



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

2nd February 2015, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Jim Holloway

Councillors Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Suzanne Jamal, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O' Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Cllrs. Ronan McKenna, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith.

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Fiona Lawless, Tadhg McDonnell, Des Foley, Joe Fahy

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan, Ger Murphy,

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 12th January, 2015

The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 12th January, 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O' Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Pat Kinsella, Water Services, on the death of his father-in-law J J Flannelly.
- Mary Halpin, Finance Section, and Barney Gaffney, Kells Municipal District, on the death of their brother-in-law Sean Lally.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Dunshaughlin Community Centre on achieving 'Best Community Initiative' at the LAMA Awards, and the 5 other projects that were shortlisted, and Moynalty Steam Threshing festival also shortlisted for a LAMA award.

4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

5.1.1 To receive and adopt Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019.

5.1.2 To receive and adopt Annual Service Delivery Plan 2015.

The Chief Executive noted that items 5.1.1. and 5.1.2 could be taken together because of the link between the two documents. It was explained that the Council was obliged to prepare a Corporate Plan and that guidelines had been provided regarding the format. The Chief Executive provided an overview of the content and highlighted the strategic objectives and supporting strategies. The content of the Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2015, was explained in terms of the objectives, the strategies and the actions across all the service areas. Provisions regarding measurement, timelines and linkages to the strategic pillars were also noted.

Following the Chief Executive's overview, Councillors had an opportunity to comment and ask questions on the content of the Plan. Clarification on the issues raised was provided by the Chief Executive and the Management Team. It was also noted that a Service Delivery Plan would be produced every year, and that it would be possible to make changes to an action mid. year, if that was deemed necessary. It was also noted



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that the Council is required to submit the Service Delivery Plan to the National Oversight and Audit Committee (NOAC) for auditing purposes.

Following a roll call vote the Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019 and the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2015 were adopted.

Councillor	Vote
Clr. Joseph Bonner	For
Clr Sinead Burke	Against
Clr. Shane Cassells	For
Clr. Eugene Cassidy	For
Clr. Francis Deane	For
Clr Sean Drew	For
Clr. Eimear Ferguson	Against
Clr. Brian Fitzgerald	For
Clr. Enda Flynn	For
Clr. Wayne Forde	Against
Clr. Joe Fox	For
Clr. Noel French	For
Clr. Michael Gallagher	Against
Clr. David Gilroy	For
Clr. Trevor Golden	For
Clr. Johnny Guirke	Against
Clr. Wayne Harding	For
Clr. James Holloway	For
Clr. Suzanne Jamal	For



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Clr. Tom Kelly	For
Clr. Sharon Keogan	For
Clr. Nick Killian	For
Clr. Caroline Lynch	Against
Clr. Stephen McKee	Absent
Clr. Ronan McKenna	Absent
Clr. Paddy Meade	For
Clr. Maria Murphy	For
Clr. Gerry O' Connor	For
Clr. Claire O' Driscoll	For
Clr. Maria O' Kane	Against
Clr. Damien O' Reilly	For
Clr. Darren O' Rourke	Against
Clr. Bryan Reilly	Absent
Clr. Joe Reilly	Against
Clr. Sarah Reilly	Absent
Clr. Tommy Reilly	Absent
Clr. Sean Smith	Absent
Clr. Alan Tobin	For
Clr. Sharon Tolan	For
Clr. Gillian Toole	For

Result: For: 25, Against: 9 Absent: 6

5.1.3 To receive and approve Draft Protocol for Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund.



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Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, explained the procedures involved in the spending of the Councillors' Discretionary Fund and the protocol was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 To receive presentation on Draft Programme of Activities to commemorate the 1916 Rising.

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian, gave the presentation, which was welcomed and noted by the Councillors. A lengthy debate took place and it was agreed that, while the draft plan contained many worthwhile activities, there would be opportunities to develop the commemorative plan further through engagement with the public and other stakeholders. The Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire, advised the meeting regarding correspondence received from the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the planning of activities. It was noted that the Council would be advised of developments in due course.

5.2.2 To consider a report and if thought fit to establish a Joint Policing Committee in accordance with S. 36 of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 and associated guidelines (issued 29th August 2014).

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, provided an overview of the Joint Policing Committee and the procedures to be followed to establish it. Councillors raised a number of issues regarding the JPC structures and the impact of the new structures on communities. Following a discussion it was agreed to establish the JPC on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

5.3 Finance

5.3.1 To note Annual Financial Statements for Navan, Trim and Kells Town Councils for 2013.

Councillors raised a number of issues and Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, provided the following information:

The combined net assets of the three Town Councils amounted to €81.7m. (Navan Town Council €41.5m., Kells €24m., and Trim €15m. It was explained that the cumulative loss for Kells was €179,000, €5m. for Trim and an unfunded balance of €1.96m.



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The Head of Finance noted that during the budget process, everything was accounted for, and that the 2015 Budget was not impacted by the historical representation of these costs. It was noted that the Local Government Auditor is currently auditing the 2014 accounts, which includes the unification of the former three Town Councils. It was also noted that one AFS will be produced for the end of 2014 and would be brought before the Council.

6 Reports

6.1 Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings' Administrator advised that the CPG reviewed the Agenda and noted the reports provided with regard to the following SPC meetings:

- Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise held on 18th December, 2014
- Housing, Community and Cultural held on the 14th January, 2015
- Environmental held on the 30th January, 2015

6.2 Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator advised that the Protocol Committee reviewed the Conference list and approved the conferences relevant to the business of the Council. The committee also noted Councillors' Reports in relation to conferences/training attended.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Circular LG 1/2015 and AL 1/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Local Economic and Community Plans.

Noted by the Councillors.

7.2 Office of the Minister for Social Protection in response to Notice of Item 9.6 - Notice of Motion passed at the December Monthly Meeting.

Noted by the Councillors.

7.3 Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht re. 1916 Rising.



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Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.4 National Transport Authority re. Consultation on the Review of the NTA Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.

A lengthy discussion took place on the subject of the proposed review of the Draft Strategy. The Chief Executive advised that this item of correspondence was discussed at the CPG meeting and it was noted that a formal request had been made to the NTA to extend the 2nd March deadline for submissions. It was also noted that the matter would be brought to a joint meeting of the Transportation SPC and the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC. It was agreed that Councillors from all the Municipal Districts would be welcome to attend.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“Can Meath County Council provide figures for the number of litter fines issued during 2014, the number of fines paid, prosecutions taken and a breakdown of these figures between individuals and businesses. How many litter wardens are employed by the Council and what is the total amount spent by the Council in 2014 in litter control and prevention?”

Response:

In 2014, a total of 417 litter fines were issued pursuant to the Litter Act 1997 of which 130 were paid. This figure is broken down 371 fines imposed on individuals and 46 on business premises.

Prosecutions were initiated in 12 cases with some of the balance either written off because of insufficient evidence, that would be required to obtain a prosecution if the case went to Court, or waived following acceptable grounds of appeal submitted by the recipient. A number was also carried forward to 2015 to enable further investigations to take place, including getting commitments from witnesses that they would be prepared to give evidence in Court should this action be necessary.

The Council has two Litter Wardens one of whom also combines as a Dog Warden. A number of other Officials have been, as provided for in the Litter Act, designated as Litter Wardens and can issue fines where they witness littering taking place. Staff involved in waste enforcement activities also investigate littering and dumping complaints as part of their duties.



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The total cost incurred in litter control in 2014 was in the order of €189,000, which includes various litter prevention and awareness initiatives and staff costs. Street cleaning services, a large element of which is litter related cost €1,240,000 in 2014.

It is pointed out that one of the priority actions contained in the Environment Department's Annual Service Plan for 2015 is to initiate a major campaign including various education and awareness initiatives, which will highlight both the environmental, health and economic costs associated with littering and illegal dumping. Reports in this regard will be presented to the Environment SPC and the full Council.

It is also pointed out that the Council is trialling a new solar powered bin as part of the improvement works in Ashbourne, which can hold up to eight times as much as regular bins and these will serve to reduce the number of collections and save on both fuel and man hours. The new bin type, which totally contains the litter and prevents dispersal by wind or birds, will be rolled out to other areas if shown to be successful.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

"How many environmental licences have been granted within the East Meath Region in the last 10 years by Meath County Council? Who were they granted to and where are these companies located? What years were these licences granted? When are these licences up for renewal? How often are these plants inspected by the EPA and are any of these visits or inspections unannounced?"

Response:

The issuing of consents in the Environmental Area and particularly relating to Waste and Water are covered by a number of statutory provisions and issued by both the Local Authorities and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In summary, the following is the position:

1. Certificates of Registration (COR) issued by Local Authorities and generally in respect of small scale activities in the waste area e.g. recovery of under 10,000 tons of inert waste.
2. Permits issued by the Local Authorities for more intensive activities e.g. the recovery of inert waste where the volumes are between 10,000 and 50,000 tons – such permits would be subject to more conditions designed to ensure protection of the Environment.
3. Licences are issued by the EPA and generally for the more intensive types of activities in the waste area e.g. the recovery of inert waste where the volumes are over 50,000 tons.
4. IPPC Licences are issued by the EPA and are designed to control all emissions, covering air, water, waste and noise along with its environmental management for large scale industrial type activities.



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- Industrial Emissions Directive Licences (IED) – are issued by the EPA and cover integrated pollution prevention and control on industrial emissions from activities listed in the First Schedule to the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.

The attached schedule shows a list of all current Licences, IPPC Licences and IED licences issued by the EPA and the permits issued by Meath County Council, as they relate to the East Meath Area – it is noted that Waste Collection Licences issued to Household and Business Waste Collectors are issued by the National Waste Collection Permit Office located within Offaly County Council but are not included. It is also pointed out that certain Quarrying activities are not subject to environmental licensing but have controls imposed on them under planning or other legislation.

A list of all types of Licences issued by the EPA and including dates of issue and renewal dates are available for public inspection on their Web Site www.epa.ie. A register of all permits issued by Meath County Council is also available for public inspection at the Council Offices.

Activities, the subject of Licences issued by the EPA or Permits issued by Meath Council, are generally, as part of compliance and monitoring processes, the subject of follow up inspections by authorised personnel from each authority and with the more higher intensive activities the subject of more regular visits. The availability of resources is a key factor in determining the number of such inspections. Inspections can be both planned or response based where complaints are received suggesting non compliance with the Licence or Permit.

The response was noted by the Councillors. Councillor Keogan noted that the renewal dates were not included in the response received.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Ask Meath County Council how many dog licences were issued in 2014 and how many dogs were rescued?”

Response:

The following is a breakdown of Dog Licences sold in Meath in 2014:

<i>Type of Licence</i>	<i>Purchased from</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Numbers purchased 2014</i>
<i>Individual Licence</i>	<i>Post Office or Meath County Council</i>	<i>€20</i>	<i>4663</i>
<i>Lifetime Licence</i>	<i>Meath County Council</i>	<i>€140</i>	<i>3</i>



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General Licences- 10 or more Dogs	Meath County Council	€400	5
Total			4671

In 2014, a total of 611 dogs were either sized or surrendered, the vast majority of which went through the Dog Pound at The Riggins, Dunshaughlin, which is operated on behalf of the Council by Kanine Management. A total of 429 dogs were re-homed using the services of Charities / Welfare Groups and 159 returned to their owners. A total of 23 were put to sleep and primarily due to their poor condition or deemed too dangerous to be released, with most of these being classified as dangerous breeds of dogs under the Control of Dogs Regulations 1998.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

Can the Chief Executive give details of the service agreement (Section 26 Fire Services Act)) on the Fire Service laid down by the County Council, which specifies the level of cover supplied by the Fire Service in County Meath. Also, to provide the details of the Special Service Calls clause which specifies what the rostered Senior Fire Chief and the ERCC (eastern regional control centre) takes into consideration when deciding to attend calls such as ambulance assist, trees down, water rescue and flooding / An féidir leis an bPríomhfheidhmeannach sonraí maidir le Roinn 26 a léiriú a bhaineann leis an gcomhaontú seirbhíse leis an tseirbhís doiteáin a leagadh síos ag an gComhairle Chontae. Sonraíodh sa roinn seo an leibhéal cumhdaigh a chuireann seirbhís doiteáin na Mí ar fáil. Freisin, sonraí maidir leis an gclásal Ghlaonna Sheirbhíse Speisialta inar léiríodh 'séard a chuireann an Príomh-oifigeach Dóiteáin Sinsearach uainchláraithe agus Ionad Rialaithe Réigiúnach an Oirthir (ERCC) faoi chaibidil agus iad ag cinneadh an bhfreastalóidh siad ar eachtraí cósúil le cabhrú otharchairr, crainn tite, tarrtháil ón uisce agus tuilte.

Response:

The 'Fire & Emergency Operations Plan' (also referred to as the Section 26 Plan) is currently being revised as part of the 'Keeping Communities Safe' programme. The Plan details organisation, appliances, equipment, fire stations, water supplies and extinguishing agents, training, operational procedure and other relevant matters. All details relating to 'fire cover' will be addressed in this Plan which will be presented to the Councillors in the coming months. The making of the Plan is a reserved function.

There is a list of Pre-Determined Attendances (PDA's) agreed between MCC and the ERCC in relation to emergency calls in Co Meath – as is the case in all other counties. The PDA determines the level of Fire Service response to an emergency call, including 'Special Service' calls. Currently the ERCC will turn Meath Fire Service out to all received 'Ambulance Assist', 'Trees Down' and 'Water Rescue' calls. 'Flooding' calls will be



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initially referred to the rostered Senior Fire Officer who will determine the level of response.

The response was noted by the Councillors. Councillor Burke sought further clarification regarding the question and it was agreed that the matter would be discussed separately with the appropriate officials.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“What further steps have been taken by the Executive since my last Notice of Question in July 2014 to advance the implementation of the Notice of Motion passed by Members of Navan Town Council in March 2014, directing the Planning Authority (NTC) under section 171 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to revoke the planning scheme for the Strategic Development Zone at Clonmaggaden and seeking the consent of Meath County Council as the relevant development agency to this section 171?”

Response:

This matter is still under consideration. Councillors will be aware from the previous report that the matter is extremely complex and that the legislation is unclear in many respects as to the interaction between the roles of the various agencies involved in the SDZ process. The designation of the land as an SDZ is a Government decision, the adoption of the planning scheme was a matter for the planning authority (and An Bord Pleanála on appeal) and the amendment or revocation of the scheme is a matter for the planning authority and the development agency who must each consent.

The legislation appears to have been constructed on the basis that a scheme would only be revoked when being replaced with an amended scheme. For example, while the preparation and adoption of the planning scheme in the first place and the amendment of a scheme, require extensive public consultation, there appears to be no such requirement for revocation. The previous report (7th July) confirmed that the Council had consulted with the landowners however a question remains as to whether the consent of the individual landowners is necessary and whether a more extensive statutory public consultation would be required.

There is also the question of “legitimate expectation”, i.e. that the land owners have an expectation that they will be allowed to develop the lands in accordance with the adopted scheme or an amended scheme. It is incumbent on the executive to ensure, as far as possible, that the Council is protected in law from any possible claims arising from a decision to revoke the scheme without replacing it.

The Department has set up a “Working Group to Review Strategic Development Zone Arrangements”. We have raised many of the issues outlined above with the working group for its consideration and it may be prudent to await the outcome of the group’s deliberations before proceeding any further.

The response was noted by the Councillors.



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9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by the Sinn Féin Councillors (carried over from January meeting)

“That Meath County Council opposes any attempt by central Government to involve the Council in the collection of water charges from our tenants, and calls on the Minister for Environment Alan Kelly to withdraw his proposal to place a legal obligation on Councils to recoup water charge arrears from Council tenants /Go gcuireann Comhairle Chontae na Mí i gcoinne iarracht ar bith ón rialtas lárnach baint a bheith ag an gComhairle i mbailiúcháin mhuirir uisce ónár dtionóntaí agus éilíonn sí ar an Aire Comhshaoil Alan Kelly a mholadh maidir le oibleagáidí dlíthiúla i gcomhair riaráistí a fhorchúitiú ó thionóntaí an Chomhairle a chur ar Chomhairlí a aistarraingt.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O’ Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke**. Following a discussion on the matter the motion was unanimously adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke(carried over from January meeting)

“That Meath County Council will prepare a position paper, same to be prepared by the end of March 2015, to consider the possibility of introducing a scheme whereby those people with outstanding development levies for one-off houses would get a percentage reduction if they agreed an immediate/timely payment schedule / Go n-ullmhóidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí páipéar seasaimh roimh dheireadh Mhí na Márta 2015 maidir le féidearthacht scéim a thabhairt isteach ionas go bhfaighidh daoine le tobhaigh forbartha gan íoc do thí onuaire ísliú céatadánach má thagann siad ar réiteach maidir le sceideal aisíoc láithreach/tráthúil.”

Supporting Information

Section 11 of the Meath Development Contribution Scheme 2010-2015 deals with the payment of development levies. Development levies can only be attached to grants of planning permission in accordance with the terms of the adopted scheme. The Planning Authority currently facilitates the phased payment of contributions.

Meath County Council’s current procedure is as follows:

Current applications

- Payment is required to be made in full by condition of planning permission prior to commencement of development. An amendment to the Development Contribution Scheme introduced in March 2013 allows that if levies are paid in full within 28 days of the invoice date a 10% discount applies.
- Payment must be paid in full before the final mortgage draw down has been received.



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- Payment can be accepted over the lifetime of the draw downs of the mortgage and can include monthly payments by direct debit / Standing Order etc. or lump sums to service the debt.

Older files / files which have received enforcement correspondence or where the applicant has already received the final draw down of their mortgage and they have not paid:

- An agreement can be made for payment of the levies in full covering a period of 24 months, without the submission of their financial documentation. Agreements can be facilitated to extend this period beyond 24 months in cases of genuine financial hardship, where sufficient financial documentation is provided to the Planning Authority in support of same.

The Development Contribution Scheme 2010-2015 will be reviewed in 2015. The adoption of the scheme is a reserved function and members can consider any further changes to the current scheme in that context.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**. Following a discussion on the matter and information provided by Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, **Councillor Guirke** withdrew the motion.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“That Meath County Council undertakes a Playground Facility Survey to determine the age, condition and health and safety compliance of play facilities, that no new County Council playground is erected until all existing playgrounds are brought up to an appropriate standard, and that the foregoing inform the new Meath County Council Play Policy.”

Supporting Information

It was agreed at the last meeting of the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee that a review of Meath County Council’s Play Policy would form part of its 2015 Work Programme. The Community Department commits to undertake a condition survey on existing playground facilities, as part of this process, with a view to informing the policy work of the SPC on this issue, and subsequent recommendations to full Council.

The motion was deferred.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly

“That Meath County Council amends the current County Development Plan to ban the cultivation of GMO crops in Co. Meath.”



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Supporting Information

Meath County Council opposes the recommendation on the following grounds:

The purpose of Development Plan policies and objectives are to provide a policy framework against which the Planning Authority can assess planning applications. The Planning and Development Acts and supporting regulations define *development* which requires a formal planning consent and also outlines in detail the scope and type of development which is exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.

The use of land for agriculture is exempt.

Section 4 (1) of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2014 states that "*Development consisting of the use of any land for the purpose of agriculture and development consisting of the use for that purpose of any building occupied together with land so used*" shall be exempt development for the purpose of the Act.

A Development Plan objective or policy does not supersede the exempt status of *agriculture as* defined in the Planning Acts.

It is the view of the Planning Authority that the use of the variation process would not be appropriate or enforceable and could not achieve the objective outlined in the Notice of Motion.

The motion was deferred.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"Meath County Council calls on the NRA to do a safety audit of the M3 Roundabout at the M3 Parkway, with a view to improving road safety for traffic & pedestrians."

Supporting Information

There have been two Road Safety Audits (RSA) undertaken on the M3 scheme, on behalf of the motorway operator, since it opened in 2010. Issues were highlighted in one of the Audits in relation to the roundabout over the mainline at Pace (Junction 5 on the M3) particularly in relation to traffic speed and line markings. We understand that consideration is being given to renewing or replacing line markings at the junction (and on the link road to the roundabout on the R147 to the east) to improve lane discipline and reduce speeds. In light of the NoM below, we have contacted Eurolink and made them aware of the issues that we understand have led to the NoM being brought to the February 2015 MD meeting. It could be useful if this was followed up with more formal correspondence to the NRA noting the Councillors' views.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

Following a discussion and taking into consideration the supporting information, the motion was noted.



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9.6 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

“That Meath County Council calls upon the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Joan Burton to immediately review the rate of Rent Supplement in this County and revise it to parity with that of the Dublin Metropolitan Area, as a direct reflection of market rents in the county and fairness to all citizens in this DMA.”

Supporting Information

The issue of the maximum rent supplement levels pertaining to Co. Meath has been raised by Meath County Council on a number of occasions in recent times with the Department of Social Protection (March 2012, October 2013 & November 2014 (Navan Municipal District)).

Meath County Council’s Settlement Officers and other officials are encountering significant difficulties due to the large variation which exists in terms of Rent Supplement levels, which are allowable in Co. Meath, compared to other Counties in the greater Dublin Area. For example, the maximum monthly rent limit for a Couple/One Parent Family – 2 Children renting a property in Blanchardstown is €900, while the limit allowable some two miles across the county boundary into Co. Meath in Dunboyne, and elsewhere in Co Meath is €600 per month. Similarly, in Leixlip Co. Kildare, which is some six miles from Dunboyne, the equivalent eligible rent supplement is €700.

Due to the influence of Dublin, it is almost impossible to rent property in such areas as Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Ratoath and Ashbourne for the rent supplement rates in Co. Meath. Due to the lack of rental properties, rents for properties in Navan, Trim, Laytown/Bettystown and Enfield are increasing steadily, adding further to the rent affordability difficulties in the county.’

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor**, was unanimously adopted.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly (carried over from January meeting)

“The members of Meath County Council support the relocation of the site of the National Children’s Hospital from St. James’s Hospital to the James Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, as this is the most accessible site for the children of Meath and children across Ireland.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O’ Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**

Following a discussion an amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

The amended motion below was unanimously adopted.



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“The members of Meath County Council support the relocation of the site of the National Children's Hospital from St. James's Hospital to the James Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, as this is the most accessible site for the children of Meath and children across Ireland and request that the Meath Councillors on the Regional Health forum table this motion to the HSE.”

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Motions 9.8, 9.9 and 9.10 together and all three were unanimously adopted.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn

“Meath County Council calls on the HSE to restore funding for Special Needs Assistants to support children with diagnosed Special Educational Needs who are attending Pre-schools.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Meath County rejects any cut to preschool special needs funding and calls on the HSE to recognise the vital role this funding plays in the development of those in receipt of it, and in general, and to maintain and increase funding into the future / Go gcuireann Comhairle Chontae na Mí i gcoinne aon ghearradh síor ar chistiú riachtanais speisialta agus go n-éilíonn sí ar an bhFSS an ról ríthábhachtach atá ag an gcistiúchán seo i bhforbairt iad siúd atá ag baint leasa as a aithint agus i nginearálta go gcothabhálfar agus go méadófar an cistiúchán seo sa todhchaí.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline Lynch**.

9.10 Submitted by Fine Gael Councillors

“That Meath County Council, in recognition and appreciation of the invaluable contribution SNA's make to the social and educational development of children in pre-school settings, calls on the HSE to maintain funding to ensure the continued roll out of this vital service.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.



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9.11 Submitted by Councillor Maria O’Kane

“That Meath County Council supports the marriage equality referendum / Go dtacaíonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí leis an reifreann ar chomhionannas pósta.”

An amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

The amended motion below was then unanimously adopted.

“That the members of Meath County Council support the marriage equality referendum / Go dtacaíonn Comhairleoirí Comhairle Chontae na Mí leis an reifreann ar chomhionannas pósta.”

10 Chief Executive’s Report and Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

Noted by the Councillors.

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing Construction

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Any Other Business