



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

15th September 2014, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Leas-Chathaoirleach, **Councillor Seán Smith**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joseph Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Alan Tobin.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Administrative Officer: Paul Monahan

Senior Executive Engineer: Adrian Hobbs

Senior Executive Planner: Bernard Greene

Executive Planner: Fergal O'Bric

Assistant Planner: Aoife Kennedy

Clerical Officer: Fiona Casserly

Apologies: Councillor Suzanne Jamal

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 14th July, 2014.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th July 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O'Rourke requested an update relating to the meeting that was to be arranged with Irish Water and the report on water hardness. Joe Fahy referred to the correspondence from Irish Water that was on the Agenda of the September Meath County Council meeting and whilst it was not within the remit of Meath County Council to organise



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the meeting, the Cathaoirleach was to make contact with Irish Water. He also confirmed that water testing results are available at any time from the Water Services section.

Councillor Darren O'Rourke also enquired as to whether the letter regarding staffing in the Ashbourne Municipal District had been sent. Joe Fahy referred to the September meeting of Meath County Council, where staffing levels had been discussed, and the October meeting, where a full presentation on the 2015 staffing structures for the six Municipal Districts would be made. The current staffing figures applicable to the Ashbourne Municipal District would be circulated next week.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Suzanne Jamal, Ashbourne Municipal District, on the death of her father, Jim Leonard.
- The family of the late Reverend Ian Paisley.
- The family of the late Liam Swan, Skryne.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ashbourne Tidy Towns Committee, who received extra points in this year's Tidy Towns Competition.
- Donaghmore Camogie Club, who won the Junior Camogie Championship.
- St. Pat's, Stamullen, who won the Junior C football championship.
- Ashbourne Judo Club, who are celebrating 20 years.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

- 4.1.1** To adopt the Standing Orders for the meetings of Ashbourne Municipal District.



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The Standing Orders for the meetings of Ashbourne Municipal District were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

4.2 Planning

4.2.1 To receive a presentation on the proposed amendments to and revocations of relevant Local Area Plans, following the making of Variation No. 2 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 in May 2014.

Aoife Kennedy, Assistant Planner, delivered a presentation on the following:

(i) Proposed amendments to the following Local Area Plan –

- Ashbourne Local Area Plan 2009-2015

and

(ii) Proposed revocation of the following Local Area Plans –

- Kentstown Local Area Plan 2009-2015
- Kilbride Local Area Plan 2009-2015

The proposed amendments and revocations to the respective Local Area Plans are to give effect to the requirements of Core Strategy CS OBJ 2 and 3 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019.

Following the presentation, Councillors raised the following issues:

- The reasons for and the effects of the revocation process;
- The impact on the land use zoning objectives;
- The impact on Phase II employment lands on the Ballybin Road;
- The role of Meath County Council in facilitating the provision of infrastructure necessary to encourage economic development.



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Responses were provided by the Senior Executive Planner on the matters raised.

It was agreed to extend the meeting by 30 minutes on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

4.3 Transportation

4.3.1 To receive a presentation from the Road Safety Officer.

Michael Finnegan circulated a copy of the Road Safety Plan 2013-2020 and delivered a presentation on general road safety issues in the county and road safety at schools within Ashbourne Municipal District. He also referred to the review of speed limits and the draft guidelines that are due to be published in October / November. Meath County Council had received requests relating to 97 locations for speed limit review; these had been assessed and bye-laws will be prepared for the county following the receipt of the guidelines from the Department of Transport. The draft proposals will be presented to the six Municipal Districts for comment.

Following the presentation, Councillors raised the following matters:

- The breakdown of fatalities for the period 2006 – 2012;
- The provision of speed bumps and signage in housing estates;
- The provision of cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings, particularly around schools;
- Issues that relate to particular schools, including the availability of off-road car parking facilities.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“To ask Meath County Council if they are aware of ongoing issues at The Grange Estate in Stamullen relating to the completion of works there; to outline the efforts that have been made by the Council to resolve outstanding issues, including the pursuit of the developer in question; if consideration has been given to drawing down the associated



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bond for this development to ensure the timely completion of works; if the Council will outline their proposed plan to take this estate in charge, and a timeline for same.”

A response was provided by Paul O’Brien, Clerk of Works, Planning Department, as follows:

Meath County Council received a taking in charge application from the residents of The Grange, Stamullen in late October 2013. This application was entered on to the list for inspections which is addressed in chronological order as they are received together with applications from developers and cases of enforcement and bond action. Inspections of The Grange for the purpose of taking in charge are due to commence shortly as commensurate with the location of the application on the aforementioned chronological list. Communication shall then issue to the developer in the form of a ‘snag-list’ with a request to complete the specified remedial works within a given timeframe. Please be informed also that Planning Enforcement is in the process of instigating Enforcement Action against the developer in relation to the condition of the public lighting within the development. Meath County Council previously took successful legal action in 2012 on a Company for the removal of all material and constructions from the site and to topsoil the site and return to grassland.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“There has been much development in the Ashbourne Area in the past fifteen years, with two recent developments, Millbourne (Phase 2) and Baltrasna Manor, having yielded in excess of €406,867 in levies towards 'social infrastructure to facilitate the proposed developments' as quoted in the granting of Planning Permission. Can Meath County Council outline their plans for the social infrastructure associated with these two developments and funded through the associated levies?”

A response was provided by Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, as follows:

The Development contribution scheme adopted by Meath Co Council in 2010 and subsequently amended in 2013, provides a mechanism for Local Authorities to generate the local funding requirement for major infrastructural projects and amenities.

The application of these locally generated funds is informed by the Council capital works programme which are agreed with the members of the authority on an annual basis. The fiscal environment dictates that the Council must also reduce any unfunded balances on the Councils capital programmes. The Council is further constrained by



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Government Circular Fin 03/2009 “Control and monitoring of local Authority Contributions to the General Government Balance (GGB) “ which directed that Local Authorities do not undertake any expenditure that would result in a deterioration in the General Government Balance . As a consequence Local Authorities have limited the scope of amenity funding to a small number of amenity projects which serve as a County wide resource .The delivery of the Solstice Arts centre and Trim Sports and leisure centre are such examples.

It should also be noted that Meath County Council has contracted to provide up to €1,000,000 for the provision of an additional community facility in Ashbourne.

Councillor Seán Smith sought clarification as to whether a countywide amenity, funded by development levies, would be provided in Ashbourne, or will all such projects be in the centre of the county. He also sought clarification on whether the €1 million provided for the community facility in Ashbourne is part of the legal settlement made in 2007. Joe Fahy confirmed that this was part of the legal settlement and that he would seek further clarification on this.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Is Meath County Council aware of a site that is currently being sold by NAMA in Crestwood Estate, Ashbourne and would it consider purchasing this site to facilitate the provision of social housing in the area?”

A response was provided by Brendan Fulham, Administrative Officer, Housing Department, as follows:

The Council is aware of this site for sale through NAMA at Crestwood Green Ashbourne. The site which forms part of the open space of the estate, contains an ESB sub-station and is approximately 600sq meters in size. The land is zoned F1 – To provide for and improve open space for active and passive recreational amenities.

In response to Councillor Alan Tobin, Joe Fahy pointed out there was limited development potential for this particular site.

5.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“Following discussions at the Ashbourne Municipal district meeting in July, the council carried out repair work on a stone bridge wall on the R153. Unfortunately the repair



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work in effect replaced an original stone wall with a rendered block wall. The repair work is not in keeping with the multiple stone walls in the area. I am asking the council if they have any plans to remediate the effect by possibly adding a stone façade? So part of the signage has not been properly erected to date and there has been no provision of a barrier as discussed to prevent cars veering into the river below. Are there plans afoot to complete this work and when can we expect completion of this?"

A verbal response was provided by Adrian Hobbs, Senior Executive Engineer, Ratoath Municipal District, as follows:

A stone façade will not be provided at the bridge as the available budget allowed for a like for like replacement only; the parapet had been damaged but the integrity of the bridge had not been affected. The signage can be replaced. There is no plan to install additional protection measures.

5.5 Submitted by Councillor Joe Bonner

"The Intersection between R132 at Gormanston, the M1 and the continuation of the R132 following a 360 degree loop to Julianstown is wildly overgrown and has become an eyesore for the local community in Gormanston and Julianstown. Who is responsible for the maintenance of this area and indeed if the responsibility falls to Meath co. council are there plans to tidy up and maintain this area?"

A verbal response was provided by Adrian Hobbs, Senior Executive Engineer, Ratoath Municipal District, as follows:

The matter had been referred to Jim Colwell, Senior Executive Engineer, Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

It was agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"That Meath County Council explore all options to provide a public community park in Ashbourne, including the potential use of public lands and/or the acquisition of private lands, and to provide a scoping and feasibility study in relation to same."



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

Supporting information was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Ratoath Municipal District, as follows:

The Council is conscious that a community area would be a welcome addition to the amenity infrastructure of Ashbourne town and environs. There are sites in the town, in both private and public ownership, which could be considered for such a project.

The Ashbourne Local Area Plan (2009 - 2015) is the statutory land use plan in effect in Ashbourne. Whilst land use zoning objectives for Ashbourne are now contained in Volume V of the Meath County Development Plan, the provision of public open space or community facilities was unaltered from that previously contained in the Local Area Plan. There is no specific objective or narrative contained in the Ashbourne Local Area Plan seeking to provide a public park although there are a number which relate to the provision of riverside walkways along the Broadmeadow.

The Killegland area of Ashbourne was identified previously for the purpose of developing a park along the Broadmeadow and for the development of active playing pitches. The Killegland / West Ashbourne Action Area Plan 2003 was a non statutory plan which was prepared to guide development in this newly developing area of Ashbourne. This included a Masterplan for the development of new residential communities, the reservation of sites for national and second level schools, new playing pitches / facilities to be developed by the GAA, infrastructural and community infrastructure provision, etc. A specific objective of the Action Area Plan (S.O. 06) seeks that "Linear parks are to be developed throughout the site as amenity areas incorporating the Broadmeadow River and associated waterways running through the site". A further specific objective (S.O. 10) seeks "that existing river walks are to be provided within the site and there is to be the provision of more walks and cycle routes, with pedestrian walkways to be created throughout the overall development".

To date the consortium of developers in this area have provided the lands for the GAA club which have been successfully developed. However with the downturn in the economy over the past number of years and the obvious impact of same on residential development, the provision of any works in relation to the proposed park has yet to commence. In more recent applications seeking to extend the duration of existing planning permissions, it has been stated by the developers in their applications that the completion of the linear public park is dependent on the completion of their residential developments.



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There have also been changes to the land ownership structure in this area recently with the sale of significant parcels of land, the impact of which on the shareholders agreement / joint venture must be ascertained.

There are many factors to be considered in developing a community park such as location, land zoning, ownership, access, drainage, cost of developing the site etc. Sites in private ownership would of course carry the additional financial burden of acquiring the site. Developing a suitable site would be a costly project and any decision to proceed would of course be dependent on securing the necessary funding. This could prove very problematic given that there are little or no amenity funds being generated at present.

The Council can, if the Motion is carried and subject to funding, carry out an initial study to assess potential sites in Council ownership for such a project.

A discussion followed on the responsibility of Meath County Council in developing a community and the role of developers on delivering on their commitments to provide community facilities. An amended Motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** as follows:

“That Meath County Council implement the objectives of the Killeghland West Ashbourne Area Plan 2003 with specific reference to the Linear Park.”

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Meath County Council, in any review of resource allocation and distribution, including workforce planning, will ensure that the principles of equality, fairness and proportionality are applied, that due consideration will be given to current and projected population and resource demand, that the process will be transparent and inclusive, and that elected members will be consulted in advance of final decisions.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

Supporting information was provided by Ger Murphy, Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources, as follows:

Arising from the implementation of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 from 1st June 2014, the abolition of Navan, Trim and Kells Town Councils and the introduction of the new Municipal Districts, a new organisational structure and associated staffing



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arrangements is required to be put in place. The transfer of water services to Irish Water and the Council's move to its new headquarters at Buvinda House in 2015 are also considerations to be taken into account in this context. One of the features of the proposed new structure will be a strong focus on customer service and it is intended that a Customer Service Centre will be located in the Council's new headquarters and that Customer Service Points will be located in each of the six Municipal Districts. It is also intended that a new Operations structure will be put in place from 2015 onwards to co-ordinate and manage all day to day activities. Since June, and for the remainder of 2014, transitional arrangements will apply and current staffing in terms of administrative/engineering/technical and outdoor staff will continue to remain in place where possible. Details of the proposed new organisational structure from 2015 onwards is in the course of preparation and will be subject to discussions with staff and union representatives and also subject to budgetary constraints and the current moratorium on recruitment. Notwithstanding that staffing matters are solely the responsibility of the Chief Executive, it is proposed to make a presentation on the proposed new structure and associated staffing arrangements at the October meeting of the Council.

It was agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"That Meath County Council complete a survey on all road markings within a 1 km proximity of all schools in Ashbourne with a view to effectively managing the additional traffic and allowing safe access and road crossing for pedestrians."

Supporting information was provided by Adrian Hobbs, Senior Executive Engineer, Ashbourne Municipal District, as follows:

Contents of the proposed Notice are acknowledged.

A map was circulated and, following a discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Tobin would liaise with Adrian Hobbs with a view to identifying the specific areas requiring a survey and the Notice of Motion was withdrawn.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"That the council investigate the undue delays to motorists at peak times at the Primetestown junction on the N2 due to the operation of traffic lights at this junction



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and that they consider all possible remedies including re-sequencing of the lights and the provision of alternative traffic control measures including a roundabout.”

Supporting information was provided by Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department, as follows:

The issue of the timings of the lights at Primatestown is a recurring issue.

Junction improvement works in the interests of road safety were carried out in 2009 at Primatestown N2/R155 junction following a fatality and several serious traffic incidents in the locality over the years. The works inter alia included the following traffic calming measures - erection of traffic lights, traffic route lighting, associated signage, road markings, anti skid surfacing, and speed restrictions.

The NRA played an essential role in the promotion and funding of this scheme. The Council carried out the works on behalf of the NRA following a full public consultation process including a Part 8 report recommending that the proposed development proceed. The Part 8 was recommended to the Full Council by the Dunshaughlin Area members at a Special meeting held on Monday 6 October 2008 and noted by the Full Council at the October monthly meeting the same day.

Since the implementation of this scheme the successful development of Tayto Park and the growing numbers of visitors to this amenity has placed increased emphasis on the traffic calming measures at Primatestown junction as the most appropriate route to and from Tayto Park for N2 traffic is via this junction. It is critically important therefore that the junction remains signal controlled.

Finally it is an objective of the CDP 2013 – 2019 that the section of the N2 National Primary Route from Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross be upgraded.

The Transportation Dept. can carry out a further review of the timings and assess if any further adjustments are required.

The Notice of Motion was noted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“That the council assess the traffic congestion entering and exiting the garden city estate in Ashbourne at peak times with the intention of addressing the causative issues



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and report back to the councillors in the Ashbourne municipal district at the October meeting.”

Supporting information was provided by Adrian Hobbs, Senior Executive Engineer, Ashbourne Municipal District, as follows:

Contents of the proposed Notice are acknowledged.

The Notice of Motion was noted.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Ashbourne Municipal District – Budget Meeting

It was agreed that the meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District to consider and adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan would take place at 2.30pm on Wednesday 8th October.

8.2 Councillor Claire O’Driscoll requested that Meath County Council emails include contact information, including name and details, and that referrals should indicate the name of the person to whom they are being referred.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



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