



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.00 a.m., 20th May, 2015, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Sinéad Burke**, presided.

Councillors Present: Shane Cassells, Francis Deane, Wayne Forde, Jim Holloway, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Ronan McEnroe

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Following a request from Councillor Tommy Reilly, the Mayor agreed to suspend Standing Orders for five minutes to discuss the closure of the gym in Johnstown. Councillor Tommy Reilly pointed out this was the only facility available to the people of Johnstown and called on Meath County Council to become involved and meet with the receiver¹ to discuss the options for the facility to remain open and/or be sold as a going concern. Councillors expressed their support for this but also expressed the need to avoid raising expectations in terms of what the Council could achieve. It was agreed that contact would be made with the receiver.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 22nd April, 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd April 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly**.

¹ It has since been established that the company that owns Energie Fitness, i.e. Prime Fitness Ltd., are in examinership.



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2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Joe Reilly requested an update on contact between the LEO and Meath Artisan Food Group – Kevin Stewart confirmed that he had since met with Des Crinion and had put them in contact with the LEO regarding mentoring, marketing, etc. and they are to come back to the LEO with their requirements.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Wayne Forde on the death of his uncle, Raymond Forde.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The architects and Meath County Council staff involved in the design and opening of five houses in St. Brigid's Villas.

4 To receive a presentation on Hand on Heart Enterprises

Jamie Regan and Brendan Crosby attended the meeting and delivered a verbal presentation on Hand on Heart Enterprises. They outlined the background to this social enterprise, its current programme of activities and future plans, including the location of a production centre and national headquarters in Navan Enterprise Centre.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Councillor Tommy Reilly and Councillor Wayne Forde pledged their support to this initiative by way of €1,000 and €250 allocations respectively from the Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund;
- The plans for the production centre – it was confirmed that this would be used to manufacture mini-carts and that people with the requisite skills would be recruited;
- The fund raising and awareness raising family fun day event taking place in Blackwater Park on 21st June;



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- The support of businesses such as Harvey Norman in giving the group access to stores and the role of SMEs;
- The emphasis on giving as many people as possible the opportunity to participate;
- The importance of volunteering and collaboration with other groups/agencies in making the initiative a success.

The Meára and Councillors thanked Jamie and Brendan for attending and wished them well with the initiative in Meath.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

5.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Meath Age Friendly Initiative.

Áine Bird, Community Department, Meath County Council, attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to the meeting. The presentation included information on the background to the initiative, membership, the strategy and its review, information on the Age Friendly Business Town initiative and the next steps planned.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The status of the application for funding for outdoor equipment for Blackwater Park from the capital sports grant – it was confirmed that an application had been made and that a decision was due;
- The similar work undertaken by the Irish Wheelchair Association in conjunction with Councillor Sinéad Burke, whose aim was to achieve reasonable access for Navan and Meath, and the plans to establish an Access Advisory Committee, which would benefit from a representative from the Age Friendly Initiative;
- Welcomed the links with the Meath Local Sports Partnership;



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- The need to consider the issues raised in footpath construction and the use of bollards as an alternative to raised kerbing.

The Meóra and Councillors thanked Áine for attending and for the presentation.

5.2 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- Welcomed the repair and maintenance programme and the need for an update on the capital investment programme;
- The need for ramps repair/provision in St. Mary's Park and Beechmount Vale – it was agreed to check if submissions had been made to Transportation for these traffic calming measures;
- Pothole repairs at rear of Parnell Park – it was confirmed that all potholes were being assessed;
- Update on pedestrian crossing at Leighsbrook – it was confirmed that this had been looked at and that a review had been sought in terms of what could be done;
- Update on lighting at the 5th Province monument – it was agreed to check this;
- Update on the installation of the Big Belly Bins including timeframe and locations – it was confirmed that work will commence following a satisfactory health and safety appraisal of the supplier;



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- Update on opening date for playground in Blackwater Park and installation of goalposts – the playground is to open on 15th June and it was agreed to check the goalposts/pitch markings;
- The application process for the Paint Scheme – it was agreed to refer this to the Community Department;
- Graffiti removal;
- Cracks on road on Navan ring road – it was pointed out that these resulted from trenches and would be repaired when funding was available;
- Update on the recommendations contained in the Irish Wheelchair Association report – it was agreed to provide this at the June meeting.

5.3 Environment

5.3.1 To receive a presentation on Casual Trading.

Gráinne Tuomey and Larry Whelan, Environment Section attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on Casual Trading, which covered the legislation and Bye-Laws in Meath, relevant EU and national issues and their implications, the options available and the impact of the EU Services Directive.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The different economic role and standards of markets in continental Europe and the need to create a strong vision for markets in Meath;
- The preference for a county approach rather than a municipal district approach;
- The roles of the casual trading act and ancient market rights – it was confirmed that casual trading bye-laws have precedence over ancient market rights;



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- The payment of rent by traders on the Fairgreen – it was agreed to check this with former Navan Town Council staff;
- The possibility of designating an area on Kennedy Road for the Meath Artisan Food Group.

It was confirmed that work was commencing on the preparation of new bye-laws in advance of the new act due in 2016, that these must comply with the EU Services Directive and that an update would be provided in September.

The Meára and Councillors thanked Gráinne and Larry for attending and for the presentation.

5.4 Disposal of land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly**.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can the executive outline as to whether there have been any feasibility studies undertaken in relation to locating a third level college in Navan and, if not, are there any plans to do so?”

Response:

While the Executive is not aware of any recent feasibility study that has been undertaken in relation to locating a third level college in Navan, the importance of third level education to developing the knowledge economy in the County is recognised. In this regard the importance and advancement of third level education is embedded in both the Meath County Development Plan 2013-19, as amended, and Navan Town Development Plan 2009-15 through a series of policies and objectives.



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For example, in terms of third level education it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

ED POL 7 *To actively promote and encourage the provision of third level educational programmes in the town.*

ED OBJ 11 (a) *To actively encourage the development of links with third level institutions in adjoining Counties.*

ED OBJ 11 (b) *To investigate and reserve the provision of a suitable site for a third level educational facility in Navan.*

In addition Section 5.7.2 of the Meath County Plan 2013-2019 indicates:

“Great effort has been made on the part of Meath County Council and various other organisations within the county to develop third level educational initiatives e.g. The Economic Development & Innovation Unit, Meath County Council established M.I.L.L. (Meath Initiative for Lifelong Learning) and facilitated the delivery of business related 3rd level courses in Meath (in partnership with 3rd level institutions such as NUIM, Dundalk I.T., Blanchardstown I.T. etc.). It is imperative that this sector continues to be developed during the plan period, with further outreach and joint ventures delivered into County Meath”

This narrative is supported by Social Policy 16 which seeks:

“To facilitate the development of primary, post primary, third level, outreach, research, adult and further educational facilities to meet the needs of the county”

In line with the aforementioned policies and objectives and in order to develop the knowledge economy in Meath, it is useful to note that regionally, Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) is responsible for supporting enterprises and helping to support economic development in Meath (as well as Louth Monaghan and Cavan). I wish to advise that members of the executive met with the President of DKIT Dennis Cummins & Irene Mc Causland (External Services Manager, Regional Development Centre, DKIT) recently with a view to advancing the agenda regarding third level inputs and regional supports to enhance business development in County Meath. As such Meath County Council is, and will continue to, actively engage with relevant educational organisations regarding this important matter.



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The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

"In line with the Meath County and Navan Development Plans, can the executive provide Navan Municipal District Councillors with an update on progress made in relation to the pedestrianisation of Trimgate Street?"

Response:

Councillors will recall that this issue was raised as part of Smarter Travel proposals presented at the meeting of Navan Town Council in relation to pedestrianisation of Trimgate Street on 12th April 2011. It was clear following that presentation that there was not any broad consensus on the issue and therefore there did not appear to be any merit in allocating resources to developing any further proposals. No further work has been done since then. Please note that work is about to commence on a Public Realm study for the Historic Core Navan as part of the work being carried out in relation to the Bus Hub. This may present an opportunity to consider again the long term vision for Trimgate Street.

Councillor Joe Reilly pointed out this was an objective in the development plan and that discussions were needed with relevant stakeholders.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Sinead Burke

"Can the executive detail what exactly will the €200,000 allotted for the Johnstown area in the Meath Capital Plan be spent on, bearing in mind the area has no playground or community facilities?"

Response:

The Capital Budget recently presented to Councillors makes a provision of €200,000 for Johnstown in 2016 under Service Division F – Recreation & Amenity. The intention is that this will be used to fund the provision of a playground in the Johnstown area.



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Councillors will recall that they were previously advised of a meeting held on 26th February with representatives of Johnstown People's Park. The meeting was attended by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Holloway. The purpose of the meeting was to outline a proposal to construct a playground on the park lands at Johnstown subject to the consent of the management company. A copy of our letter to the company outlining the proposal was also circulated to all Councillors. The company formally responded on 25th April confirming agreement in principle.

The next steps are that the Council will engage in local consultation to identify the best location for the playground within the park and when a location is agreed will move to procure a company to design and construct the playground and install the equipment. Councillors will be kept advised of progress.

The response was noted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“What amount of money has been allocated for the refurbishment of St Francis Park, Windtown, Navan, and when is said work due to commence?”

Response:

The refurbishment of St Francis Park is currently at design/consultation stage. A design team is currently being procured through our established Framework of Architects, and are due to be appointed shortly. This process will allow a preliminary design to be completed, with a view to further consultations, final agreement with resident and progression with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. While a proposed refurbishment scheme for St Francis Park initially began in 2006, no specific allocation is currently in place. The Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government have been kept informed of progress and the priority that has been placed on this project in respect to traveller accommodation and Meath County Council's current Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2019.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane



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"That Navan Municipal District will make a better effort at promoting and advertising the 2015 Pride of Place initiative, by encouraging participation from more housing estates and community groups in Navan town and Johnstown."

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

The Pride of Place Initiatives 2015 were launched with electronic notification and hard copy application packs forwarded to 270 groups/residents associations who are registered, of which approximately 70 groups are located within the Navan Municipal District area.

In addition, Pride of Place has been advertised on our website at <http://www.meath.ie/Community/PrideofPlace/>, and Meath County Council's twitter account. Advertisements will be placed in the local papers (Meath Chronicle, Drogheda Independent, The Forum) and posters will be placed in our public building, including the Municipal District Civic offices and local libraries.

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

Councillor Francis Deane pointed out the categories that were no longer available in Navan, for example shop window displays. Kevin Stewart pointed out that certain categories had been available as part of the separate Navan Town Council scheme but not at county level. Councillors committed to looking at this as part of the 2016 budget process to ensure that this initiative built on the success of previous years in Navan.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

"That Navan Municipal District calls on the executive and Meath Tourism to develop a tourism strategy for Navan in conjunction with the Navan Municipal District Councillors and other interested parties in the Municipal District."

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



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Meath Tourism will be carrying out a comprehensive consultation over the coming months in regards its next Tourism Strategy 2015-2020. The consultation will include a public consultation at Municipal District Level to provide an opportunity to everyone to contribute to how Navan is marketed within an overall plan. The consultation will take place with tourism providers, public representatives and the general public. The findings will be incorporated into an overall Tourism Strategy to further tourism development and maximise the potential from tourism in County Meath and the Boyne Valley destination.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

Councillor Joe Reilly pointed out that Navan had not been considered a strong tourism destination but had much to offer in terms of angling, racing, arts, etc. and could be ideally marketed as a weekend break destination. He urged that a dedicated strategy be developed for Navan to develop its potential. Kevin Stewart affirmed that a consultation process would take place at municipal district level as part of the county tourism strategy development and that Navan was included as part of the Boyne Valley marketing campaign.

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

"That Navan Municipal District calls on the executive to provide a progress report on their discussions with the National Transport Authority on their plans for the Bus Hub, the pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the Blackwater leading in to the town park, the Greenway from Navan to Kingscourt and the planned cycle lanes from Johnstown to the Fairgreen and from the Trim Road to the Proudstown Road."

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered was circulated to Councillors.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

Councillor Joe Reilly welcomed the report circulated and the debate that would take place when the plans were put on public display. He emphasised the importance of the



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Greenway and the need to connect Blackwater Park to the town via a bridge. Kevin Stewart pointed out that an allocation had been made for this as part of the capital investment programme. Councillor Wayne Forde expressed his objection to the location of the bus hub on Kennedy Road but it was highlighted that no plan had yet been presented.

The motion was adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“I call on the executive to explore the possibility of erecting a bandstand in Blackwater Park for bands such as Navan Silver Band to play on, as this would help to ensure that the park is for all the people of the town, a people’s park.”

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

The Community Department will examine all opportunities in the realisation of the overall master plan for Blackwater Park, including event space.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Sinead Burke

"This council will work with and advise the "Johnstown People's Park" in an application to erect CCTV on the public lighting posts around the park's boundary. This council recognises that the people of Johnstown are working very hard to create a safe and enjoyable community space and would like to help and encourage this to process to continue".

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



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The Council will consider any application from the “Johnstown People’s Park” for the placing of CCTV cameras on lighting columns surrounding the park. Any permissions will depend on the lighting columns being in charge, the suitability of placing cameras on lighting columns, cabling and ancillary equipment proposals, and the granting of any required road opening licences.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“I call on the executive to resurface the roads in Beechmount Gardens and Beechmount Court for public safety, as the roads are in urgent need of resurfacing.”

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

The resurfacing of roads in Beechmount Gardens and Beechmount Court is not included on the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works. These roads can be considered if any additional funding becomes available.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

It was pointed out that pothole repairs had taken place.

The motion was adopted.

7.7 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That the minutes of the Navan Urban District Council meeting of May 4th 1916 be put on public display in Navan Civic Offices, Watergate Street, Navan for 2016. The minutes of the aforementioned meeting referred to the fierce battle at Rath Cross, Ashbourne of Friday 28th April 2016.”



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Education and Skills in response to Notice of Item 6.3 – Notice of Motion adopted at the February monthly meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Sought an audit of the streets and footpaths in Navan town, to include the works needed and associated costs – it was confirmed that a condition survey was planned following which, works would be prioritised.

9.1.2 The continued flooding outside the four bungalows on the Navan Road, Dunderry following works undertaken.

- 9.2 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Potholes in Abbey Grove and Athlumney Village.

9.2.2 Overgrown hedges at the green fence opposite the park in Ratholdron.

9.2.3 The remaining ivy on the asbestos roof of a building adjacent to Andy Brennan Park.

- 9.3 Councillor Shane Cassells raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Update on works in Leighsbridge Estate.



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- 9.3.2 The past support given by Meath County Council to Cure for Cancer and the continuation of that support for an event planned for Blackwater Park – it was agreed to refer this to the Community Department.
- 9.3.3 Update on the audit of public lighting in Beechmount Estate to include the upgrade of lamps in the older part of the estate and the improvement of lighting heads – it was agreed to refer this to the Transportation Section.
- 9.3.4 The possible measures that could be taken on Kennedy Road to facilitate pedestrian access for the visually impaired to the offices of the National Council for the Blind – it was suggested that this might be referred to the Access Advisory Committee when established.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára