



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Monthly Meeting*

*1<sup>st</sup> December 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, 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:** Cllr. Suzanne Jamal

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

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

**Meetings' Administrator:** Olive Falsey

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

**Planning Staff:** Pat Gallagher, Senior Planner, Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2014.

The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

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

Councillor Wayne Harding referred to the presentation made by the Slane Bypass Group at the November meeting and the fact that questions were not allowed to be put to the presenters. He noted that under Standing Orders, Councillors are permitted to ask



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questions. The Meetings' Administrator explained the background to the decision, which was made by the Protocol Committee, and it was agreed that a letter of explanation would be issued to the Slane Bypass Group.

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Claire Kavanagh, Housing Department on the death of her father-in-law Tony Coyne.
- James Sheridan, Warden - Slane Village Enhancement /Community - Pride of Place on the death of his mother Mary Sheridan.
- Thomas and John McGuinness, Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District and Cianan McGuinness, former employee of Meath Co. Council on the death of their sister Charlotte McGuinness.
- The family of the late Mary Farrelly, former employee of Meath Co. Council.
- The family of the late Jack Fitzsimons, former Councillor and Senator. Tributes were paid to the late Jack Fitzsimons regarding his work as a politician both in Local and National Government.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Communities that participated in the recent All Island Pride of Place competition and the Kilberry Amenity and Heritage group on receiving the runner-up award in Category 1 of the main competition.
- Kells Life Saving Club on its success in a recent gala competition.
- Ratoath U/21 team on its recent success.
- All concerned with the organisation of the recent Enterprise Week.
- All concerned with the recent Business and Tourism 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**



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5.1.1 To receive presentation on the Corporate Plan 2014-2019.

Des Foley, Director of Services, made the presentation which included information on the strategic vision as set out in the Draft Corporate Plan i.e.

- Delivering Excellent Customer Services
- Leading Economic Development
- Building Strong Influential Partnerships
- Engaging the Larger Community
- Nurturing a Staff Excellence Culture
- Developing System and Process Capability

The service areas and priority actions were outlined together with priority projects to the end of 2015. Following the presentation, Councillors had an opportunity to comment and/or ask questions and responses were provided by the Chief Executive and the Management Team. The Chief Executive advised that the full Corporate Plan would be presented for adoption when finalised and that, in addition, an Annual Service Delivery Plan would have to be prepared in Q.1, 2015.

5.1.2 To agree revision of Standing Orders.

The Meetings' Administrator advised of the proposal in relation to Standing Order 14 regarding the order of Motions on the Council Agenda. The proposed revision provides that motions relevant to the business of the Council would be recorded first, followed by motions of national and/or international interest.

Agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

## **5.2 Planning**

5.2.1 To receive the Councillors' views in respect of a proposed development by North Meath Windfarm Ltd, the subject of the Chief Executive's report to An Bord Pleanála of November 2014 (as circulated) and if thought fit, to resolve to attach recommendations to that report in accordance with Section 37(E) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014.



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Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation on the Chief Executive's Report regarding the Strategic Infrastructure Development, Emlagh Wind Farm.

The presentation included information on the proposed development, the turbine site, energy policy, planning policy, and the recommendation for further information to be provided on a broad range of issues including:

- Traffic;
- Landscape & Visual;
- Heritage;
- Archaeology;
- Flooding.

Following the presentation the Council resolved to append the following submissions to the Chief Executive's report:

- Submission by Councillor Sarah Reilly
- Submission by Councillor Eugene Cassidy
- Submission by Councillor Paddy Meade
- Other issues raised by Elected Members
- **Councillor Darren O' Rourke's** motion, seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**: *'That the elected Members of Meath County Council unanimously oppose, in the strongest possible terms, the proposed development by North Meath Windfarm Ltd.'* The motion was agreed by all Councillors with the exception of **Councillor Maria Murphy**, who wished her dissent to be recorded.

### **6 Report from Protocol Committee**

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

- That the organisation Cultúr would make a presentation to the full Council early in 2015.
- With regard to the 1916 commemoration activities, the Protocol Committee, with assistance from the County Librarian, the Arts Officer and the Director of Solstice Arts Centre, would coordinate the Council's commemorative activities and would meet in January to start the process.



