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Ordinary Meeting

5th October 2015, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brian Fitzgerald

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, 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, Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Ger Murphy, David Jones, Michael Griffin, Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th September 2015.

The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th September 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance meeting held on 28th September, 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.



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2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Liz Dowdall, Corporate Services on the death of her brother George (Gogie) Gibney.
- Julie McDermott, Planning Section on the death of her husband George McDermott.
- Leo Corrigan, Water Services Section on the death of his mother Nuala Corrigan.
- The family of the late Brian Friel, Playwright.
- The 5 victims of the shooting at Umpqua Community College, Oregon.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ratoath, Drumree and Seneschalstown GAA teams on their recent success.
- Kilmessan Camogie team and Dee Rangers Ladies team on their recent success.
- Navan town on receiving the Purple Flag Award.
- The Pride of Place Winners in Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District and the Community Department on organising the event.
- All involved in the organisation of Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival.
- All the Tidy Towns groups around the county on their achievements in the national Tidy Towns Awards.
- Lara Fagan on organising the recent Pedometer Challenge.
- The Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive on the successful visit of the group from Cary, North Carolina.
- All those involved in securing the Gold medal for Trim in the Entente Florale competition.
- Stephen O' Hare, Motor Tax, on being selected as an Umpire at the All Ireland Senior Football final.
- Dunboyne Motor Club on its recent successful event.



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- All involved in the newly refurbished street in Ashbourne.
- The GAA on the official opening of the Dunganny centre.
- The team involved in the Guth Gafa documentary festival in Kells.
- The Meath winners of the Blas na hÉireann Awards.

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

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services & Fire and Emergency Services

- 5.1.1 To consider and if thought fit to adopt the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft and subject to such amendments as are considered proper. The Scheme, if adopted, will come into operation on 15th February 2016.

The Meetings Administrator provided a summary of the process involved in developing the draft Polling Scheme. It was noted that the six Municipal Districts had recommended the adoption of the Scheme subject to a couple of modifications, which were now made to the draft document.

The draft Polling Scheme was duly adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

- 5.1.2 To receive presentation on the Fire and Emergency Operations Plan.

The Cathaoirleach advised that following the presentation, there would be an update on Riverwalk Court Apartments by Des Foley, Director of Services. He also advised that he had received an emergency motion, on the matter from **Councillor Darren O' Rourke**.

Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer, made the presentation which included information on:

- The organisational structure
- Fire Stations, Fire Appliances, Equipment and Water Supplies
- Training, Health and Safety and Communications



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- Operational Roles and Procedures
- Operational Standards
- Fire Prevention and Emergency Management

Following the presentation, Councillors raised a number of issues and responses were provided by the Chief Fire Officer. The Fire and Emergency Operations Plan was duly noted by the Councillors.

Des Foley, Director of Services, provided an update and informed that there had been ongoing engagement with all the stakeholders in an effort to seek a solution through a cooperative approach. It was noted that a meeting was held on Friday with the residents and their legal representatives. At that meeting, the current position was discussed including the possible next steps to be taken to address the fire safety deficiencies identified in the property. Residents were informed that a decision to take a statutory approach would involve a further inspection of the properties and possibly the serving of fire safety notices to various parties. The Council advised the residents that a decision would be made on the next course of action and that all parties would be advised of this decision by the end of this week. It was noted that the Report prepared in July highlighted deficiencies but that there was no immediate risk to residents in the building.

The report was noted by the Councillors.

Emergency Motion submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors

“That Meath County Council views with great concern the ongoing situation in Riverwalk Court in Ratoath; we call on the Chief Executive, as a matter of urgency, to work with the residents and management company of Riverwalk Court, Meath TDs, central Government, the Department and all relevant stakeholders to help ensure that residents do not have to bear the cost of rectifying problems which were not of their making; we reiterate the need for stronger planning legislation and regulation and resources to allow local authorities to inspect properties and enforce standards.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O’ Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

Following a lengthy debate on the matter and the update from Des Foley, Director of Services, the motion was adopted.



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- 5.1.3 To receive a report and recommendations for 1916 Centenary Community Commemorative Grants.

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian and County Coordinator of the 2016 programme of activities provided an update and presented the list of grant recommendations regarding Community Commemorative projects totalling €44,165.

The grant recommendations were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

- 5.1.4 To note date Monday, 2nd November for Annual Remembrance Mass for Deceased Councillors and Staff.

Noted by the Councillors. **Councillor Noel French** raised the matter of organising an ecumenical service instead of a remembrance Mass and it was agreed that this would be considered in the future.

- 5.1.5 To note date Monday 23rd November for Preliminary Budget Meeting at 10.00 a.m. and Statutory Budget Meeting at 2.00 p.m.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.1.6 To note dates for holding of the Municipal District budget meetings:

Municipal District	Date	Time
Ratoath	Tuesday 3 rd November	9.30am
Ashbourne	Tuesday 3 rd November	2.00pm
Navan	Wednesday 4 th November	9.30am
Kells	Wednesday 4 th November	2.00pm
Laytown-Bettystown	Thursday 5 th November	9.30am
Trim	Thursday 5 th November	2.00pm

Noted by the Councillors.

5.2 Finance and Water Services

- 5.2.1 Update on the provision of Water Services in County Meath.

Gerry Boyle, Senior Engineer, made a presentation, which included information on:



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- Service Level Agreement
- Main Areas of Service Activity
- Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution
- Drinking Water Quality Management
- Wastewater Collection and Treatment
- Operation and Maintenance
- Wastewater Discharge Quality Management
- Water Conservation
- Capital Investment, Planning
- Rural Water Programme

Following the presentation, Councillors raised a number of issues and responses to questions and the issues raised were provided by Gerry Boyle.

5.3 Environment

5.3.1 To receive a report and responses to submissions made to the Draft Litter Management Plan 2015 -2017 which was on public display from the 22nd June until 31st July 2015, and to adopt if thought fit, the said plan as recommended by the Environment, Water Services, Fire and Emergency Planning SPC.

The Draft Litter Management Plan 2015 -2017 was adopted by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Noted by the Councillors.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of



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some of the items. The CPG also noted reports from the following SPC meetings: Planning Economic Development and Enterprise on 23rd September and Environmental on 25th September.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised of the following recommendations agreed at the Protocol Committee:

- That representatives from the Alzheimer Society of Ireland would make a presentation to the full Council – date to be confirmed.
- That ICTU would make a presentation to the full Council re Congress Charter for Fair Conditions at work - date to be confirmed.

The Protocol Committee received an update from Ciarán Mangan on the 1916 Centenary Community Commemorative Projects and the grant recommendations.

Reports on conferences submitted by Councillors were noted and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.

The recommendations of the Protocol Committee were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from Leo Varadkar T.D., Minister for Health in response to Notice of Motion 9.4 adopted at the May meeting of the Full Council re. psychiatric services at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Circular Letter PL6/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 – Commencement order.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.3 Correspondence from Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to Notice of Motion 9.15 adopted at the September meeting of the Full Council re. feasibility study of the costs involved to have the M1, M3 & M4 toll free for night time hours during the months from October to March.



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Noted by the Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“Would Meath County Council consider carrying out a review of the perceived visual impact compared to the actual visual impact of a completed road scheme. For example the M3 in relation to a new application for the Slane Bypass?”

Response:

A reliable review of the type suggested may be difficult to obtain at this stage if, as is understood, the question relates to a review of various individuals' past perceptions of visual impact compared with their current opinion. There may be a tendency to reconstruct the past and rely on memories rather than make reference to source data (e.g. articles/letters in the local media, recorded statements, archives that people may have kept themselves or other contemporaneous documentation). Meath County Council would still have various letters and transcripts from the oral hearing from interested parties and from some of the people who were included in the Motorway scheme, which could possibly be regarded as baseline data. However, this information is not compiled in a readily accessible format and the Council would not have the expertise to ascertain the value, if any, of this information.

The Council would not be in a position to undertake a review of the type mentioned without additional resources and external help. Notwithstanding this, the question has been referred to Transport Infrastructure Ireland to ascertain if any such studies are planned or have been undertaken by them. The Council has also asked if they are aware of any similar international studies or research that may have investigated perception versus reality in relation to visual or other impacts of road schemes.

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I ask the executive how many social houses, are they hoping to build next year 2016 and how many houses will become available that are currently lying idle and boarded up at present throughout County Meath?”

Response:



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As noted in the Chief Executive's Report, Department approval has now been received to proceed to construction tender for 16 units in Bettystown, with delivery expected in 2016. Work on the design, planning approval and construction stages of the three approved direct construction projects under the Social Housing Strategy 2015-2017 (83 units) will be advanced in 2016, with anticipated delivery in 2017.

Excluding pyrite affected, fire damaged and potential demolition units, there are forty two units vacant within our housing stock at present, of which twenty eight units are currently subject to works. All these units will be returned to productive use and our aim is to minimise the length of time that properties remain vacant as ongoing vacancies occur.

In respect to the six pyrite affected units and three long term vacant rural cottages, a specific proposal has been submitted to the Department for funding in respect to same. In anticipation of funding, tender preparation for these works has commenced with a view to proceeding with works and completion of these long term vacant units in 2016.

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

"Can the Chief Executive please advise of the amount of Capital Funding Meath County Council has on deposit/invested that was originally received under Part V of the Planning Acts, confirm if these funds are ring-fenced for social housing development by Meath County Council and of the process for releasing these funds for the early acquisition/construction of housing?"

Response:

The current balance of ring-fenced Part V funds is €3.1m. Meath County Council also has a liability to repay the Housing Finance Agency €10.1m. in respect of housing units previously purchased by the Council under Part V agreements. The ring-fenced funds are required to service this Part V loan liability and, as such, are not available for the construction or acquisition of Housing.

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"Can you advise as of end September 2015

a) the number of derelict sites in the county?

b) the number of sites classified as being on urban land?



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c) the income from the derelict sites levy over 2015?

d) how many sites has the local authority entered into a bond with the property owner instead of the levy being charged?

e) where a bond has been entered into what is the allowed time lag for the property to be developed?"

Response:

The Derelict Sites Act 1990 provides the statutory basis to Local Authorities to prevent sites within their functional areas being or becoming a derelict site, and to ensure that owners rectify the site in question. The Act allows Authorities to prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served, to purchase land compulsory in certain circumstances and to charge owners for the cost. The Act also requires Local Authorities to maintain a Derelict Sites Register and allows for the charging of an annual levy based on 3% of its valuation on a derelict site in an urban area which has been entered into the register on the 1st January of that year, and where its market value has been determined.

The Act allows the Minister to prescribe an area to be an "urban area" and for County Meath some 118 Townlands have been so designated.

The Act defines a Derelict Site as any land which detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question because of; structures which are in a ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition, or the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or structures, or the presence, deposit or collection of litter, rubbish, debris or waste.

The Council receives many complaints every year about derelict sites. While some would not come within the above definition and would be dealt with under other legislation such as the Waste Management or Litter Acts, our records show that over 400 properties have been inspected by Council Inspectors since 2007 and of which 8 have been entered into the aforementioned register and are subject to the 3% levy.

In all cases and as a first step, the Council seeks to engage with the owners and in many cases this results in a desired outcome without the need to go through the formal process prescribed in the Act. It is only in cases where, having served prescribed notices, there is no engagement by the owners, considered to be in a position to restore the site to a non-derelict condition within a certain time period, are entries made in the Register and with the 3% levy accruing thereafter.

Properties entered in the register and subject to the levy cannot be sold until the required works are carried out and the levy paid.



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There have been no levy payments to date in 2015 or no bonds tendered in lieu of such levies. Where a local authority agrees to accepting a bond in the amount of the levy, a time period of up to five years can be allowed to allow development on the site take place.

It is pointed out that, in recent years, there have been particular difficulties with regard to implementing the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, including properties being put into receivership or liquidation, under the control of NAMA or the subject of disputes over ownership. These difficulties can serve to delay action in having the sites made non-derelict.

The recently adopted Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015 seeks to deal with anomalies / weaknesses in the Derelict Sites legislation and provides a mechanism to penalise property owners who choose to do nothing and to allow further dereliction at the cost of the community.

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“What are the staffing, funding and service delivery comparisons between Meath LEO and other LEOs in the Mid East region. / Céard iad na difríochtaí idir soláthar foirne, cistiúcháin agus soláthar seirbhísí idir Oifig Fiontar Áitiúil na Mí agus Oifigí Fiontar Áitiúil eile sa reigiún Lár na Tíre Thoir?”

Response:

The Local Enterprise Office in Meath is now back up to strength after a period where the staff was under considerable pressure due to the retirement of the Head of LEO and other staff on maternity leave. LEO staff were supported by the Council's Enterprise Team staff during this period. In September, the new Head of Local Enterprise, Joe English took up his position. The LEO team will continue the work to integrate their skills and offerings with the Enterprise team within Meath County Council to provide a seamless service to would be entrepreneurs and existing businesses in the area.

The team is looking forward to this opportunity to deliver the benefits of the synergies between the LEO and the resources of the County Council for the benefit of the business community, as envisaged by the legislation setting up the network of thirty one Local Enterprise Offices. The LEO's primary remit is to develop the micro-enterprise sector – those companies with less than 10 employees – through the provision of financial and other capacity and capability building supports.

In 2015 the LEO was very actively involved with the local business community in Co. Meath delivering training and development programmes along with making business



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growth and expansion grants available to qualifying companies. The primary objective of the LEOs is to assist businesses to create and sustain jobs and the LEO Meath continues to rank highest in the Mid-East region in both the total number of jobs created and sustained in client companies, according to the latest statistics from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Meath LEO also supports the greatest number of companies in the region.

Headline achievements so far in 2015 include:

- Eighteen companies have been granted financial support
- Twenty four applications for microfinance loans have been processed
- Two hundred and fourteen companies and individuals have attended business development training courses
- Eighty four would be entrepreneurs have attended eight-week Start Your Own Business Courses
- Three hundred and twenty five individual business advice sessions have been delivered to would be entrepreneurs
- Seven existing businesses participated in the six month advanced business development Accelerate programme with a further twelve established business taking part in the Discovery Zone programme.
- Forty six companies have benefitted from one-to-one mentoring sessions
- Two hundred school students took part in the County Student Enterprise awards, with three teams going forward to represent Meath in the National finals.

Other activities included the active participation of Meath companies in the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur programme and the preparation of projects for the Enterprise Ireland competitive fund for LEOs.

For comparison purposes with other counties in the Mid East the published figures for 2014 were as follows:

LEO Employment 2014 - by NUTS III Region	No. of Clients	Total Jobs 2014	Total Jobs Growth 2014
Kildare	103	683	63
Meath	180	806	154
Wicklow	97	572	137
Mid-East Total	380	2,061	354



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Response noted by the Councillors.

8.6 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson

“What is the estimated time of completion for the Boyne Greenway project from the estuary to the source of the Boyne. / An féidir meastachán a thabhairt maidir le cathain a chríochnéofar tionscadal Féarbhealach na Bóinne ó inbhear go foinse na Bóinne?”

Response:

The Boyne Greenway Feasibility Study looked at a greenway between Trim and Drogheda. It did not consider a link to the Dublin to Galway greenway. However a link to Bettystown Beach via Mornington and joining Ramparts to Boyneside Trails and linking to the train station was considered.

The current status for the Boyne Greenway projects is as follows:

- Phase I: Drogheda Ramparts to Oldbridge Estate – Project complete, Louth reopening Ramparts after Land slide (October 2015).
- Phase II: Oldbridge Estate to Newgrange Visitor Centre – Topographical, Environmental and Archaeological surveys complete. Stakeholder meetings ongoing with final route options report to be circulated in September 2015. Part VIII, Detailed design and Tender Documents to be completed by December 2015.
- Boyneside Trails Route: Drogheda to Bettystown Beach via Mornington – Design options under review, Part VIII planned for Q2 2016.
- Drogheda Link: Joining Ramparts to Boyneside Trails and linking to train station: currently tendering for consultants for options design.
- Phase III: Newgrange to Slane: No funding to date.

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.7 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Subject to funding would Meath County Council work alongside housing agencies with a view to accommodating social housing on existing serviced sites in Meath County Council's charge?”

Response:



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The Approved Housing Bodies are identified as key delivery agents, in conjunction with Local Authorities, in the attainment of the national and local targets, as set out in the Social Housing Strategy 2020. The targets set out for Co. Meath are inclusive of units to be delivered by Meath County Council and those delivered by the Approved Housing Bodies.

Engagement with the Approved Housing Bodies will be both vital and necessary to ensure a co-ordinated approach at local level in meeting the demand for social housing in the County. Meath County Council recognises this, and is committed to fulfilling its leadership role concerning same, and build on existing collaboration with the voluntary housing sector.

The inaugural meeting between the active voluntary housing associations in the County and Meath County Council was held in July 2015, with a view to holding quarterly meetings. This forum represents a formal mechanism to coordinate our collective efforts in respect to social unit delivery in the County. As part of this process, a review of our land bank is currently being completed in order to identify opportunities to develop same through the Approved Housing Bodies, subject to funding and capacity.

Response noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“As very considerable concerns were raised during the course of the 2011 Oral Hearing by Dr. Doug Comer, Worlds Heritage expert, relating to the possible impact of the construction of the N2 Slane Bypass on the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site. I call on Meath County Council to consider engaging the services of a World Heritage expert at an early stage in any new planning application.”

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

Consideration of issues in relation to a bypass of Slane and any potential significant impact it may have on the World Heritage Site will be a key factor in preparing a new application to An Bord Pleanála for statutory approval. The Council will be mindful of this when procuring expert advice in relation to the scheme. Given that An Bord Pleanála specifically requested that the Council engages a ‘World Heritage Expert’ during the original application process, we anticipate that the services of such an expert will be required again. The Council accepts that it would be advisable to have input from them at an early stage of the re-application process.



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The motion, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells** was unanimously adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

"That Meath County Council adopts a similar scheme to Bristol Council of planting one tree per child in one year to counter climate change, with the Council providing the trees and the planting being done by the Council and volunteers."

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

The Council recognises the major contribution that trees make in enhancing biodiversity and in mitigating climate change as well as offering aesthetic and environmental value and social and economic benefits to our communities. As climate change increasingly becomes a reality, planting and caring for trees in our towns, villages and countryside become even more important.

Subject to funding and resources being available, it is submitted that a programme of tree planting can be carried out on a phased basis and complimenting the series of actions contained in the recently adopted County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020, in enhancing biodiversity and playing a crucial role in mitigating climate change. The Council's current Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan which is currently being reviewed also lists future actions as follows:

- Introduce a tree planting policy (carbon sequestration). Planting trees is one of the easiest ways to offset the local authority's carbon footprint and become carbon neutral. Trees absorb carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and wood, both of which are very useful for humans and other animals. In addition to offsetting our CO₂ emissions, it will provide wildlife habitats, enhance the natural landscape, and increase our native tree species.
- Use of council owned lands for tree planting initiatives.

The Council will work with schools, local communities and other stakeholders in promoting awareness and appreciation of trees and tree planting and where practicable, and in association with tree organisations, identify or provide locations which are suitable for particular tree species and which respect the local landscape.

As Councillors will be aware, the Council is actively involved in organising events for National Tree Week in Spring time each year. It is suggested that, in addition to the aforementioned actions, this involvement can be expanded upon to provide for a greater distribution of saplings through the schools, as well as enhanced education on



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good practice in tree management which is essential to improve understanding and appreciation of trees.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

Following a debate on the matter, the motion was noted.

9.3 **Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

"Can I call on my fellow Councillors to support my motion calling on the Council that the County Hall, Railway Street would be developed into a County Museum, when all staff are relocated to Buvinda House in Johnstown?"

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

The Council's move to its new Civic HQ at Buvinda House is scheduled to take place in 2016. However, the Chamber building at County Hall will continue to be used for Council meetings. Having regard to this scenario, the Council is at the preliminary stages in considering possible future uses of its property portfolio at Railway Street.

The development of a County Museum has been the subject of two previous motions i.e. at the Navan Municipal District in 2014 and at the full Council Meeting earlier this year. As part of the supporting information for these motions, it was noted 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. A project such as the development of a county museum would require significant funding and the Council's European Officer is currently identifying potential funding sources and projects that could benefit from EU Funding. Projects such as that mentioned in this Notice of Motion will be included in this remit.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly**.

Following a debate on the motion it was unanimously agreed that it would be referred to the Heritage Forum for consideration.

9.4 **Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew**

"In light of Circular RSD 01/2015, Meath County Council in preparing its 2016 Budget agrees to allocate sufficient resources and funding to permit the immediate completion



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of the reviews required to ensure the early putting in place of the new Special Speed Limit Bye-Law for County Meath.”

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

As part of the preparation process regarding the Council’s 2016 Statutory Budget, submissions are currently being prepared by each Directorate. The submission from the Transportation Directorate will cover all aspects of its service provision, including the new Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws for the county, which are to be in place by the end of 2017.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O’ Driscoll** was noted.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That Meath County Council explore the possibility of launching a new website www.councilhousetransfer.ie in order to aid the efficient management of housing transfer requests in the county. /Go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí iniúchadh ar na feidearthachtaí maidir le suíomh gréasáin nua a bhunadh é sin ná: www.councilhousetransfer.ie le cabhrú le bainistiú eifeachtach ar iarratais athrú tithíochta sa Chontae.”

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

The recent introduction of the integrated housing system, iHouse, represents the core IT system that will efficiently manage and integrate all aspects of the Housing function, including transfer applications. The implementation and utilisation of all iHouse functionalities is currently ongoing within the Housing Department, with a view to maximising service delivery and the management of all housing services and their related linkages.

Corporately, the design phase has commenced for the redesign of www.meath.ie by the IT Department, and in this context, opportunities will be explored with regard to how best to facilitate information on transfer applications and Meath County Council’s transfer policy, as contained in Section 10.1 of Meath County Council’s Allocation Scheme for Provision of Social Housing Support.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Darren O’ Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde** was noted.



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9.6 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

"That Meath County Council writes to the Department of Education to ask that an urgent review is carried out of the school transport scheme in light of the hardship and restricted options it is placing on some families in Co. Meath. /Go scríobhfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí chuig an Roinn Oideachais le impiú orthu go ndéanfar iniúchadh ar an gcóras iompar scoile mar gheall ar an gcruatan agus roghanna srianta a chuirtear ar theaghlaigh áirithe i gContae na Mí leis."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, was unanimously adopted.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I call on my fellow Councillors to support my motion that this Council writes to the Minister for Finance for a 1% levy/tax be placed on all types of gambling, in the upcoming budget for 2016."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

Following a lengthy debate on the motion a 'show of hands' vote was taken and the motion was defeated. (Result: 7 Against – 5 For)

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"The elected members of Meath County Council recognise the delay in publishing new windfarm guidelines as deliberate and as a complete failure by Minister Alex White and the current Government to serve the best interests of communities in Co. Meath and right across Ireland who are threatened by massive windfarm developments; we call for the publication of the new guidelines by 30th October 2015 at the very latest, or for the Minister to be replaced. /Aithníonn baill thofa Chomhairle Chontae na Mí gur theip d'aon gnó iomlán ag An Aire Alex White agus an Rialtas reatha plé le leasa na bpobal il gContae na Mí agus trasna na tíre a bhfuil bagairt na bhforbraíochtaí feirme ghaoithe ollmhóra os a gcomhair atá sa mhoill maidir le treorlínte nua fheirm ghaoithe a fhoilsiú; éilimid go bhfoilseofar na treorlínte nua roimh an 30 Deireadh Fómhair nó ba luaithe agus muna ndéanfar sin go roghneofar Aire nua."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.



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Following a lengthy debate an amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** as follows:

"The Elected Members of Meath County Council express their concern re the delay in publishing new windfarm guidelines and the very serious implications that arise from this, and call on the Minister to request An Bord Pleanála to defer any decision on such projects until the guidelines are published."

The amended motion was adopted following a show of hands vote. (Result: For = 18
Against = 15.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

"That Meath County Council requests a meeting with the Minister for Health Leo Varadkar to ascertain what steps have been taken to progress the Fine Gael commitment to build a new regional hospital in Meath before March 2016. /Go n-iarrfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí cruinniú leis an Aire Sláinte Leo Varadkar maidir lena chinntiú na céimeanna a glacadh go dtí seo chun tiomantais Fhine Gael ospidéal reigiúnach nua a thógáil i gContae na Mí roimh mí na Márta 2016."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**, was adopted.

Councillor Tom Kelly's dissent was noted.

9.10 Submitted by the Navan MD Councillors

"That Navan Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to petition the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as well as the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Transport seeking immediate emergency funding across all three of their departments in order to carry out the necessary works to repair Old Kilcarn Bridge before any further deterioration in its condition occurs."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly** was unanimously adopted.

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

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment



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10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing Construction

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

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Any Other Business