



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

### ***Ordinary***

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9.15am, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Duleek Civic Offices***

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

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Sharon Keogan

**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 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

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

There were no matters arising.

#### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathies were extended to:



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- Thomas, John and Cianan McGuinness, current and former employees of Meath County Council, on the death of their sister, Charlotte McGuinness.
- Peter Fitzpatrick, T.D. on the death of his mother, Madge Fitzpatrick.
- The family of the late Seamus Heery, Starinagh, Collon, former 1949 Meath All Ireland Winner.

Congratulations were extended to:

- St. Colmcille's on winning the Under 15s and their performance in the two minor championships.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Transportation**

##### **4.1.1 To receive a report from the Road Safety Officer.**

Michael Finnegan circulated a copy of the Road Safety Plan 2013-2020, which is subject to annual review, and delivered a presentation on general road safety issues in the county, with specific references to the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, and under the four main headings of Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation. He referred to the following during his presentation:

- The cooperation between Meath County Council and the Gardaí regarding locations where serious accidents occur, issues of concern e.g. speeding, etc.;
- The schools and community programme, delivered to over 10,000 recipients per year;
- The cycle training programme delivered to schools with 1,430 pupils having received training in 2014;
- The number of fatalities in Meath – 30 in 2005, 4 in 2011, 14 in 2012, 8 in 2013 and 4 to date in 2014;
- The review of speed limits and the revised guidelines that are due to be published before the end of the year. 98 locations have been identified for review in Meath and these will be assessed against the guidelines. The draft proposals will be presented to the six Municipal Districts for comment. A



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submission is also due to be made before the end of November with regard to the possible introduction of 30km speed limits in housing estates.

- Issues have been identified at schools in Laytown, Donacarney and Stamullen.

Following the presentation, Councillors raised the following matters:

- Plans for Eastham Road, Bettystown where the traffic volume, number of entrances to estates and drop-off points is of concern;
- The Laytown Road, from Bettystown to Laytown – whilst the raised tables have increased safety, the number of children using this narrow road is of concern;
- The possibility of barriers being installed at particular locations.
- Provision of a pedestrian crossing at Yellow Furze;
- Need for footpaths in areas such as Bettystown Cross to Donacarney schools, Grangerath to schools, Duleek Soccer Club;
- Line markings needed on Pilltown Road and Woodtown pub to Mountainhouse;
- Cycle lane needed from Duleek NS to crossing in village;
- Speeding issues at Knockcommon, Heronstown and Newtown National Schools, Newtown Soccer Club, Sonairte, Abbey Cross in Duleek, Duleek Soccer Club, playground at Station Road in Duleek;
- Traffic calming measures needed in Donore and Coney Hall, Donacarney;
- Inconsistencies of speed limits and enforcement;
- The obstruction of road signage by overgrown hedges.

Responses were provided as follows:

- Schools buses can use the two bus stops on the Eastham Road and an application to the NTA will be considered for 1 or 2 pedestrian crossings;
- The need for children to use pedestrian crossings where they are available;



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- The plans to make a submission to the NTA for a footpath on the school side of the Laytown Road and other footpath requirements identified;
- The Gardaí will be requested to include Sonairte for speed checks;
- The pedestrian crossing at Yellow Furze is currently being designed and should be in place within the next few months;
- Consultation with Newtown NS is ongoing, with suggestions made to move the wall back to allow for some parking, and some additional parking has been provided at Knockcommon NS;
- The impact of parents behaviour on road safety at schools;
- The extensive use of traffic counts and the installation of a number of dual purpose signs at locations that will record speed and volume.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Michael for attending and for his presentation.

4.1.2 To receive an update on the Roadworks Programme in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The update was noted.

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan**

"What road traffic plan has been put in place for the vicinity of the Franciscan College, Gormanston since it became a public secondary school earlier this year and thus increased it's student population travelling to and from the school significantly, and what is the timeframe for those measures to be implemented?"

***A response was provided by Jimmy Young, Senior Staff Officer, Transportation Section, as follows:***

*A footpath and cycle facilities leading from Stamullen Village to Gormanstown College were constructed in 2010. The college is within the 50km/h speed zone and flashing school signs have been placed at both entrances to the college in 2012.*



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*No works have been carried out since the college became a public secondary school earlier this year and there are no current plans to carry out any further works in the vicinity of the college.*

The response was noted.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee**

“That in the interest of road safety, Meath County Council makes provision as soon as possible for traffic calming measures, to include a safe pedestrian crossing, outside the grounds of Duleek AFC, Carranstown, Duleek.”

***Supporting information was provided by Jimmy Young, Senior Staff Officer, Transportation Section, as follows:***

*Meath County Council receives a number of requests for such schemes and the Transportation Section compiles a list of schemes for consideration when making an application for funding from the National Transport Authority.*

The motion, as proposed by **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**, was adopted.

### **7 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **8 Any Other Business**

#### **8.1.1 Results of community consultation regarding location of artwork ‘Tree’.**

Gerardette Bailey, Arts Officer, provided a verbal update, which included the following:

- ‘The Family’ has now been installed with some site works remaining. The piece has been positively received by the community. Whilst the installation of lighting was not planned at this stage, it can be looked at and possibly a funding application made to Indaver to provide same.



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- The community consultation process regarding the 2 possible sites for 'The Tree' was undertaken, with 38 groups and 3 schools contacted in writing, requesting their preference. 8 forms were returned by the deadline of 24/10/2014 with the following results – 5 (65.5%) voted in favour of Site A (school) and 3 (37.5%) voted in favour of Site B (Garda Station). In response to issues raised by Councillors, Gerardette confirmed that the school has confirmed that the piece would be in a gated area and would not be accessible outside of school hours. However, every effort would be made to ensure that it is positioned so as to be visible at all times.
- An official launch is planned for both pieces together and the date will depend on the installation timeframe for 'The Tree' and the availability of the President, Michael D. Higgins.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed with Site A as per the results of the community consultation process.

### 8.1.2 Festive Lights allocation

The Festive Lights Allocation for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District for 2014 is €1,000.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** to allocate €200 to each of the following 5 towns / villages in the Municipal District, subject to the groups being in a position to provide match funding towards the planned lights, etc.:

- Laytown
- Bettystown
- Duleek
- Slane
- Julianstown

8.1.3 Fiona Lawless informed the meeting that the Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Director of Services for Planning and Community had recently met with Mr. Ger Nash, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding a number of issues in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, including the St. Colmcille land issue, MECA, parking at the train station and tourism.



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- 8.1.4 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the issue of flooding under the bridge on the Pilltown Road, particularly in heavy rain, and the absence of lighting. Jim Colwell pointed out that there were a number of issues at this location, including drainage through private lands, and that discussions were ongoing with regard to works needed.
- 8.1.5 Councillor Paddy Meade requested Jim Colwell to look at the following roads – L-5602, L-56051 & L-16251.
- 8.1.6 It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Eimear Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Stephen McKee to invite representatives from the Duleek Youth Café to deliver a presentation at a future Municipal District meeting.
- 8.1.7 Councillor Wayne Harding proposed that an item be added to the agenda where matters could be raised at the discretion of the Cathaoirleach and a written response would be provided at a future meeting, with a limitation on the number of items to be raised. This was seconded by Councillor Sharon Tolan.
- 8.1.8 Councillor Stephen McKee asked if a parking fee exemption could be provided for local people parking at Laytown and Bettystown beaches. It was confirmed that this not feasible.
- 8.1.9 Councillor Sharon Tolan requested that Bernadine Carry be invited to the December meeting to provide an update on Pride of Place and the Indaver Fund.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**