



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:15 a.m., 27th July 2016, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Francis Deane**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Wayne Forde, Jim Holloway, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Noel Finnegan

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Kevin Stewart, Director of Service

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 13th June, 2016.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th June 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13th June, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th June 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Forde**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of late Colm Boylan, Bohermeen;
- The victims and their families of the recent tragedy in Nice;
- Kevin Stewart, Meath County Council on the recent death of his father-in-law and wife's sister-in-law.

4 To meet with Adrian O'Loughlin , Bus Éireann to discuss the new public bus routes servicing the town of Navan.

Adrian O'Loughlin, Services Manager, Bus Éireann attended the meeting to discuss issues relating to the bus services in Navan. He outlined the changes affecting the 109A and 109 bus routes and other network changes, including the service to Dublin South City via Johnstown. It was confirmed that the Navan town service will be reviewed, probably in early 2017, and a proposal document would issue in relation to any suggested amendments.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Confirmation that each driver on the services to Dublin had received the appropriate training to accommodate wheelchair users – this was confirmed and the advance booking system outlined. Councillors were asked to submit details of any particular incidents where wheelchair users had not been accommodated.
- The availability of return tickets on the town service and – it was agreed to consider this.
- The need to ensure that the service in Johnstown took school times into account.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The promotion of the new timetables – the communications and media plans were outlined.
- The discontinuation of the B route through the Trim Road/Beechmount – it was agreed to check this.
- The planned changes for the town bus service and the need to provide access to services, such as the hospital – it was pointed out that the review would take place first and that any changes would be decided upon by the NTA as part of the licence.
- The impact of the new routes on the existing 109 service and the fare structure for the new Dublin route – it was confirmed that the core 109 route was unlikely to be affected and that the fare structure for the Dublin routes would be the same.

It was agreed that information on the new and amended services and options for submitting feedback to Bus Éireann would be circulated.

The Mayor and Councillors welcomed the outlined changes and thanked Adrian for attending and for the information provided.

5 Disposal of property pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- 5.1 This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Planning

- 6.1.1 To receive an update on the preparation of Variation No.2 of the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015. This variation will align the Navan Development Plan with the key tenets of the Meath Economic Strategy.

David Caffrey, Executive Planner, delivered a presentation that included the context and reasons for and objectives of the variation, the area's economic advantages, the overview of the variation and the next steps.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The type of residential units envisaged – it was confirmed that a broad mix of suitable developments would be sought.
- The feasibility of live/work units in areas outside larger urban centres – it was pointed out that examples of this do work in other jurisdictions.
- The need to influence, where possible, the provision of affordable housing, particularly for first-time buyers.
- The need to ensure that apartment developments are built to a standard that will make them attractive and sustainable in the long term – the model of one community accommodating households at all stages was outlined.
- The possibility of providing recreational facilities at Farganstown for the benefit of those living in Athlumney and Johnstown in the short term.
- The need to encourage town centre living, where possible.
- The need to ensure that Navan has adequate and affordable land zoned for commercial and industrial development – it was pointed out that a further 52 hectares at Farganstown and 28 hectares at Liscarton would be added.
- The need to address the issues arising from recent decisions of An Bord Pleanála – it was confirmed that these would be considered.
- The need to consider the needs of the new housing reality, e.g. the provision of adequate car parking spaces for multi-car rented households – it was pointed out that this would be considered as part of the County Development Plan review in terms of development standards.
- The need to review and remove zoned lands that will never be developed.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and Councillors welcomed the information and thanked David for his presentation.

6.2 Housing

6.2.1 To receive a Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2016.

The report was noted.

6.3 Transportation

6.3.1 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:

- Update on the upgrade of the traffic lights at various locations in Navan – it was confirmed that the assessment was ongoing and an update provided at the next meeting.
- Flooding at the Commons Road junction – it was confirmed that this was on the works programme, with the culvert to be investigated and new gullies linked to the culvert.
- The complaints received regarding the playground surface in Blackwater Park.
- The gully cleaning programme – it was confirmed that the programme addresses issues at locations highlighted with a planned programme to follow.
- Welcomed the hedge trimming at junctions on regional and local roads.
- The possibility of weeding at the playground in Claremont and the need for a plan for the long-term future of the playground.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The report submitted to and response received from Irish Water in relation to the manhole cover at Farganstown – it was agreed to check this with Water Services.

Information on the additional equipment proposed for the playground in Blackwater Park was circulated to Councillors and it was agreed to proceed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**. It was also confirmed that a different surface was to be used for this equipment and that, subject to available funding, a new surface would also be installed for the existing equipment.

6.4 Corporate Services

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

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

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sineád Burke

“Can the executive confirm if the council has a rota system for deep cleaning/power washing local playgrounds on a regular basis?”

Response:

Playgrounds are inspected regularly for defects and maintenance is carried out to the extent that budgets allow. Due to limited resources, this would only include cleaning where it is absolutely necessary. The playgrounds are also regularly litter-picked, bins are emptied and grass is cut, where applicable. The budget available for playground maintenance is not sufficient to cover regular deep cleaning or power washing.

The response was noted. Councillor Sinéad Burke requested clarification on the cost of powerwashing the playgrounds on a monthly basis and it was suggested that other local authorities would be consulted on their approach.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“That the Executive provides a progress report to Navan Municipal District from the Economic Development & Enterprise Department as it pertains to Navan to include:

- Progress in the provision of business development lands;
- Progress, if any, on the previously zoned LAP4 and the lands zoned on this site for economic development to include progress on the efforts to secure access to the 27 acres owned by the Council in Ferganstown for housing;
- The number of IDA visits or enquiries to IDA re the IDA Business Park;
- The plans to respond to the extreme shortage of office space in Navan, given the negative effect this shortage has and will have on investment in the town and what discussions have taken place with private sector interests in relation to same.”

Response:

The Members are to receive an update on the preparation of Variation No. 2 to the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 as an agenda item on the July meeting. Most of the questions set out below will be answered as part of the presentation. Furthermore Meath County Council are currently acting as an agent for Meath Enterprise Company in order to procure an architect-led full design team service to design, prepare and submit a planning application for an Advanced Technology Building in the IDA Business Park.

To date in 2016 there have been five IDA assisted visits to the IDA Business Park.

The response was noted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I ask the Executive how much money has been spent by Meath County Council to date on consultants on the new traffic management plans for Navan town and the new bus hub / interchange stop on Kennedy Road?”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Response:

The National Transport Authority's publication: 'Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035' states: 'The extension of the commuter rail line to Navan has been previously proposed and has been assessed in the examination of this corridor. Based on current population and employment forecasts, the level of travel demand between Navan, Dunshaughlin and various stations to the city centre is insufficient to justify the development of a high-capacity rail link at this time. To serve this corridor, it is proposed to provide an enhanced bus service along the M3/N3 in conjunction with the development of a bus hub in Navan.'

The National Transport Authority have provided an initial funding allocation of €478,000 to Meath County Council in order to investigate the improvement of sustainable transport measures in Navan town and enhance Navan town (i.e. public realm, bus facilities, pedestrian & cyclist facilities). This allocation can be broken down as follows:

- *Development of Kennedy Place €100,000.*
- *Navan Town Centre Traffic Management €228,000.*
- *Navan Town Centre Traffic Management Roundabout, Railway St €150,000. (this is the roundabout and pedestrian crossings at Mercy Convent – the construction stage of this roundabout is expected to commence in 2016.)*

In April 2015, Meath County Council sought the appointment of a Technical Consultant for the preparation of a design for a transport scheme for Navan with public realm consideration at the heart of it. The competition for consultants was carried out using the NTA framework for consultants and in accordance with proper procurement procedures. Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates (together with Brady Shipman Martin) were the successful tenderers for the project.

The Council's vision is to create an environment that strengthens and enhances the County town status of Navan which builds on its strong administrative role along with significant built heritage quality and past industrial waterway features (this includes the historic street pattern, public meeting points and impressive remains of historic mill buildings along the River Boyne and River Blackwater which merge close to the town centre).



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The scheme is sub-divided into 3 major elements that intertwine and overlap to create the overall project 'Navan Enhancing our Town':

- 1. Public Realm Plan*
- 2. Traffic Management Plan*
- 3. Improved Bus Facilities.*

The National Transport Authority have indicated that there may be further funding in the region of €10 to €12 million available for the construction of the preferred option for Public Realm, traffic management and bus facilities in Navan should the option receive the support of the Council.

The response was noted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Taking into consideration the outstanding work that has been carried out over many years by the staff of Navan Town Council, and subsequently Navan Municipal District, in providing an excellent service to the public, I would like to ask if a counter service will continue to operate from the Municipal District building on Watergate Street for the foreseeable future?”

See Item 8.2 – Notice of Motion.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“Navan Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to initiate discussions with the relevant government department seeking funding for the extension of a new strategic road from the Dublin to Trim Road and for the construction of a bridge across the Blackwater connecting the Proudstown Road to the Kells Road.”

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Government recently announced their proposal to establish a Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) of €200m to provide public off-site infrastructure to stimulate an increase in private housing in Dublin and in urban areas of high demand for housing.

Our understanding is that the €200 million fund which is being established will help to activate existing planning permissions for large scale housing developments and should facilitate in the region of 15,000 to 20,000 new houses and apartments across the State. Meath County Council highlighted to the DECLG that both road schemes were ones which could access a significant number of housing units planned in this county. However, we note that the position at present is that until we receive further details of the LIF we cannot confirm which infrastructure schemes in Meath, if any, might avail of funding and which will be given priority.

Minister Coveney has indicated that he is accelerating plans to get Government approval to publish the final Action Plan on Housing no later than mid-July 2016, and that this will include details on the ‘activation of this new funding provision’ as a key action under the Plan. We therefore await the publication of this document.

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

A short discussion followed on the need to ensure that the strategic infrastructure needed for the sustainable development of the town is provided at the appropriate time and that the support required from central government is provided to facilitate this. It was agreed to refer this to the Director of Service – Transportation requesting that this matter be raised with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and that these developments are acknowledged as being of strategic importance and that the necessary government support is provided to ensure that they are delivered.

The motion was adopted.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“That the Chief Executive confirms that Navan Municipal District will be treated equally to the other municipal districts in terms of having a dedicated civic office and that the Town Hall will remain the district office and a point of contact for the public of Navan Municipal District.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

Currently, the public can avail of the different services provided by Meath County Council at four separate buildings in Navan. The move to Buvinda House will facilitate the current services provided at the Town Hall, as well as services provided by the Planning, LEO, Motor Tax and Housing Departments to be available at one location in Navan, instead of the four different locations at present. When Buvinda House is open to the public, the public counter in Navan Town Hall will be closed and the current services provided will no longer be available at the Town Hall. Following the move to Buvinda House, Navan Municipal District will be treated no less favourably than any other Municipal District and in fact the amount of services provided at Meath County Council's office in Navan will substantially exceed the number of services provided at all the other Meath County Council Offices throughout the county.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

Following a short discussion on the need to maintain a point of contact in the town of Navan, it was pointed out that a public counter, similar to that in other civic offices, would remain available where the public could raise issues and queries, which would be logged and referred for response. It was also confirmed that, whilst no decision had yet been taken on the precise future role of the building, it would remain in the Council's ownership. Councillors underlined that they wished to continue to meet in the Town Hall and it was agreed that this would be discussed further once a decision had been taken in relation to the future use of the building.

The motion was adopted.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“As part of the programme for repair and restoration of the road pavements and footpaths within housing estates, particularly in older estates where the condition of this infrastructure is in very poor condition, that Meath County Council will have the footpaths within Beechdale Drive Navan restored.”

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

As Beechdale Drive is not in the charge of Meath County Council, the Council is not in a position to carry out works in the estate.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde** as follows:

“As part of the programme for repair and restoration of the road pavements and footpaths within housing estates, particularly in older estates where the condition of this infrastructure is in very poor condition, that Meath County Council will have the footpaths within Beechdale Drive Navan restored and, towards this end, will prioritise the Taking in Charge of this estate.”

The amended motion was adopted.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Sineád Burke

“That this council rebuild and repair the wall between Troytown Heights and Tara Glen Crescent. Its current state is encouraging and facilitating anti-social behaviour.”

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

This wall has been repaired, presumably by the residents.

The motion was withdrawn by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** in light of the supporting information provided.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to discuss safety and traffic issues on Boreen Keel. I bring this motion following our meeting with the NTA on "enhancing our town", and that we may include Boreen Keel in future discussions with the NTA.”

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

The scope of the proposed Navan Traffic Scheme does not include Boreen Keel, although the roundabout at the junction of Boreen Keel and Cannon Row is included. Any proposed solutions to safety and traffic issues at Boreen Keel would have to be considered from both feasibility and cost-benefit points of view before discussion with NTA.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

A short discussion followed on the issues affecting Boreen Keel in terms of traffic volumes and speed, the issues for pedestrians and the role of driver behaviour.

The motion was adopted.

8.6 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive to implement extra traffic calming measures outside Boyerstown National School for public safety.”

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

The existing traffic calming measures on each approach to Boyerstown National School are well in excess of the minimum standards required. The traffic calming measures consist of extensive school warning signage and road markings. There are also school warning flashing signs on each approach and the school is located in a 50km/hr speed limit zone. Meath County Council will carry out a review and assessment of the traffic calming measures at Boyerstown National School in late Autumn when the new school term is back in operation.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The planned review and assessment in Autumn was welcomed. It was agreed to request Transportation to include the following schools in this review and assessment:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Dunderry, Robinstown, Bohermeen and Cannistown. It was also requested to request an update on the draft policy relating to safety at schools, which was to be presented to the Transportation SPC.

The motion was adopted.

8.7 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“That, if extra monies become available for 2017 / 2018 and in future budgets, consideration be given to including Claremont Estate, Beechmount, Ardbraccan Village, Blackwater Park, Kells Road, Silverlawns and Ferndale for road restoration and resurfacing improvements.”

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

If extra monies become available in future budgets, the roads at these locations will be considered for restoration improvement and/or restoration maintenance works. Road restoration works will be carried out on sections of the roads in Silverlawns this year.

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

It was noted that, if additional funding were to become available, that there were many estates that required works and that a collective decision would be required. It was confirmed that, if additional funding became available, all issues would be considered, including condition surveys, submissions, etc. and that proposals would be presented to the Municipal District for decision.

The motion was noted.

8.8 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“With regard to discussions relating to the new traffic plan for the town, may I suggest that Meath County Council contemplate an overall plan to improve the town bus service for areas such as Old Johnstown Village, Windtown and the Trim Road, and also examine the possibility of providing a bus station with park and ride facilities on the N3 at Kilcarne, Navan.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

Currently there is only one town bus serving the south east of the town. Meath County Council acknowledges that this is a limited service and the Council would support an enhanced town service with improved connectivity and reliability. The Council also supports improving cycling and pedestrian links across Navan and will continue to engage with the NTA to promote this and the case for improving the routing and scheduling of the existing bus service.

The Council have already engaged in some discussions with the NTA regarding the implications of relocating staff from existing offices in the town to the new corporate HQ. These discussions have focussed on:

- Improving connectivity and accessibility to Buvinda House, in particular improving bus services from the town and environs to our new HQ.*
- Reducing reliance on car journeys by staff and the general public to/from Buvinda.*
- Encouraging staff to return to the town centre during lunch times by sustainable modes of transport.*

The NTA have highlighted the 109 Bus Éireann service will go through Johnstown 9 times each day coming from Dublin. The 109 Bus Éireann services from Navan to Dublin do not go through Johnstown but stop on the bridge just before the lights. The Council has also engaged with Flexibus in Navan to investigate the possibility of Flexibus providing a service through Johnstown. The Council will continue to promote the case for an enhanced town bus service in the south east of the town.

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

The motion was adopted.

8.9 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“I call on Meath County Council, along with An Taisce, to discuss a plan to incorporate a walkway through the woodland area of the Ramparts, along the Boyne River at Navan, which would have potential to be a huge tourist attraction as well as a marvellous recreational facility for the citizens of Navan and Meath.”

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

Reference was made to Item 9.3 – Correspondence from An Taisce and it was agreed to invite An Taisce to a future meeting of Navan Municipal District to discuss this.

The motion was adopted.

8.10 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“In the interest of public safety, I propose the motion to seek funding to provide a footpath from Dunderry village to Dunderry Cemetery.”

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

The distance from Dunderry village to Dunderry cemetery is approximately 250m. The provision of a footpath and associated drainage would cost in the region of €60,000.

The provision of this footpath will be placed on the register of new works requests, and will be considered when prioritising schemes if funding becomes available.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Notice of Item 7.4 – Notice of Motion as adopted at May meeting re greenway from Navan to Wilkinstown.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The correspondence was noted.

- 9.2 Correspondence received from the Department of Education in response to Notice of Item 6.1 Notice of Motion as adopted at June meeting re St. Martha's College, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath.

The correspondence was noted.

- 9.3 Correspondence received from An Taisce in response to the notice of item 7.6 – Notice of Motion as adopted at February monthly meeting re funding to upgrade the Ramparts towpath from Spicers to Stackallen Bridge.

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed that An Taisce would be invited to attend a future meeting of Navan Municipal District.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 To receive an update on the Healthy Town Initiative.

The report, circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted.

- 10.2 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Proposed that Matt Carthy, MEP and Mairead McGuinness, MEP be invited to meet with Navan Municipal District Councillors to outline the EU funding opportunities available for projects such as the food hub, historic bridge repairs, etc. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that Economic & Enterprise Development would first be asked to provide a report on such funding opportunities for the September meeting.

- 10.3 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Queried the process involved in an interested party setting up a mobile coffee shop in Blackwater Park – it was pointed out that a detailed proposal must first be submitted to the Community Department.

10.3.2 Update on the gate at Spicer's Lane – it was confirmed that agreement with the



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Liquidator had been reached, the gate ordered and was due to be installed by the end of August.

10.3.3 Update on the People's Park, Johnstown – it was pointed out that an email update had been circulated on 19th July.

10.4 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issues:

10.4.1 The abandoned trailer in St. Patrick's Park – it was agreed to refer this to Housing to request it's removal.

10.5 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issue:

10.5.1 Six abandoned cars on public roads or on Council property, e.g. Ashbrook and asked that they be removed urgently - it was agreed to refer this to Environment.

10.5.2 The illegal occupation of Council houses due to be allocated to housing applicants, the long legal process involved in resolving this issue and the need to deal with the illegal dumping and burning of waste at these locations.

10.6 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

10.6.1 Ragwort at the traffic lights on the R153.

10.6.2 Requested that a meeting of the Navan Sports and Leisure Company be called – it was agreed to refer this to the Company Secretary.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes