



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*13<sup>th</sup> April 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, 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:** Cllr. Stephen McKee

#### **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, David Jones, Michael Griffin

**Senior Engineer:** John McGrath

Finance Staff: Pat McHugh, Paul Timoney, Ger Soady, Sheila Harkin, Michael Murtagh

Heritage Officer: Loreto Guinan

Planning Staff: Fiona Redmond

**Councillor Darren O' Rourke** proposed a suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly** to discuss the matter of the 2015 housing funding allocation for County Meath.

Following a lengthy debate, and a number of proposals, it was agreed that a statement would be prepared and communicated to the Minister's office outlining the dissatisfaction with the proposed funding for 2015.



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It was also agreed that a Special meeting would be arranged to discuss the matter and it was agreed that the 29<sup>th</sup> April would be a suitable date.

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were proposed by **Councillor Frances Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Councillor Seán Drew** referred to Motion 8.8 and asked if a letter had issued to the Minister's office. Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services, confirmed that the letter had been issued but that no response had been received on the matter.

**Councillor Paddy Meade** referred to Motion 8.3 and asked when a report would be available. Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services referred to the response provided re the motion

**Councillor Alan Tobin** referred to Motion 8.5 and asked for an update. Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services advised of ongoing meetings and discussions with the NTA in relation to the provision of cycle ways.

**Councillor Gillian Toole** raised the matter of the status of Motion 8.6 and it was confirmed by the Meetings' Administrator that Motion 8.6 had been deferred pending the publication of the report from the Health Research Board, which would be circulated when available.

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Jimmy Donegan retired Water & Sewerage Caretaker Kells.
- Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald on the death of his sister-in-law Mary Riordan.
- Frank McCabe, General Operative, Kells on the death of his father Hugh (Hughie) McCabe.
- Meath River Rescue Group on the loss of one its members.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath County Library on the initiation of an Irish language conversation group in Trim library and in other libraries across the county.
- The Rath Chairn community on the opening of a new park and on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Gaeltacht in County Meath.
- Pat McHugh, Management Accountant, and Maureen McKinley, Community Department, on their retirement from Meath County Council.
- Tom Sheridan and Brian Carroll, St. Colmcille's Handball Club on winning the All Ireland Championship.
- The Housing SPC and its Chair Councillor Killian on hosting the recent Housing Forum in Buvinda House.
- The Irish Women's Rugby team on winning the Six Nations Championship.
- Jono Carroll who grew up in Dunshaughlin on his recent success in the sport of boxing.
- Edward Lynam, Garretstown, racehorse trainer, on his recent success in Dubai.

## **4 Statutory Business**

### **4.1 Corporate Services**

4.1.1 To appoint one replacement (Councillor) to the Audit Committee.

**Councillor Gerry O' Connor** was appointed to the Audit Committee on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

4.1.2 To nominate 15 Councillors to the Meath Joint Policing Committee.

The following Councillors were appointed to the Joint Policing Committee on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

- Cllr. Gillian Toole
- Cllr. Maria Murphy
- Cllr. Sharon Tolan
- Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll



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- Cllr. Eimear Ferguson
- Cllr. Caroline Lynch
- Cllr. Alan Tobin
- Cllrs. Joe Fox / Enda Flynn (sharing – two years each)
- Cllr. Ronan McKenna
- Cllr. Sean Drew
- Cllr. Wayne Harding
- Cllr. David Gilroy
- Cllr. Francis Deane
- Cllr. Trevor Golden
- Cllr. Joe Reilly

- 4.1.3 To nominate 2 additional Directors to the Board of East Border Region (to be selected from the 5 existing Councillors of the East Border Region Forum).

The following Councillors were appointed to the Board of East Border Region on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

**Councillor Sharon Keogan** and **Councillor Trevor Golden** on a shared basis with **Councillor Keogan** taking the first two years.

**Councillor Damien O' Reilly** and **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** on a shared basis with **Councillor O' Reilly** taking the first two years.

## **4.2 Transportation & Housing**

- 4.2.1 To adopt the 2015 Schedule of Navan Municipal District Works.

**Councillor Francis Deane** proposed, seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde** to adopt the Navan Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Following a lengthy debate on the matter, **Councillor Wayne Forde** withdrew his support for the proposal to adopt the Navan Schedule Municipal District Works.

The Chief Executive outlined the procedures involved in the allocation of funding to the Municipal Districts and fully informed the Councillors of the implications of not adopting the works

**Councillor Ronan McKenna** proposed that the Council would adjourn for five minutes for the Navan Councillors to discuss the matter. The Cathaoirleach agreed with the proposal and the Council adjourned.



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Following the adjournment, a roll call vote took place to adopt the Navan Schedule Municipal District Works as follows:

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



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Cllr. Sharon Keogan			Abstain	
Cllr. Nick Killian			Abstain	
Cllr. Caroline Lynch			Abstain	
Cllr. Stephen McKee				Absent
Cllr. Ronan McKenna			Abstain	
Cllr. Paddy Meade			Abstain	
Cllr. Maria Murphy			Abstain	
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor			Abstain	
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll			Abstain	
Cllr. Maria O' Kane			Abstain	
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly			Abstain	
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke			Abstain	
Cllr. Bryan Reilly			Abstain	
Cllr. Joe Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Sarah Reilly			Abstain	
Cllr. Tommy Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Sean Smith			Abstain	
Cllr. Alan Tobin			Abstain	
Cllr. Sharon Tolan			Abstain	
Cllr. Gillian Toole	For			
<b>Result</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>

The vote to adopt the Navan Municipal District Works was duly defeated.



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Following the result of the vote, the Chief Executive outlined to the meeting that works of an emergency nature only could now be carried out in Navan, in accordance with the legislation and guidance documents.

Following further discussions with the Navan Councillors, during the course of the meeting, the Chief Executive sought agreement to revisit the motion adopted. This necessitated the suspension of Standing Orders 17 & 18, which was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**. The Chief Executive provided a statement to the meeting, which outlined that:

*“in recognition of the Councillors’ concerns and in recognition of Navan as the County town, a detailed review of the impact of the 2015 Navan Schedule of the Municipal District Works would be undertaken by September. Where it is evident that serious inconsistencies exist relative to the position of Navan as the county town, the Council will endeavour to address these, where possible, in the context of the 2016 Annual Budget.”*

Based on the above statement, the Chief Executive recommended that the Navan Schedule of Municipal District Works would be adopted.

Following a further debate, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** proposed, seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** that if the Navan Councillors indicated their support for the Navan Municipal District Works by a show of hands, the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Navan could be adopted. Following a show of hands by the Navan Councillors in support of the Navan Schedule of Municipal District Works, the full Council proceeded to adopt the Navan Schedule of Municipal District Works on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

### **4.3 Finance**

#### **4.3.1 To receive Draft Annual Financial Statement 2014.**

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, made the presentation on the AFS and the Draft Capital Programme 2015, which included information on:

- Analysis of Annual Expenditure and Annual Income
- Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2014
- Capital Expenditure 2010 – 2014
- Unfunded capital Balances
- Capital Spending – Funding, Levies



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- Policy on all Levies
- Roads
- Amenity
- Revenue Account

The Head of Finance outlined that the Council would preside over a cumulative capital investment of **€255m.** during the next six years.

The detail of the Capital Investment Programme for each service area was presented by the relevant Director of Services for that area.

Following the presentation, Councillors had an opportunity to comment, ask questions and seek clarification on matters regarding the AFS and the Capital Investment Programme.

The surplus of €700,000, as outlined in the AFS was welcomed. The Capital Programme was also welcomed, particularly the planned investment in projects such as the provision of:

- Playgrounds in Enfield, Trim and Kells
- Navan to Kingscourt Greenway development
- Beach management
- Ashbourne linear park and park upgrades in Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Kilmessan

The main issues of concern raised were:

- The planned spend on roads in the Kells area
- Costs re Basketstown and other illegal landfill sites
- Costs re the relocation to Buvinda House
- Housing issues e.g. energy upgrades, 2015 funding allocation, homelessness etc.
- Land Aggregation Scheme
- The need for a library in Ballivor
- The need for a civic amenity site for Ashbourne/Ratoath area





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Responses and clarifications were provided by the Head of Finance, the relevant Directors of Service and the Chief Executive.

The Cathaoirleach addressed the meeting and welcomed the Capital Investment Programme and acknowledged the achievements of previous Councils in reducing the Revenue and Capital deficits to enable the planned investment.

An extension of time (30 minutes) was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

- 4.3.2 To approve (i) revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 as set out in Table A in accordance with S104 of the Local Government Act 2001 and (ii) transfers to and from Capital as set out in Table B.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**.

- 4.3.3 To receive in accordance with Article 26 (2) of the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, a report on schedule of uncollected rates.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 4.3.4 To receive and consider Draft Capital Programme 2015.

See Item 4.3.1

### **4.4 Planning**

- 4.4.1 To receive a presentation and a report on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (as varied) in accordance with the requirements of Section 15 (2) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014.

(Deferred to May meeting)

- 4.4.2 To consider amendments to, and adopt, the draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020.

The draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020 was adopted on the proposal



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of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

- 4.4.3 To consider amendments to, and adopt, the draft County Meath Biodiversity Plan 2015-2020.

**Councillor Ronan McKenna** proposed, seconded by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly** that the Biodiversity Plan should reflect the effect of major infrastructural projects particularly the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development and the proposed erection of pylons.

The Heritage Officer responded and agreed that the wording in the document would be strengthened to reflect the concerns outlined. The draft County Meath Biodiversity Plan 2015-2020 was duly adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

### **4.5 Community**

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

Deferred to May meeting.

- 4.5.2 To receive the Annual Report 2014 for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as required by the Local Government Act 2001 S128B(1)(i) as amended by the Local Government Act 2014.

Noted by the Councillors.

## **5 Reports**

- 5.1 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings' Administrator advised that CPG reviewed the Council Agenda and received information on the particulars of some of the items.

- 5.2 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator informed the meeting as follows:

- The Protocol Committee reviewed the conference list and approved conferences relevant to the business of the Council.



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- Ciarán Mangan provided an update on the commemorative activities in 2016 and it was noted that the public consultation workshop would take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> April in Solstice Arts Centre.
- Details of a motion adopted by the Trim Municipal District (that the 'burial place of Thomas Allen would be identified by the erection of a sign and an appropriate recognition of Eamon Duggan would be arranged) was considered and agreed.
- The request received from NEPPC to make a presentation to the full Council was also considered and it was agreed that this presentation would be included on the agenda of the Special Housing meeting.
- The request received from Hand on Heart Enterprises to make a presentation to the full Council was considered and it was agreed that this presentation would be made to a meeting of the Navan Municipal District.

The recommendations from the Protocol committee were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

- 5.3 Department of Social & Family Affairs in response to Notice of Item 9.6 - Notice of Motion adopted at the February Monthly Meeting.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.4 Department of Social Protection in response to Notice of Item 9.8 - Notice of Motion adopted at the January Monthly Meeting.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.5 Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht re. 'Ireland 2016' initiative.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.6 Office of the Minister, Department of Finance in response to Notice of Item 9.7 - Notice of Motion adopted at the January Monthly Meeting.

Noted by the Councillors.

## **6 Notice of Question**



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### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian**

*“In relation to Community Planning Levies, and further to my question and answer from March meeting, can the Chief Executive break down the amount of funding now available to each new Municipal District as outlined under the previous old Electoral areas?”*

**Response:**

A presentation on available capital funding will be made at the April Council meeting by Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee**

*‘To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to increase the number of local authority homes to be upgraded for energy efficiency in Meath; to ask what has the Council done with the building energy credits associated with the number of local authority homes in Meath that have been upgraded for energy efficiency in the last number of years and to outline to the elected Members of the Council what exactly was done with these valuable credits associated with these Kilowatt-hour (kWh) savings, if they were sold and if so for how much, if they were swapped or if the Council intend to use them for another purpose?’*

**Response:**

The Energy Efficiency Scheme commenced in June 2013 and targets the improvement of insulation standards and overall energy performance across our social housing stock. Meath County Council has completed Phase 1 works (wall insulation and attic insulation of 300mm) on 1,005 units to date. Meath County Council will continue to roll out the Scheme in 2015, and aims to complete energy retrofitting works on approximately 600 units this year, subject to funding.

In 2013, the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government procured an agreement with energy supply companies in respect to the Energy Efficiency Scheme and kWhr/yr credits. It was agreed by the Department (as the Scheme is funded centrally), that the participating energy supply companies would carry out certain works under the Scheme for local authorities, in exchange for the relevant credits arising out of the energy retrofitting works. The works provided by the energy supply companies are consultative services, including pre and post work inspection surveys, and the completion of a post works BER.



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In effect, the energy credits associated with the works being carried out in Co Meath are being used in the provision of the actual upgrades, through the services outlined above, and accordingly, are not available to Meath County Council to use for any other purpose.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

*“What is the number of householders in the County that availed of well grants in 2013 and 2014?”*

**Response:**

Details of the number of Well Grant applications received and grants issued for 2012, 2013 & 2014 are as follows:

Year	2012	2013	2014
Grant Applications Received	50	90	87
Granted Issued	68	45	73

Noted by the Councillors.

### 6.4 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

*“Can Meath County Council re-direct any savings in personnel and resources in the centralisation of the payroll system to the economic development section of the Council?”*

**Response:**

The transfer of Meath County Council payroll function to the National Shared Services Centre for the local government sector, based in Laois County Council, took place at the end of February 2015. Most local authorities will be moving their payroll function to the National Shared Services Centre in 2015 with a number having already done so in 2014.

The MY PAY project involving the centralisation of payroll was included in the Budget 2015 figures and because of this any savings have already been reflected in the 2015 budget.

Noted by the Councillors.



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### 6.5 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

*“To ask the Chief Executive the number of presentations to the Housing Settlement Officers this year to date / Ceist a chur ar an bhPríomhfheidhmeannach maidir leis an méid cuairteanna roimh na hOifigigh Socraithe i mbliana go dtí seo?”*

**Response:**

There have been 170 presentations to the Homeless Service for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015. During the same period, 30 households were placed in emergency accommodation.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 6.6 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

*“To ask the Chief Executive the number of vacant housing units/voids and their location on 20th March 2015, and the plan to return these units to use. / Ceist a chur ar an bhPríomhfheidhmeannach maidir leis an méid chóiríocht gan áitiú agus an áit in a bhfuil siad an lá an 20 Márta 2015 agus na bearta atá ann chun iad siúd a chur chun úsáide?”*

**Response:**

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Outstanding Vacant Units
Asbourne	1	1	0	2	0
Kells	1	4	3	7	1
Laytown/Bettystown	3	0	10	8	5
Navan	7	1	8	9	7
Ratoath	2	0	3	2	3
Trim	3	0	7	6	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>

Outlined above is the number of vacant units per Municipal District as at 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015. As noted above, there are 34 vacant units currently being progressed though pre let repairs or funding secured under the 2014 Void Scheme, and are subject to works.



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Therefore, there are 20 units that are outstanding as vacant, and are subject to funding requests at present to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government under the 2015 Void Scheme.

In addition to the figures cited, there are a further 6 properties vacant in the Trim Municipal District area which are affected by pyrite, 3 vacant units in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District area (Alverno), which may be demolished in the context of a refurbishment scheme and four fire damaged properties in the Navan Municipal District area.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 6.7 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson

*“To ask the Chief Executive the total number of inspections carried out on private rented accommodation in Co. Meath in 2014 and to date in 2015; and for this as a percentage of the total number of private rented units in the county / Ceist a chur ar an bhPríomhfheidhmeannach maidir leis an méid iniúchtaí a rinneadh ar lóistín príobháideach ar cíós i 2014 agus go dtí an lá seo i 2015; agus cén céatadán iad sin den méid iomlán lóistín príobháideach ar cíós sa chontae?”*

#### **Response:**

Meath County Council conducted 122 inspections on private rented accommodation in 2014, with 5 inspections carried out to date in 2015. As there is no reliable data available of the total number of private rented units in the County, it is not possible to provide an accurate percentage figure.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 6.8 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

*“To ask the Chief Executive to provide in tabular form the total number of Rental Accommodation Scheme units per municipal district and the extent to which this has changed, i.e. units added or lost, in the past 15 months / Ceist a chur ar an bhPríomhfheidhmeannach an uimhir beacht aonad an bhardais sa scéim um chóiríocht ar cíós a chur ar fáil i bhfoirm tábla agus an méid ar athraigh sé, sin a rá an méid aonad a chuireadh leis an scéim nó a chaillíodh ón scéim sa 15 mí deireanacha?”*

#### **Response:**



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	Totals	Ashbourne	Kells	Laytown/ Bettystown	Navan	Raotath	Trim
RAS at 1.1.14	246	33	36	44	88	23	22
Entered RAS UNITS in 2014	48	7	6	13	14	3	5
Entered RAS UNITS Jan to Mar 15	14		4	2	4	1	3
Left RAS Scheme in 2014	-15	-2	-1	-2	-7	-1	-2
Left RAS Scheme in 2015	-4	-1			-3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>

There are a further 130 RAS units managed directly by Approved Housing Bodies in the County.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 6.9 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

*“Traffic delays on the N2 at Kilmoon cross and at Primatestown have been an issue for daily commuters at peak times for some time. Following a number of motions and questions at district and council level the Executive has given a commitment to engage with the NRA at its monthly meeting regarding remediating the issue and within its own engineering structure to look at re-sequencing the lights.*

*Can the Transportation Department furnish me with the outcomes of discussions with representatives from the NRA to date, our own assessment of the traffic issues at the junction at peak hours and the Council's plan to address the issue of traffic delays for commuters?”*

#### **Response:**

The junction of the R155 and N2 at Primatestown is a signal controlled junction. The signals were installed as part of a safety scheme at this junction in 2008/2009 and were switched on, on the 16th December 2009. The timing settings on the lights maximise the traffic on the N2 but must also cater for traffic turning from the N2 onto the R155 and vice versa.





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There is an objective in the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 to look at an upgrade of the N2 between the Rath Roundabout and Kilmoon Cross (Primatestown junction is on this section of the N2). To advance this scheme and carry out a study of the type suggested would require an allocation to be provided by the National Roads Authority. The Council is aware that the NRA has received representations on Primatestown and this stretch of the N2. The Council understands that it is the NRA's intention not to provide an allocation as this time due to funding constraints.

Notwithstanding the above, the transportation section of Meath County Council carried out peak and off peak counts in October 2014. These were compared to the traffic flows recorded in 2006 (Celtic Tiger era) and it was found that the traffic flows in 2014 were over 18% **LESS** than when the lights were installed. The timing of the signals was last adjusted in August 2014 and the current times maximise traffic flow on the N2.

In addition to the above, the Executive is due to meet with the NRA and the Gardai to discuss this location once again.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **6.10 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells**

*“Can the Chief Executive please provide members with an update in respect of the provision of a County Museum for Meath and specifically the request for an application for funding to Europe to provide same in the old St Patrick's Classical School building, owned by Meath County Council, which I had requested in 2014?”*

#### **Response:**

This matter was raised by way of a notice of motion at the Navan Municipal District meeting held on 22nd October, 2014. Supporting information indicated that the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly had submitted a new Draft Regional Operational Programme for 2014-2020 to the European Commission for assessment and approval and that it was likely to be early 2015 before approval is obtained and only after such approval will any application process begin.

Supporting information outlined in response to Notice of Motion 8.2 below refers to the work programme of the graduate recruited to act as European Officer to include identifying potential funding sources and projects that could benefit from EU Funding. Projects such as that mentioned in this Notice of Question will be included in this remit.

Noted by the Councillors.



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Due to time constraints, all motions were deferred to May meeting.

### 7 Notice of Motion

#### 7.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

*“That Meath County Council compile and issue a weekly e-newsletter to community organisations that are part of the PPN and to any other interested bodies and individuals.”*

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

The PPN structure has been fully established and a key issue will be putting a communication process in place using the established structures to full advantage. This matter will be discussed in detail with the PPN secretariat.

#### 7.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

*“That Meath County Council, recognising the potential economic benefit to Co. Meath of a range of EU funding streams, will explore methods to improve this Council's approach to applying for and securing funds, and that this would include the possibility of dedicating staff to this area / Á n-aithint an buntáiste eacnamaíoch ionchasach atá ann do Chontae na Mí maidir le sruthanna cistithe , go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí iniúchadh ar na modhanna gur féidir feabhsú le cur chuige an Chomhairle cur isteach ar chistiúchain, agus cistiúchain a fháil, agus agus go mbeadh an féideartheacht foireann a thiomnú don réimse seo san áireamh.”*

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

Meath County Council is very conscious of the wide range of EU funding streams available and the potential benefits to the county in availing of these funding opportunities (e.g. Interreg). Staff recently attended the EU Transnational INTERREG Economic Development Workshop hosted by the East Border Region which was useful in terms of identifying funding sources and potentially qualifying projects.

Under the National Graduate Recruitment Programme the Council has successfully recruited a Graduate for Economic Enterprise and Business Development and it is proposed to assign the role of European Officer to the new recruit.



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The work programme set out for the Graduate to act as European Officer will be to identify potential funding sources and projects that could benefit from EU funding. The new staff member will also have a role in working in collaboration with the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly, East Border Region, the Irish Regions office and other potential partners involved in sourcing funding under the EU programmes.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch**

*“That Meath County Council welcomes the recent housing meeting in Buvinda House on 31st March organised by the Housing and Community Strategic Policy Committee and, recognising the immediate nature of the housing crisis in Meath with increasing numbers at risk of homelessness, not least from the threat of repossession, calls for the immediate production of a concise, time framed, action plan with specific objectives and implementation and monitoring measures / Go bhfáiltíonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí roimh an gcuinniú tithíochta a bhí ann i dTeach Buvinda ar an 31 Márta eagraithe ag an gCoiste um Beartais Straitéiseacha ar Thithíocht agus Phobal agus á n-aithint bunús práinneach na géarchéime tithíochta i gContae na Mí agus bagairt easpa dídine roimh mhéideanna airde daoine, ní amháin mar gheall ar athshealbhú, go n-éilíonn sí plean gníomhaíochta comair le spriocanna sonracha mar aon le beartais chur chun feidhme agus monatóireachta a chur i bhfeidhnm.”*

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

Meath County Council has submitted to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government its proposed Delivery Programme in response to the Social Housing Strategy 2020, detailing responses in respect to the delivery of units under various mechanisms, including Acquisitions, Construction, Social Housing Leasing Initiative, Return of Vacant Units to Productive Use, liaison with Approved Housing Bodies and Refurbishment Schemes. The announcement of funding will facilitate the Housing Department in activating this programme, where funding has been provided, and to inform elected members of details of same.

The Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee will continue to have an ongoing role in devising appropriate policies in respect to all elements of the Housing function, as the membership decides, for consideration by full Council. This role will naturally be guided at present by the current high demand for social housing, and in the context of national policy.

### **7.4 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan**



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*With regard to the initiative of Minister for Tourism Paschal Donohoe in recognising the key role of local authorities in his Department's new tourism policy, 'People, Place & Policy, Growing Tourism to 2025', I call on Meath County Council to implement the recommendations therein:*

- 1. Support communities in tourism development, and co-operate with neighbouring authorities as appropriate to maximise tourism opportunities for the region as a whole.*
- 2. Identify tourism as a priority in the Local Economic and Community Plans, and provide support to start-up and developing tourism enterprises.*

### **Response:**

A presentation on Meath Tourism Work Programme for 2015 will be made at the April Council Meeting.

### **7.5 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan**

*"In light of the adverse findings for the potential of Wind Power in the Meath Area arising from the findings of the UK Met Office Measured Wind Speeds Report commissioned by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, I call on Meath County Council to bring the findings to the attention of the Ministers for the Environment and Energy, and to An Bord Pleanála."*

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

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government is currently conducting a targeted review of its Wind Energy Development Guidelines in relation to noise, proximity and shadow flicker. It is proposed to update the relevant sections of the existing Guidelines on those specific issues. The revised guidance will also include a number of technical appendices which are being developed to assist planning authorities in relation to noise assessment, monitoring and the setting of planning conditions. Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála are deemed to be planning authorities under the Act.

It is noted that the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland are stakeholders in this review and have commissioned consultants to carry out specific studies including one in respect of wind farm noise.

The period for making of a submission closed in February 2014 and the Department is currently assessing the large number of submissions received during the consultation phase.



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Following consideration of the submissions, the Minister will publish revised Wind Energy Guidelines under section 28 of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2014. Planning Authorities shall have regard to those guidelines in exercising their function, as shall An Bord Pleanála in determining any subsequent appeal.

### **7.6 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*"To call on all Councillors to fully support the retention of acute 24/7 psychiatric care at Our Lady's Hospital in Navan. It is our County Meath hospital, and we must send a clear message to the Government and the HSE, that we are fully united, in our support, for the acute psychiatric service for people and patients living in Navan and in Co. Meath, for patient care and safety. I ask that this motion is sent to the Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar, and all Meath Oireachtas Members."*

### **7.7 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*"I call on all Councillors of Meath County Council to support my motion of no confidence in Irish Water, and to call on Minister Alan Kelly T.D. and the Fine Gael/Labour Party Government to abolish Irish water."*

### **7.8 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding**

*"That Meath County Council calls on both the Department of Social Protection and Meath Partnership to immediately rescind the letters asking community and voluntary organisations to pay €235 per Tús worker per year."*

### **7.9 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly**

*"That this Council notes the increasing casualization of employment, adding to the high levels of economic inequality; acknowledges the increasing prevalence of zero and low hour contracts; calls on the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to adopt an industrial relations policy that ends zero hour contracts and protects workers, creating a benchmark for sustainable decent employment / Go n-aithníonn an Comhairle seo an méadú i ndíbhanú na hoibre a chuireann le leibhéil airde neamhionannas eacnamaíochta; go n-aithníonn sí an dul in airde ar chonarthaí uaire ísle agus nialachais agus go n-éilíonn sí ar an Aire Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta polasaí chaidreamh tionsclaíoch a ghlacadh a chuireann deireadh le conarthaí nialachais ionas go gcruthófar tagarmharc maidir le fostaíocht inbhuanaithe chuibhiúil."*

### **7.10 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**



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*“This Council calls on Minister Alex White T.D. and the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources to scrap the controversial and confusing Eircode design, and asks that a free and open tender, that does not exclude small business, be held for the design of a modern, smart, structured postcode with integrated geolocation (GPS) data.”*

### **7.11 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy**

*“This Council welcomes the publication of the 'Guidelines for Setting & Managing Speed Limits' which was recently launched by Minister for Transport, Sport & Tourism Paschal Donohoe TD. However we call on the Minister to review the default speed limit of 50km per hour which currently applies in housing estates, and ask that he set a default of 30km per hour for all housing estates.”*

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

- 8.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation
- 8.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment
- 8.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing Construction
- 8.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Councillors.

## **9 Any Other Business**

The Cathaoirleach provided a report on the activities regarding the St. Patrick’s Day travel to New York and this was noted by the Councillors.