



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***16th October 2014, Duleek Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Eimear Ferguson, Wayne Harding, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Head of Finance:** Fiona Lawless

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Senior Staff Officer:** Eugene Farrelly

**Senior Executive Engineer:** Jim Colwell

**Clerical Officer:** Fiona Casserly

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 18th September 2014.**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

##### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

The Minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Two errors were highlighted under Item 3 of the September Ordinary meeting.

It was requested that a line be added to the Minutes of the Special Finance Meeting to indicate that Councillors had requested the allocation of additional funding.



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### 3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Niamh Ui Lionsigh for winning Volunteer of the Year at the recent Pride of Place Awards.
- Other Pride of Place winners, including Broomfield (2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Rural Heritage Category & 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Youth Project Category), Slane (3<sup>rd</sup> place in Category A, Towns & 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Best Approach Road), Julianstown (2<sup>nd</sup> place in Category C, Villages) and Churchlands, Slane (Housing Estates – Category C).

### 4 Statutory Business

#### 4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 To receive and consider a report under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 & Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009 on the preparation of a scheme to provide traffic calming measures at the junction of the R150 (Main Street) and L-1610-0 (Abbey Road) in the Village of Duleek, Co. Meath.

This was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

Jim Colwell provided a summary of the report prepared by the Transportation Department.

Councillors welcomed the development and raised the following issues:

- Parking, including the provision of adequate parking, disability parking and car parks – it was pointed out that a traffic management scheme for the village will be designed and will consider these issues;
- The long-term plans to reduce traffic in the village, particularly HGVs, including the provision of a by-pass of the village – it was agreed that, whilst this was the preferred long-term solution, this was the first part of the process and that the Transportation Department was aware of the issue of heavy traffic and would take this into account when designing the traffic management scheme;
- The timeframe for the completion of this project and the provision of the 3 raised areas and 2 bus stops – it is expected that this project will



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be completed in Spring 2015 and the other elements of the project will have to go through the required processes, including tendering.

### **5 Reports**

#### **5.1 To receive a Report on Council Lands - Ninch, Laytown.**

Eugene Farrelly outlined the main points of the report provided.

Councillors welcomed the enhancement of the open space and acknowledged that the area would now be easier to maintain.

#### **5.2 To receive a Report on Council Lands – Seafields, Laytown.**

Eugene Farrelly outlined the main points of the report provided. Mary Murphy, Coordinator, Meath Local Sports Partnership, was also in attendance and circulated a draft questionnaire that was proposed to be used to assess the usage levels and proposed development of the lands from the perspective of the 3 clubs – St. Colmcilles GFC, Laytown United and East Meath United FC. The work of the FAI with local clubs was acknowledged and it was pointed out that agreement was being reached with regard to the possible sharing of facilities, involving consultation with Meath County Council and the seeking of legal advice. Councillors were advised that Richard Fahy, FAI had offered to meet with Municipal District Councillors if required.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The possibility of using the full site of 29 acres;
- The potential of the site for a variety of community uses;
- The establishment of a Management Committee to access funding, including the Sports Capital Grant;
- The advanced plans made by St. Colmcilles and the impact of developing an alternative plan;
- The use of the site currently being used by Irish Rail;
- The Special Area of Conservation status of the site.

It was agreed that the draft questionnaire would be circulated to Councillors for comment.. The results of the survey would form the basis of a report for presentation at the November meeting.



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### 6 Notice of Question

#### 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“To ask Meath County Council if there are plans in the immediate future for the provision of new cycle lanes and footpaths serving the schools campus in Laytown; Gaelscoil An Bhradain Feasa on the Mill Road, Mornington, Donacarney National School and Duleek Boys and Girls National Schools given that the provision of such infrastructure is prioritised in the current Development Plan for the area and is sorely lacking, particularly so in the case of cycle lanes, and in light of that to ask what Meath County Council is doing also to support the Boyneside Trail; the proposed walk and cycle way from Mornington to Bru an Boinne.”

**A response was provided by Nick Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation, as follows:**

*The Transportation section intends to seek funding from the NTA for schemes identified in the Laytown-Bettystown Walking and Cycling Study (January 2014) to apply for future walking and cycling infrastructure from the NTA in the Laytown – Bettystown area. The study that was carried out was comprehensive and sets out a long term strategy for the cycling and pedestrian networks in east Meath. These networks will, amongst other things, cater for those travelling to and from schools in the area. A presentation on the above study was made to the former Slane Area Councillors earlier this year, however, given the number of new Councillors in the Laytown – Bettystown MD it is suggested that it would be worthwhile presenting this again to draw attention to the findings.*

*The Council is supportive of the Boyne Trail and has provided the Boyne Trail Group with funding to assist them in bridging a shortfall in their funding for the cost of the feasibility study that was undertaken on their behalf. The County Development Plan contains specific and general objectives to support both the Boyne Greenway and Boyne Trail. In addition, the NTA’s Plan for the Cycle Network for the Greater Dublin Area and the Laytown-Bettystown Walking and Cycling Study (January 2014) also includes this scheme. The Council is open to continuing dialogue with the Boyne Trail Group and other interested parties to assist with the delivery of this scheme.*

Councillor McKee sought further clarification on how these projects would be funded.

#### 6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“Can Councillors please be given a full list of projects that the Transport Unit have applied to the NTA for funding in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District?”

**A response was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Transportation Section, as follows:**



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*The following shows the list of schemes in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District submitted to the NTA for funding consideration in 2014 and whether they were successful or not:*

- *Pedestrian Crossing in Duleek on junction of the R150 & Abbey Road (Funded)*
- *Laytown Park & Ride (Not Funded)*
- *Bettystown Walking & Cycling Investment Study (Not Funded)*
- *Bus Stop – Gormanstown (at Stamullen Junction on the R132) (Funded)*
- *Bus Stop – Gormanstown (next Junction on the R132 – south of above) (Not Funded)*
- *Pedestrian Crossing – Yellow Furze (Not Funded)*
- *Bus Stops Duleek (Funded)*
- *Donacarney – Signalised junction/ Pedestrian Crossing at R150 & L 1611-0 Junction (Signal Design Element Funded)*
- *Mornington Footpath & Pedestrian Crossing (Not Funded)*
- *Footpath from Donacarney School to Betaghstown (Not Funded)*
- *Footpath at Laytown, Coaiste Na hInse (Not Funded)*
- *Boyne Greenway (Funded)*

Councillor Sharon Tolan indicated her intention to submit a Notice of Question relating to the list submitted for consideration for 2015.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson**

“When is it likely that the remediation work on the Meath coastline will be complete?”

**A verbal response was provided by Jim Colwell, Senior Executive Engineer, Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, as follows:**

*The limited funds available are being used for infrastructural works from the car park at Laytown to the lower car park at Alverno Heights, for which reports are due from consultants.*

Councillor Eimear Ferguson sought clarification on the plans for coastal erosion works.



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In response, Jim Colwell confirmed that no additional funding had been provided for coastal works, which would involve works to the rear of private properties. A high level design scheme was being prepared by consultants, which would indicate the types of works needed, and relevant landowners would be informed of these.

### **6.4 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly**

“What is the position of the old Library site in Laytown? Is it sold, leased or committed to any organisation and what is the update on the new Library for the Laytown – Bettystown Area?”

**A response was provided by Eugene Farrelly, Senior Staff Officer, Laytown Bettystown Municipal District, as follows:**

*The site in question measuring .0554 hectares is situated along the access road to Marian Villas Estate and backs onto the former Nursing Home, now vacant. The site was advertised seeking expressions of interest for the further public use of the site which closed on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 with 127 submissions received, of which 3 were considered feasible. Following an interview process Trim Community Childcare Ltd were recommended to the Area Council for sale of the subject lands, which was agreed at the July 2012 Slane Area Meeting subject to conditions. The matter was then raised at the Full Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 and the Section 183 motion for disposal of the site was passed accordingly with the following special conditions:*

- *Consideration in respect of the disposal shall be €500*
- *All legal costs incurred by the Council in respect of the disposal shall be borne by the purchaser*
- *The site will revert to Meath County Council should the required planning permission not or public funding not be achieved and construction commenced within 2 years from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012.*

*The Council has requested updates from Trim Community Childcare on a number of occasions regarding completion of legal transfer and to date no formal application for planning permission has been applied for on the site, although the Company informed by letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 that they indeed intend to proceed with the project and have prepared rough drawings, however no pre-planning meetings have as yet taken place with the Planning Department.*

*Upon consultation with our legal advisor I am informed that in order to proceed with the sale of the site a further Section 183 Motion would be required to be passed by the Laytown Bettystown Municipal District at a further District Meeting as the development has not commenced in the proceeding 2 years as per the previous Motion.*



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**A response was provided by Ciaran Mangan, County Librarian, as follows:**

*Meath County Council is still committed to the development of a new library in Bettystown Town Centre. The Library Unit in the Local Government Management Agency has already identified this area as the preferred location for any library development.*

*The Bettystown town centre development is in NAMA at present and Meath County Council and other agencies are in discussions with NAMA regarding various sites and options for same. A timeframe for development of the library is subject to resolution of the wider issues surrounding the town centre development. Resolution of same will enable the local authority to progress an appropriate funding proposal for a library to the Department in due course. The Department is to establish a new Capital Programme for libraries under the national strategy 'Opportunities for All'.*

With regard to the first part of the question, the old library site in Laytown, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly**, to recommence the process of seeking expressions of interest through the appropriate local media, that groups be asked to identify funding sources and that the shortlisted groups be invited to make presentations at a meeting of the Municipal District to discuss their proposals.

With regard to the second part of the question, the provision of a library in the Laytown-Bettystown area, Councillor Tom Kelly sought clarification as to whether Meath County Council intended to purchase property owned by NAMA that is due to be auctioned in the coming weeks and as levies are owed by the developers concerned, can their properties not be transferred to Meath County Council in lieu of monies due. Fiona Lawless said that she would revert with a response.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee**

“That Meath County Council ensures that all five playgrounds in the Municipal District are maintained to the highest standards; that all remedial works, including the replacement of swings in the two Duleek playgrounds and new safety latch on the gate of the Station Road playground, is carried out as soon as possible and that road safety signs are put up as appropriate in the vicinity of our playgrounds urging drivers to slow down.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.



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**Supporting information was provided by Jim Colwell, Senior Executive Engineer, Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District:**

*The Laytown – Bettystown Municipal District has been carrying out maintenance works on the five playgrounds and will continue to do so. We have included the swings and safety catches in our procurement documentation that has been sent to the appropriate contractors to carry out the works. In relation to the signage issue a technical site inspection will be carried out at the five playground locations and based on this investigation signage will be placed if required.*

It was pointed out the works outlined in this Notice of Motion are ongoing. The absence of playgrounds in some villages in the Municipal District was highlighted. The provision of road markings on the approach to playgrounds was dependent on the allocation of additional technical staff. Jim Colwell agreed to contact the Transportation Section to seek advice on a Framework for Maintenance of Playgrounds.

### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee**

“That Meath Council provide for a pedestrian crossing on the Eastham Road, Bettystown to serve the large population living in that area, and in particular, the many school children whose safety is put at risk each day crossing the busy road at Eastham Court.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

**Supporting information was provided by Jim Colwell, Senior Executive Engineer, Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, as follows:**

*An application will need to be made to the NTA through the Transportation section for funding.*

The number of school buses using this road was highlighted. It was pointed out that there was a designated bus bay on the road and that the matter would be referred to the Transportation Section with a view to applying to the NTA for funding for the provision of an additional bus bay. The Road Safety Officer is due to attend the November meeting of the Municipal District to discuss general road safety issues, including those at schools.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson**





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“That the Regeneration Programme of Alverno Estate, Laytown, be revisited as soon as possible, same to include a consultative meeting with local residents/households regarding plans/design.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

**Supporting Information was provided by Brendan Fulham, Administrative Officer, Housing, as follows:**

*A Design team was appointed in 2005 for a proposed remedial works scheme in Alverno (Court and Heights) Laytown. A number of consultations and meetings took place with residents in the estate in 2006 and 2007.*

*Following failure to reach agreement with all the residents, a Remedial scheme for Alverno Court was only proposed and submitted to the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government (DOECLG). The Council received approval in principle from the DOECLG to the proposed scheme in March 2010.*

*Part 8 planning permission was granted in September 2011, following which the Department submitted a number of queries to the Council regarding the proposal and final responses issued to these queries in August 2013. A delegation of Officials and Members of the Council met with Minister Jan O’Sullivan TD on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 with regards to a number of housing issues and the matter of possible funding for this remedial scheme was also raised.*

*Should funding be made available from the Department a further consultative process will commence with the residents with regards to specific plans and designs.*

The issues in the estate were discussed. It was agreed that funding was urgently needed to address these issues, alongside an effective communications strategy and possibly using other successful regeneration programmes as an example. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Housing Department.

### **8 Correspondence**

Received from the Planning Department – Notice of Declaration of Public Roads on display to the public until 14<sup>th</sup> November with submissions receivable up to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014

- Churchlands and Castle Gardens Slane
- Stoneyford Green Duleek



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### **9 Any Other Business**

The following items were raised:

- i. Yellow boxes to be provided at Colaiste na hInse and Scoil an Spioraid Naomh – it was pointed out that Scoil an Spioraid Naomh was being redeveloped.
- ii. Low cost safety barriers were required at the Willows entrance to Dowdstown Manor and Whitefield Manor – it was agreed to consider this for funding in 2015.
- iii. That Meath County Council contact Louth County Council with regard to the provision of a footpath between Deep Ford and Five Oaks – it was pointed out that additional technical staff would be required.
- iv. Concerns of noise pollution raised by residents on the Drogheda Road, Duleek as a result of quad bike activity in the area.
- v. The need for a safety turn at the entrance to Duleek AFC soccer club – it was pointed out the road width did not allow for the provision of a filter lane, that the entrance was in a 60km zone and that a wider entrance to the facility would improve access. Otherwise a detailed engineering report would be required. It was agreed to contact the Gardaí with regard to enforcement of the speed limit.
- vi. The condition of the wall at the Commons, Duleek – it was pointed out that this had been referred to the Planning Enforcement Section.
- vii. The possibility of additional technical staff being allocated to the Municipal District – it was agreed to liaise with the Director of Services for Transportation.
- viii. Hedge cutting by Meath County Council and the number of notices issues – it was pointed that additional technical staff is required and that no notices had been issued since the hedge cutting season recommenced in September.
- ix. The number of planning permissions expired and no new applications received for mobile telephone masts;
- x. An update on the landscape plan for Inse Bay as requested from Planning Dept.
- xi. An update on the traffic count on the R132.
- xii. The obstruction caused to users by hedges of the footpath in Laytown – Bettystown.
- xiii. The number of housing estates in the Municipal District being considered for taking in charge – information request to be referred to the Planning Section.



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- xiv. The need for street lighting at Pilltown Cross and the Highfields entrance to Laytown Beach – to be referred to the Public Lighting Unit.
- xv. A request received to reinstate the bus stop at Pilltown Cross – to be referred to the Transportation Section.
- xvi. The impact of the Boyneside Trail on the residents of Crook Lane – it was advised that contact be made directly with the Transportation Section.
- xvii. The need for pothole repair on the Woodtown Road – whilst no record of an abandonment procedure had been found, Transportation had advised that this was not a public road and as it was a cul-de-sac, the Community Improvement Scheme was the only means of road repair to public roads in charge of Meath County Council.
- xviii. The reinstatement of St. Oliver's Terrace, Lobinstown – it was agreed that this could be considered as part of the additional housing estates allocation to the Municipal District.
- xix. That emails submitted by Councillors be acknowledged.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**