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Ordinary Meeting

2nd March 2015, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Jim Holloway

Councillors Present:

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

Apologies: Cllrs. Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Noel French.

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

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

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan, Ger Murphy

Senior Engineer: John McGrath

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd February, 2015.

The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd February, 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

Councillor Wayne Harding sought a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the recent meeting regarding the Slane ByPass and following a 'show of hands' vote, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders.

Councillor Harding referred to a meeting that had taken place, at which the Oireachtas Members and the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport attended. Councillor Harding



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outlined his dissatisfaction with the nature of the delegation that attended from Meath County Council and that, in his opinion, there should have been more senior officials in attendance given the seriousness of the matter.

Following a discussion, the Chief Executive responded and stated that the Executive of the Council understands the importance of a bypass for Slane, fully supports the provision of the bypass and is strongly committed to progressing the project along with the relevant stakeholders. It was noted that the Minister was presented with the analysis of the Report and that a public consultation process would take place in the coming weeks with the report and supporting documents available for inspection at Council's offices and on the Council's website.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Derek McKay, Gateway Assistant.
- Marguerite Kelly, Library Service on the death of her father-in-law Michael Kelly.
- The family of the late Peter Woods, retired Water Caretaker Ashbourne.
- Eddie Fennelly, Water Services Technical on the death of his father Peter Fennelly, retired Sewerage Caretaker, Ashbourne.
- Kevin Carey, former Water Caretaker Dunshaughlin on the death of his mother Margaret (Maggie) Carey.
- Peter Brady, Community Department on the death of his mother Julia Brady.
- Cllr. Noel French on the death of his mother.
- The family of Sr. Alphonsus Farrell who served 65 years as a nursing sister in Our Lady's Hospital, Navan.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Irish Women's rugby team on their recent success at Ashbourne Rugby club.
- The Senior Student Basketball Team from Dunshaughlin on winning the All Ireland Championship.



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- Meath Tourism/ Boyne Valley Tourism on the recent successful conference.
- Natalya Coyle, Arthur Lannigan O' Keefe and Johanna Morgan on their recent sporting success.
- Nikki Kavanagh from Ratoath on her participation in the Euro Song competition.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

- 4.1.1 To receive the Audit Committee's Annual Report, 2014.

Frank McLoughlin, Chairperson of the Audit Committee presented the Report, which was noted by the Councillors on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

4.2 Community

- 4.2.1 To receive presentation from Meath Tourism on 2015 Work Programme.

Deferred to April meeting.

4.3 Planning

- 4.3.1 Having considered the proposal to amend the Local Area Plans for Ashbourne, Dunboyne / Clonee / Pace, Dunshaughlin, Ratoath and the Southern Environs of Drogheda which cover the period 2009-2015 and the Chief Executive's report on submissions and observations received with respect to the proposed amendments, to resolve to make the amendments in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Executive as set out in her report or not to make the proposed amendments or to alter the proposed amendments other than as recommended by the Chief Executive in her report in accordance with the requirements of Section 20 (3)(d) of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2014 .

Councillors resolved to make the amendments in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Executive on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.



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- 4.3.2 Having considered the proposal to revoke the attached list of Local Area Plans and the Chief Executive's report on submissions and observations received with respect to the proposal to revoke said Local Area Plans, to resolve to revoke or not revoke these Local Area Plans as recommended by the Chief Executive in her report in accordance with the requirements of Section 20 (3)(d) of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2014

1. Navan LAP 1 2011-2017 (Lands at Johnstown / Athlumney)	2. Navan LAP 3 2006-2012 (Lands between Trim Road and Commons Road)	3. Navan LAP 4 2007-2013 (Lands at Athlumney, Bailis, Alexander Reid and Ferganstown & Ballymacon)
4. East Meath LAP 2005- 2011	5. Athboy LAP 2009-2015	6. Ballivor LAP 2009-2015
7. Baile Ghib (Gibbstown) LAP 2009-2015	8. Carlanstown LAP 2009-2015	9. Carnaross LAP 2009-2015
10. Clonard LAP 2009-2015	11. Crossakiel Local Area Plan 2009-2015	12. Donore LAP 2009-2015
13. Drumconrath LAP 2009- 2015	14. Duleek LAP 2009-2015	15. Enfield LAP 2009-2015
16. Kentstown LAP 2009- 2015	17. Kilbride LAP 2009-2015	18. Kilcock Environs LAP 2009- 2015
19. Kildalkey LAP 2009- 2015	20. Kilmainhamwood LAP 2009-2015	21. Kilmessan Local Area Plan 2009-2015
22. Longwood LAP 2009- 2015	23. Maynooth LAP 2009-2015	24. Moynalty LAP 2009-2015
25. Nobber LAP 2009-2015	26. Oldcastle LAP 2009-2015	27. Rathcairn LAP 2009-2015
28. Rathmolyon LAP 2009- 2015	29. Slane LAP 2009-2015	30. Summerhill LAP 2009- 2015

Councillors resolved to revoke the attached list of Local Area Plans in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Executive on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.



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5 Reports

5.1 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings' Administrator advised that the CPG reviewed the Council Agenda and noted the report regarding the joint meeting of the Transportation and Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC's held on the 25th February.

The CPG agreed that a meeting of the Whips would be arranged to discuss the JPC representation.

5.2 Report from the from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator advised that the Protocol Committee had received two requests for presentations to be made to the full Council and agreed to recommend as follows:

- That the request to receive a presentation from Eircom would be progressed through the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC and that other stakeholders would be invited i.e. Vodafone, 02/3 and UPC.
- That the request to receive a presentation from the Battle of Ashbourne committee representatives would be granted, and that the presentation would be included in the update from the coordinator when available.
- The conference list was reviewed and conferences relevant to the business of the Council were approved.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

6 Correspondence

- 6.1 Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government re. Framework Policy for Local and Community Development – Public Consultation.

Noted by the Councillors. Councillors sought clarification on a number of issues and responses were provided by Kevin Stewart, Director of Services.

- 6.2 National Transport Authority re. Sustainable Transport Measures Programme 2015.



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Noted by the Councillors. While the funding was welcomed, Councillors raised a number of issues regarding the funding of local projects across the County.

- 6.3 Circular Letter WP 01/15 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Introduction of new household waste legislation.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 6.4 Correspondence from the Minister for Diaspora Affairs, Department of the Taoiseach – re immigration reform measures in the United States.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 6.5 Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment & Management Public Consultation Days (CFRAM).

Noted by the Councillors

- 6.6 Circular Letter PL 1/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Planning Policy Statement 2015.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 6.7 Circular LG 3/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Revised arrangements for allowances for expenses incurred by elected members of local authorities.

Noted by the Councillors.

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

'Can I ask the Executive of Meath County Council, for a breakdown of the main expenditure on the maintenance and upkeep of both the Council's housing and private estates?'

Response:



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Outlined below is the allocation of 2015 expenditure with regard to the maintenance of Council housing stock, as funded through Meath County Council's 2015 Revenue Budget:

- Ordinary Maintenance	€1,131,298
- Preventative Maintenance	€ 400,000
- Maintenance of Boilers	€ 116,000
- Pre Let Repairs	€ 500,000

With regard to funding on private estates within the county, this can, and will, vary depending on available resources but would normally be spent through the Roadwork's Programme. It should be noted that this was presented to Councillors for consideration at the February Municipal District Meetings. Without knowing specific locations it is not possible to itemise estates, as spend would happen across a number of headings public lighting, road maintenance etc. and would obviously depend on whether the Estate was in the charge of Meath County Council.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

"What is the reason for the low payment of fines issued for litter in comparison to fines paid in 2014, and how many fines were issued for dog fouling in 2014?"

Response:

The imposition of litter fines arises from a number of circumstances including from CCTV footage at the Bottle Banks/Civic Amenity Sites (CAC) or, from complaints or reports submitted by members of the public or where persons were observed throwing litter by the Litter Wardens.

In the case of fines imposed at the Bottle Banks/CAC's, the most common offence is where people knowingly or otherwise leave domestic household waste which is not accepted at the sites, or deposit litter in an irresponsible manner outside the receptacles. Many fines imposed for such offences are the subject of an appeal and including on grounds that they were not aware that they were committing an offence or claim that the receptacles were full up. Others in accepting the nature of the offence committed often seek a waiver of the fine on hardship grounds.

In assessing such appeals, the Council agree to waive or write off the fine only where satisfied that the grounds of appeal are genuine from a first time offender, that the offender can clearly demonstrate that they are ordinarily disposing of their waste in a



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responsible manner including availing of an authorised Waste Collection service, and that they accept the clear message that this type of behaviour is not acceptable.

As advised in the response to the Notice of Question submitted to the February Council meeting, sufficient evidence of littering is required in order to obtain a prosecution in the Courts and in many cases while fines are issued based on information received from members of the public, getting the witness to subsequently attend Court to give evidence often proves very problematic. In all cases, consideration has to be given as to whether it is in the public interest to proceed to the courts based on the significant legal costs involved and the difficulties in securing payment of such costs even where a conviction is obtained based on the circumstances of the offender.

The Council often depend on support from other bodies including the Gardaí in terms of verifying addresses etc. of alleged offenders when investigating litter/dumping complaints and in some cases where delays do occur a prosecution can not be initiated because of a 6 month time limit provided for in the legislation. Unfortunately, it is increasingly found that no personal information relating to offenders is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded.

The Council did not impose any litter fines for dog fouling in 2014 primarily because of the witness requirement. However, it pointed out that our Litter Wardens are being assigned to amenity areas such as the Blackwater Park Navan to enforce the Litter legislation and it is considered that this approach together with audio clips advising of the dangers of dog fouling are having the desired effect.

The Council will continue to impose litter fines notwithstanding the above difficulties to the greatest extent possible and it is suggested that our actions in this regard sends out a clear message that littering will not be permitted and this message will be a key part of our forthcoming litter prevention and awareness initiatives.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“As the Minister for Transport is allocating funds in relation to the 30km. speed byelaws in densely populated housing developments, I am asking the Chief Executive if a pilot scheme of speed monitoring in the county could be arranged, which would assist us in researching our needs prior to applying for this funding?”

Response:

Meath County Council has not yet received the updated Guidelines for the Application of Speed Limit of 30km in Housing Estates from the Department of Transport, Tourism



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and Sport. A pilot scheme of speed monitoring could be considered subject to funding and resources.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

7.4 Submitted by Nick Killian

"To ask the Chief Executive to outline the level of community levies secured from all housing planning applications for the years 2012,2013,2014 broken down by the former electoral areas. How will these monies be allocated to the various Municipal Districts and will these monies be open to local community groups to make application for local community projects."

Response:

Please find attached a table which sets out the quantum of Social Infrastructure development contributions received for the years 2012, 2013 & 2014.

	Dunshaughlin	Kells	Navan	Trim	Slane	TOTAL
2012	311,424.38	160,156.86	400,412.95	167,433.24	131,420.87	1,170,848.30
2013	319,803.38	148,667.80	316,626.97	239,818.31	490,708.01	1,515,624.47
2014	407,444.67	208,642.09	246,583.22	226,432.27	486,410.28	1,575,512.53
	1,038,672.43	517,466.75	963,623.14	633,683.82	1,108,539.16	4,261,985.30

Meath County Council discontinued the community levy scheme in 2008. The levy scheme is used in the first instance to fund community infrastructure of a capital nature in the ownership of the Council. The levies are then applied to fund projects that have already commenced. The balance of the allocation of the levies are agreed by the Councillors.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

"To ask the Executive the expected additional cost to be borne by the Local Authority and/or consumer as a result of the system of self-certification as the means of building regulation enforcement introduced under SI.9 of 2014 / Ceist a chur ar an bPríomhfheidhmeannach an costas breise don Rialtas Áitiúil agus/nó don tomhaltóir



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mar thoradh den chóras fhéin-deimhniúcháin mar modh forfheidhmithe an rialachán tógála a thugadh isteach faoi SI.9 2014 ?”

Response:

The Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 have greatly strengthened the control of building activity, by requiring greater accountability in relation to compliance with Building Regulations in the form of statutory certification of design and construction stages, lodgement of compliance documentation, mandatory inspections during construction, validation and registration of certificates.

A Building Control Management system has been developed at national level, led by Fingal Co. Council, to which all Building Control Authorities (County Councils) have access. This national platform is supported by contributions from each local authority which includes a flat charge of €4,000 per annum and 50% of each €30 commencement notice fee received. This arrangement is to be reviewed at the end of 2015.

211 Commencement Notices/Seven Day Notices have been lodged for Meath County Council’s administrative area between 1st March 2014 and 31st December 2014.

The Building Control Authority does not hold direct evidence of the fees being charged by designers and assigned certifiers under the new Building Control protocols. Such fee structures are private contractual arrangements between the developer and the professional providing the service.

Meath Co. Council has allocated additional staff resources to this area to meet the oversight, inspection and administrative protocols required under the new Regulations. However, it is expected that the requirement to obtain professional certification of construction will ultimately improve standards across the sector and enable Local Authorities to accelerate the subsequent taking in charge of multi-unit developments. It is anticipated that Building Control Authorities/Councils will refocus their technical resources to preventative, during construction, inspections and move away from the need for corrective action pre taking in charge of estates.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“To ask the Executive the number of development levy demand letters sent out since 1st January 2015 and for a breakdown of same based on outstanding balances / Ceist a chur ar an bPríomhfheidhmeannach an méid litreacha éileamh ar thobhaigh forbartha a sheoladh ón 1 Eanáir 2015 agus miondealú ar an méid seo bunaithe ar iarmhéideanna nár íoc ?”



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Response:

The requirement to pay development contributions is included as conditions of planning consents are issued by Meath Co. Council.

On receipt of permission, the applicant may consider the timing of construction and must then comply with the Commencement notice provisions of the Building Control Act 2014.

On receipt of a commencement notice, Meath Co. Council issues an invoice for the contributions. The applicant is required to discharge the contributions in full prior to commencement of development or they may agree a schedule of payments with Council officials. In the event that the applicant chooses to pay the contributions in full, within 28 days of receipt of an invoice, a discount of 10% is available.

Where the applicant does not engage with the local Authority in respect of paying the contributions, they are deemed to be non compliant with their planning permission and Debt collection protocols are initiated by the Council.

The various stages of that protocol are set out hereunder:

- Issue invoice
- Issue reminder (within 14 days)
- Engage with the applicant to agree a schedule of payments
- Issue final reminder where no payment or agreement is obtained
- Issue a warning letter (1st stage of formal Enforcement process)
- Issue a pre-enforcement letter
- Issue an enforcement notice (2nd stage of formal enforcement process)
- Issue pre prosecution letter
- Refer the matter to law agents to issue letters of demand.

Meath Co Council has issued 51 invoices to applicants who submitted commencement notices since 1st January 2015. Payments of €431,313 have been received to date in 2015 (largely paid in respect of permissions granted prior to 2015.)

The Council has also issued 3 warning letters and 8 enforcement notices to date in 2015.

The Council law agents have not issued any formal letters of demand to date in 2015.



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The steps set out above may take 6 months or more to conclude, depending on the engagement of the applicant. It is the Council's policy to work with the applicant/ developer to provide them with the maximum opportunity to avail of the discounts available or to agree a schedule of payments. Formal enforcement action is used as a matter of last resort.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

7.7 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

"Can the executive provide the following information in tabular form:

The value of the roads budget for Meath County Council for the years 1996 to 2011 inclusive. The value of the water budget for Meath County Council for the years 1996 to 2011 inclusive?"

Response:

The following figures represent the total budget for roads, transportation and water services programme groups.

Year	Revenue Budget in Euro					
	Roads			Water		
	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net
	€	€	€	€	€	€
1996	14,983,152	8,243,908	6,739,244	4,491,729	3,451,914	1,039,814
1997	16,395,617	9,537,745	6,857,872	5,186,020	4,080,657	1,105,363
1998	18,708,198	11,381,972	7,326,226	6,501,842	2,930,537	3,571,304
1999	21,775,878	13,205,910	8,569,968	7,184,911	3,049,281	4,135,630
2000	23,182,202	14,616,831	8,565,371	7,838,207	3,330,404	4,507,803
2001	30,313,594	19,529,600	10,783,994	9,268,047	4,495,749	4,772,298
2002	30,115,191	19,694,044	10,421,147	13,014,682	5,793,199	7,221,483
2003	28,047,166	19,985,811	8,061,355	14,645,420	4,776,829	9,868,591
2004	30,444,700	20,030,715	10,413,985	16,670,500	5,326,800	11,343,700
2005	30,693,521	19,716,838	10,976,683	18,867,755	5,471,235	13,396,520
2006	32,051,847	20,344,420	11,707,427	19,271,629	4,328,707	14,942,922
2007	34,240,843	22,254,390	11,986,453	21,210,504	5,419,649	15,790,855



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2008	33,258,002	23,180,886	10,077,116		24,530,011	5,318,062	19,211,949
2009	30,536,178	20,359,907	10,176,271		24,097,161	6,417,830	17,679,331
2010	24,556,315	14,263,398	10,292,917		23,612,004	5,868,675	17,743,329
2011	23,784,801	13,942,416	9,842,385		21,864,128	6,885,018	14,979,110

Notes: The amounts shown are the Revenue Budgets as adopted at the statutory budget meetings.

Budgets up to and including 2001 were prepared in Punts. These have been converted to Euro at a rate of €1.2697 per Punt.

Budgets from 1996 to 2007 inclusive were prepared using the Programme Group format.

Budgets from 2008 to 2011 were prepared using the new Activity Based Costing format.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly (deferred from February meeting)

“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 subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

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 withdrawn.



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8.2 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly (deferred from February meeting)

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

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

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 proposed by **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

Following a lengthy discussion on the matter, the motion was deferred.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Paddy Meade

“In the interest of road safety I am calling on Meath County Council to carry out a study into the differential of road conditions with neighbouring County Councils and come up with proposals for delivering a safer transition for drivers who travel across county boundaries.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council is not aware generally of a significant safety issue in the relative road conditions for drivers who travel across county boundaries. Note that winter maintenance operations are already co-ordinated with other neighbouring Local



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Authorities. In relation to speed limits, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's revised Guidelines for the Application of Speed Limits is intended to assist local authorities to achieve a consistent approach in relation to the implementation of speed limits. If the Notice of Motion relates to road conditions, the specific circumstances should be forwarded to the Transportation section for further investigation.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

Following a lengthy discussion, the motion was adopted.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"That Meath County Council recognises the problem of fly-tipping, littering and illegal dumping in the county and, understanding the range of contributory factors, resolves to expedite the development of a comprehensive waste/litter management plan, same to include policing and enforcement measures and to explore the possible provision of a public recycling facility in each Municipal District / Go n-aithníonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí an fhadhb atá ann le diúscairt mhídhleatach, bruscar agus dumpáil mhídhleatach sa Chontae, agus tuiscint ann don réimse toisca rannpháirteacha, go socrófar ar bhrothú ar plean bainistíochta cuimsitheach a fhorbairt, bearta fhorfheidhmithe agus póilíneachta san áireamh agus imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar an bhféidearthacht áis athchúrsála phoiblí a chur ar fáil i ngach Ceantar Bardasach."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Environment Department of the Council, in recognising an increasing problem of illegal dumping, fly tipping and littering in the County, included as a priority action in its annual service plan for 2015 the preparation of a litter / dumping strategy which will inter alia highlight the very significant environmental and economic costs associated with such activities.

This will be an action based plan targeting specific groups who can assist in maintaining a healthy environment and in curbing illegal dumping and littering and complementing a series of actions including enforcement activities contained in the draft Eastern Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015 -2021 which is expected to be adopted by April of this year. The strategy will also look at policy in respect of advertising signage and posters erected by business and voluntary groups.

The Council is involved in a wide range of measures designed to elicit public support for the eradication of litter from our society and these are reflected in the schedule attached to a response to a Notice of Motion considered at the April 2014 Council meeting. A copy of the response and schedule is attached for you information.



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At present there are three Council owned Civic Amenity Sites at Navan, Kells and Trim and these are operated under contract by Oxigen – there is a privately owned and operated civic amenity site in Dunboyne. There are also a number of civic amenity / Recycling Centres on the periphery of Meath e.g. Drogheda, Ardee, Coolmine and Baileborough. The Oxigen contract also provides for the management of 32 Bring Bank facilities (bottles, cans, and clothing) which are located in the Municipal Districts as follows: Ashbourne 3, Ratoath 3, Kells 9, Trim 7, Navan 5 and Laytown/Bettystown 5. A number of bring banks associated with charitable organisations are located at various locations throughout the County.

The provision of additional civic amenity / recycling facilities in each Municipal District is a matter for consideration as part of the Capital Budgets preparation process. It is suggested that the requirement for, and operation of, Civic Amenity Sites / Recycling centres will be impacted upon by the introduction of pay by weight from the 1st July 2016 (Circular WP 01/15 included in correspondence refers)

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

Following a discussion, the motion was adopted.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I ask that Meath Co. Council and Meath Tourism with the help of all Councillors declare County Meath as Ireland's first "Cycle Friendly County". This would include putting together a group to coordinate a plan which would include links between all principal municipal towns, heritage sites, Boyne Valley and Navan-Kingscourt greenway. I also call on the Council to install proper signage to increase safety of cyclists so as to attract cycle tourism into the county from all of our surrounding counties. "

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Fáilte Ireland has produced a National Strategy for the Development of Irish Cycle Tourism in 2007 and Market Research in 2013 which informs how we market Ireland for cycling tourism. The NTA has defined a coherent cycle network for the GDA. Significant progress in Meath to date has opened up the Boyne Greenway as an important cycling connection to the Battle of the Boyne, while work continues to connect with Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre and eventually to Slane and beyond. There are also proposals to develop the Boynside Trail to link the Boyne Greenway to the coast. The Navan to Kingscourt Project, having completed the feasibility stage, will in the future be a valuable project while cycle lanes throughout the county have significantly added to the cycling amenity. We are well underway to developing the cycling infrastructure of the



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county as another tourism and local activity and it would be opportune at this point to invite Fáilte Ireland to meet with the Council, perhaps through an SPC, to advise on whether there may be a designation available which would assist in the promotion and marketing of cycling tourism for Meath.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

8.6 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“That this Council records its opposition to the current policy of water fluoridation in Ireland, and calls on the government to organise a national referendum on water fluoridation in the next 18 months, and that a letter recording this resolution shall be forwarded directly to the Taoiseach and the Minister for the Environment and cc'd to all cabinet ministers requesting this matter to be discussed at cabinet level.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The issue of fluoridation of water supplies was the subject of previous Notice of Motions/Question in June and September 2013 and April 2014 and I enclose for the Members benefit a copy of the responses issued for each such Motion/Question.

The legal position in relation to fluoridation of water is contained in Article 10 of the Fluoridation of Water Supplies Regulations 2007 and provides that the role of the sanitary authority in fluoridation of drinking water is as agent of the health authority. There is therefore a mandatory obligation to continue fluoridating the public water supply as the law requires.

As the Councillors will be aware, the roles and responsibilities with regard to fluoridation transferred to Irish Water under the Water Services (No 2) Act 2013 and Meath County Council, like all other County Councils, are now operating and maintaining water services on their behalf under Service Level Agreements.

The response issued to the April 2014 Motion referred to a review being undertaken by the Health Research Board (HRB) on behalf of the Department of Health of the impact of water fluoridation at its current level (0.6 to 0.8 part per million) on the health of the population, and based on a synthesis of published international and national research. The HRB have advised a report on this review has been sent for international peer review and they hope to be in a position to publish the final report by the end of March.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.



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Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the motion would be deferred until the report from the Health Research Board (HRB) is made available.

8.7 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“That Meath County Council requests Irish Water, as an act of goodwill, to waive the outstanding water rates monies, which were owed by sporting / community organisations to MCC prior to the establishment of IW and are being transferred as historical debt to IW, in order to allow them to regularise their accounts with IW and focus their resources on funding their clubs.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

8.8 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Transport to finance the deficit of €691,409 in this year's roads programme in order to avoid a further deterioration in the road network and in order to complete on time the roads identified under the three year programme of works.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells** i.e. to remove the figure of €691,409 from the text of the motion.

The amended motion was adopted.

“That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Transport to finance the deficit in this year's roads programme in order to avoid a further deterioration in the road network and in order to complete on time the roads identified under the three year programme of works.”

Councillor Drew also proposed, seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**, that a request would be made to the Department for a meeting with the Minister.

8.9 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors

“Sinn Féin calls on Meath County Council to write to Minister Alan Kelly to request that our housing programme funding allocation for 2015 is drawn down without further



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delay. In addition, we ask that our budget for homeless services is reviewed and increased as appropriate, as the County has already had over 100 presentations to this service since January and the level of crisis in the county warrants additional funding / Éilíonn Sinn Féin ar Chomhairle Chontae na Mí scríobh chuig an Aire Alan Kelly agus iarr air an cionroinnt cistiúcháin don chlár tithíochta 2015 a tarraingt anuas gan mhoill. Ina theannta leis, iarraidimid go ndéanfar athbhreithniú ar an mbuiséad do sheirbhísí easpa dídine sa chontae agus go méadófar é mar is cuí toisc go raibh níos mó ná 100 cuairt os cómhair na seirbhíse seo ó Eanáir ar aghaidh agus toisc go mbarántaíonn leibhéal na géarchéime sa chontae a thuilleadh infheistíochta.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Housing Department has made submissions for funding to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, as outlined in the table below. As per all other Housing Authorities, we currently await notification of our approved 2015 allocation.

CIRCULAR NUMBER	TITLE	AMOUNT SOUGHT
<i>Circular Housing 07/2015</i>	<i>Returning Vacant Social Housing to Productive Use</i>	<i>€1,832,000</i>
<i>Circular Housing 08/2015</i>	<i>Energy Efficiency Insulation Measures</i>	<i>€3,252,050</i>
<i>Circular Housing 09/2015</i>	<i>Adaptations & Extension to Social Housing Stock</i>	<i>€827,000</i>

Meath County Council’s Homeless Service operates on a case management approach, and provides a range of supports. Prevention of homelessness is key to the service delivered, with a focus on sourcing alternative accommodation and formulating settlement plans with clients, including referrals to and from other relevant services. Emergency accommodation is a further support provided by the Service, however, only a proportion of persons presenting to the Homeless Service require this particular support.

An additional €50,000 was provided for emergency accommodation in the 2015 Annual Budget, compared to 2014, in recognition of the increased demand from persons requiring this form of support. It was affirmed at the 2015 Annual Budget meeting, that no persons requiring emergency accommodation will be refused due to funding considerations.

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

The motion was unanimously adopted.



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8.10 Submitted by Councillor Maria O’Kane

“That Meath County Council notes that Seachtain na Gaeilge 2015 runs from 2nd March to 17th March; recognises the importance of the Irish language and the Gaeltacht as integral parts of Irish culture, heritage and identity; acknowledges the Council's role in promoting the language and facilitating its active use and commits to work with stakeholders to strive towards the full implementation of the Official Languages Act in the time ahead / Go dtugann Comhairle Chontae na Mí suntas go bhfuil Seachtain na Gaeilge 2015 ar siúl ón 2-17 Márta; go n-aithníonn sí tabhacht an teanga gaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht mar cuid lárnach de chultúr, oidhreacht agus ionannas na Gaeilge, go n-admhaíonn sí ról an Chomhairle i gcur chun tosaí na teanga agus in éascú an teanga a úsáid go gníomhach agus go tiomnaíonn sí ar obair a dhéanamh le páirtithe leasmhara dul i dtreo cur i bhfeidhm iomlán Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla san am atá romhainn.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council recognises the importance of the Irish language and is committed to meeting the requirements as provided for in the Official Languages Act, 2003, and the subsequent Regulations. Under the legislation, Meath Local Authorities developed an Irish Language Scheme and, in as far as is possible, has been introducing Irish language services across many areas including the provision of:

- Corporate publications (Annual Report, Corporate Plan, County Development Plan etc.) in both Irish and English
- Web site content and application forms in both Irish and English
- Bilingual signage at Meath County Council offices
- Bilingual Public Signage across the County e.g. road signage, placenames, warning signs etc.
- Irish only signage in Gaeltacht areas.
- Customer Services e.g. all correspondence received in Irish is responded to in Irish; telephone greeting in Irish; dedicated staff in key departments to facilitate people who may wish to do their business in Irish.
- Irish Language learning opportunities to encourage staff to use the Irish language.
- Responses to Irish Language complaints and working with the Irish Language Commissioner to resolve issues raised by the public in relation to Irish language services.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria O’ Kane** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**.

The motion was unanimously adopted.



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8.11 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“This Council calls on Minister Alex White TD and the Department of Communications Energy & Natural Resources to scrap the controversial and dangerous Eircode postcode design. Furthermore it asks that a free and open tender be held for the design of a modern smart postcode with integrated geolocation data, that is simple & inexpensive to adopt & maintain and that offers emergency services a single code format for both dwelling and non-dwelling incidents.”

The motion was withdrawn.

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

Noted by the Councillors.

9.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation

9.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment

9.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing Construction

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

Noted by the Councillors.

10 Any Other Business