



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 15th May, 2017, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Alan Tobin**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Claire O’Driscoll, Darren O’Rourke, Seán Smith.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

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

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th April 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O’Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

In relation to Item 4, Councillor Seán Smith asked that it be noted that it had been agreed that a motion would go to the full Council on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District.

In relation to Item 8.1, Councillor Claire O’Driscoll confirmed that the Friends of Tara would attend a future meeting of the Municipal District once a planning issue had been resolved.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:



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- Councillor Joe Bonner on the recent Recycling Day;
- Ashbourne Community Games Draughts Team on their fourth win in a row;
- Ashbourne Rugby Team on winning the Leinster Inter-Provincial Championship;
- Ashbourne Baseball Club members on being selected for the national team participating in the European Championships;
- Tola Collier on the Living History Festival in Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA;
- TradAsh Festival on their most successful festival to date;
- St. Declan's N.S. Boys Basketball Team on winning the Meath Schools Championship;
- Ashbourne Special Olympics on their recent awards.

4 To receive a presentation from Prosper Meath.

Eve Wardick and Orna Fynes, Prosper Meath delivered a presentation that provided a background to Prosper Meath, the supports and services provided, accessibility issues including in Ashbourne, current and future service needs and future plans.

Matters raised by Councillors included the provision of pedestrian crossings and disabled car parking spaces at various locations, linkages to schools in relation to increasing disability awareness and the need for planning law to make proper provision for accessibility and the need to equality proof all infrastructure.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Eve and Orna for attending, congratulated them on their work and achievements to date and wished them well with their planned education workshop.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation



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- 5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and the work being undertaken, and the report format, was commended.

- 5.1.2 To consider and, if thought fit, to approve for public display the “Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2017.

This was unanimously agreed.

It was confirmed that additional estates could be added in 2018.

- 5.1.3 To discuss Primatestown junction.

Councillors requested that a progress report be requested from TII on issues discussed at the November meeting relating to Primatestown junction and Kilmoon Cross junction, including the request for a reduced speed limit and a report on the number of accidents.

5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2015

- Brindley Park, Ashbourne

It was unanimously agreed that this should not proceed until such time as a range of issues, a list of which had been submitted to the Planning Department, was resolved.

- Churchfields, Kentstown

This item was deferred to the June meeting.



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- The Briars, Ashbourne

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

5.2.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5.3 Community

5.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

An update was circulated in advance of the meeting. Councillor Seán Smith requested a progress report for each zone be provided at each meeting and Councillor Joe Bonner requested that the works requested by residents in Deerpark be undertaken.

5.4 Corporate Services

5.4.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District.

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Is there a licensing or permit system in County Meath for roadside or street traders?

If so, what are the terms and conditions?

How do they compare to rate paying businesses?

Has there ever been a review of the permit system?



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Is public liability insurance and other food safety certification enforced?

The question does not include beaches, this is specifically those I know of in South Meath that are directly competing with rate paying businesses and include street fish sales in Ratoath, bedding plant sales, coffee and food sales, fresh fruit and juice sales as well as ice cream sales in Ashbourne.”

Response:

The Casual Trading Act 1995 applies nationally, and required County Councils and Town Councils to adopt bye-laws in relation to Casual Trading.

The Act only applies to public lands and roads - private lands and car parks are exempt.

Meath County Council adopted Casual Trading Bye-Laws following enactment of the Casual Trading Act in 1995. (Presentations were previously given to the Environment Spc regarding same.) These refer to allocated bays in Oldcastle, Athboy and Laytown/Bettystown only. Under Meath Bye-Laws traders must hold insurance and indemnify Meath County Council. The Bye-laws set out the terms and conditions by which traders must adhere.

Navan Town Council separately adopted Bye-laws in relation to same which refer to the Fair Green.

The current Casual Trading Act is under review and the Dept Jobs and Enterprise are currently drafting a new bill which will require all authorised bodies to create new bye laws. Prior to adopting new Bye-laws, we await enactment of same which we understand will have a massive impact on the bye-laws, the allocation of bays, and how the administration of Casual Trading area is to be set and will bring Casual Trading into compliance with the EU Services Directive.

Food Safety Certification is a matter for the Environmental Health office of the HSE.

Mobile food outlets such as ice cream vans and frozen fish vans that travel around estates are generally exempt under the ACT as they would qualify as door to door sellers.



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The following exemptions apply to the Act.

- *Selling by Auction*
- *Charitable or non-profit*
- *Door to door exempt*
- *1 May to 30 September - Seasonal fruit & vegetable – (Casual Trading Act 2004 exempted strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, gooseberries, blackberries, loganberries, tayberries, currants, and potatoes having loose skins and which have been harvested prior to maturity).*

The response was noted. Reference was made to the new Casual Trading Bye-Laws due from the Department. It was agreed to request information from the Environment Section on introducing Intoxicating Liquor Bye-Laws and refer the issue of enforcement of parking on cycle lanes to the Transportation Department.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can Meath County Council arrange to meet local volunteers from Gormanston and local Elected Representatives and visit the three access points onto Gormanston beach with the following aims:

- 1) To deter the abandonment of vehicles;
- 2) To come up with a solution regarding what vehicles can access the beach;
- 3) To eliminate illegal dumping;
- 4) To promote a "leave no trace" policy;
- 5) To enhance wildlife conservation and combat erosion through natural methods?”



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

The Transportation Department can arrange a meeting between Local Representatives and Meath County Council staff to include the Environment Section in relation to the dumping issues and the abandonment of vehicles, the Heritage Officer in relation to wildlife conservation and the Municipal District Engineer to address the access issues.

Please arrange to forward the contact details of the local residents who have volunteered, to Transportation and we will work on scheduling this.

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

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the residents group and the motocross club would be invited to make a presentation to a meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District and that site visits could follow if required.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“That Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors will accept and welcome Minister Coveney's housing proposal on the Department of Education & Skills lands in Kilegland West if it includes space for a public park, publicly owned playing pitches for schools and public use, as well as housing, which must specifically include housing for the elderly, and that if this motion is adopted, that a letter will be written to the Minister on behalf of all Municipal District Councillors or those that supported the motion.”

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

Under the Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing & Homeless, a priority measure was the identification of state owned lands for the purposes of social housing.

To this end, the Department of Education & Skills site in Ashbourne has been identified through this process, and Meath County Council has formally confirmed our requirement



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for this site, and requested that said lands should be transferred to the Housing Authority, given the high demand for social housing in the Ashbourne area.

It should also be noted that the future needs of the Department of Education & Skills, with regard to education facilities will also be taken into account, which will influence the amount of land available for housing, and indeed any other purpose, on this site.

In respect to the house types to be included within a social housing scheme, this is ultimately influenced by an analysis of the housing waiting list for the area concerned, but is particularly mindful of the housing needs of older persons and persons with a disability.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

A discussion followed which referred to the need for social housing, the government priorities in this regard, the legacy issues with regard to green space provision in Ashbourne.

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith** as follows:

“That Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors will write a letter seeking a meeting with Minister Coveney and Deputies English, Doherty, McEntee and Byrne regarding the housing proposal on the Department of Education & Skills lands in Killeghland West and other issues of significant concern to the local community and that, in recognising the urgency of the situation, request that this meeting take place as soon as possible.”

The amended motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Ashbourne Municipal District requests the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government to put a moratorium on place on all Solar Farm planning applications until such time as National Guidelines are in place.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.



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A discussion followed on the possible benefits and disbenefits of such developments, the need for greater education and awareness of these and their implications and the need for guidelines to assist local authorities in making decisions. It was agreed that the need for more information would be raised at the next meeting of the Planning SPC.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Cloghertown United FC.

The correspondence was noted.

- 8.2 Correspondence received from Skryne National School.

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would issue to the school for the information provided.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Fiona Lawless raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Confirmed that three expressions of interest for lands to be considered for a park/sporting facility had been received, two of which were being examined in detail with a further update to be provided when available.

- 9.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Requested an update on the Public Realm Plan.

- 9.3 Councillor Seán Smith raised the following issue:

9.3.1 The condition of the roundabouts on the approach roads to Ashbourne – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation for follow up with TII.

9.3.2 Requested that a letter issue to the Garda Superintendent asking that the



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enforcement of illegal parking be undertaken with a zero tolerance approach.

9.4 Councillor Claire O'Driscoll raised the following issue:

- 9.4.1 The number of expressions of interested submitted under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme – it was confirmed that the closing date had been on Friday and that no further information was yet available.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach