



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes Monthly Meeting

7th July, 2014, 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, 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:

Officials in attendance:

County Manager: Jackie Maguire

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

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan,
Planning Staff: Fiona Redmond, Pat Gallagher

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 12th May, 2014.
The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 12th May, 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.
- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 19th May, 2014.
The minutes of Special Planning Meeting meeting held on 19th May, 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.



- 1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on the 6th June, 2014
The minutes of the Annual Meeting meeting held on 6th June, 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late James Gogarty, former Trim Town Foreman.
- Maura McCormack (Transportation) on the death of her mother-in-law Mary (May) McCormack.
- Oliver Carey (Corporate Services) on the death of his mother-in-law Josephine (Josie) Gore.
- Marie Mulhaire (Planning Section) on the death of her mother Catherine (Kathleen) Mulhaire.
- The family of the late Elizabeth Peavoy (daughter of Meath author, Mary Lavin)

Congratulations were extended to:

- The K & S Accordion Band on its recent success in an international competition in Poland.
- All the Meath Olympians who participated at the Special Olympics Ireland Games 2014.

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

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

- 5.1.1 In accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended, to consider the making of a declaration that the roads within Laganara View, Kentstown, Navan, Co Meath are declared to be public roads and furthermore that the said estate is taken in the charge of the Council as recommended by the Navan Area Members at the April monthly committee meeting on 14th April, 2014.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.



- 5.1.2 To receive a presentation from the Heritage Officer on the review of the County Meath Heritage Plan.

Dr. Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer, made the presentation which included information on:

- Overview of Heritage Activities
- The process regarding the review of Meath Heritage Plan was outlined as follows:
 - Heritage Forum to agree broad aims of Plan and invite pre-draft submissions
 - Identify heritage issues & needs
 - workshops to agree broad objectives and actions to be carried out
 - Prepare draft of plan for Heritage Forum to Agree
 - Present draft Heritage Plan to Management Team, SPC elected members for agreement
 - Public consultation on Draft Heritage Plan
 - Submissions considered. Submit final plan to Management Team, SPC and elected members for adoption and publication

Following the presentation Councillors had an opportunity to comment and the main issues raised were:

- The preservation and restoration of bridges such as Kilcarn bridge and the bridge in Dunboyne designed by Richard Turner
- Vandalism at the Hill of Tara site and the status re the consultative forum for the Hill of Tara
- Wind farms and their effect, if built, on the heritage of the county
- Pylons and their effect, if built, on the heritage of the county
- Signage and information at heritage sites
- Access for people with disabilities
- 1916 Commemoration activities

Responses were provided by the Heritage Officer and by the Management Team on the matters raised.

- 5.1.3 To consider the proposed material alteration of the Draft Local Area Plan for East Meath (Bettystown/ Laytown/ Mornington East / Donacarmey/ Mornington) 2014-2020 together with the Chief Executive's report on submissions and the recommendations of the *Laytown / Bettystown Municipal District* and, if thought fit, to resolve to make the LAP or amend as appropriate, with all, some or none of the material alterations as published pursuant to section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2014.



Fiona Redmond, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation and provided an overview of the process for the preparation of the Plan including details of the public consultation phase and workshops held with Councillors.

It was resolved to make the Local Area Plan for East Meath (Bettystown/Laytown/Mornington East /Donacarmey/ Mornington) 2014-2020 on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

Councillor Sharon Tolan proposed, seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, to defer the making of the Local Area Plan in order to review the submissions in more detail.

Following a discussion on the matter and clarification from Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, a short recess was requested by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**. Following the recess, **Councillor Sharon Tolan** advised that she was supporting the proposal to adopt the Local Area Plan for East Meath.

The Plan was then duly adopted.

5.2 Corporate Services

5.2.1 To note the 2013 Annual Review Report in respect of the performance of the County Meath Joint Policing Committee.

Noted by the Councillors

5.2.2 Appointment of two Councillors to the Audit Committee.

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the two positions on the Audit Committee.

Councillor Maria Murphy was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

Councillor Sean Drew was proposed for the position by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly**.

Councillor Michael Gallagher was proposed for the position by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

The Meetings' Administrator explained that, as there were three nominations for the two positions, a roll call vote would be taken and that the Councillor with the lowest number of votes would be eliminated.

Councillor	Vote	
Cllr. Joseph Bonner		Absent
Cllr. Sinead Burke	Cllr. Michael Gallagher	
Cllr. Shane Cassells	Cllr. Sean Drew	
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	Cllr. Maria Murphy	



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

Result: Cllr. Maria Murphy = 20 votes, Cllr. Sean Drew = 10 votes, Cllr. Michael Gallagher = 8 votes, Absent = 2



The Meetings' Administrator declared the result and confirmed the appointment of **Councillors Maria Murphy** and **Sean Drew** to the Audit Committee.

5.2.3 Appointment of seven Councillors to the Louth Meath Education Training Board.

Councillor Darren O' Rourke informed the meeting of the intention to establish a group of six to nominate **Councillor Caroline Lynch** to the LMETB and listed the members of the group as follows:

Councillors Darren O' Rourke, Caroline Lynch, Maria O' Kane, Johnny Guirke, Michael Gallagher, Eimear Ferguson. The nomination was proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

Councillor Shane Cassells informed the meeting of the intention to establish a group of six to nominate **Councillor Wayne Harding** to the LMETB and listed the members of the group as follows:

Councillors Shane Cassells, Claire O' Driscoll, Seán Smith, Seán Drew, Tommy Reilly, Bryan Reilly. The nomination was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

Councillor Wayne Harding informed the meeting of the intention to establish a group of six to nominate **Councillor Seán Smith** to the LMETB and listed the members of the group as follows:

Councillors Wayne Harding, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Damien O' Reilly, Sinéad Burke, Joe Reilly. The nomination was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly**

Councillors Sarah Reilly, Sharon Tolan, Nick Killian and Trevor Golden were nominated to the LMETB on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

5.2.4 Appointment of Councillors to the Joint Policing Committee (deferred pending guidelines).

Noted by the Councillors

5.2.5 To note membership of committees as referred to Municipal Districts at Annual Meeting on 6th June.

Noted by the Councillors



- 5.2.6 To note Chairs of Municipal Districts and to approve the payment of allowances for Chairs of Municipal Districts in accordance with LG12/14 – 30.05 2014

An amendment was proposed by **Councillor Darren O’ Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly** i.e. to note the Chairs of Municipal Districts and to postpone the payment of allowances for Chairs of Municipal Districts until the budget process is complete.

A roll call Vote was taken on the amendment as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Joseph Bonner				Absent
Cllr. Sinead Burke	FOR			
Cllr. Shane Cassells	FOR			
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy		AGAINST		
Cllr. Francis Deane		AGAINST		
Cllr. Sean Drew	FOR			
Cllr. Eimear Ferguson	FOR			
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald		AGAINST		
Cllr. Enda Flynn		AGAINST		
Cllr. Wayne Forde		AGAINST		
Cllr. Joe Fox		AGAINST		
Cllr. Noel French		AGAINST		
Cllr. Michael Gallagher	FOR			
Cllr. David Gilroy		AGAINST		
Cllr. Trevor Golden		AGAINST		
Cllr. Johnny Guirke	FOR			
Cllr. Wayne Harding	FOR			
Cllr. James Holloway		AGAINST		
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal		AGAINST		
Cllr. Tom Kelly		AGAINST		
Cllr. Sharon Keogan		AGAINST		
Cllr. Nick Killian		AGAINST		
Cllr. Caroline Lynch	FOR			
Cllr. Stephen McKee	FOR			
Cllr. Ronan McKenna	FOR			
Cllr. Paddy Meade		AGAINST		
Cllr. Maria Murphy		AGAINST		



Cllr. Gerry O' Connor		AGAINST		
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll	FOR			
Cllr. Maria O' Kane	FOR			
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly	FOR			
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke	FOR			
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	FOR			
Cllr. Joe Reilly	FOR			
Cllr. Sarah Reilly		AGAINST		
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	FOR			
Cllr. Sean Smith	FOR			
Cllr. Alan Tobin		AGAINST		
Cllr. Sharon Tolan		AGAINST		
Cllr. Gillian Toole		AGAINST		
Result	18	21		1

The amendment was defeated and item 5.2.6 was then approved on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

- 5.2.7 To consider and approve reserved functions that may be performed in respect of a Municipal District or by the Local Authority.

Des Foley, Director of Services, informed the meeting that the 24 reserved functions, as mentioned above, were discussed at the CPG meeting. The recommendation to the CPG was that 8 of the 24 functions would be carried out at Municipal District level. The CPG recommended that, in addition, reserved functions 1 (Civic Honour) and 6 (Second Legal Opinion) should be carried out at MD level. It was explained that there is a right of 'call in' to the plenary Council at any stage. An amendment regarding number 16 was proposed by **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

The reserved functions that may be performed in respect of a Municipal District or by the Local Authority were approved, subject to the amendment of No. 16, on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

- 5.2.8 To consider and approve draft SPC Scheme.

Des Foley, Director of Services, gave an overview of the SPC scheme and explained that approval was being sought to proceed with the next stage of the process i.e. public consultation and the seeking of sectoral representation from the national pillars. The draft scheme was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.



- 5.2.9 To receive and adopt draft Standing Orders for Meath County Council.

The Meetings' Administrator advised the meeting that the amendments to Standing Orders were brought before the CPG and that agreement was not reached on two particular items i.e. the start time of the monthly meetings and the procedures regarding bringing motions before the Council.

Councillor Noel French requested the inclusion in standing orders of a provision to allow Councillors who wish to

use the Irish language have 10 minutes of speaking time.

It was agreed that the amendments would be addressed by the whips and that the item would be placed on the agenda of the September meeting.

5.3 Community & Enterprise

- 5.3.1 To resolve to establish a Local Community Development Committee in accordance with section 36(1) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, outlined the process to date. He advised that until the PPN is established interim nominees would be appointed from the Community and Voluntary sector.

A lengthy discussion took place and Councillors raised a number of issues regarding representation on the LCDC. Clarification was provided by Kevin Stewart on the various issues.

The Councillors resolved to establish a Local Community Development Committee on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

- 5.3.2 To consider and approve the recommended nominees in accordance with Section 128C of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

5.4 Environment

- 5.4.1 To receive proposed Amenity and Lawn Mower Grants allocations for 2014 and approve same if thought fit.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly**.



- 5.4.2 To consider submissions received during the display period for the Draft Meath County Council Parks Bye-Laws 2014 and if thought fit to resolve to make the Bye Laws in accordance with Section 200 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.
- Councillors raised a number of issues regarding enforcement of the bye laws and responses were provided by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer.

The Councillors resolved to make the Bye Laws in accordance with Section 200 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.5 Finance

- 5.5.1 To receive a report on the Management Accounts of Meath County Council in respect of Q1 2014.
- Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, advised that at end of 1st quarter Meath County Council was on budget and this was noted by the Councillors.
- 5.5.2 To approve (i) revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December, 2013 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, with respect to Navan Town Council.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

5.6 Transportation

- 5.6.1 To consider the submissions made, if any, in relation to the publication of the "Draft" Patrick Street, Trim Traffic Restriction Bye-Laws 2014 and, if thought fit, to resolve to make Bye-Laws relating to restriction of vehicles having an unladen weight in excess of 3 tonne from entering upon Patrick Street, Trim, Co Meath.

Councillors resolved to make the Bye Laws on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator advised of the recommendations of the Protocol Committee as follows:

- That the Council accepts the request from the Meath Wind Turbine Information Group to make a presentation to the full Council at the September meeting and that information would be provided by the Planning Department on the process of wind energy development.
- That the Council accepts the request from Youth Work Ireland Meath group to make a presentation to the full Council at the October meeting regarding its work and plans for the future.
- That the Council accepts the proposal from Trim Municipal District, for the erection of a memorial in Trim to commemorate those who had served and died in World War I from the Trim and South Meath areas.
- The recommendations, as presented, were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 RW 14/2014 – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport re. Community Involvement Schemes.

Noted

7.2 RW 15/2014 – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport re. Additional Funding under the Restoration Improvement Programme.

Noted

7.3 Circular: Housing 25/2014 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Implementation Plan on the State's Response to Homelessness.

Noted

7.4 LG 05/2014 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Commencement of Certain Provisions) (No.3) Order 2014 Establishment Day Order – Transfer Date Order.

Noted

7.5 LG 16/2014 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Representational Payment for Councillors and Extension of Grace Period from 31 August 2014 to 30 June 2015 in Respect of the Payment of Gratuities to Certain Former Elected Members – Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013.

Noted



7.6 LG 17/2014 - Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Local Government Act 2001 - Taxation of Allowances under Section 143 and Gratuities under Section 142.

Noted

8.0 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“May I please ask the Chief Executive if any progress has been made in relation to flood risk land drainage. Has the Local Authority put a pilot scheme in place to work with the OPW and farming community?”

A response was provided by Joe Fahy, Director of Services, Transportation & Housing Departments as follows:

The Transportation Strategic Policy Committee met on 25th Feb. 2014, at which 2 members of the Meath IFA were present. During a discussion on road conditions in North Meath the Director of Services, Transportation Department suggested that the Council, IFA and OPW consider a pilot scheme whereby they identify a specific catchment area for a scoping study. The area chosen should be small enough to manage and big enough to make an impact. The study would inform on best practice in maintaining local roads, specifically relating to drainage regimes. The Council agreed to explore the matter with the OPW also. While there has been some informal discussions between the 3 agencies in the meantime, a formal meeting has been arranged for 21st July in the Offices of the OPW, Trim where the attendees will include representatives from the OPW, Arterial Drainage Division, Meath County Council Transportation Department and representatives from Meath IFA. This meeting will explore the potential for a coordinated approach to the underlying drainage issues where they exist and seek to scope the extent of the study.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“What steps have been taken by the Executive to implement 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?”

A response was provided by Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, as follows:



*For the purpose of informing Councillors who may be unfamiliar with the Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) process or the Clonmaggadden SDZ I will briefly summarise the background. In accordance with S.166 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 the Government may, by order, designate sites as Strategic Development Zones where **“in the opinion of the Government, specified development is of economic or social importance to the state..”** Following such a designation a “Planning Scheme” is prepared which sets out the development that will be permitted on the lands and a “Development Agency” responsible for coordinating the delivery of the scheme is designated.*

Lands at Clonmaggadden, north of Navan were designated by Government for a SDZ in July 2001 and a “Planning Scheme” for the lands was approved by An Bord Pleanála in May 2004. To date no development has happened on these lands. A number of registered landowners are involved. A planning application by one of the landowners (Vitgeson Ltd.) was refused in 2011 on the basis that it was not consistent with the permitted planning scheme.

At the time of designation Meath County Council was the relevant Planning Authority, Navan Town Council became the Planning Authority following the Navan boundary extension in 2009 and following the recent abolition of the Town Council, Meath County Council is again the relevant Planning Authority. Meath County Council (the Executive of the Council) is the “Development Agency” for the scheme. In accordance with S.171 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 a planning scheme may be revoked with the consent of the development agency and the revocation of a scheme is a reserved function of the Planning Authority.

Navan Town Council notified the Executive of Meath County Council as the Development Agency of the Notice of Motion (referred to in the question) passed at their March 2014 meeting which seeks the revocation of the planning scheme.

In a verbal report to the Town Council at the March meeting the then Town Manager set out the process to be followed including his view that the County Council, as the Development Agency, would first wish to engage with the landowners within the SDZ and with the Department to seek their views and this has happened.

In response to the question from Cllr Cassells I confirm that the following steps have been taken since the adoption of the motion by Navan Town Council:

- (1) The Planning Department wrote to each of the registered landowners on 16th May last following confirmation of a land registry search to update our records in this regard. The letter to the landowners outlined the nature of the decision which was taken at the March 2014 meeting of Navan Town Council and stated that the purpose of the letter was to consult with all stakeholders before the Development Agency would formulate its position on this matter and decide whether or not consent would be given. Submissions were invited from the landowners by June 30th last.*
- (2) The Planning Department also wrote to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government as the sponsoring Government department of the SDZ and to NAMA (on the basis of information acquired in the land registry search).*
- (3) Responses were received from 3 of the 6 registered landowners by the specified date and these are being considered.*



- (4) *There has been no formal response from the Department to date however there are ongoing verbal contacts.*
- (5) *No response has been received from NAMA to date*
- (6) *It is also noted that Section 166 (6) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 indicates that the Government may revoke or amend an order to designate sites for SDZs made under this section. The Act does not specify a formal procedure for so doing nor does it specify the circumstances in which such an order might be made. It is our understanding that no revocations have ever been made under this provision of the Act.*

The next step in the process is that the Development Agency will consider the submissions received. It may also be necessary to seek further advice on the process and on any possible legal, financial or other implications for the Council if the scheme is revoked. Clarification may also be necessary on what the position is if the scheme is revoked but the Government order designating the lands is not revoked or amended as under the provisions of the Act these appear to be separate processes.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors Darren O'Rourke, Joe Reilly, Sinéad Burke, Eimear Ferguson, Michael Gallagher, Johnny Guirke, Caroline Lynch, Maria O'Kane

"To call on Meath County Council to reduce the Local Property Tax by 15% in the upcoming Annual Budget."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

Information was provided by Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, as follows:
Meath County Council, in the preparation of its Annual Budget, will be considering The Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014.

Under section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, a local authority may as a reserved function resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%. This power will be available to local authorities effective from 2015.

Section 20 of the 2012 Act requires that, in varying the rate, a local authority must take account of its financial position, and Meath County Council, under the direction of the Chief Executive, shall prepare:

- *An estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which the varied rate is to have effect;*
- *A summary of the financial position of Meath County Council including the amounts standing as its accumulated assets and liabilities not less than one month before the date on which it is proposed to pass the resolution;*
- *A Report detailing the estimation of the financial effect of the varied rate on the economy of its functional area, including on those persons who will be liable to pay local property tax.*



A public consultation process considering the setting of the local adjustment factor provides for a period of at least 30 days during which written submissions will be accepted. A report summarising the written submissions received from the public consultation shall be prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive. The decision on the variation of the basic rate of LPT is a reserved function of the local authority, and will need to be considered by a council meeting before the end of September, with both the Revenue Commissioners and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government being formally notified by 30 September each year of any resolutions passed.

Based on the information provided and following a lengthy discussion on the matter the motion was withdrawn on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

The Cathaoirleach requested an extension of time for the meeting, which was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

10.0 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive Orders - Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive Orders - Environment

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive Orders – Housing Construction

Noted

11.0 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies

(None)

12.0 Any Other Business

The following matters were raised:

- The Council's role in the planning application to An Bord Pleanála re wind turbines.

It was noted that the Council would be consulted as part of the process but would have no decision making role.