



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

13th June 2016, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Maria Murphy

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Cllr. Darren O'Rourke

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Ger Murphy, Fiona Fallon, David Jones

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Maria Murphy opened the meeting. It was noted that an emergency motion with regard to Brexit had been put forward by Councillor Alan Tobin. The Cathaoirleach advised that it would be considered along with the other motions on the agenda.

Councillor Noel French proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss homelessness. The Cathaoirleach noted the importance of the matter but advised that the topic would be discussed at another time.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 9th May 2016.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 9th May 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.



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1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 23rd May 2016.

The minutes of the Special meeting held on 23rd May 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Councillor Caroline Lynch** referred to Motion 9.1 and noted that it had been agreed to refer the matter to both the Housing SPC and the Transportation SPC and that the record in the minutes only mentioned the Transportation SPC. It was agreed that the minutes would be amended accordingly.
- **Councillor Gillian Toole** referred to Motion 9.4 which, based on the supporting information provided, was noted. She asked if a quarterly review of the Sugar process would be undertaken and presented in September. The Chief Executive noted that ongoing reviews of the system are taking place and that Councillors would be kept informed through the Chief Executive's Report.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The victims of the Orlando massacre.
- Barry Deighan, a former elected member of Meath County Council
- Staff members Majella Farrell, Gavin Diamond and Vincent Diamond, on the death of Daniella Diamond.
- Eamon Rattigan on the death of his mother, Kate Bell.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Francis Deane on his election as Mayor of Navan.
- Meath Camogie and Hurling Clubs on their recent sporting success.
- All Meath businesses represented at Bloom Festival and Alan Battersby on winning a gold medal for his garden.
- Cosmos soccer team on its recent success.
- Kentstown Village Project Team on securing planning permission for the village development plan.



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- Trim, Navan and Ratoath Musical Societies recently nominated for National Awards
- Meath County Council Fire Services recent success.
- Four swimmers from Kells who represented Ireland at the World National Swimming Championships.
- All those involved in the organisation of the :
 - Ballivor Horse Show
 - Moylagh 50 mile sponsored walk
 - Blue Jean Festival, Athboy
 - Tattersalls International Event

4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Finance

- 5.1.1 To receive a report on the Management Accounts of Meath County Council in respect of Q1 2016.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, provided a short briefing and responded to issues raised by Councillors. It was noted that the budgetary figures were on target for Q1 2016.

5.2 Corporate Services

- 5.2.1 To note the Audit Committee Work Programme 2016-2017.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.2.2 To receive the 2015 progress report in respect of Meath County Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019.



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Noted by the Councillors. Claire King, Administrative Officer, provided information with regard to the 2015 progress report and the amendments to the 2015-2019 Corporate Plan (Item 5.2.3)

- 5.2.3 To approve the amendments to the 2015-2019 Corporate Plan following its review.

Approved on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

5.3 Housing

- 5.3.1 To adopt Amended Anti Social Behaviour Strategy.

It was noted that the document was widely discussed at SPC level and the work involved in the preparation of the document was acknowledged. Following a debate on the matter, the Amended Anti Social Behaviour Strategy was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly**.

6 Reports

- 6.1 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's Report was noted by the Councillors. The main issues discussed included: the slow progress with regard to the delivery of houses; the significant increase in rent in certain parts of Meath; vacant sites, transitional housing; the proposed introduction of pay by weight charging from 1st July; the results with regard to septic tank inspections.

The Chief Executive and the Management Team provided responses on the matters raised.

- 6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The CPG also noted the report from the Housing Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting held on the 18th May.



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6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the following:

- Correspondence from **Councillor Gillian Toole**, with regard to motions on the Council Agenda, was considered and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would provide a report and a set of proposals for the next meeting.
- The Committee also considered a proposal from the housing committee of Navan Mental Health to honour Mrs Margot Davis, who was the original founder of Navan Mental Health by the erection of a plaque/mould/bust (funded by the Mental Health housing committee) on the wall outside the Solstice Arts Centre on Railway Street. It was agreed that further discussions would take place on the matter.
- That Committee also received a draft Twinning Protocol for consideration and it was agreed that it would be discussed at the July meeting.

The Meetings Administrator also advised that the Protocol Committee received and noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors, and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Circular EA 1/2016 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Local Agenda 21 (LA21) Environment Partnership Fund 2016.

Noted by the Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Since the HAP scheme has begun how many County Meath landlords have signed up and how many more are in the process of doing so?”

Response



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To date, 156 HAP agreements have been completed between landlords and tenants. However, it is important to note that a single landlord may have a number of properties that separate HAP agreements have been entered into. It is anticipated that there will be in excess of 400 HAP agreements in place by year end.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O' Connor

"NAMA has identified 235 properties in Meath (as at end of March 2016) which could be used for social housing. 38 social houses have been delivered as at that date. Could the executive outline the difficulties in utilising the balance of 197 properties and any suggested improvements in the process to make this happen?"

Response

A process was agreed between the Department, NAMA and the Housing Agency to ascertain whether residential properties made available by NAMA, are suitable for social housing.

Following confirmation of demand and suitability, NAMA then approaches the owners of the properties, i.e. its debtors or receivers, to discuss the potential for these properties to be used for social housing.

It is important to note that NAMA is effectively the bank that holds the loans for which the properties are the security. NAMA does not own the properties and is facilitating negotiations to try to ensure that suitable properties are acquired by local authorities or Approved Housing Bodies for social housing.

An important consideration for local authorities when assessing the suitability of houses and apartments identified by NAMA is the requirement to provide for an appropriate mix of housing tenures, and to avoid undue segregation in housing within developments and areas.

In respect to County Meath, 235 units were identified by NAMA, located in 10 developments throughout the County. Of this total, 84 units were subsequently deemed not available by NAMA, leaving a balance of 151 potential units for consideration.

Outlined below is an analysis of those units available for consideration, including the total number of units that were deemed appropriate for social housing, completed/approved to date, and the number of units considered unsuitable. The units deemed unsuitable did not fulfil the sustainable communities criteria referred to above, as set out by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, namely the



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conversion of said units to social units would lead to an overconcentration of social housing within the identified development.

Units Identified by NAMA	Units Subsequently not Available	Total Units for Consideration	Units Deemed Unsuitable	Units Deemed Suitable	Units Complete/ Approved	Balance of Units to be Completed
235	84	151	88	63	38	25

Noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

"Can the Chief Executive please clarify the position regarding the construction of the planned 40 social housing units in Kells and advise when it is projected that these housing units will be developed and ready for occupation?"

Response

Designs for the social housing scheme in Kells, in line with the existing Part 8 planning, have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, and consultations are ongoing with Departmental officials regarding same, with a view to advancing the project to the next stage at the earliest opportunity.

Each direct construction project is subject to a four stage approval process by the Department, as summarised below:

Stage 1: Approval to Proceed to Design Phase

Stage 2: Approval to Proceed to Planning (Part 8 Process)

Stage 3: Approval to Proceed to Tender

Stage 4: Approval to Proceed to Construction

It is likely that proposed revisions to the Kells scheme design, so as to ensure current best practice in estate design is achieved, for the benefit of future tenants, will necessitate a revised Part 8 approval.

Taking into account a Part 8 process, it is anticipated that the scheme will proceed to construction on site mid 2017, subject to Part 8 approval by the Elected Members, and timely approval sanction by the Department. While the Part 8 process must be



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completed before the scheme goes to tender, it is hoped that the timelines associated with this process will be reduced, as part of the Government's upcoming Housing Action Plan, thus achieving earlier delivery than the current process would allow.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

"Has a county wide canine neutering & spaying programme been considered/ discussed at the environmental Strategic Policy Committee, in the best interests of animal welfare & allocation of Council resources and how are boarding kennels in Meath inspected & by whom?"

Response

It is confirmed that while not an area of responsibility for the Council under the Control of Dogs Act, this matter will be considered at the June Meeting of the Environmental SPC. Any relevant information will be circulated to the Members, including information arising from the annual Spay Aware campaign which ran this year from May 30th to June 6th

Noted by the Councillors.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Lynch

"Can the Council confirm what equality proofing measures are in place in all its departments to ensure equal access to the elderly and wheelchair users and those with limited mobility in the county? An féidir leis an gComhairle a chinntiú na bearta atá ann maidir le comhionannas a chinntiú i ngach roinn ó thaobh rochtain d'aostaigh agus úsáideoirí cathaoireacha rothaí agus iadsan ar luaineacht theoranta sa chontae?"

Response

Meath County Council has made some material alterations to its current buildings to facilitate, in as far as is possible, people with disabilities in accessing the services of the Council. This includes ramps, automatic doors and a disability access lift at County Hall. The Council acknowledges that some buildings/areas are not accessible for wheelchair users or people with limited mobility, mainly due to the age and nature of the buildings in question. However, the facilities at the new civic offices at Buvinda House will provide equality of access to all departments and will be in compliance with the Disability Act and with Part M of the Building Regulations 1997 (as amended) by 31 December 2015.

Noted by the Councillors.



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8.6 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“Can the executive please provide an update on evaluating the safety of crossings and access into all schools in the county. This issue was raised in the Chamber previously and referred to the relevant SPC/An féidir leis an bhFeidhmeannach uasdhátú a thabhairt ar an imscrúdú ar shábháltacht na trasnáin agus rochtain ar scoileanna an chomtae. Cuireadh an saincheist seo faoi bhráid na comhairle agus an SPC ábhartha cheana féin?”

Response

A report on the minimum safety standard required on public roads outside each school in County Meath was presented to the Transportation SPC at its meeting on 27th April 2016.

It was noted that the safety standard has been set as:

- 50km per hour speed limit
- Signage on either side of the school, in accordance with traffic signs manual
- Road markings on each side of the school, indicating school ahead, and/or slow down.

This standard has been achieved by all schools within Meath. There is a small number of schools that require lines to be refreshed and this will happen within the next month or so. Flashing lights are in place at about 65% of schools in Meath.

The meeting also discussed the motion which was referred from the March Council Meeting to the SPC and the following points were noted:

No facilities for off road parking at many of existing schools – new schools are providing such facilities.

The established practice has been that when traffic management issues at schools are raised, contact is made with the Road Safety Officer for discussion. Where something can be done to improve traffic management, improvements are carried out.

Now that the County Development Plan review is being undertaken, the parking issue at schools could be examined.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.7 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“How many disabled drivers are there in Co. Meath?”



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Reason for question: to ascertain how many disability parking spaces should be provided countywide."

Response

Meath County Council does not hold any information with regard to the number of disabled drivers in the County Meath. The EU parking permit is issued on behalf of the Department of Transport by the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"That Meath County Council investigates options to assist older persons, apply/access/learn about, grant aided devices that enable older persons to live independently in their own homes, with peace of mind and comfort. This initiative would contribute to Meath County Council's leadership role in respect to the promotion and attainment of Meath as an Age Friendly County."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Housing Department will investigate the opportunities in respect to the promotion of the grant aid devices which facilitate independent leaving, through Meath County Council's own suite of adaptation grants, given the common target group concerned, namely older persons, and their common objectives to improve the quality of life of older persons within their own homes.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, was unanimously adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew

"That Meath County Council immediately proceed with the process to give effect to the Variation of the Meath County Development Plan, Section 8 Energy and Communications re Wind Power in the County, as passed unanimously at the November 2014 meeting of Meath County Council."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.



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The Kells MD Councillors' resolution of November 2014 called on the Council to vary the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 insofar as it relates to wind energy. The Chief Executive in her response at that time outlined the statutory requirements to give effect to the motion. She also referred to Departmental guidance as set out in Circular Letter PL 20-13 issued on 20th December 2013 in the context of its ongoing review of the Wind Energy Guidelines and the Renewable Energy Export Policy and Development Framework.

The Circular letter, from the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government, stated ***“As the preparation or variation of Local Authority Development plans must take account of all relevant and up to date National policy, it is therefore advised that until both of the above national policy review processes have concluded, Local Authorities should defer amending the existing Development Plan policies as part of either the cyclical review or variation processes. They should instead operate their existing Development plan policies and objectives until the completion of these processes and advised otherwise by the department”.***

Councillors were also advised that all draft variations must be referred to the Minister for comment and that Planning Authorities must have regard to any submission by the Minister in considering a variation.

The Minister of Environment Community and Local Government has statutory powers under Section 31 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 to direct a Local Authority to amend its development plan where the policies contained therein do not take sufficient account of the submissions made by the Minister or of national or regional policy. The Councillors' attention was drawn to the Ministerial direction to Westmeath County Council where they proposed to vary their Development Plan policies on Wind Energy in November 2013. Westmeath County Council was subsequently directed to amend their variation on Wind Energy in order to comply with Government policy.

The Chief Executive, in her response to the Kells MD Councillors' motion advised the Council against varying the County Development Plan and, cautioned that the Council may be directed not to proceed. Following adoption of an amended motion Meath County Council wrote to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government on a number of occasions. The Department responded on 27th October 2015 restating the advice in their earlier circular as follows:

“In the circumstances prevailing, I confirm that the provisions of Circular PL20-13 continue to apply pending completion of the review of the guidelines and indeed the Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework by the DCENR. As indicated in the circular County Development plans must take account of all relevant and up to date national policy and pending completion of the national review



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processes referred to, the existing national policies remain in place. Accordingly local authorities should continue to operate their existing development plan objectives and policies in relation to wind and renewable energy until the completion of the national policy review processes and advised otherwise by the Department.”

The Councillors attention is also drawn to Circular letter Circular FPS1/2016 issued in January of this year pursuant to Section 28 of the Act, wherein Planning Authorities were advised not to adopt standards over and above national standards as part of their statutory functions.

The Executive therefore advises that it cannot commence the variation process as proposed.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O’ Driscoll**.

It was agreed, on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, that motion 9.13 submitted by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** would also be considered with motion 9.2.

Motion 9.13 was proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

A lengthy debate took place on the two motions. **Councillor Drew**, while acknowledging the supporting information provided, outlined that at a public meeting he had been advised that the Circulars referred to above are advisory only and, of themselves, cannot prohibit a Planning Authority from commencing a process to vary its Development Plan, and that there was, therefore, nothing to prevent the Council from doing so. Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, responded and reiterated the Departmental guidance and advice received via Circular Letter PL 20-13 issued in December 2013 and again in October 2015.

It was agreed to note the two motions and that clarification would be sought from the Department with regard to the contents of the Circulars and with regard to the timeframe for the publication of the Wind Energy Guidelines and the Renewable Energy Export Policy and Development Framework.

9.3 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors

“Recognising the lack of progress in response to the Sinn Féin Councillors motion (9.8) in November 2015 regarding an audit of vacant properties in the county, and further recognising the fact that other local authorities are now commencing compulsory purchase proceedings to acquire vacant properties in order to help tackle the housing crisis, this Council again calls for a full and immediate audit of vacant houses in county Meath to be conducted, same to be concluded by the end of August 2016, with a view



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to acquiring as many of those units as possible and returning them 'ready-to-let' at the earliest opportunity /Á n-aithint an beagán is a ndearna dul chun cinn ar rún na gComhairleoirí Shinn Féin (9.6) i mí na Samhna 2015 maidir le imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar an méid tithé folamha sa chontae agus á n-aithint níos faide go bhfuil tús curtha ag údair áitiúla eile ar orduithe ceannaigh éigeantaigh maidir le maoiné neamhshealbhaíthe a shealbhú agus chun dul i ngleic leis an ngéarchéim tithíochta, éilíonn an chomhairle seo arís ar lánimscrúduú práinneach a dhéanamh ar thithe folamha na Mí, é sin a bheith críochnaithe roimh dheireadh mí Lúnasa agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar an méid is mó dóibh a shealbhú agus a chur “réidh le cur ar cíos” chomh tapa agus is féidir.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Motion 9.8 (November 2015), was referred to the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee, as agreed by the Elected Members, and was discussed at the Committee’s meeting on 18th November 2015. A number of concerns were expressed by members present on the motion, and accordingly, the Strategic Policy Committee was unable to progress the matter in the format presented.

The potential of vacant/derelict units, as a mechanism to deliver social housing units, while simultaneously facilitating a dual objective of urban renewal in certain instances, is recognised.

While a full audit would be resource dependent, it is proposed that a targeted identification of vacant/derelict units in the County’s urban centres will be instigated, with a view to exploring the most effective mechanism available to achieve the desired outcome. A preliminary audit process has already commenced for Navan.

The pilot scheme currently being pursued by Louth County Council, where identified vacant/derelict properties for social housing, and the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers (conferred by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning & Development Act, 2000)) to purchase same, will be duly examined in this context.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** and seconded by **Councillor Sinead Burke**.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to consider motion 9.11 submitted by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor** along with Motion 9.2

Motion 9.11 was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.



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Following a lengthy debate on the issues raised in both motions, Motion 9.11 was adopted and Motion 9.2 was adopted subject to the supporting information.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“In light of the overwhelming success of dog foul bins in Dunboyne, can I ask that Meath County Council changes its policy on the collection of foul from bins to facilitate for the introduction of the bins in all urban areas.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

There have been many calls in recent months for the provision of special dog fouling bins at various locations. From an environmental point of view and in promoting responsible dog ownership, these calls are welcome. However, the Council’s response is that the Municipal Districts do not have the resources to empty additional bins, but would consider providing free doggie bags at strategic locations.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor**. Following a lengthy debate, the motion was adopted subject to the supporting information.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“With the economic confidence increasing, can I ask that a committee from Ashbourne and Ratoath Districts with help, and resources from Meath Co. Council, set up a cross county forum with Fingal Co. Council to encourage cooperation in infrastructural projects, broadband, water and waste water, public amenities and help represent citizens that straddle the border areas with matter including crime, theft, isolation and illegal dumping.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council already has formal contact arrangements in place with Fingal County Council with regard to a range of cross county border proposals, including the Council’s Economic Strategy, respective County Development Plan proposals, National Roads Infrastructure etc. The Council can now explore the possibility of setting up other cross county boundary contacts in relation to some of the matters referred to in the Notice of Motion. However, it should be noted that, in some of instances, Meath and Fingal operate in different regional structures and also that some of the matters identified may be the responsibility of national bodies rather than being under the remit of either Local Authority.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

Following a lengthy debate on the matter it was agreed that the motion would be deferred to the July meeting.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“That the Council adapts or amends telecommunications policy to ensure that any civil works of note (over 20metres in length), to be carried out by the County Council, relating to roads, footpaths or related activities carried out in towns around the county include the provision and installation of telecommunications ducting for future sale or lease to the telecommunications sector. Those other opportunities such as new roads, greenways, and cycle ways be included in a plan for the future-proofing of the county’s infrastructure be considered as a matter of course.

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council is committed to providing ducting as part of schemes, where feasible and practical. In addition, Meath County Council sets conditions for developers of private schemes, for example housing developments, to provide an appropriate level of broadband service infrastructure on an open access basis.

However, providing ducting as part of smaller infrastructural schemes on an ad hoc basis, without any joint up thinking or overall plan, would not be beneficial. The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 recognises the importance of providing ducting in conjunction with significant public infrastructure works. EC POL 30 refers as follows: To seek to have appropriate modern ICT, including open access fibre connections in all new developments and carrier neutral ducting installed during significant public infrastructure works such as roads, water and sewerage, where feasible.

The review of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 will commence in Q4 of 2016, telecommunications policy will form part of the review process.

The motion was deferred to the July meeting.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“That Meath County Council invites the TII to present their plans for the N2 to the members of this Council at a meeting in the Council Chamber in the coming months“

The motion was deferred to the July meeting.



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9.8 Submitted by Councillor Joe Bonner

“That Meath County Council, before the end of 2016, applies a 30 kilometre per hour speed limit in all housing estates taken in charge.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

New national guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland were issued to all local authorities in April 2015.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has requested that all Local Authorities carry out a review and update speed limits within their administrative area in accordance with the 2015 Guidelines, with new Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws to be implemented by the end of April 2017. All estates where a 30 km/h speed limit is proposed require a detailed review including traffic / speed surveys in order to design appropriate signage at each location.

At the Transport SPC meeting of 30th September 2015, the proposed Speed Limit Review for the County was discussed in some detail. Following on from this meeting the Transportation Department amended its original proposals to allow for an additional byelaw to be introduced in 2016. This Bye-law will implement a 30 kph speed limit within 121 appropriate Meath County Council owned estates and 54 estates which have been taken in charge by MCC for which specific concerns have been raised to date as part of the public consultation process that the Council undertook in 2014 / 2015.

The Transportation Department has prepared a draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) Bye-Law (No. 1) 2016 and will be seeking approval from each of the Municipal Districts at their June meetings to commence the statutory process and put the Draft Bye-Law on public display.

The full County review will also continue with regard to drafting the April 2017 Special Speed Limit Bye-Law for County Meath.

The Council also intends to update the 2016 30 km/h Housing Estate SSL Bye-Law to take into account any additional estates which may be highlighted following on from 2016 Bye-Law public consultation. This will then be issued as a separate combined 2017 Meath Housing Estate Bye-Law.

The Special Speed Limit review is a large undertaking and will form a major work package for the Transportation Department in 2016/17. Given the resources currently available, it is not possible to fast track the review to include all housing estates within the county which have been taken in charge.



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Beyond 2017, the speed limit bye laws will be reviewed and amended on a periodic basis to include further housing estates in the County and take account of other updates.

The motion was deferred to the July meeting.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"For this Council to call on the Minister for Justice, in her strive towards a "fairer and safer Ireland", to explore and introduce laws, both domestically and internationally, to protect our citizens on social media from those that incite hatred and participate in viciously verbally attacking, abusing and threatening social media users."

The motion was deferred to the July meeting.

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Lynch

"That this Council writes to the Minister of Education and Skills to request that school budgets are brought up to a realistic level to avoid school closures in County Meath./ Go scríobhfadh an chomhairle seo chuig an Aire Oideachais á n-iarraidh go n-ardófar buiséid scoileanna go leibhéil réadúla ionas nach ndúnfar scoileanna i gContae na Mí."

The motion was deferred to the July meeting.

9.11 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O' Connor

"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to direct the National Asset Management Agency(NAMA) to identify from its portfolio all lands and properties within the Meath County Boundary and engage with the Executive of Meath County Council to deliver properties and land for Social housing where the demand has been confirmed."

See Item 9.3

9.12 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I call on the support of my fellow Councillors for Meath to lead by example and ask the Executive to write to the relevant Minister and the Irish Government to support the refunding of customers who have paid all their Irish water bills within the coming months."

The motion was deferred to the July meeting.



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9.13 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“That the elected members of this Council, once again, restate their firm opposition to massive industrial scale windfarms being imposed on communities in County Meath; and call on the Ministers responsible to immediately publish the updated windfarm guidelines and to proceed with the further consideration of the Wind Turbine Regulation Bill 2014/ Go ndéanann baill tofa na Comhairle seo athrá arís ar an méid is atá siad i gcoinne bhforbraíochtaí feirme ghaoithe ollmhóra a bhrú ar phobail na Mí agus go n-éileofar ar na hAirí ábhartha treorlínthe fheirm ghaoithe uasdhátaithe a fhoilsiú go práinneach agus leanúint le aird a thabhairt ar An mBille um Rialáil Tuirbíní Gaoithe, 2014.”

See Item 9.2

9.14 Submitted by Councillor Sinead Burke

“That this Council recognises the massive financial pressure being placed on drivers because of the huge increases in insurance premiums; Acknowledges the fact that young people and people in rural Ireland are disproportionately affected by these increases; Expresses its disbelief at the lack of explanation for the increases and the inconsistencies evident in the dramatic increases across the industry; Calls upon the Central Bank, the insurance industry and the Oireachtas to give this issue the priority it deserves; Will write to Minister for Finance and Insurance Ireland in this regard./Go n-aithnaíonn an chomhairle seo an brú ollmhór airgeadais a chuirtear ar tiománaithe mar gheall ar arduithe ollmhóra i bpréimheanna árachais; n-adhmaíonn an chomhairle seo go dtéann na harduithe seo i bhfeidhm ar dhaoine óga agus daoine ina gcónaí faoin tuath go díréireach; go gcuireann an chomhairle seo a díchreideamh in iúl ó thaobh an easpa mínithe maidir leis na harduithe agus na neamhréireachtaí soiléire a fheictear sna harduithe drámatúla trasna na earnála; n-éilíonn an chomhairle se ar Bhanc Ceannais na hÉireann agus an tOireachtas an tosaíocht cuí a thabhairt don saincheist seo; Scríobhfar chuig an Aire Airgeadais agus Insurance Ireland faoi.”

The motion was deferred to the July meeting.

9.15 Submitted Councillor Alan Tobin

Considering the severe impact both immediate and long term that a possible UK exit from the European Union would have, can I ask that Meath County Councillors and Meath County Council, which believes profoundly in the EU model and its principles, ask all citizens from Meath to encourage their families and friends in the UK to consider voting to remain in the EU. We (Councillors) also ask that Meath Co Council write to the



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Meath Association in London asking for their support as well using social media locally. Can we also request this motion is shared with all City and County councils in the Irish State to send a solid message for Remain across the U.K. It is vital for the future economic and social viability and sustainability of these islands.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**

The Cathaoirleach advised that this emergency motion was discussed at the Protocol Committee and that it was agreed that there would be no debate on the issues and, if unanimous agreement was reached the motion would be adopted.

As some Councillors felt that the matter should be the subject of debate, it was agreed to consider the holding of a special meeting, since motion could not be deferred as the Brexit referendum was taking place on 23rd June.

10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

- 10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation
- 10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment
- 10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing Construction
- 10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies

- 11.1 To receive a presentation from Meath Comhairle na nÓg.

Two representatives of Comhairle na nÓg, Ariana Owens and Tiernan Murray, made a presentation on their activities and work programme. Following the presentation the Cathaoirleach and a number of Councillors thanked the representatives for the presentation and commended the work of all concerned.

12 Any Other Business



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Councillor Gillian Toole raised the issue of the standard of motions being put before the Council and the need for a further review. The Cathaoirleach advised that the motion had been discussed at the Protocol Committee and a report would be prepared for the July Protocol meeting.