



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00a.m. 16th December 2015, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Joe Reilly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Shane Cassells, Francis Deane, Wayne Forde, Jim Holloway, Tommy Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Ronan McEnroe, Executive Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 18th November, 2015

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th November 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family and friends of the late Mark Gargan.



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- Tom Murphy, Senior General Services Supervisor, Navan Municipal District, on the death of his wife, Mary.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Tourism

5.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020.

Councillor Noel French, Chair of Meath Tourism, addressed the meeting and outlined his views on the role of and opportunities for Navan within the Boyne Valley.

Mark O'Connell, W2 Consultants delivered a presentation to the meeting on the Boyne Valley Strategy, which included information on the results of research carried out, the six strategic pillars for the development of tourism within the Boyne Valley and the key components for destination towns.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The role of the private sector in increasing the quality and quantity of accommodation in Navan and the related role of the state.
- The need to focus on and improve facilities at local historical and amenity sites, including the Hill of Tara, Athlumney and the Ramparts.
- The need for events and festivals of national significance and the timescale for these to become established and successful.
- The need for a tourism information centre in the town centre and the role of local businesses in providing tourist information.



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- The need for improved signage to local sites and facilities.
- The need to improve the public realm, including improved public transport, pedestrian friendly areas and parking.
- The potential in Navan to create a successful tourism product, including food tourism, comedy and racing.

It was pointed out that a different approach to tourism needed to be adopted, based on what tourists see and want, and that the private sector must take a leading role in implementing future plans and developments.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked Mark and Councillor French for attending and it was agreed to add this item to the agenda of the January meeting for discussion.

5.2 Corporate Services

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the Cowplot in Liscarton, Navan, Co. Meath.

The report, circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted.

5.3 Housing

- 5.3.1 To receive a report on Housing Initiatives in Navan Municipal District.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department delivered the following report to the meeting.

1. Construction

- St Brigid's Villas - units
 - Project completed May
 - Total cost - €692,000
- St Francis Park Halting Site Refurbishment Scheme
 - Cooney Architects appointed to progress design



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- Consultation with residents completed and design agreed
 - Detailed design & estimate of costs being prepared for submission to the Department
- Land Bank/Infill Sites
 - Review currently being completed with a view to developing proposals regarding infill sites
 - Fearganstown –DoS examining options at present in terms of future development of site
- 2. 2015 Acquisition programme (31 units acquired County wide to date)
 - 12 acquisitions closed or at sale agreed stage in Navan MD
 - Average cost per unit -€154,000
 - Total expenditure - €1,854,000
- 3. Part V
 - Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015 commenced on 1st September 2015.
 - Under new Act, developers now required to provide 10% of their development for social housing
 - Planning applications received/granted since 1st September 2015 in the Navan MD area would deliver 20 units through Part V on completion
 - Engagement with Approved Housing Bodies as partners to deliver Part V units will be important
- 4. Capital Assistance Scheme 2015 (2 units approved County wide - €402,104)
 - 2 units approved located in Navan MD
 - Ferndale – Cluid Housing Association
 - St Ultan’s Terrace – North & East Housing Association
- 5. Voids/Pre Let Repairs

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- 12 units funded via Voids Programme 2015 in the Navan MD area (expenditure - €212,081)
- Pre-Let repairs have been carried out to 19 units in the MD (expenditure - €292,648)
- Currently six units vacant (<3 months), while a contractor has been appointed to the 4 fire damaged properties in Tailteann, Navan.

6. Leasing (CALF and Payment & Availability Agreements via Approved Housing Bodies)

- Oaklee has recently received Departmental approval for 20 units, Mill Lane Navan
- A further 25 units are at an advanced stage of negotiations between developer and an Approved Housing Body

7. Energy Upgrade Scheme (2015 County wide expenditure - €1,079,905 - 588 units)

- Energy upgrade works have been completed to 466 units in the Navan MD to date, which represents 60% of total stock in the District.
- 2015 expenditure - €416,084 – 202 units
- Phase 1 units to be completed on remaining stock in 2016

8. Adaptation Grants (2015 County wide expenditure - €1.2 m – 143 applications)

- 33 applications approved in the Navan MD area, to the value of €287,443

9. Local Authority Adaptation Grants Scheme (County wide expenditure - €508,725 – 37 applications)

- 16 applications approved in the Navan MD area, to the value of €189,469

Matters raised by Councillors, and responses provided, included:



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- The location of units in Mill Lane – it was confirmed that the voluntary housing association undertook a complete assessment process using specialist services.
- The possibility of purchasing multiple units within a development – it was confirmed that this would be dependent on the funding available and the scale of the development.
- The need to resolve the access issues to the lands at Fearganstown – it was confirmed that discussions with the relevant stakeholders were ongoing and that the Land Aggregation Scheme was closed.
- The provision of outdoor storage facilities in St. Brigid's Villas – it was confirmed that this was being reviewed.
- The interest in the choice based letting scheme – it was confirmed that there was a high level of interest in this scheme.
- The timing of the provision of units under Part V – it was confirmed that units were provided on a phased basis linked to the development phases.
- The issues in older local authority housing, e.g. inadequate heating – it was confirmed that the maintenance budget was increasing and that a stock audit was needed to identify issues and assist with stock management.
- The loss of units arising from the refurbishment of St. Francis Park and the possible need for an additional halting site in Navan – it was confirmed that the site is currently under capacity, with a group housing scheme of 9 units to be provided.
- The suitability of housing being provided for the elderly and those with disabilities – it was confirmed that a housing strategy for people with disabilities was being developed and that these issues are considered in terms of housing provision.



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The Mayor and Councillors thanked David for the report and commended the work being undertaken by the Housing Department.

5.4 Transportation

5.4.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

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

- The role of water cuts in preventing flooding and the need to undertake this work every September/October – it was confirmed that this formed part of road maintenance works in addition to other locations when possible.
- Recent flooding on the Proudstown – Kingscourt Road.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Are there plans by the Executive to make sure that there will be sufficient funding to ensure that the streets of Navan are cleaned 52 weekends of the year for 2016?”

Response:

It is Meath County Council's intention to continue with the emptying of litter bins and the removal of litter from the main streets of Navan every weekend. Provision has been made for this in the budgets for 2016, although the final allocation of funding is partially dependant on grants received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, which won't be known until early next year.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane



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“Is there a possibility that Meath County Council would be prepared to liaise with the stakeholders involved for slipways to be provided in order for emergency services to access the Boyne River at the Ramparts and at the Old Kilcarne Bridge?”

Response:

The issue of providing slipways at various locations on the River Boyne for the launch and recovery of rescue boats is the subject of a number of Notice of Motions/Questions at Full Council and Municipal District level. A report on this matter is currently being prepared and will be presented to the Environment SPC Meeting to be held on the 17th December, 2015.

The response was noted. Councillor Francis Deane sought clarification as to whether someone is to be appointed to liaise with the stakeholders and it was agreed to consider this.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the support of my fellow Councillors to support my motion of erecting a locked steel gate at Old Spicer's Lane, which is on public property behind Mellows Terrace and Academy Street.”

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

Meath County Council's ownership of the lane extends to the centre of the lane longitudinally. The other half of the lane is under the control of liquidators, Baker Tilly Ryan Glennon, who have been consulted regarding the matter of erecting a gate at the entrance to the lane. They are willing to consider funding 50% of the cost of erecting a gate, subject to agreement of the costs in advance. Prices are currently being sought for these works.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.



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The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the support of my fellow Councillors to support my motion for the construction of a playground in Bohermeen village and for this motion to be considered in the 2016 Navan Schedule of Municipal District Works.”

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

The funding for playgrounds is provided under the Capital Programme, and accordingly cannot be considered under the Schedule of Municipal District Works, which is a plan of works funded through the overall local authority revenue budget.

While provision has been made for a number of playground facilities throughout the county in the Capital Programme 2015-2020, a playground for Bohermeen Village is currently not included. Its consideration for inclusion will need to be within the context of overall priority in respect to the provision of playgrounds, and all other capital amenity projects, project merit and need identified, and available funding.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“That Meath County Council will provide public lighting at the exit from Bohermeen Sports Centre to the link with Bohermeen Village Centre.”

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

The Public Lighting Section has received a request in the past for public lighting in this vicinity and had agreed to undertake a survey and report back in due course. An initial appraisal was carried out and this concluded that the estimated cost would be



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approximately €90,000 plus V.A.T. Given the scale of the costing on this and the competing demands, such a project does not appear justifiable at the current time.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was noted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“That Meath County Council will resurface the road at the rear of Belcourt Estate Navan, serving the front row of houses (from No 1 to Belcourt Square) to include also the resurfacing of Belcourt Square.”

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

The inclusion in the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works of the resurfacing of the road at the rear of Belcourt Estate, Navan, can be considered, subject to priority over other roads requiring resurfacing and the availability of sufficient funding.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District carries out a traffic management report on the N51, Athboy Road, at St. Patrick's Classical School, with a view to installing amber lights to facilitate pedestrian access to the school. There is a limited set down area outside of the school campus, which is proving to be inadequate.”

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



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Meath County Council will carry out traffic and pedestrian counts to assess what type of treatment is required at this location.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**, as follows:

“That Navan Municipal District carries out a traffic management report on the N51, Athboy Road, at St. Patrick’s Classical School, with a view to installing controlled pedestrian lights to facilitate pedestrian access to the school. There is a limited set down area outside of the school campus, which is proving to be inadequate.”

The amended motion was adopted.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District will erect a commemorative plaque at Kennedy Road, Navan, at the site of the former Preston School, the Church of Ireland Secondary School which was founded in 1686 and closed in 1969 when it amalgamated with Wilson’s Hospital School in County Westmeath.”

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

The Navan and District Historical Society in partnership with the Rotary Club have submitted a proposal to the Navan Municipal District to have a number of commemorative plaques erected in Navan. This proposal would be best considered in that context.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

It was agreed that the plaque at this location should be added to the list developed by the Navan and District Historical Society, as plaques are to be erected over the coming years. It was suggested that a standard plaque design be used.



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The motion was adopted.

7.7 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

"That the Council will look at the viability of putting a yellow traffic box at the entrance to Canterbrook estate in Navan."

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

It is viable to put a yellow box on the R161 at the entrance to Canterbrook estate. This will be considered in conjunction with future re-surfacing works on the R161 pending budget availability.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7.8 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

"That the council, while discussing and exploring any future bus hub for the town and any consequent traffic flow changes with the NTA will also examine with Bus Éireann, the current public bus routes servicing the town, both internal and national routes."

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

The impact of the proposed bus hub and any resulting traffic management measures on the current bus service routes through Navan will be discussed with Bus Éireann and the NTA as part of the scheme development. Where affected, routes will be optimised in order to best serve the bus route in question and to enable a scheduled stop at the proposed bus hub. A full review of the current bus level of service in Navan is not included within the scope of the project.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.



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After a short discussion, it was agreed that a representative from Bus Éireann be invited to attend a future meeting of Navan Municipal District to discuss these services.

The motion was noted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from An Bord Pleanála in response to Notice of Item 6.5 – Notice of Motion as adopted at July monthly meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

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>

The Mayor urged Councillors to make submissions, for example suggesting that business categories be added.

- 9.2 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issue:

- 9.2.1 The possibility of formally recognising the efforts and dedication of the various rescue and emergency agencies that undertook the recent river searches – it was confirmed that this had already been proposed and was to take place in 2016.



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9.3 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Gullies blocked in Abbey Grove.

9.3.2 Leaves at the entrance to Beaufort.

9.3.3 Flooding on the Boyne Road.

9.4 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issue:

9.4.1 The need for restoration on the Robinstown to Dunderry Road where the surface had disintegrated.

9.5 Councillor Shane Cassells raised the following issue:

9.5.1 The impact of the high water levels on the Old Kilcarn Bridge and the need to continue efforts to secure funding for the bridge.

9.6 Councillor Joe Reilly raised the following issue:

9.6.1 The status of the unfinished works and available bond for Ros na Rí estate – it was confirmed that a company had been appointed to complete the works.

The Mayor thanked Councillors, staff and the media for their work throughout the year and wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára