



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

09:30 a.m., 13th April, 2017, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Tom Kelly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Eimear Ferguson, Wayne Harding, Sharon Keogan, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th March, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th March, 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 10th March, 2017.

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 10th March, 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Tom Kelly requested an update from Bus Éireann regarding the provision of bus shelters – it was confirmed that no further update had been received and that another reminder would issue.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Pat Muldowney, former Garda Sergeant in Duleek.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Gael Colmcille's Under 14s who qualified for the Féile Championship;
- Gavin Rafferty, St. Cianan's Boxing Club, who won his fourth national boxing championship.

4 To receive a presentation from the FAI Football Development Officer Meath.

Barry Ferguson, FAI Development Officer for Meath, attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the FAI Development Office mission, the various FAI programmes operating in Meath and notable mentions relative to Meath.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Welcomed the role of the programmes in the community and encouraging youth participation.
- The purpose of the strength and conditioning programmes for children – it was explained that this was intended to prevent injuries and focused on flexibility.
- The possibility of introducing late night leagues in Duleek – the Navan league was outlined, including the role of the Gardaí, and it was confirmed that efforts were underway to establish the league in Bettystown.
- The need to encourage more rural girls teams – the efforts underway to encourage involvement in female only academies were outlined.
- Competition between soccer and GAA – it was pointed out that many play both sports and that it was up to clubs to work together in terms of training.



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- The FUTSAL project – the purpose of the project, in terms of social and employment advancement, was outlined, the different leagues referenced, including Gormanston, and the need for an indoor venue.
- The sharing of facilities between clubs, for example at Seafields.
- The FAI requirements to set up a football club – reference was made to the Club Development Plan that will promote sustainability of clubs.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Barry for his presentation and work in Meath and congratulated his daughter on her success as Captain of the Irish team.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive a presentation from DBFL consultants on improving connectivity between the Car Park & the Train station & upgrading of existing car park.

Robert Kelly, DBFL Consultants and Pat Shore, Assistant Engineer, Planning/Strategic Infrastructure attended the meeting and a presentation was delivered on the scheme objectives, Park & Ride options (4), the approach and methodology, site audits, parking demand, parking and passenger surveys, the emerging preferred medium-term and long-term options, consultation, timeframe, option appraisal, and next steps.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Welcomed the additional car parking spaces proposed, lighting, pedestrian crossing and footpath.
- The use of traffic lights at the bridge.
- The possible inclusion of a cycle lane and provision of bike lockers – it was pointed out that a cycle lane was not currently envisaged but could be added at a later date and that Irish Rail would be approached with regard to the bike lockers.



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- Specific queries around the options and their appraisal – the rationale for the preferred option was outlined.
- The relocation of the bottle banks – it was agreed to consider the appropriate location for this facility.
- The plan to create a park area with picnic benches.
- The allocated funding and the introduction of paid parking – it was confirmed that the NTA had allocated €140,000 and that a flexible and fair paid parking system would be considered.

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

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted.

5.2 Library Services

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Francis Ledwidge Centenary.

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian provided an update to the meeting, which included the proposed allocations to be granted under the Commemorative Grant Scheme, the Bursary Award for Emerging Writers, publications, initiatives, exhibitions and events.

The proposed allocations under the Francis Ledwidge Commemorative Grant Scheme were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors commended Ciarán on the recent launch and the excellent work undertaken to date.

5.3 Environment

5.3.1 To receive an update on Beach Management Plan.



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An update had been circulated in advance of the meeting and a discussion followed on the role of the Beach Management Committee and the Municipal District. It was agreed that the Environment Section would keep Councillors updated of the implementation of the Beach Management Plan.

5.4 Community Department

- 5.4.1 To receive details of the recommended grant offers by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme and if in agreement to forward to the Full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Councillors acknowledged the contribution of this fund to the community.

The list of recommended grant offers, circulated in advance of the meeting, was outlined and the recommendations were endorsed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

5.5 Corporate Services

- 5.5.1 To receive an update on the Seafield lands.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services outlined the proposals for the site, including the pitches. It was pointed out that it was intended to undertake a masterplan and design for the site, on behalf of community groups. This plan will be prepared in consultation with groups. The proposal in terms of the GAA acquisition of a piece of land was also outlined. The next steps were outlined and it was intended to return with a masterplan when complete.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** to proceed as recommended.

- 5.5.2 To discuss the 2017 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services attended the meeting and outlined the budget available for 2017. Reference was made to



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the submissions made with regard to this budget and the alternative funding sources for many of these proposed projects.

Following a discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding** to make the following allocations:

- €1,000 to each of the following towns for 2017 festive lighting: Laytown, Bettystown, Slane, Duleek and Julianstown.
- €1,350 to each of the following towns for 2017 capital projects as identified: Laytown, Bettystown, Duleek and Slane.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

5.5.3 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson

“I call on the Planning and Economic Development Department to provide a comprehensive progress report on economic development and opportunities in the Laytown/Bettystown Area.”

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



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The Meath Economic Strategy 2014-2022 was formally launched in July 2015. The strategy sets out a vision, strategy and a series of actions under 8 headings aimed at creating an additional 7,500 jobs in Meath during its lifetime. The strategy adopts a “whole of county” approach and generally does not focus strategic actions on individual Municipal Districts. We do not currently compile or collate data on an MD basis and therefore I am unable at this time to provide a report specifically focussed on one MD.

The strategy is aimed primarily at addressing the imbalance between available jobs in Meath and the number of Meath residents at work as measured on the outcome of the 2011 Census of Population. An analysis of this data indicated that upwards of 33,000 people were commuting out of Meath every day to work elsewhere primarily in Dublin (76%) and Louth (10%).

The number of IDA supported jobs in Meath was also well below the national average (2.9% as against 8% approx.) and a strategy was developed to address this imbalance.

On the positive side the number of state supported indigenous jobs, i.e. those receiving support from Enterprise Ireland, L.E.O. and Udarás, was well above the average (12% as against 8%) and again a strategy to build on this was developed. It is also a positive that almost 75,000 Meath residents were at work in 2011. This gave an employment rate of 82% which compared favourably with the then national average. Nonetheless additional employment is needed and the strategy aims to address this.

In order to more effectively market the county for inward investment it was decided to focus on a number of key strategic locations and this includes the Drogheda Environs which is ideally located on the M1 economic corridor. This area is well serviced by road and rail and contains a significant amount of zoned land as well as an IDA Business Park. The resolution of the boundary extension issue should provide some certainty to the area and Meath County Council will now work with our counterparts in Louth to develop a joint vision for the area, a single Local Area Plan and a unified retail and marketing strategy. These actions, when complete, will be of benefit in terms of our collective ability to attract additional investment to the Drogheda and East Meath area.

The results of the 2016 Census have just been published and we will now engage in an analysis of relevant statistics from that census to establish the level of change in the baseline data used to inform our strategy. While I anticipate some improvement I believe that it will be marginal at this early stage given that the timeframe between the completion and launch of our strategy (July 2015) and the taking of the census (April



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2016) was just 9 months. It will, I believe, require some additional time before a true picture of the impacts of our strategy become apparent.

It is intended to carry out a 2 year interim review of the strategy to coincide with the anniversary of its launch in July and this review should provide additional useful information in relation to how we are progressing

Councillors are well aware of a number of very major and significant investments that have come to Meath since our strategy launch including Facebook, Shire, Avoca, MTM Engineering (Grangegeeth), Slane Distillery, Boann Distillery and QME Mining to name but a few. New small companies with the potential to scale have also successfully established in Meath including Hexafly, Fenu Health and Ridgeway. The recent announcement by Prepaid Financial Services of an investment in Navan that has the potential to create over 800 financial services jobs is also very welcome and is being actively supported by the Council.

The Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016 – 2020 will also help to create and sustain direct and indirect employment through increased tourism activity. The Boyne Valley Food Strategy 2016 -2021 aims to build on the success of the tourism and economic strategies and provides a support mechanism for a range of food related businesses and initiatives within the wider Boyne Valley Region. The Council has recently appointed a full time Food Development officer, based in the Local Enterprise Office, to implement the strategy.

The current review of the County Development Plan will reassess the adequacy of our policies in relation to economic development including rural based businesses and will also re-examine the quantity and location to appropriately zoned land to ensure that we are well placed to meet demand. The shortage of high quality office space of sufficient scale is an obvious gap in the county's offer in particular given the opportunities that may be presented by Brexit related relocations and this is an issue that we have been engaging on with developers and property agents.

The Local Enterprise Office continues to assist small businesses and now supports over 220 client companies who between them employ around 900 people. The LEO also provides a wide range of “soft” supports including training and mentoring.

The “makeitmeath.com” marketing campaign continues to be successfully rolled out by our Enterprise Team and the website and related videos, blogs and social media platforms are now attracting national and international audiences.



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Finally I would remind Councillors that an update on the delivery of the strategy is provided monthly as part of the Chief Executives report.

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

Councillor Eimear Ferguson requested additional information, including:

- The number of queries received from companies with regard to doing business within the Municipal District;
- The number of enquiries from within the Municipal District with regard to starting an own business;
- The qualifications required for jobs in the companies that have chosen Meath, e.g. Shire.

It was agreed to refer these queries to the Economic Development Section.

The motion was noted.

8 Other Matters Arising

9 Strategic Policy Committee Report – For Information Purposes

- 9.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting of 13th March, 2017.

The report was noted.

10 Correspondence

- 10.1 Correspondence received from Drogheda Port Company.



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The correspondence was noted. Councillor Tom Kelly requested that the Heritage Officer be consulted as to the position of these monuments and the options in terms of their protection.

- 10.2 Correspondence received from TII re M1 Artwork: The Speed of Light the Colour of Time.

The correspondence was noted. Councillor Tom Kelly requested that a further letter issue to the TII requesting information on the practical steps being taken to reinstate the artwork at its original location.

11 Any Other Business

- 11.1 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:

11.1.1 Confirmed that he had met with the motocross group in Gormanston and planned to meet with residents in the coming weeks.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach