



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4:00p.m., 18th May 2015, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Seán Drew, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Johnny Guirke, Bryan Reilly, Sarah Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 20th April 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th April 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Drew requested that the minutes be amended under Item 5.1.1 – Planning to include that the taking in charge was agreed following an assurance that the boundary wall was in compliance with planning permission.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.



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4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

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

- Townparks Manor, Kells

The Cathaoirleach requested that this be deferred to the June monthly meeting. It was suggested that one of the planning conditions had not been fulfilled and that contact was needed with the developer.

4.2 Transportation

4.2.1 To receive a presentation from MDM Consultants on the proposed implementation of the HGV ban in Kells as set out in the Transportation Section of the Kells Development Plan 2013 – 2019.

Rory Ryan and Tom McMahon, MDM Consultants attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the HGV ban proposals, including the survey results, exemptions and permitting, signage and the implementation plan.

Matters raised by the Councillors, and responses received, included:

- The capacity of the Headfort Road junction to facilitate HGVs in turning back towards the Navan Road – it was confirmed that the junction was tested and that whilst it was possible for HGVs to turn in both directions, there may be some parking spaces lost or the junction may need to be realigned.
- The need for adequate advance warning signs, e.g. before Bloomsbury Cross, to allow HGVs to use an alternative route- it was confirmed that this was considered but this particular road would need to be upgraded if HGVs were to be diverted onto it.

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- The relationship between the HGV ban and the proposed one-way system – it was confirmed that they were independent.
- The timescale for implementation and the associated cost – it was confirmed that it would take two months for funding to be secured, maximum €20,000, and that it could commence two months following the tender process.
- The use of satellite navigation systems and the need to update these to take account of the ban – it was agreed to check this to see if it could be done.
- The enforcement of the ban – it was pointed out that enforcement will be carried out by the traffic warden and Gardaí.

Councillors agreed that this ban would benefit the town and it was agreed that it should proceed.

- 4.2.2 To receive a presentation from MDM Consultants on the proposed implementation of a one way system on a trial basis in Kells as identified in the Transportation Section of the Kells Development Plan 2013-2019.

Rory Ryan and Tom McMahon, MDM Consultants attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the one-way system proposal, including the traffic surveys, junction treatment, signposting and works needed. Nicholas Whyatt, Transportation Department also attended. The trial period is to last 4 months with the tender process to relate to the temporary works required, with any permanent works subject to a separate process.

Matters raised by the Councillors, and responses received, included:

- The possibility of including Cross Street in the one-way system – it was pointed out that the proposed system was included in the development plan and that, considering the traffic flows, the inclusion of Cross Street would undermine the one-way system.
- The capacity of Kenlis Place to take the traffic and traffic congestion arising from the pedestrian crossings, particularly at peak times – it was



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confirmed that the traffic volumes on Kenlis Place would not pose a problem, that the objective was to improve the town centre for pedestrians and that peak hour traffic flows and their impact would be reviewed.

- The assessment of the impact on businesses and the need to include business owners as well as business users in any review undertaken – it was confirmed that no analysis had been undertaken as it was not included in the scope of works but that business owners would be included in the review.
- The potential of the HGV ban to improve town centre traffic movement.
- The impact of the decision of the Department of Education and Skills to locate the secondary school at the opposite end of the town from the other schools.
- The potential benefits for the town if the system was introduced – it was pointed out that the town needed to promote itself in addition to any other measures introduced.
- The potential to attract NTA funding for infrastructural improvements were this to proceed.
- A conference is being organised by Kells Local Heroes on 28th May with representatives from Westport giving their views on the one-way system and pedestrianisation that was implemented there.

The report was noted. It was proposed by **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** that a public meeting be held where businesses, members of the public, etc. could consider the report and raise any issues or concerns. It was agreed that this meeting would take place following the conference on 28th May and that MDM consultants would attend along with Nicholas Whyatt, Transportation Department.



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5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew

“An objective of the existing Meath County Council Development Plan for the Baile Ghib area is "to develop a continuous footpath from the village centre to the industrial estate to the east, and connecting the school, GAA grounds and the church to the west along the northern side of the R163 with road crossings at locations to coincide with community/employment uses". Can the Executive please advise what steps have been taken by Meath County Council to deliver this objective and also any suggested sources of funding that can be obtained / applied for to install the footpath?”

Response:

The footpath from Gibbstown village centre to the industrial estate to the east, and connecting the school, GAA and community building to west along northern side of R163 with road crossings is listed on the Transportation Department Capital Project List. However a source of funding for the scheme has yet to be identified.

The Transportation Department Capital Projects List is currently being finalised and will be a compilation of projects already commenced and all other projects that have been identified to date (regardless of whether funding is in place or not). Once the list is finalised the Transportation Department will be discussing/presenting the Capital Projects List at a future MD / Full Council meeting in order to highlight priorities and establish sources of funding.

Fiona Beers suggested that Councillors submit projects for inclusion on the list, which has been compiled from motions adopted, representations, local awareness, etc. The projects will be prioritised and can be circulated to Councillors.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“What progress has been made by the Council in acquiring the lands required to facilitate the walk/cycleway to the school campus.”



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Response:

The Council has met with its Law Agent to discuss issues involved with the Compulsory Purchase Order of this land. There are a number of considerations to be taken into account including the grounds for the CPO and the costs of the process. The Council is not in a position to confirm that it will proceed with a CPO at this stage.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“That the Council, as a matter of priority, install ramps in Coille Dios, Athboy in recognition of the number of people accessing the playground in the estate by car and the increased traffic that will arise with the use of the new playing pitches.”

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

Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland were issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in March 2015. The document includes guidance on the assessment of urban roads for speed limit selection, including 30km/h, 40km/h and urban “slow zones” in housing estates. Meath County Council invited submissions through an advertisement in The Meath Chronicle for housing estates where residents had concerns about the speed of vehicles and 46 submissions were received. An overall review of speed limits in the county is now commencing in line with the Guidelines, and reviewing housing estates will form part of this. The 46 estates that made submissions will be assessed before other estates.

This was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

Councillor Sarah Reilly complimented Aaron Smith on the works undertaken in the playground.

The motion was adopted.



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7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence received from Gráinne Ward, Fáilte Ireland in response to Notice of Item 9.6.1 – Update from Fáilte Ireland as requested at the April monthly meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

- 7.2 Correspondence received from An Bord Pleanála regarding Emlagh Wind Farm.

This correspondence, received on the day of the meeting and copies of which were circulated to Councillors, was noted.

- 7.3 Correspondence received from the Save Our Cross Committee.

This correspondence, received on the day of the meeting was noted.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

- 8.1.1 Update on the footpath and car park at Baile Ghib school – it was pointed out that a parking or turning bay would be explored first to relieve the issues at the school subject to funding.

8.2 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issues:

- 8.2.1 Following the recent announcement of successful applications under the CIS, were there plans to offer anything to unsuccessful applicants – it was confirmed that through roads were being prioritised but that, weather permitting, some lanes may be looked at following works during the summer.

- 8.2.2 The commencement of works on bollards in Athboy – it was confirmed that footpath works would take place over the coming months.

8.3 Councillor Bryan Reilly raised the following issue:

- 8.3.1 Issues raised at a recent meeting of traders in Kells regarding the condition of



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signage on parking meters and the possibility of changing the signs on the approach roads – it was agreed to look at the issues raised.

8.4 Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the following issues:

- 8.4.1 Update on the effects of the reduced parking fees - it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Operations – Parking.
- 8.4.2 The possible 5% contribution from the discretionary fund (NPPR) towards the CIS being reallocated to Oldcastle if not going towards the CIS – it was confirmed that the initial list would need to be amended to allow for this and that tenders had been received for works in Oldcastle and that there may be funding remaining for bollards and dropped kerbs at the school.
- 8.4.3 The need to check the condition of roads done in the last year – it was confirmed that a recent meeting had taken place with Roadstone regarding remedial works required.

8.5 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:

- 8.5.1 The timeframe for the restoration programme and CIS to commence – it was confirmed that works would commence during the first week of June and were due to be completed in September.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach