



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

13th October 2014, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Administrative Officer: Paul Monahan

Senior Executive Engineer: Adrian Hobbs

Resident Engineer: Janet Murphy

Senior Executive Officer: David Jones

Administrative Officer: Brian Murphy

Clerical Officer: Fiona Casserly

Councillor Suzanne Jamal thanked Councillor Seán Smith for standing in as Cathaoirleach during her recent absence. Joe Fahy introduced David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Community Department and Janet Murphy, District Engineer, who will be based in the Ashbourne Civic Offices.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 15th September 2014.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th September 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Smith pointed out that details on staffing were not presented at the October meeting of Meath County Council, as had been expected. Joe Fahy reminded Councillors of the process being implemented with regard to revised operational structures planned for January 2015.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

He stated that negotiations are ongoing with staff and unions to develop an efficient and effective operational structure that will serve all six Municipal districts in an equitable manner.

Councillor Smith also requested an amendment to the wording of the adopted Notice of Motion under Item 6.1 to include “*Killegland West Ashbourne Area Plan 2003*” and highlighted an error under Item 5.2, both of which will be corrected.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Olive Falsey, Corporate Services, on the death of her mother, Christina Smyth.
- Joe Fahy extended the sympathies of Councillors and the executive to Councillor Suzanne Jamal on the death of her father, Jim Leonard.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Garden City and Crestwood Residents Associations who were successful in Category D of the recent Pride of Place Competition.
- Temple Kieran Restoration Project on winning 3rd prize in the Rural Heritage Category in the recent Pride of Place Competition.
- Councillor Seán Smith on the recent birth of his daughter.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Housing

- 4.1.1 To receive a presentation from the Housing Department on the current Housing Programme.

Brian Murphy, Administrative Officer, Housing Department, delivered a presentation to Councillors on the current Housing Programme, which included the Housing Department staff structure, functions and services provided under the main headings of Capital/Grants, Social Housing, Technical Services and Homelessness/Housing Investigations. Information specific to Ashbourne Municipal District was also provided.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Matters raised by Councillors included the following:

- Acknowledgement of the difficult work undertaken by Housing Department staff and the progress achieved;
- The process involved in the Mortgage to Rent Scheme;
- The breakdown of the numbers on the Social Housing List;
- The position of Ashbourne in terms of percentage of the overall total – Navan has the highest percentage, whilst Ashbourne and Trim would be next highest;
- The re-location of the Community Welfare Office from Ashbourne to Finglas and the impact on those that need to travel there, the different capping levels that result and the impact on those wishing to access rental accommodation in the immediate area;
- The procedure for dealing with anti-social behaviour;
- The process for making vacant units ready for occupation and the reasons for units becoming vacant – 2 units became vacant in Ashbourne Municipal District in 2014 and works were subsequently required;
- The process and penalties following damage to properties by tenants;
- The role of the voluntary housing sector, developers and the local authority in C.A.L.F. – 2 developments are being progressed in Rathmolyon (10 units) and Duleek (18 units);
- The provision of amenities, including playgrounds, in local authority estates;
- The role of NAMA in making accommodation available;
- The introduction of the Housing Assistance Programme.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

It was agreed to provide the following information to Councillors:

- The social housing stock available in each Municipal District;
- The number of properties vacated in the Ashbourne Municipal District and the cost of repair work;
- The amount of money allocated for the Mobility Aids Grants in Ashbourne Municipal District and the types of works carried out.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to contact the Department of Social Protection requesting that the Community Welfare Officer be returned to Ashbourne to facilitate those that use the service. It was also suggested that Meath County Council could offer accommodation in the Civic Offices to facilitate the return.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Regarding Ashbourne town centre, can Meath County Council please provide an update on the taking over of Broadmeadow Street, Bridge Street, Bachelors Walk, Castle Street, Killelland Street and Declan Street, the reasons for any delays or concerns, and whether the issues with the underground car park and the road above have been resolved?”

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

Meath Co Council is currently engaged with the representatives of the Town Centre development with a view to advancing the taking in charge of the development. A schedule of works has been completed by the developer’s representatives. The Council awaits a number of formal taking in charge applications together with “as constructed drawings “ and ancillary information in respect of each distinct area to be taken in charge.

The Council is aware that a section of Killelland Street is over the underground car park and it will consider the merits of taking that element of the development in charge on



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

receipt of a detailed taking in charge application. It should be noted that it is now up to the developer to initiate the next stage of the process.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“Does Meath County Council plan to use Development Social Infrastructure charges generated in areas in South East Meath to repay legacy debt from the three Town Councils?”

A response was provided by Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, as follows:

All levies are collected on the basis of a county wide development levy scheme. The use of these levies is determined by the scheme and can only be spent in accordance with the scheme.

Councillor Seán Smith requested a copy of the development levy scheme. It was agreed that this would be requested from the Planning Department and circulated when available.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“Can Meath County Council please provide an update on plans to address ongoing traffic and health and safety issues at the Cockhill Road junction in Stamullen?”

A response was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Ashbourne Municipal District, as follows:

The Council has this year made an application under the Low Cost Safety Scheme to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for funding to carry out improvement works at the junction of the Cockhill Road L5622 and the Gormanstown Road L1617 in Stamullen.

The proposed scheme involves the following:

- *Land acquisition to facilitate works*
- *Erection of additional warning signage*



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- *Resurfacing the junction of the L5622-27 and L1617-8*
- *Construction of a new footpath at the junction of the L5622-27 and L1617-8*

The proposed scheme will provide improved road definition and safer pedestrian / traffic movements at the junction. This in turn will provide safer access for pedestrians going to and from the school and GAA facility in the village.

The Council will know in late January / early February 2015 whether this application is successful or not.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“That a review of parking issues in Ashbourne be undertaken to include the review of all on-street parking provision on Frederick Street, to include the possible introduction of paid parking, with 2 hours free parking preceding the application of parking charges, so as to ensure that on-street parking is available to support local business and not used for long-term parking requirements, given the availability of free public parking in alternative facilities; the introduction of parking bye-laws to manage traffic; and the provision of future projects such as further off-street parking and park and ride facilities.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

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

It is a reserved function of the members of a municipal district to make bye-laws for the control and regulation of the parking of vehicles in specified places on public roads (including provision for the payment of fees for parking) and the consideration of observations or representations in relation to draft bye-laws. Parking Bye-Laws to control and regulate the parking of vehicles in parking places on public roads are made under Section 101 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961 and Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The introduction of parking bye laws is a very lengthy and costly process involving extensive staff input, public and Garda consultation, purchase of meters, employment of traffic wardens, signage, road lining, software, administrative back up etc. In addition having a free 2-hour parking period prior to the application of charges would mean a very rigorous inspection regime to ensure that no vehicle exceeded the free 2-hour limit. The income outside the free 2-hour period would not in all likelihood finance the running costs of managing and operating the bye-laws. Accordingly any shortfall in funding would have to be sourced elsewhere from within the Ashbourne Municipal District's budgetary allocation.

I understand that Navan Municipal District has prepared a new set of draft bye-laws for on street parking and for car parks, which may be a blue print for the rest of the county. There are some issues that need to be resolved and perhaps the Motion could be deferred until these draft bye-laws are ready. The Council's Management Team and Transportation S.P.C. would also need to consider the matter.

Councillor Alan Tobin referred to other streets that should be included – Bachelors Walk, Bridge Street, Declan Street, Broadmeadow Street, Castle Street and Killegland Street. A discussion followed and whilst Councillors supported the introduction of an education initiative to deal with the misuse of on-street and short-term parking by different groups, there was less support for the introduction of paid parking.

It was agreed to hold a roll call vote on the motion as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Joe Bonner		AGAINST		
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	FOR			
Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll		AGAINST		
Cllr. Darren O'Rourke		AGAINST		
Cllr. Seán Smith		AGAINST		
Cllr. Alan Tobin	FOR			
RESULT	2	4		

The motion was therefore defeated.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Meath County Council carry out a feasibility study on the development of a Riverwalk along the Broadmeadow River connecting Ashbourne and Ratoath and that such a study should consider the development in Fingal of the Broadmeadow Way and also reference the objectives of the Killegland West Ashbourne Area Plan 2003.”

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

Supporting information by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, as follows:

Following the September Ordinary Meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District, the Planning Department undertook to prepare a report pertaining to the development of a linear park through the Killegland area incorporating the Broadmeadow River and associated waterways. This work is currently underway along with consideration of wider open space provision in the town with a view to inputting into the review of the Ashbourne Local Area Plan next year.

There is no specific objective or narrative contained in the Ashbourne Local Area Plan, Ratoath Local Area Plan or County Development Plan 2013-2019 seeking to provide a Riverwalk along the Broadmeadow River connecting Ashbourne and Ratoath. The objectives contained in the various statutory plans provide the basis for the work programme undertaken each year by the Planning Department and other Directives in the Local Authority.

The County wide projects included pursuant to TRAN OBJ 8 of the County Development Plan relate to the development of a cycle / greenway on the disused Navan –Kingscourt rail line, the development of the Trim – Navan – Slane – Drogheda cycle /greenway along the River Boyne, to develop a system of cycle / greenways along the banks of the Boyne and Blackwater Rivers and the development of the Dublin Galway cycle network along the Royal Canal. Work on 3 of these 4 projects is being advanced at present which includes obtaining the necessary planning consent to develop same.

It should also be noted that the undertaking of a feasibility study is a specialised exercise which requires expertise not present in the Local Authority employ and would require the appointment of consultants. The undertaking of the feasibility study for the Boyne Greenway was undertaken by WSP consultants employed by Meath County Council who had sourced funding from the Department of Transport under the SMARTER Travel



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

initiative whereas the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway feasibility study undertaken by Kieran Boyle & Associates was funded by the LEADER programme pursuant to a community group application. In both instances, there was an objective in the County Development Plan to pursue such projects.

It should also be noted that the lands along the Broadmeadow River connecting Ashbourne and Ratoath are in the main in private ownership and acquiring these, whether by agreement or compulsorily, would be a very time consuming and costly exercise.

A discussion followed that underlined the role of the Local Area Plan review process in determining the potential for such a project and the need to link with Councillors in the Ratoath Municipal District.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That all new housing developments in the Ashbourne Municipal District will have an Irish language name only.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

Supporting information was provided by Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, Planning, as follows:

The County Development plan sets out the policy framework within which the County Manager administers the Development Management process. Section 11.2.2.8 of the Meath County Development plan states the following under

“Names of Residential Developments”

The names of residential developments and roads shall reflect local place names, particularly town lands or local names which reflect the landscape, its features, culture and/or history within which developments are located, including names of historical persons who have some association with the area. Meath County Council shall approve the names chosen prior to launching of any advertising campaign for a development.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Planning Compliance function considers estate names proposed by developers across the Ashbourne Municipal District area with reference to this policy.

The Ashbourne Municipal District Members may wish to consider the policy proposed by Councillor O' Rourke in the context of the forthcoming review of the Ashbourne Local Area Plan (LAP) which is due to commence in 2015 .

Councillor Darren O'Rourke highlighted the purpose of the motion in trying to ensure that the identity of an area is culturally reflected in the names used and the importance of the Irish language as a cultural asset for tourism and that it should be strongly considered, rather than mandatory. It was intended to submit a similar Notice of Motion to Meath County Council.

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** as follows:

"That the use of Irish language names will be prioritised for new housing developments in the Ashbourne Municipal District."

This motion was carried.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

On behalf of Mancinis, a new Italian restaurant next to the Civic Offices, Councillor Alan Tobin extended an invitation to Councillors and the Executive for coffee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach