



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Special Planning Meeting 9th March 2010, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor William Carey, presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joseph Bonner, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Jimmy Cudden, Francis Deane, Anne Dillon Gallagher, Regina Doherty, John V Farrelly, Jimmy Fegan, Brian Fitzgerald, Oliver Fox, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Niamh McGowan, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Seamus O'Neill, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager: Tom Dowling

Directors of Service: Eugene Cummins, Liam Henry, Kevin Stewart, Tadhg McDonnell, Fiona Lawless, Larry Whelan (Acting)

Meetings Administrator Olive Falsey

Senior Planners: Wendy Bagnall (A) Pat Gallagher

Senior Executive Officers: Michael Griffin, Martin Rogers.

Apologies:

Councillor Ray Butler, Sirena Campbell, Eoin Holmes, Bryan Reilly.

1. To receive a briefing on the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.

Cathaoirleach Willie Carey opened the meeting and welcomed John Byrne and Deirdre Scully, from the Regional Planning Authority. A presentation was made on the draft review of the Regional Planning Guidelines.

Following the presentation there was a full discussion on a wide range of issues summarised as follows:

- Concern of the Dunshaughlin Members that Ashbourne, Ratoath and Dunshaughlin are not being recognized as part of the metropolitan area and that this should be addressed by amending the draft document.
- The issue of Planning refusals in Co. Meath, the importance of industrial development to the County, and the recognition of this in the RPG's by providing wording in the guidelines.
- Recognition of the population growth in the County and the need for investment. Investment should not be restricted by RPG's.
- Building in towns and villages should not be restricted.
- The Council has adopted a County Development Plan and a series of Local Area Plans with land zoned in designated areas. RPG's must recognize this or the plans may have to be revisited.



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

- The benefit of a port to the East area.
- The issue of the Outer Orbital Route – need for clarification.
- The issue of the hierarchy of Plans and trying to deliver in a situation where Meath has only seven representatives on the Regional Authority.
- The Guidelines should not inhibit the development of industry in other areas of the County.
- There should be balanced growth and the promotion of investment along the rail route.

Deirdre Scully responded and outlined that each County has priorities to be addressed. She explained that the RGP's are part of other policies and must be looked at in conjunction with, for example, the Mid Eastern Economic Strategy, which is now complete. The MEES has recognised Ashbourne in the same context as Athy and Arklow, despite its lack of historical industry. The message in the guidelines is that Ashbourne's economic activity should be built up.

With regard to the port issue, there is a difficulty in naming actual locations as it is a major project and dependent on assessment under the Habitats Directive and other legal issues.

The NRA submission will help clarify matters in regard to the Outer Orbital Route. Text can be updated based on new developments as writing in specific targets may be restrictive.

The Co. Manager addressed the Council and stressed that Regional Planning Guidelines is a very important document for Co. Meath. However the submission has to be realistic. The case for Ashbourne was strongly put forward and a form of words was agreed to advance the issue. It is important that something was achieved in the Draft document. The establishment of a port would require a change in national policy as it cannot appear in regional policy if not set out in national policy.

It was agreed that the final submission would be formulated to meet deadline of 26th. March. The Cathaoirleach thanked John Byrne and Deirdre Scully for their presentation and closed the meeting.