



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30a.m., 20th April 2015, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Leas-Chathaoirleach, **Councillor Seán Smith**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Alan Tobin.

Apologies: Councillor Suzanne Jamal.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9th March, 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th March 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 30th March, 2015.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 30th March 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O'Rourke referred to the capital investment programme and the report on the Milltown Road, which indicated that the allocation may be reviewed.



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Councillor Joe Bonner referred to the previous meeting request on the flooding issue.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Irish International Women's Rugby Team, winners of the 2015 Six Nations Championship and whose home games were played in Ashbourne. It was agreed that the Protocol Committee would be requested to organise a civic reception in Ashbourne Civic Offices for the team and appropriate representatives of the IRFU.
- The organisers of the Cycle Against Suicide event and the staff of Meath County Council for assisting the event through road improvements.

4 To receive a presentation from Mary Murphy, Meath Local Sports Partnership - Overview of the LSP.

Mary Murphy, Meath Local Sports Partnership (MLSP) delivered a presentation to the meeting that provided an overview of MLSP, its structure, funding, activities and key events planned.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The need for improved online linkages between the Council, MLSP and other groups;
- The improved cycling facilities in Ashbourne;
- The means by which outcomes and benefits of programmes are measured;
- The need for increased central government funding to these initiatives;
- The need to support and assist volunteers in participating.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Mary for her presentation.



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5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive a report outlining the timeframe for the delivery of objectives INF OBJ 1, 2, 7 and 9 from the Ashbourne Local Area Plan in relation to improvements on the Milltown Road.

Joe Fahy summarised the report provided, pointed out that whilst the costs would emerge as the design is further developed, the capital investment programme would be under constant review, that the project was complex, and that the support of Councillors was required.

A discussion followed on the issues that impact on the road, the extent of the road to be improved and Phase II of the Main Street works, the funding allocation, and the timeframe for the project.

It was agreed that a further report, with map showing the extent of the road to be improved, would be provided at the May meeting.

5.2 Environment

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne – Fingal East Meath FRAM

A report had been circulated in advance. A discussion followed on the extent of the study, the plans for the funding allocation under the capital investment programme, and the responsibility of landowners.

It was agreed to refer the following requests to the Environment Department:

- Request the OPW to provide their maintenance schedule for the two rivers that contributed towards the flooding in 2014;
- Request that the FEMFRAM flood risk maps be updated to include the areas flooded in November 2014;



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- Request a progress report on negotiations with the OPW to be included in the report to be presented at the May or June meeting.

5.3 Community

5.3.1 To receive an update on Ashbourne & District Community Centre

Joe Fahy referred to the inclusion of the Community Centre in the capital investment programme. He confirmed that a meeting had taken place with the committee and outlined the progress made to date. It was agreed that Councillors would meet the committee separately to highlight any issues or concerns and that the committee would be invited to the September meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District to provide an update on the project.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I request the draft schedule for the road sweeper in Ashbourne so Councillors can inform the citizens of Ashbourne as to when the road sweeper will be in the town as this is an eagerly awaited event? Can I also request the schedule of areas that are likely to be swept and on what dates, so we can make provisions to ensure that there are few restrictions in and around housing estates? We would also like to enshrine the date of its arrival and celebrate, as we herald a new era in the Ashbourne Municipal District.”

Response:

Ashbourne Street Sweeping has gone out to tender. The tender return date is Thursday the 2nd of April 2015. Ashbourne is to be swept once weekly, each Monday morning beginning at 1am. The street sweeping will extend from St John’s Wood junction through the main street to the Community Centre, Castle St to Broadmeadow St and part of the Milltown Road. We have provided a degree of flexibility in the contract to allow for additional sweeping if necessary. Currently the contractor involved in the town enhancement works employs a street sweeper each Friday.

The response was noted.



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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“Can Meath County Council provide information on the sources of drainage which flow through the underground pipe network and exits into the Broadmeadow River in front of Killegland apartments beneath where a pedestrian bridge was formerly located?”

Response:

Water Services were contacted and concluded that from their extensive surveying of the sewers in Ashbourne there is no record of any sewer in that location that discharges into the river. The 3no pipes which discharge through gabions are flowing clear. There is no evidence of ragging or smell. All appear to be originating in the large area of the apartments, including the underground car park. As constructed drawings of the Ashbourne New Town Centre show a 225Ø UPVC outfalling at this location from a Klargestar Petrol Interceptor Type NSB3 RC tank Outlet fitted with Hydrobrake. The periodic gush of water from one of the pipes would be a flow characteristic of the Hydro Brake. Given no evidence to the contrary we believe all three pipes are stormwater outfalls. We have contacted the private developer/ Management Company for information and are awaiting their response.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“The council website discusses the Tara Skyrne Landscape Project in detail and was very active over the period of 2009 and 2010 as noted from minuted meetings on the website. Can the executive inform us of how the project has developed since the end of 2010 with respect to developing it as a cultural tourist site, the achievements made and the limitations experienced in the time until April 2015?”

Response:

Section 204 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000–2014 enables the elected members of Meath County Council to designate a Landscape Conservation Area, within its functional area. The Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013 had an objective to explore the designation of a Landscape Conservation Area(s), in respect of their core areas for (a) Tara Skyrne area (s) and (b) Loughcrew and Slieve na Calliagh Hills.



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In March 2009, Meath County Council in partnership with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Heritage Council commenced the process of the designation of a Landscape Conservation Area for the Tara/Skryne landscape.

The objectives of the project are to:

- 1. Examine, learn from and adapt suitable international best practice models for the sustainable management of historic landscapes and establish long-term partnerships with organisations/agencies responsible;*
- 2. Raise awareness and understanding of the significance of the Tara Skryne Landscape to maximise the socio-economic benefits and cultural tourism opportunities for the area;*
- 3. Develop a participative process to collaborate in an inclusive and open manner with stakeholders, the public and residents within the Tara Skryne Landscape;*
- 4. Implement the relevant policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013;*
- 5. Agree, after consultation, the criteria to define the character and values of the Tara Skryne Landscape and to designate a Landscape Conservation Area under Section 204 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000;*
- 6. Prepare a participatory Landscape Action Plan for the Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area;*
- 7. Review and monitor the effectiveness of the Landscape Conservation Area and to inform the development of a National Landscape Strategy using the European Landscape Convention as a guide, and*
- 8. Develop protocols and training tools utilising Information Communication Technology for local authority staff and other key stakeholders to inform the management of the Tara Skryne Landscape.*

Following extensive stakeholder meetings, and pre-draft consultation events, a draft Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area was placed on public display in May 2010 for



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a six week statutory consultation period. The Manager's Report on submissions received was presented to the elected members of the Council in July 2010. In September 2010 further detailed presentations on the project were made to the elected members and there were further ongoing discussions between Meath County Council staff, Elected Representatives and the DoEHLG.

Under Section 204 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 there is no statutory timeframe for adoption of the Landscape Conservation Area. The Act further states that the elected members of the Planning Authority having considered the proposed order and the submissions and observations may, as they consider appropriate, by resolution make the order with or without modifications or refuse to make the order.

The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 includes a number of objectives in relation to Tara.

Since 2010 a number of projects have been undertaken or are on-going in relation to Tara:

- Meath County Council's (Draft) Capital Investment Programme 2015-2020 as presented and adopted at the April 2015 meeting has allocated expenditure of €550,000 to the Hill of Tara under Tourism, Heritage and Economic Development over the period 2016-2020;*
- Meath County Council has actively engaged with the Steering Group to prepare a Draft Conservation and Management Plan for State-Owned Lands at the Hill of Tara. A draft plan has been submitted by the Discovery Programme to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in September 2014;*
- My Tara Public Art Project - Arts Council, Heritage Council, Meath Arts Office, Office of Public Works and Michael Fortune (artist);*
- Public participative project to record, document and produce a new photographic driven publication based around people's individual experiences of the Hill of Tara - www.mytara.ie . The book was launched on the Hill of Tara in September 2014;*



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- *My Landscape: People and Places (Stained Glass Project) - Skryne National School, Glashaugh Studios, Meath Arts Office and Heritage Council – (2010/2011);*
- *This project captured in images what Tara means to local school children and these images were taken by a stained glass specialist to create a stained glass window which was permanently installed in the school.*
- *Programme of walks, talks and heritage awareness activities (i.e. Heritage Week) – On-going.*
- *New interpretative signage installed by the OPW at the entrance.*
- *Discovery Programme and Meath County Council – a new guide book on the Hill of Tara is currently being written and produced by the Discovery Programme – due to be completed in 2015.*
- *Boyne Valley App – Currently being developed by Meath County Council will include information on Tara which visitors can access while on the Hill and will be completed in 2015.*

The response was noted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“Can the executive please outline the funding allocated to the Ashbourne Municipal District from the recently announced social housing building fund and the detail of plans to spend this money, including the number of houses to be bought and built in the Ashbourne MD before the end of 2015?”

Response:

While an announcement of funding under the Social Housing Strategy has been announced for each Local Authority, no further details have been received to date in respect to the breakdown of this allocation. On receipt of same, Meath County Council will be in a position to detail its proposals in respect to the delivery of units, in accordance with the different mechanisms cited within the Social Housing Strategy, and available funding.



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The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Ashbourne Municipal District calls for the establishment of a local Joint Policing Committee as a sub-committee of the Meath JPC and that this would mirror the Ashbourne Garda District.”

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

The establishment of the Joint Policing Committee is in accordance with the Revised Guidelines for Joint Policing Committees (August 2014). The guidelines provide that Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) will now be aligned to the new local government structures, and will operate at a City and County level only. The guidelines allow for JPCs to consider the establishment of sub committees, with a view to addressing thematic issues rather than having a geographic basis. The establishment of an area based subcommittee, if deemed necessary by the JPC, is subject to the agreement of the JPC's Steering Group, comprised of the chairperson of the JPC, and a representative of the local authority and An Garda Síochana respectively.

As the JPC will be operated in partnership between the local authority and An Garda Síochana, it is important that the structure established matches their assigned resources which are available to support its effective operation. Correspondence from the Chief Superintendent in this regard has indicated that the JPC is best served by a single JPC for the County and the establishment of geographic based sub committees would stretch Garda resources thus limiting its effectiveness. Regard will also need to be had to the extent to which Council staff resources are available to effectively service the county JPC and whatever other thematic or district based sub committees are established.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

The motion was adopted.



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7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I call on this Council to introduce, with the support and input of all Councillors, "Bye-laws" in the Ashbourne Municipal District to help manage on street parking in the centre of villages and towns and outside schools and playgrounds."

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

The proposal as outlined would require substantial resources (financial & human) to implement. There are considerable capital costs (in terms of lines, signs, handhelds, back end systems, etc) & operational costs (Traffic Wardens, software licences, administrative overheads to deal with complaints, appeals, Court & legal issues, etc.) associated with implementation of this proposal. The proposal could be examined in further detail once funding has been allocated.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

A discussion followed on the resources needed to implement this motion, the introduction of parking charges, the need for enforcement, and the impact on other towns and villages within the Municipal District

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith** as follows:

"I call on this Council to introduce, with the support and input of all Councillors, "Bye-laws" in Ashbourne to help manage on street parking in the centre of villages and towns and outside schools and playgrounds."

The amended motion was adopted.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.



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7.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“I call on Meath County Council to devise a system specifically for the payment of bonds for small developments, i.e. under 20 units, as insurance companies will no longer insure bonds and this is causing delays in the supply of housing. This motion will help small businesses to grow and increase housing stock throughout the county.”

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

The provision of securities for the completion of residential developments is a long established practice. The merits of applying sufficient securities became apparent during the economic downturn, with many residents querying the availability of sufficient security deposits to address incomplete infrastructural works.

The Council is aware of the difficulty many developers are encountering in obtaining bonds from financial institutions and would point out that the members of the Council resolved to request 33% of any security amount in cash, to prevent full exposure of the local authority in the event of bond facilities being withdrawn.

The Council accepts that Councillor Tobin’s motion seeks to assist in the timely delivery of additional housing units. However there are substantial risks to the local authority in adopting a phased payment procedure for securities.

Risks associated with the piecemeal payment of cash securities are most clearly seen where a small part of an estate is built, typically facing the public road and where no open space or estate infrastructure is provided for residents. If the Council were to accept a piecemeal payment of contributions in such circumstances, it would never have sufficient funds to provide the estate infrastructure as originally envisaged when planning permission was granted.

This Council seeks to pro-actively work with developers in the delivery of distinct fully integrated phases of developments. The Council has accepted phased payments in limited circumstances. However its focus is the protection of the resident’s investment and the minimisation of financial risk to the Local Authority.

The Council is also rolling out a proactive concurrent inspection regime using its planning and building control powers to monitor estates throughout all phases of their



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construction. In such circumstances, where a competent professional certifies construction in compliance with building regulations and where planning enforcement staff is satisfied with the completion of a phase of development, opportunity may exist for the roll over of securities from one phase to another. That said the payment of sufficient security at the commencement of development will always be a prerequisite.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

A discussion followed and the motion was subsequently defeated.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Private Secretary to Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Paschal Donohoe, T.D. in response to Item 7.5 – Notice of Motion as adopted at the March meeting.

The correspondence was noted. Joe Fahy confirmed that the mandatory speed limit guidelines had just been received from the Department of Transport and that a presentation on these would be delivered at the June meeting of Meath County Council

- 8.2 Correspondence received from Community and Enterprise Department, Meath County Council with regard to 2015 Meath Pride of Place Competition.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Claire O'Driscoll raised the following issues:

9.1.1 An update on the installation of traffic calming measures, etc. in Alderbrook estate – it was confirmed that these would form part of the Phase II works.

9.1.2 An update on the Low Cost Safety Scheme in Stamullen – it was confirmed that the design for the junction improvement, under the Low Cost Safety Scheme, was being finalised and that works would include footpaths and pedestrian crossings under the NPPR fund.



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- 9.1.3 An update on street names in Ashbourne, e.g. Main Street – Councillor Darren O'Rourke confirmed that this would go before the May meeting of Meath County Council and that he would consult with Councillors on this.
- 9.2 Councillor Seán Smith raised the following issue:
- 9.2.1 The inclusion of Ashbourne in any tendering process for the provision of hanging baskets – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section.
- 9.3 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:
- 9.3.1 Suggested that Councillors cycle from Ashbourne to Navan for the May meeting of Meath County Council to support the Council's Energy Management Campaign.
- 9.4 Joe Fahy raised the following issues:
- 9.4.1 It was suggested by the Project Engineer on the Ashbourne Main Street Refurbishment Scheme that a time capsule could be installed on Main Street to coincide with the tree planting, possibly in conjunction with local schools if considered worthwhile.
- 9.4.2 Confirmed that Fiona Lawless will attend the May meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District as this will be his last meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach