrock Festival.
- Meath Men's Association in London who invited Councillors over for St. Patrick's weekend.
- Prepaid Financial Services and their proposal to attract other Fintech companies. It was agreed that a meeting be held in Committee on Wednesday, 5th April at 10.00 a.m in Navan Civic Offices to consider Fintech Development's Proposal.

4 To receive a presentation from Dr. Patricia Kettle on the Social and Civic Dividends and Potential of Urban Allotments

Dr Patricia Kettle delivered a presentation which outlined a brief overview of her own work and her area of expertise, which she studied this, the dimensions and social and civic dividends of Urban Agricultural initiatives in cities across Europe, what the potential is and what they offer in terms of creating good public space, creating cohesive communities and social integration. She also highlighted the potential for Meath to become a leader in sustainable development to create and promote the production of multi functional, productive, inclusive, vibrant, interactive green space.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- It was agreed that a motion would be submitted to the Full Council meeting proposing that Agriculture be an integral part of our strategy.
- Suggested this be brought to primary schools as an incentive.
- Referred to 12 acres of ground at Reask which is green space and suggested this as an ideal location for the Council to take the lead in Urban Allotments.



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The Leas Meara and Councillors thanked Patricia for her detailed presentation.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 To receive a report on the Navan Parking System.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation Department attended the meeting and provided an update on Navan Parking System. He outlined proposed initiatives, a programme of implementation and provided a comparison of the previous and current service. He also confirmed that a Parking Appeals Policy has been put in place which will ensure uniformity of applications and consistency of deliberations.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- It was acknowledged that parking spaces are now available in the town and is working well.

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

The report had been circulated in advance and Dara McGowan advised that he hoped to have an update on the walkway at Millbrook in the coming weeks.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Requested power hosing be carried out on Trimgate Street and Cannon Row.
- Asked if a name sign could be erected at the entrance to Springfield Estate.
- Illegal dumping at Mill Lane.

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- Requested that an extension of the footpath from Boyerstown School up to the cemetery be considered for next years Roadworks Programme.
- Asked that drainage works be carried out at Abbeygrove and Beechmount.
- Enquired about a cleaning schedule for the Ramparts – It was confirmed that the Ramparts is cleaned every Monday and regular intervals thereafter.

A discussion followed in relation to the Ramparts. A number of Councillors have met with Gerry Meade and have walked the Ramparts and have a good idea of its current state of play. There was general consent that this area needs attention. It was agreed that a working group would be put together which would be led by Meath County Council and include all Stakeholders.

It was proposed by Councillor Sinead Burke and Seconded by Pdraig Fitzsimons that a list of stakeholders including landowners and any organisations/bodies with a stake in the Ramparts be compiled and a Special Meeting be arranged with all stakeholders. It was agreed that The Ramparts would be listed as an item on the Agenda for the April meeting of Navan Municipal District.

5.1.3 To receive an update on Speed Limit Review.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation confirmed that the Speed Limit Bye Law process had commenced and outlined the process involved in the making of Speed Limit Bye Laws. He advised that 260 submissions have been received over the last number of years and he and Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation would be available after the meeting to go through any of the submissions received with Councillors.

5.2 Corporate Services

5.2.1 To discuss the 2017 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets and the Christmas Market for 2017.



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Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services proposed that the Christmas Market for 2017 be in the same location as last year. It had been suggested to hold it on Trimgate Street but he felt the footfall wasn't there to move it to Trimgate Street. If the market becomes very busy and the footfall increases in the future then they would look at expanding it out. The cost of providing it was the same cost as other years and if they wanted a bigger market the budget wouldn't be there to cover additional costs.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Asked that a survey of the Traders on Trimgate Street be carried out to find out what their reaction would be to the market being held on Trimgate Street before a final decision is made.
- It was felt that perhaps the location of the market didn't encourage footfall but that the street might encourage that footfall if it was a welcoming street.
- The need for buy in from the Traders.
- Asked what the additional cost would be if a bigger marquee was used similar to the one for the Trim market – It was confirmed that the budget didn't cover the Trim market. Councillors contributed a portion of their discretionary fund as well as one of the local community groups. The Council were the minority contributing to it.

It was agreed that this item would be listed on the Agenda for the April meeting and Trimgate Street traders/Representative would be invited to discuss the matter further.

5.3 Planning

- 5.3.1 To receive an update on Variation 2 of the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, following on from the presentation given to the Members at the July meeting of Navan Municipal District held on 27th July, 2016.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, provided a brief update on Variation No. 2 of the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 which included the context



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and reasons for and objectives of the variation, the area's economic advantages, the overview of the variation and the next steps.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Disappointed that not more lands in Navan were zoned for economic development.
- Asked if there was anything in the plan for educational facilities on the Trim Road – It was confirmed that discussions are ongoing with the Department of Education for a site for the current Scoil Ard Ri. The only site identified as an additional site is in Farganstown.
- Asked if the road at Farganstown will lead to Council owned lands for housing and a food hub and if agreement has been reached with landowners – It advised that the Planning Department are working with the Housing Department, Transportation Department and all landowners as a group collectively to figure out how to get the road in to get residential and employment uses released.
- Requested an update on the SDZ and asked if it could be changed – It was confirmed that this is a government designation and in order to amend or modify it would require a decision of the Minister. Phase 2 of the SDZ is dependent on the delivery of the road and bridge across the Blackwater.
- Asked of the tourism zone at the Renault Garage could be considered as an educational facility for Ard Ri – It was advised that the variation proposes that the land use zoning objective for this site change to community facilities zoning which can accommodate educational uses
- Asked if there were lands zoned where community facilities could be accommodated in Farganstown – It was advised that it is hoped to establish a live work community in Farganstown. A large area of green space is currently zoned at Farganstown, accessing it is the issue.

An Meara and Councillors thanked Wendy for the detailed update.



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6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Would Meath County Council encourage more community groups in the Navan Municipal District to participate in the Pride of Place initiative by my improved advertising? It would be good to see new categories such as individual gardens or more business shop fronts e.g. auctioneers in the competition.”

Response:

The Pride of Place Scheme for 2017 was recently presented to and approved by the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC. The official launch of the Pride of Place Scheme will take place in early April. At the SPC meeting the Elected Members agreed to assist in the promotion of the Pride of Place scheme in each municipal district and encourage greater participation in the scheme with a particular emphasis on encouraging new groups to enter. It is hoped that the new category of “Best New Group” will further encourage new entries.

It is proposed to hold information sessions on the Pride of Place scheme in each municipal district following its launch in April. These sessions will be advertised and promoted through the Public Participation Network (PPN) and social media. The assistance of all the Elected Members in promoting the Pride of Place Scheme is always welcome and greatly appreciated.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“In respect of the intensification of use of the public roadway network at Johnstown /Alexander Reid consequent on Grandbrind Development and Completion of Developments at Johnstown Educational Campus this meeting requests details of road structure and traffic management system to support these developments, to include

- *map of current and planned road, footpath and cycle lane structure*



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- *illustrational of directional traffic flows to and through existing and future road network with reference to distributor through Johnstown Wood, L-5050-0 and the intersection of this road with R153*
- *how the new distributor road through Grandbrind is intended to accommodate traffic associated with both residential and school developments*
- *what specific improvements to existing road network if any are considered necessary and planned for*
- *time frame for completion of new infrastructure and improvements to existing network - with specific reference to accommodating school transport system associated with phase 2 of second level school and new Special School in advance of completion of Grandbrind distributor road*
- *any new vehicular or pedestrian/cycle route designed as a direct access point of educational campus with L-5050-0?"*

Response:

A meeting is scheduled to take place between Meath County Council and the Grandbrind developers and the Department of Education to review issues in relation to roads and traffic management systems/improvements to support these developments. This meeting will look at the proposed distributor through Johnstown Wood, L-5050-0 and the intersection of this road with R153.

The new distributor roads will ultimately be public roads catering for two way traffic.

The Navan Development Plan objective INF OBJ 4 outlines the Councils intention for an upgrade of the R153 from Loreto Convent to Caseys Cross.

As part of the Grandbrind planning permission they are responsible for providing footpaths along the entrance to their site. They are also charged with paying for the Council to provide a footpath from their development, along the L-5050 to the R153. The work on this will commence when the monies are received.



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The response was noted. Clarification was sought from Councillor Jim Holloway whereby he requested a map to show the direction of traffic flow. He also requested that he be informed of the outcome of the meeting between Meath County Council and Grandbrind. It was agreed that this question would be included on the Agenda for the April Meeting and a map and details from the meeting would be provided.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sineád Burke

“Recognising the lack of community facilities in the Johnstown area and progressing the commitment shown by councillors and executive at the last municipal meeting, the council will immediately look at purchasing a suitable piece of land for a community centre. Once identified, this land should be secured and the project of building and opening this vital facility completed as soon as possible.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinead Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

A short discussion followed and it was agreed that a meeting be held in committee to examine community facilities in Johnstown Area on Wednesday, 5th April next at 9.00 a.m.

The motion was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Sineád Burke

“In response to the levels of anti-social behaviour in the estate and out of concern and respect for the residents of Beechmount, the council take immediate steps to ensure where shared houses are in estates, tenants abide by strict codes of behaviour. In addition the council review the policy of using multiple houses in estates for shared housing.”

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



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In respect to emergency accommodation, Meath County Council utilises a number of providers in the provision of same, including private landlords, B&Bs and hotels, with house shares forming one method of emergency accommodation provision.

All placements into emergency accommodation by Meath County Council are subject to terms and conditions, inclusive of a code of behaviour. Breaches of these conditions will result in the termination of the emergency accommodation placement, and may prevent the provision of any further homeless supports in the future to the clients concerned.

House shares that are not emergency accommodation related, but are private tenancies, do not fall under the remit of Meath County Council, but rather the Residential Tenancies Board and/or An Garda Síochána depending on the nature of the issue that exists.

The Housing Department is actively working at present with voluntary homeless bodies in developing supported homeless accommodation models in the County, which will provide additional services and options in respect to emergency accommodation that has heretofore, not been available to Meath County Council.

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

Councillor Sinead Burke expressed her dissatisfaction with the response given. Meath County Council have a duty of care to the people they recommended to go into shared houses and also to the established families already in the neighbouring houses. Three estates have issues with shared housing, Abbeygrove, Beechmount and Silverlawns. It was agreed that the following matters would be forwarded to the Housing Department for a response:-

- The number of people that have been excluded from emergency accommodation in Navan because of infringement in the Code of Behaviour.
- The possibility of the appointment of a dedicated person, other than the current Anti Social Behaviour Officer, for residents in estates who have shared houses.
- The last time shared houses were inspected for health and safety compliance.



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- What is the policy in respect of more than one shared house per estate.
- An update on the Supported Homeless accommodation project.

The motion was noted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I call on Navan Municipal District to introduce a mid-week pilot scheme, offering one hour free for each one hour paid parking, in an effort to promote an increase in footfall and shopping in Navan town.”

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

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. Following a review of the current parking service, the turnover in traffic has improved which has resulted in more people being able to access the town centre. 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 motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Sinead Burke**.

The motion was noted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Meath County Council would collaborate with local mental health awareness groups as well as post-primary schools in the Navan Municipal District to set up a mobile phone application ('app') which would help those in need to have easy access to information on available services and supports.”



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

It is an objective in the Meath Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) to “Increase Access to appropriate mental health services for young people” which is to include ensuring information on available services is easily accessible to all. The lead agency for this action is the HSE who are supported by a number of local agencies and groups including Meath County Council. Together this group are examining a number of avenues to achieve this LECP action. The feasibility of developing an “app” can be considered by this group.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“Meath County Council will effect a clearance of debris from open drain to rear of Moatville Estate, the problem which as exacerbated by dumping associated with bonfires last year.”

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

Pallets that had been placed in the open drain were removed by Meath County Council on 14th March 2017.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

The motion was adopted.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“That Meath County Council restore public footpath at Proudstown Road (No. 1-16), Navan, a residential development of Council land sold as individual plots (1969).”



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

This section of footpath was placed on the Request for Maintenance list on 9/2/2016, and it will be considered when prioritising schemes to be carried out with any available funding.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

The motion was adopted.

8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 8.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 17th February 2017.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise CPG meeting of 23 February, 2017.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



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Signed:

An Meára