



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 14th December 2015, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Darren O'Rourke, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9th November 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th November 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Claire O'Driscoll requested an update on the Carickstown junction – it was confirmed that an update would be provided following the meeting with the consultant.

Councillor Alan Tobin requested an update on the Town Twinning – it was pointed out that an update had been circulated by email.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.



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4 To meet with Adrian O'Loughlin, Bus Éireann to discuss bus services in Kentstown.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Adrian for attending and outlined the basis for the meeting request, i.e. bus services to and from Kentstown.

Adrian confirmed that all services were under review and that, whilst the final details had yet to be confirmed, he was in a position to broadly outline the key proposals for Kentstown. These included the introduction of a new 105 route serving Drogheda – Duleek – Kentstown-Kilmoon – Tayto Park – Ashbourne – Ratoath – Fairyhouse – Clonee – Blanchardstown Centre – Connolly Hospital (hospital grounds). This route would operate 7 days a week, hourly from 6.30am to 8.30pm, Monday – Saturday, with a slightly less frequent service on a Sunday.

The existing service from Navan to Dublin via Kentstown and Ashbourne is to remain, serving UCD/Belfield. Discussions were still ongoing with unions, etc. but it was intended to implement the new services by the end of January. When finalised, the NTA will inform all stakeholders.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The options open to those wishing to change over to other routes from the proposed 105 route to achieve a quicker journey time – it was confirmed that connections using the Leap Card were possible and that add-on fares would be looked at. The total journey time for the 105 route was 1 hour 40 minutes but fare details were not yet finalised.
- The availability of a single ticket option if travelling from Kentstown to Dublin via the 103 (Ashbourne) – it was confirmed that a direct ticket to the final destination would be issued.
- Consultation with Meath County Council in relation to the provision of bus stops – it was confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Meath County Council last week to discuss bus stops and that this would be followed by on-site discussions. A map of the 105 route had been provided. However, NTA funding for bus stops had been reduced.
- The possibility of using the M2 for direct services – it was confirmed that 2 or 3 peak services were planned direct from Ashbourne-Ratoath.



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- The reason for moving the bus terminus from Busaras to Beresford Place – the capacity issues at Busaras were highlighted and it was confirmed that a new terminus point was being considered for January.
- The need for bus shelters at various locations on routes.
- The provision of a bus terminus and park & ride facility in Ashbourne – it was confirmed that this was submitted to the NTA for discussion but was not followed up by them.
- The provision of ticket machines in key locations – it was pointed out that a pilot project had been considered for Kells but that issues, particularly around security and maintenance, prevented it from proceeding. Customers were encouraged to use the Leap Card system to prevent delays and reduce cash handling.
- The continuation of the 103 route from Kilmoon – it was agreed to check this.
- The inconsistency around fares for journeys covering similar distances, i.e. the fares for commuters were much greater, and the process for deciding fare structures – it was pointed out that fares are decided by the NTA based on Bus Éireann proposals and that increased operational costs did impact on fare structures. However, different factors had to be considered including the costs of providing a frequent bus service outside of peak hours.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Adrian for the information provided and welcomed the improved communication with Bus Éireann. Adrian agreed to return when the timetables for the 103 and 105 routes were finalised.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To receive proposals on a 1916 commemorative garden.

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the proposal for Ashbourne Municipal District, which included:



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- The 1916 Gardens of Remembrance is an initiative to ensure an enduring physical legacy following the centenary celebration of the 1916 Rising. These gardens are an important element of the project with the objective of commemorating The Easter Rising, celebrating and honouring the lives of those who signed the Proclamation and those who fought in the cause of Irish freedom.
- These gardens will have 3 elements in common: an engraved life size typographical replica of the 1916 Proclamation, a maintenance-free flag pole and 7 trees that would represent the 7 signatories of the Proclamation.
- The proposed site and design for Ashbourne Municipal District. It was pointed out that negotiations were ongoing with the landowner in relation to the original site identified, beside Rath Cross, but that two alternative locations were being proposed in the event that the original site could not proceed – the playground lands and Millennium Park.

Following a short discussion on the issues impacting on both sites, it was agreed to proceed with Millennium Park as an alternative location should the original plan not be feasible. It was confirmed that a design would be brought to the January meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District.

5.2 Finance

- 5.2.1 To discuss the 2016 Municipal District Allocation.

This was deferred to the January meeting.

5.3 Transportation

- 5.3.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

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- To request the Gardaí to enforce the parking bye-laws, particularly with regard to dangerous parking, blocking cycle lanes, etc. and to deal with illegal advertising signs that also cause a danger to traffic and other road users – it was agreed to contact the Gardaí in relation to enforcement and to refer the illegal signage issue to Environment.
- The responsibility for bin collection in Stamullen – it was confirmed that whilst it was understood that the local community would undertake this, the matter would need to be addressed in 2016 with additional staff allocation.
- The number of lanes completed under the CIS – it was confirmed that two lanes had been completed and that any applications had to be resubmitted for consideration in 2016.
- Issues remaining at Fowlers Cross – it was confirmed that the flooding issue had been dealt with and that surfacing can also be undertaken.
- The flooding at Primatestown and suggestions to address same.

Jim Colwell outlined the expenditure of the NPPR funding in 2015 and the options for savings accrued in addition to allocations made under the MD Members Discretionary Fund; these included public lighting in Kentstown, works in Garden City and footpaths in Hawthorn/Deerpark/Kentstown estates. Councillors welcomed these proposals.

5.4 Planning

- 5.4.1 To receive an update on the conservation and management plan for the Hill of Tara.

Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer attended the meeting and delivered a verbal update. This update included the following:

- The capital investment programme under Tourism, Heritage and Economic Development included an allocation for Hill of Tara; the budget for 2016 was €50,000, increasing to €250,000 in both 2017 and 2018 and relates to visitor infrastructure/interpretation.

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- In 2012, the Heritage Council and Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) commissioned and funded the Discovery Programme to prepare a Conservation and Management Plan for State-Owned Lands at the Hill of Tara (c 100 acres). A Conservation Plan is internationally recognised as best practice to understand why a place is significant and what policies should be put in place to ensure that its significance is retained and what action is needed. Meath County Council participated in this process. In September 2014, a conservation plan was submitted to the DAHG but has not yet been published. Meath County Council has requested a meeting with the OPW and DAHG for early 2016 to advance the proposals. In terms of visitor infrastructure, the primary issues at the Hill of Tara are access and parking (in the context of the site constraints and visitor numbers).
- The position of the Hill of Tara as part of Ireland's Ancient East also had to be considered and signage was currently being looked at.
- A new guide book for Tara, to be published in early 2016, acknowledged the difficulties for many visitors in interpreting the site and suggested new ways of interpretation using technology including, for example, a 3D visualisation.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The structural issues at the wall to the rear of the interpretive centre – it was confirmed that the OPW were currently undertaking works there.
- The prospect of advancing the World UNESCO Heritage Site status – it was pointed out that Ireland had submitted a tentative list in 2010, ratified by UNESCO, and that the Tara Complex had been included as part of the Royal Sites of Ireland. The Meath County Development Plan is supportive of a nomination and discussions were ongoing with the Department and other Local Authorities as part of the technical evaluation process to see if a nomination would be a viable option in light of the high standards to be met.

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- The need to improve signage and toilet facilities – it was pointed out that Meath County Council does contribute towards the toilet facilities available at the coffee shop, which has a separate access.
- The need to improve the condition of all approach roads.
- The use of the site by running groups – it was confirmed that the OPW undertakes condition surveys and that usage patterns are changed to manage the area.
- The possible impact of recent road alterations on the old N3 on the Slí na Sláinte route.

It was agreed that Loreto would return in 2016 when the conservation and management plan was finalised.

5.4.2 Matters Arising

There were no other matters arising.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask when the wire safety mesh will be replaced at the bridge on Castle Street? I have asked for this to be replaced since June 2014; the mesh is the same specification as the mesh on all the motorway overpasses and is available.”

Response:

Meath County Council has received a quotation for these works. However, no funding source has yet been established for the works.

The response was noted. It was pointed out that the Transportation Department had assessed the bridge and that structural issues had been identified, which were on the list for repair. Councillor Tobin sought clarification as to whether the mesh could be replaced in the meantime and it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.



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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Suzanne Jamal

“Can I ask the Fire Services Section of Meath County Council if they are satisfied that Killegland Hall and Killegland House developments meet and exceed current fire safety risk assessments and that the car parks below the developments are currently safe especially in the event of fire or flooding?”

Response:

Meath County Council Fire Service can confirm that fire safety issues have been identified and a process of constructive engagement has commenced with both management companies responsible for the commercial and residential units within the Killegland Hall and Killegland House developments including the car park area, to rectify these issues.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“To ask the number of complaints and the number of personal injury claims made in relation to slips, trips and falls on Frederick Street and Bridge Street, Ashbourne since the completion of Phase 1 of the Ashbourne Main Street works; and how this compares with other similar projects.”

Response:

Meath County Council has received two personal injury claims in relation to slips, trips and falls at Main Street, Ashbourne regarding Phase 1 of the Ashbourne Main Street refurbishment works. Two further complaints were also received in relation to slips, trips and falls. This compares favourably with other similar projects.

The response was noted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“With respect to Garden City estate in Ashbourne, has the council been made aware of traffic congestion at the sole vehicular exit point of this estate during peak hours? If so, how does this compare with the traffic issues from neighbouring estates in Ashbourne



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and, from an engineering perspective, what measures are possible to remediate these issues?"

Response:

Meath County Council is aware of the congestion being experienced by vehicular movement during peak hours at Garden City exit/entry point and remedial works will be carried out in the near future which, it is anticipated, will alleviate the traffic congestion issue.

The response was noted. Councillor O'Driscoll sought clarification on any additional works planned. It was suggested that a yellow box could be added to the entrance.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"To call on Meath County Council to engage with the NRA and have the sign on the Meath border on the M2 motorway updated with "Make it Meath."

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

Meath County Council will make a preliminary enquiry with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) formerly the NRA regarding having the sign in question updated.

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

Councillor Tobin pointed out that the signage referring to the 2011 Solheim Cup needed to be removed and that signage was also needed on the M3 and M1.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke



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“The Members of Ashbourne Municipal District note a further increase in bus prices for Ashbourne area commuters from 1st December 2015 and call on the Minister for Transport to ensure equality, fairness and transparency in fares, especially amongst places equidistant from large urban centres.”

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

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“That Meath County Council will liaise with management at St. Patrick's National School, Stamullen and St. Patrick's GAA, Stamullen to try to take best advantage of the recent road improvements at the National School and to improve parking arrangements/traffic flow at school drop-off and pick-up time. “

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

Meath County Council Ashbourne Municipal District technical staff will liaise with the management at St. Patricks National School regarding parking and traffic flow in the vicinity of the school after the recent road improvements.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“That the monies budgeted for the Members Discretionary Fund be pooled within the Ashbourne Municipal District and that the decision on the distribution of the funds be taken monthly by the Members at the Municipal District meeting.”

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



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A report on the 2015 Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund is to be presented to the December meeting of Meath County Council and a draft Protocol for the 2016 scheme to be presented to the January meeting of Meath County Council. The existing and proposed Protocols refer to the possibility of funds being pooled at Municipal District level. The draft 2016 Protocol, as referenced at previous meetings, will also allow for the presentation of proposed allocations to scheduled Municipal District meetings for final approval.

The motion was deferred.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence received in regard to the Proposed Linear Park, Ashbourne.

Fiona Lawless confirmed that she would continue to try and arrange the meeting with the Department of Education and Skills but that there was a possibility that this land would not be made available until after the school had been developed. A landscaping firm had been identified following a shortlisting process and it was suggested that as much progress as possible be made on Meath County Council owned lands in the interim whilst consultations were ongoing regarding the other lands. She also suggested that a site visit take place in the new year.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Disappointment that the Department of Education and Skills were not engaging fully to deliver the park.
- The purpose of the riverian strip along the river – it was confirmed that this strip was provided for in the event of flooding.
- The urgent need for public space in Ashbourne, the need to progress the Linear Park and identify additional green space for the community.
- The need to contact the Planning Department indicating the dissatisfaction of Councillors at the level of green space provision in Ashbourne and pointing out that every planning application granted will be assessed in this regard – this was agreed.



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It was agreed that Meath County Council would proceed with plans for the lands under Council ownership.

- 8.2 Correspondence received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government as it relates to Item 7.5 – Notice of Motion adopted at the September 2015 meeting.

The correspondence was noted. Councillors expressed dissatisfaction and asked that this be brought to the attention of Oireachtas members. It was agreed to refer this to Corporate Services for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting with Oireachtas members.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Pride of Place 2015 Survey

Meath County Council, having completed the six Municipal District awards and the County awards, are currently carrying out a review of the 2015 Pride of Place Scheme. A survey has been drawn up and we are inviting all interested individuals and groups to participate in this survey, which will be circulated to all groups who took part in Pride of Place 2015 and will also be posted on our Website and Social Media sites. This survey will be open to all suggestions from interested parties regarding the structure of the Scheme for 2016 and what categories might be included. Please have the survey completed by Wednesday 23rd December 2015. For more information about Pride of Place 2015, please see:

<http://www.meath.ie/Community/PrideofPlace/Name,62388,en.html>

This information was noted.

- 9.2 Councillor Suzanne Jamal raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Update on works at Rathfeigh School.

9.2.2 Update on drains in Slanduff View.

9.2.3 Issue with the sequencing of the pedestrian lights in Kentstown – it was



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confirmed that this fault had been reported.

9.2.4 That Dermot Ashe, grand nephew of Thomas Ashe, be invited to any relevant event being organised – Councillor Alan Tobin confirmed that he was in contact with Mr. Ashe.

9.3 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

9.3.1 The need to reset some of the flashing amber lights at schools to account for the change in hour.

9.3.2 The need to ensure signage is adequate in the event of flooding and to provide local communities with the equipment necessary to clear drains, etc.

9.3.3 The need for tree pruning and the roadsweeper to go to Hunters Lane.

9.3.4 The need to check Archerstown Road and the weirs at Broadmeadow.

9.3.5 The provision of salt bins in Stamullen – it was agreed to check the policy with regard to the provision of salt bins to community groups.

9.3.6 The need for the OPW to raise the embankment to prevent flooding at Millers Cottage – it was confirmed that remedial measures were to be undertaken next summer.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach