



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Navan Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***10:00 a.m., 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Navan Civic Offices***

An Meára, **Councillor Joe Reilly**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Sinéad Burke, Francis Deane, Padraig Fitzsimons, Wayne Forde, Jim Holloway.

**Apologies:** Councillor Tommy Reilly.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Kevin Stewart

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Executive Engineer:** Noel Finnegan

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

**Apologies:** Fiona Beers, Senior Executive Engineer

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

##### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.



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### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

### **4 To receive a presentation on Meath Laterlife Network.**

Jim Matthews, Chair and Sue Russell, Meath Laterlife Network delivered a presentation on the Age Friendly Alliance and Strategy, the background to the Meath Laterlife Network, its aims, actions and achievements, and future plans. Reference was also made to a seminar – Our Voice in Europe – taking place in Navan on 27<sup>th</sup> June, for which invitations will issue.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The number of citizens in Meath over 55 years – it was confirmed that, as per the 2011 Census, 11% of the population in Meath were over 55 years.
- The participation of the Meath Laterlife Network in the LECP and the importance of collaboration in dealing with issues that affect multiple groups – it was pointed out that an issue with eligibility had been resolved too late for participation at this time.
- Practical actions and issues – it was pointed out broadband availability and the need for agencies to disseminate information that is accessible to all was a key issue, as was dog fouling, particularly for wheelchair users.
- The importance of the HSE providing appropriate services to older citizens – it was agreed that access to health, particularly for those living in rural areas, was a key issue, as was mental health.
- The central role played by older citizens in society and the community.
- The role of the Council in terms of appropriate infrastructure, policy development and communications.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked Jim and Fiona for their presentation.



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### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

##### **5.1.1 To receive an update on the current Speed Limit Review.**

Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting and outlined the report that had been circulated in advance, which dealt with both the countywide speed limit review and the proposed speed limit bye-laws for housing estates. He confirmed that 26 locations had been identified for review in the Navan Municipal District, of which 5 related to Housing Estates. The bye-laws could only apply to Council estates or appropriate estates that are taken in charge. It was confirmed that the draft bye-laws would come to the June Municipal District meetings, following which it would go on public display, with submissions to be considered by the Municipal Districts in September and presentation to Meath County Council for adoption in October. The speed limit bye-law would then, if accepted by Councillors, become effective from November 2016.

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

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- The concerns of residents on the Mill Lane due to works.
- The condition of the footpaths between 93 & 96 Clusker Park and 28 & 29 Parnell Park.
- The commencement of the roadworks programme – it was confirmed that this was due to commence at the end of June.
- The use of water cuts to prevent roads flooding – it was confirmed that drainage works were ongoing and a programme of water cuts would be commenced.



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- The recent sewerage problem on Trimgate Street and the problems being experienced on the lines from businesses on Kennedy Road – it was agreed to refer these to Water Services.
- The need to upgrade a number of traffic lights in the town, including St. Paul's – it was confirmed that an audit was being undertaken countywide, including Navan and that a quotation of €20,000 had been received for the upgrade at St. Paul's but that this was to be discussed with Transportation Planning & Design to link in with any planned works as part of the NTA Scheme.

### **5.2 Corporate Services**

- 5.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan Municipal District.

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

## **6 Notice of Question**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly**

“Can the Executive please provide full information and details on the extent of the bond payed by Boliden Mines Ltd. for the care and maintenance of the mine after its life as a mine is complete, to include the timeframe for the aftercare and maintenance of the mine and tailing pond and details of the body charged with ensuring that the care and maintenance is carried out properly.”

#### ***Response:***

*The monitoring, licensing, permitting and aftercare management of the New Boliden Tara Mines site at Navan falls within the remit of 3 statutory agencies. They are the Environmental Protection Agency, Meath County Council and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.*

*The aftercare and maintenance of the mine facility is analysed, costed and planned in a document called the Closure Remediation and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP).*



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*That document is continuously reviewed and updated. It is submitted to the EPA and copied to the other agencies. The CRAMP in its current iteration (2014) provides that €13,746,557 be provided to cover the orderly wind down of mine operation, removal of plant, etc. and return of the site to agricultural use, capping of the tailings management facility, treatment systems as required together with a significant provision for aftercare and monitoring.*

*The financial provision is broken down as follows:*

<i>Closure decommissioning and reclamation of the mine and mine site infrastructure</i>	<i>€4,589,664</i>
<i>Closure decommissioning and reclamation including provision of the passive treatment system (PTS) of the tailings management facility (TMF)</i>	<i>€5,200,637</i>
<i>Aftercare, Monitoring and Maintenance</i>	<i>€3,956,256</i>

*Meath County Council currently holds a bond to the value of €5,000,000, together with a cash deposit of €9,771,153.36, giving a total security of €14,771,153.*

*These financial provisions are extra over and above the day to day insurance cover maintained by the company during the operational phase of the mine. It is important to understand that the financial provision represents the costs that will accrue in the closure of the facility. They are not contingency figures and will either be recouped to the operator as an orderly wind down occurs or applied by the statutory agencies in default.*

*The Council, the EPA and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources have come together to form a technical oversight group. The purpose of the group is to provide consistent and current feedback to the operator on regulatory matters. The group will also ensure that the orderly wind down of the mine and its subsequent aftercare will be overseen in a co-ordinated manner.*

*The 2014 CRAMP financial provisions are currently being evaluated by the EPA on behalf of the 3 agencies. It is likely that the financial provisions will need to be increased and mechanisms are being explored to agree a final figure and the format of any bond / security required for the CRAMP implementation. New Boliden Tara Mines have recently lodged an additional €1,000,000 with a view to increasing the cash reserves available to the fund and in recognition of the longer term need to convert the bond security to cash.*



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*Responsibility to oversee the various aspects of the mine closure will be shared according to the core competencies of each statutory agency. Meath County Council will be primarily charged with ensuring that the operator winds down the physical infrastructure of the mine while the EPA will have a more targeted remit in the area of environmental monitoring and compliance. It is expected that the aftercare and management of the mine will rest with the operator in perpetuity, subject to review as the environmental risk diminishes overtime. The aftercare requirements of the mine are a condition of the IPPCL Licence granted by the EPA.*

The response was noted.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

“Can I ask the Executive if there are any plans to provide traffic lights at the junction leading onto Metges Road from Old Johnstown Village in the interest of public safety or to request the relevant body to provide same?”

**Response:**

*We can confirm that there are currently no plans to provide traffic lights at this junction.*

The response was noted. Councillor Wayne Forde requested that Transportation Planning & Design undertake a feasibility study at this location and it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“In relation to the proposed repairs to Old Kilcarn Bridge, I wish to ask the Executive if there is a timescale for this project and when will pedestrians be able to access this bridge again?”

**Response:**

*Tenders have been received for remedial structural works to Old Kilcarn Bridge. The tenders are currently being assessed and we anticipate that a successful tenderer will be appointed in the coming weeks, subject to the various tender requirements being in place, etc. It is envisaged that the remedial structural works contract duration will be in*



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*the order of 16 weeks which is subject to there being no delays or unforeseen events during the progress of the works.*

*Taking the above into account, it could be at least Q4 2016 before we can consider re-opening Old Kilcarn Bridge to pedestrians.*

The response was noted.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke**

“That Navan Municipal District include in their discussions with the NTA and Bus Éireann on traffic flow and bus services in the town, putting in a controlled pedestrian crossing outside the IDA centre in Johnstown. This measure will go some way as a traffic calming measure and also ensure passenger safety, which will be crucial once the increased bus routes through Johnstown are introduced.”

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

The motion was adopted.

#### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

“Can I call on the Executive to close off the two alleyways in Silverlawns, between house numbers 176 and 177 leading to 129 and 128 , and between houses 90c and 90 leading to 11 and shops along Rathaldron Road to prevent any further anti-social behaviour in these alleyways.”

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

*In order to close off these two alleyways, it would be necessary to extinguish the public right of way in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993. This process requires a public consultation process. If the public right of way is extinguished, the road authority would no longer be responsible for the maintenance of the alleyways. The local*

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*authority must ensure the carrying out of any works necessary to effect the extinguishment of the public right of way and to ensure that the land over which a public right of way has been extinguished does not become an eyesore.*

*Simply closing off the alleyways at the ends would not meet the above requirements, and an inspection of the alleyways identified a number of other issues.*



- *Underground telecommunication cables run along both alleyways, and there is an eir cabinet that opens into the alleyway and an eir chamber present.*
- *There is drainage along the alleyways, including chambers.*
- *In Alleyway 2, the garage walls form the alleyway walls, with gutters, downpipes and gullies located in the alleyway.*
- *There are gates into back gardens off the alleyway, and in Alleyway 2 this is the only means of external access to the gardens.*
- *There is a significant difference in ground levels between Alleyway 1 and house no. 90A and the hairdressers.*



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- *House number 128 is currently boarded up.*

*Ideally, agreement from the current owner of the land (Meath County Council is not the owner) would be obtained to sell or lease the land to the centreline of the alleyways to each of the eight adjoining property owners. The property holders would then have to construct dividing walls along the centreline of the alleyways and extend their front and back boundary walls to this new wall. Service diversions may be necessary as the air and drainage services would be on private property.*

*The Silverlawns Residents' Association is in favour of closing these two alleyways, provided access to the back gardens would be considered. However, the successful closing of the alleyways would be dependent on the land agreements outlined above, and the ability and willingness of all 8 property owners to carry out the required works.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

A discussion followed on the issues identified in relation to this motion and the possible alternative solution to concerns of residents, including enhanced public lighting. It was agreed that all other alternative solutions should first be considered.

The motion was noted.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*“Can I call on the Executive of Navan Municipal District to proactively work with the residents association in Beechmount estate in preparation for their 40 year anniversary celebrations which are due to take place on August 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 by undertaking the infrastructural and enhancement works previously identified by residents.”*

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

*Where funding is available, works requested by the residents of Beechmount will be carried out. A sum of €4,000 has been allocated and approved by Members for footpath repairs. Suitable planting at the entrance to the estate is being discussed and can be agreed by the Council if the residents can secure their own funding. The trees in the estate have been previously assessed and no issues were highlighted in the report, but a*



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*further inspection will be carried out in September to identify if any works are required. The 2016 programme for road resurfacing in estates has already been agreed by the Members but it does not include Beechmount. Public lighting in the estate, and in particular in Beechmount Grove, is being reviewed so that works can be considered if further funding is received. In relation to the derelict property at 8 Beechmount Grove, the Environment Department has established that the property is in distress and has therefore written to the property management section of the mortgage company and a reply is awaited.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

### **7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“With regard to the €300,000, which has been ringfenced by Meath County Council for the proposed greenway from Navan to Wilkinstown, I call on Navan Municipal District to write to the Minister for Transport to ascertain the status of this proposed project. Unfortunately at present, the Ratholdon side of the railway line has become polluted with illegal dumping in an area which promises to be a most successful tourist attraction for both Navan and Meath were the project to be soon completed.”

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

*The status of the project is that there is no funding currently available for the project.*

*Meath County Council wrote to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in February 2015 indicating that the Council was willing to contribute €275,000 to the project and seeking grant aid for the remainder from the Department. The Council received a response from the Minister stating that Department funding for the construction of greenways up to the end of 2016 is now fully committed.*

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



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It was agreed that a letter should also issue to Irish Rail on behalf of Navan Municipal District asking that they address the illegal dumping at this location and also that they remove the wall at Tailteann.

The motion was adopted.

### **7.5 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*“That an application for public funding be submitted to install toilet facilities at Blackwater Park where numerous people walk, run or participate in sporting activities on a daily basis. Taking into consideration the viability of running events in Blackwater Park now and in the future, I feel there should be basic toilet facilities available to people who use this park and its children's playground.”*

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

*The overall plan for the Blackwater Park includes changing rooms and toilet facilities together with a number of other key elements including public lighting along the pathways. Meath County Council through the Community Section is examining potential funding options to deliver these elements of work and will make applications accordingly as funding schemes are opened. There is also funding of €175,000 identified in the Capital Expenditure Programme 2015-2020 towards works in the Blackwater Park which will be used in addition to any successful grant application.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

It was agreed that a costing should be obtained on the provision and maintenance of such toilet facilities and check if parks in other counties provide same.

The motion was noted.

### **7.6 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**

*“I propose the motion that Navan Municipal District holds a Civic Reception for Navan Cosmos Football Club, in recognition of their outstanding achievements this year.”*



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

The motion was adopted.

### **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Email correspondence was received from Stephen O'Connor, SIRO confirming that he hopes to attend the September meeting of Navan Municipal District.

The correspondence was noted.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Navan Christmas Campaign 2016

Dara McGowan attended the meeting and outlined the proposal for the 2016 Navan Christmas Campaign, which will see no change to the plans for the lights, trees and parking scheme. However it is proposed to combine the Christmas Market and Shop Local campaigns and provide a Christmas Village at the Old Cornmarket, which will involve a road closure. An open-sided marquee will be in place for a period of 10 days and will feature 20 stalls with access to shops also. Whilst there will be no charge for the stalls, the tender process will focus on the quality of the offering to be provided, including promotion, entertainment, etc. It is also intended to move the live animal crib to the Old Cornmarket area. Discussions are to commence with the Chamber of Commerce and local retailers and permission was sought to proceed.

The Mayor and Councillors widely welcomed the proposal. Matters raised included:

- The use of the chalets – it was confirmed that there was no proposal to use the chalets on this occasion.
- The provision of signage at different locations indicating the location of the Christmas Village – it was pointed out that lighting would be installed on the archway and signage would be provided.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposal as outlined.



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### 9.2 Change of date for the Annual Meeting and June Monthly Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting would take place at 9.30am on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, and the June monthly meeting will follow.

### 9.3 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Update on the special equipment for Blackwater Park – it was confirmed that information was awaited from other local authorities.

9.3.2 No response received to the submission of an engineer's report to the Community Department by Johnstown People's Park regarding the installation of a playground complex – it was agreed to refer this to the Community Department.

9.3.3 The pedestrian bridge at the Ramparts and the need for it to be resurfaced – it was pointed out that Meath County Council does not own the bridge and that An Taisce had been requested to resurface it. It was pointed out also that An Taisce had contacted Councillor Deane in relation to the Ramparts and it was hoped that a site meeting could be arranged. It was also suggested that any heritage funding options could be explored.

### 9.4 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:

9.4.1 The possibility of renaming the car park at the Ramparts to The Rescuers Car Park – it was agreed that the relevant group should submit a formal request.

9.4.2 The obstructed visibility at the exit of Blackcastle Lodge due to cars parked on left - it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.

9.4.3 The large green area at Reask and possibility of the Council cutting the grass – the issues in relation to grass cutting in the town were outlined. It was suggested that the wider issue of grass cutting needs to be examined, with consideration given to managing green areas more efficiently and to encourage more wildlife. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the green area at Reask would be given one cut and that the grass cutting programme would be reviewed to see what locations should be included.



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9.5 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:

9.5.1 Derelict sites at Abbeylands – it was agreed to refer this to Environment.

9.5.2 The hoarding on the Dublin Road – it was confirmed that a new banner was being made and will be installed at this location.

9.6 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issue:

9.6.1 The closure of an alleyway to the rear of Abbeylands Crescent with the land having been given to homeowners and the need to resolve the issue of titles, which was never finalised – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**An Meára**