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Councillors expressed their concern that other stakeholders were not included and that there should be community and youth involvement in the planning of the activities. It was agreed that the Protocol Committee would consider the matters raised.

### **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in response to Notice of Item 8.7 - Notice of Motion (Housing) passed at the September Monthly Meeting.

The correspondence was welcomed by the Councillors, but the need to speedily address the issue of homelessness was noted. Following a short debate, it was agreed that the matters raised would be addressed through the Housing SPC.

- 7.2 LG 24/2014 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Part 15 – Local Government Act 2001 – Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.3 Launch of the Eastern-Midlands Draft Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 -2021.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.4 Circular Letter PL 5/2014 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. 'Matters relating to the Taking in Charge of Residential Developments'.

Noted by the Councillors. Responses were provided by the Management Team on a number of queries raised by Councillors in relation to the taking in charge process.

- 7.5 Circular Letter EM 01-14 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. 'Severe Weather and Emergency Management for Winter 2013/14'.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.6 Circular Letter LG 25/2014 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. 'Local Authority Corporate Plans 2015-2019 – Supplementary Guidelines'.

Noted by the Councillors.



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### 8 Notice of Question

#### 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Joe Fox

*"Can I ask the Chief Executive if there are figures available to show the overall decrease in usage of water since the 1st October?"*

**Response:**

We measure the total amount of water put into the water distribution supply system. This is called 'Distribution Input'. Distribution input normally peaks over the months of May, June and July with demand dropping in the Autumn. In October, Distribution Input decreased by 5.2% compared to September, and by 4.4% compared to August.

The corresponding figures for 2013 were that the October consumption decreased by 3.2% compared to September, and by 2.7% compared to August.

The Distribution Input figures in the table below are in m<sup>3</sup>/day.

Year			
	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>
<b>2013</b>	42535	42744	41420
<b>2014</b>	40704	41090	38928
	0.96	0.96	0.94

On a month by month comparison (Oct 14 v Oct 13, Sept 14 v Sept 13 and Aug 14 v Aug 13), consumption for October 2014 is 2% below the trend for August and September, with resultant reduction of over 825 m<sup>3</sup>/day.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

#### 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

*"May I ask the Chief Executive what services can people living in rural parts of Meath expect to receive for the payment of their local property tax, compared to people living in urban areas, towns, and villages in County Meath?"*

**Response:**

This matter was addressed in the context of the 2015 Statutory Budget process. The response was noted by the Councillors.



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### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*“With regard to the Brown Bin initiative, which was rolled out in July 2013:*

*a) in relation to EU targets, what percentage of householders availed of the scheme?*

*b) how many permit holders have been issued with licenses to collect the waste?”*

#### **Response:**

The Household Food Waste and Bio Waste Regulations 2013 came into effect in July 2013. The Regulations provided that all household food Waste must be segregated and that the waste collector must provide a Brown Bin for this Waste.

The Regulations provide for the introduction of the Brown Bin on a phased basis depending on population, with Navan starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 and Ashbourne and the Laytown/Bettystown/Mornington Agglomeration from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014. The bins to be rolled out to all remaining towns and villages by the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

In preparation for the statutory implementation of the Brown Bin the Environment Department engaged in an extensive range of activities including consultation and awareness campaigns all of which are still ongoing.

The following are just some of the activities:

1. Meetings with the Waste Collection Service Providers servicing the above areas – (4 Companies servicing the Navan and East Meath Areas and 5 servicing Ashbourne)
2. Information Days in each location – and which the Collectors were invited to attend and meet Households – these information days were also attended by Cré the National Compost body and free compost was given out to persons attending.
3. The Council recruited two Brown Bin Advisers, under the National Internship Scheme, who having received appropriate training are calling to Households, Schools etc. to promote use of Brown Bins.
4. Participation in a joint initiative with Cré, the DoECLG, and Louth and Sligo County Councils. The Department acknowledged at a conference in July 2013 the amount of awareness work Meath County Council and Louth County Council had undertaken.
5. 15,000 Information Leaflets printed and distributed to households in the above areas and to schools and public locations.
6. Advertisements and editorials were published in local newspapers / publications circulating in the affected areas and including Question and Answer sheets highlighting the significant environmental and economic benefits of using Brown Bins.
7. Advertisements taken on LMFm Radio Station and widespread use of web sites and other Social Media to create awareness.
8. Enforcement of collectors just commenced and will be on-going with all collectors. Engagement with households in a number of poorly performing areas is planned to increase participation rates without the need for enforcement action.



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Notwithstanding the activities highlighted above, the level of participation in the Roll out of Brown Bins remains disappointingly low and estimated to be no greater than 20%. New Household Waste Collection Regulations to be announced in January 2015 will strengthen the Regulatory structures associated with the household waste collection market and will include the mandatory introduction of pay by weight and requirements for householders to be able to demonstrate how they manage their waste. It is hoped that these new Regulations will lead to significant changes in the way households deal with their waste, including a greater uptake of the Brown Bin.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

### **8.4 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly**

*“To detail all the legal cases currently involving Meath County Council; for a breakdown of same based on 1) start date; 2) cost to date; 3) legal firm(s) engaged; and 4) general issue /*

*Sonraí a chur ar fáil maidir le gach cás dlíthúil a bhfuil baint ag Comhairle Chontae na Mí leis mar aon le 1) dáta tosaith é; 2) costas go dtí seo; 3) comhlacht(aí) dlíthúil(a) fostaithe agus 4) cúrsaí ginearálta?”*

#### **Response:**

Meath County Council, as a statutory authority in a variety of service areas including planning, environment, roads and housing, operates in a complex legislative environment, and as both a regulator and a regulated body, will have an inevitable and ongoing need to seek legal advice and assistance and, occasionally, pursue or defend legal cases as they arise. The Meath County Council Risk Management Policy was adopted in December 2011. The objectives of the Risk Management Policy include the management of risks in accordance with best practice, to anticipate and respond to changing requirements, and to prevent injury, damage and losses and reduce the cost of risk.

The Major Litigation Cases Review Team was established in November 2011, with the aim of formalising the existing systems for the review of major legal cases. The Major Litigation Cases Review Team, which includes the Management Team, Law Agent and other senior staff members as required, forms part of the corporate governance structure within Meath Local Authorities and, as such, plays an important role in the effective management of risk.

Regan McEntee Solicitors is currently the Law Agent for Meath County Council, with additional legal services being provided by a number of other legal firms in the County depending on the nature of the service area. For example, following a tender procedure in 2013, MacGuill and Company Ltd. were appointed as the Council's





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Criminal Legal Advisor to provide advice and assistance in the event of a criminal investigation and as recommended by IPB Insurance.

The Council, currently, has approximately 923 open legal case files for Meath County Council. These relate to a variety of areas, primarily:

- Land acquisition, disposals & management
- Road improvements
- Planning and Environmental enforcement
- Motorway Orders
- Compulsory Purchase Orders
- Arbitrations
- Housing acquisitions, tenancies and other agreements
- Judicial Reviews

The start date will vary and, due to the nature of these activities and transactions, a case file may be open for a number of years before being closed and a final cost available. Major legal cases are defined in the Terms of Reference for the Major Litigation Cases Review Team as those that involve or may involve legal proceedings in the court system where the result may have serious financial and/or reputational implications for the Council and/or may set a national precedent. There are currently 21 major legal cases being actively monitored and reviewed by the Major Litigation Cases Review Team, most of which arise from the statutory role of the authority in terms of enforcement. Some of these have not yet been subject to legal proceedings in the court system and the outcome may be dependent on other cases, involving this or other local authorities.

These break down as follows:

- Enforcement – Quarries: 5 cases
- Enforcement – Illegal Dumping: 5 cases
- Enforcement – Unauthorised Development: 2 cases
- Commercial Water Charges: 1 case – responsibility transferred to Irish Water but may set a national precedent
- Proceedings arising from Forward Planning: 1 case
- Proceedings arising from Property Access: 1 case



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- Proceedings arising from Development Management: 1 case
- Proceedings arising re LA Quotes: 1 case
- Appeal of High Court Decision: 1 case
- Arbitration – Car park : 1 case
- Arbitration Costs: 1 case
- Planning Contributions: 1 case

The total amount paid by Meath County Council in legal costs to various legal firms and professionals in both the Revenue and Capital Accounts for 2013 was €905,000.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

### 8.5 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke

*“Given the need to ensure a maximum return for Meath County Council and residents of County Meath, and understanding the very challenging economic circumstances that many people find themselves in, to ask what system is in place to allow individuals with outstanding planning/development levies negotiate with Meath County Council; to what degree discretion is available and under what authority and if an individual point of contact is in place or will be in case /*

*lonas go gcinnteofar am toradh is fearr do Chomhairle Chontae na Mí agus do mhuintir na Mí, agus glactha go bhfuil tuiscint ar na deacrachtaí dúshlánacha eacnamaíochta ar dhaoine áirithe táthar ag iarraidh ceist a chur faoin gcóras atá i bhfeidhm chun ligint do dhaoine aonair le tobhaigh pleanála nó forbartha gan íoc plé le Comhairle Chontae na Mí; cén leibhéal lánrogha atá ar fáil agus faoi cén údarás a chuirtear ar fáil é. An bhfuil pointe teagmhála aonaireach i bhfeidhm agus muna bhfuil, an mbeidh?”*

#### **Response:**

Planning permissions granted by Meath County Council generally include conditions requiring the payment of Development Contributions. The level of contribution payable relates to the scope of services being available and the size of the development proposed. The rates applicable to different development categories are set out in the Meath County Council Development Contribution Scheme 2010-2015.

Conditions require payment of the contributions in full prior to commencement or as agreed with the Planning Authority. Meath County Council has a dedicated team of staff working in this area. Enquiries may be made in respect of payments methods and schedules. Meath County Council offers a 10% discount on contributions paid in full within 1 month of the issue of an invoice by the Planning Authority.

Meath County Council will facilitate phased payment of contributions with reference to the amount of contributions due, the stage of the development and the ability of the applicant to meet that payment schedule. Where an applicant's employment status changes he/she should consult with the Council and agree revised payment



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arrangements. The Council will facilitate payment by direct debit or similar facility if requested.

The Meath County Council Development Contribution Scheme remains in force until December 2015 when it will be replaced by a new scheme. The adoption of a new scheme is a reserved function of the Councillors.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

### **8.6 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**

“To ask the estimated number of septic tanks in Co. Meath and the extent to which a programme of septic tank inspections in the county has been undertaken; for a breakdown of the number of inspections carried out since 2012 and the results of same; finally, to ask if there is a programme of supports for those households that fail inspections and for the details of same, including the number to avail of it thus far / Ceist a chur maidir leis an méid dabhaigh searachais atá ann i gContae na Mí agus cén cuid den chóras iniúchtaí don chontae atá críochnaithe go dtí seo mar aon le miondhealú ar an méid iniúchtaí a rinneadh ó 2012 agus torthaí dóibh siúd. Ar deireadh, an bhfuil córas tacaíochta ann do na teaghlaigh a theipeann ar na iniúchtaí ar a ndabhaigh searachais agus sonraí faoi, mar aon leis an líon ar bhain siad úsáid as go dtí seo?”

#### **Response:**

The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 provided for the introduction of a registration and inspection system for domestic waste water systems (DWWTS) in response to a ruling against Ireland by the European Court of Justice concerning the protection of water quality from the risks posed by malfunctioning DWWTS.

To date, there have been 18,501 domestic wastewater treatment systems registered in County Meath. This is estimated to be 85% of the total number in the County.

In January 2013, the EPA published a DWWTS Inspection Plan, which required Meath County Council to carry out a minimum of 40 No. DWWTS inspections from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014, based on a risk rating prepared by the EPA. 43 No. inspections were completed. The Inspection Plan was extended to the end of 2014 with Meath County Council required to carry out a further 18 No. These have been completed.

The DWWTS inspections were carried out in the catchments of the Rivers Boycetown and Devlins catchments and the Dunboyne area. These river catchments were selected as it is a requirement of the Water Framework Directive for these rivers to achieve good status by 2015. The Dunboyne area was selected as it has been deemed to be very high risk in the EPA's risk rating of the country.

Of the 61 DWWTS inspections carried out to date, there have been 34 Advisory Notices issued for failures (56%). The reasons for the failed inspections are as follows:

- 19 No. failed inspections due to direct discharge to ground and surface waters
- 5 No. failed inspections due to rain water entering the DWWTS or grey water discharging to surface waters
- 5 No. failed inspections due to problems with the percolation area



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- 3 No. failed inspections due to problems with the septic tank (e.g., broken manholes, desludging required)
- 2 No. failed inspections due to the treatment system requiring a service

The EPA carried out an interim review of the implementation of the National Inspection Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and which found that the operation and maintenance issues were the most common reasons for a treatment system failing – the Council’s findings above based on 61 inspections were consistent with the National failure reasons and percentage failure rates.

Householders whose DWWTs has failed an inspection may be eligible for a grant and subject to certain conditions including the requirement for the system to be registered before the due date of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013. Householders can still register their system but are not eligible for the grant assistance. An application for a grant may be submitted to Meath County Council following confirmation that the Advisory Notice has been complied with.

The level of grant aid available is determined on the basis of gross household income and is either 50% or 80% of the approved cost of the works. The table below sets out the level of grant available based on the income of the previous tax year.

Household Income	% of approved costs available	Maximum Grant available
Up to €50,000	80%	€4,000
€50,001 - €75,000	50%	€2,500
In excess of €75,000	No grant is payable	No grant is payable

To date there have been 10 grant applications made to Meath County Council

The response was noted by the Councillors.

### 8.7 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

*“Can the Chief Executive please advise how the NPPR windfall income of €2,000,000 received by Meath County Council during the year ended 31 December 2014 has been expended and of the input of the elected members of this Council into how it was spent? This €2,000,000 income was not included in the 2014 budget adopted by the previous Council?”*

#### **Response:**

The NPPR due to Meath County Council which has been received in 2014 will in the first instance be allocated as follows:

1. The half year repayment of the Land Aggregation Scheme Loan circa €700k.
2. Emergency housing works as a result of recent extreme weather events circa €250k.



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3. Requirement identified by Infrastructure to purchase Drain Jetter as a result of recent extreme weather events circa €290k.

4. Municipal District Allocation of €600,000

Any balance will be used to reduce the revenue deficit as no provision has been made in the in the 2015 budget for same.

Councillor Drew sought clarification, which was provided by Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

### **8.8 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

*"Can Meath County Council implement bye-laws like hedging ordering relating to 'drains and ditches' to impose a fine on land owners who do not maintain them?*

*I believe many homes would have been saved from the recent flooding in Ratoath and Ashbourne Municipal District if ditches and drains had been maintained by some land owners."*

#### **Response:**

In the context of roads, there are no bye-laws in place covering the issue of hedge cutting or drainage as these issues are dealt with under the Roads Act, 1993.

Roadside hedge cutting is covered under Section 70 of the Act whereby landowners and occupiers of land are obliged to take all reasonable care to ensure that trees, hedges, and other vegetation growing on their land are not, or could not become a danger to people using or working on a public road. If a tree, hedge or other vegetation is, or could become a danger to those using or working on a public road, the Council can, and does, serve a written notice on the owner or occupier requiring action to be taken in order to remove the danger or potential danger. The Council can carry out the works specified in the notice in cases of non-compliance and recoup the costs of the works from the landowner or occupier.

Roadside drainage is covered under Section 76 of the Act whereby landowners and occupiers of land are obliged to take all reasonable steps to ensure that water can drain off a public road onto their land. They must also ensure that water, soil or other materials do not escape from their land onto a public road. Again, the Council can serve a written notice on a landowner or occupier of land requiring works to be carried out (e.g. unblocking a drain) to ensure that water can drain from a public road onto his or her land or to prevent water and soil etc. from escaping from the land onto a public road. Again, where the person on whom the notice was served fails to comply with it the Council may carry out the works itself and recoup any associated costs.

It is an offence not to comply with either of these notices.

The response was noted by the Councillors.



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### 9 Notice of Motion

#### 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

*"I call on Meath County Council and the National Roads Authority to undertake a full traffic analysis between Slane & Ashbourne (N2), particularly at the Primatestown traffic lights and the Kilmoon Junction, where there is huge congestion and inability of movement at peak times."*

#### **Supporting Information**

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 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.

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.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**

Following a lengthy debate an amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**

*"I call on Meath County Council and the National Roads Authority to undertake a full traffic analysis between Slane & Ashbourne (N2), particularly at the Primatestown traffic lights and the Kilmoon Junction, the Marriott Roundabout and the Curraha Road, where there is huge congestion and inability of movement at peak times."*

The amended motion was unanimously adopted.

#### 9.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

*"To ask Meath County Council to provide emergency provisions including salt, grit, grit bins, sand, sand bags and adequate road closure/diversion/flood signage in all districts including Ashbourne with immediate effect."*

#### **Supporting Information**



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Following the recent exceptional rainfall event, contingency requirements in the Municipal Districts have been reviewed in the context of the Council's Emergency Plan arrangements.

Following a short discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted.

### **9.3 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson**

*"That Meath County Council elevate the Gleann na Rí Boyne Valley Greenway as the priority tourism project for the county with the objective of its completion by 2020 / Go n-ardóidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí stádas An Bhealaigh Ghlas Ghleann na Rí Bhrú na Bóinne mar thionscadal turasóireachta chun chinn sa Chontae agus go mbeidh sé mar chuspóir é a chríochnú faoi 2020."*

#### **Supporting Information**

While there is limited national funding for Greenways, Phase 1 of the Boyne Greenway is complete and the Council's immediate focus is to progress the Greenway along the River Boyne between Oldbridge and Brú na Boinne Visitors Centre.

In terms of other Greenways, the County Development Plan highlights the Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway as a priority.

In addition, the Council is working with the NRA and neighbouring authorities to progress the Royal Canal Greenway.

Following a lengthy discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to defer the remaining motions to the January, 2015, meeting.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Paddy Meade**

*"Cllr. Paddy Meade calls on Meath County Council to seek a detailed report from Louth County Council as well as Irish Water in regards to any past, current and future potential leaks from all water treatment and sewerage plants within the catchment area of the River Boyne. Current reported leaks are causing serious concern to the people from Mornington, Bettystown and Laytown."*

**This is a matter for the Councillors.**

**(Motion deferred to January meeting)**

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**



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*"I call on Management of Meath County Council, and seek the full support of my fellow County Councillors, to write to the Garda Commissioner, seeking a meeting to discuss the huge increase in anti social behaviour, with a view to seeking, more Gardaí for all parts of County Meath."*

**This is a matter for the Councillors.**

**(Motion deferred to January meeting)**

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*"I call on Management of Meath County Council, and seek the full support of my fellow Councillors, to write a letter, to seek a meeting with Minister Richard Bruton, to discuss the lack of jobs, coming to County Meath."*

**This is a matter for the Councillors.**

**(Motion deferred to January meeting)**

### **9.7 Submitted by Councillors Claire O'Driscoll and Sean Smith**

*"That the Chief Executive meets with the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government to negotiate, in the interest of fairness to LPT payers in Co. Meath, that the €1.4m due for payment in 2015 for the Land Aggregation Scheme loan is deducted from the Equalisation Fund contribution from Meath County Council."*

**This is a matter for the Councillors. (Motion deferred to January meeting)**

It is noted that this issue was discussed as part of the Annual Budget process.

### **9.8 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew**

*"I move that Meath County Council call on Minister Jimmy Deenihan, the first ever Minister for the Irish Overseas and Diaspora, to exert all diplomatic and political efforts on President Barack Obama in the formulation of the impending Executive Order on Immigration due to be signed by him in the coming weeks, to ensure the provision for a 'humanitarian visa' that would allow the estimated 50,000 undocumented Irish as well as the estimated 12 million undocumented people - living in the United States to leave and return to the US if they are in need to travel to their home countries to be with family members in times of distress, illness or bereavement."*

**This is a matter for the Councillors.**

**(Motion deferred to January meeting)**





## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **9.9 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke**

*“That Meath County Council condemns the ongoing programme of direct provision in Meath and across the state and calls on the Minister to end this project immediately/  
Go gcáineann Comhairle Chontae na Mí an córas leanúnach soláthar díreach i gContae na Mí agus trasna an stáit agus go n-éilídh sí ar an Aire Deireadh a chur leis an gcóras láithreach.”*

**This is a matter for the Councillors.**

**(Motion deferred to January meeting)**

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

Noted by the Councillors.

#### **10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation**

#### **10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment**

#### **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 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies**

11.1 To receive a presentation from Comhairle na nÓg on its completed work programme on Youth Facilities in Meath.

Two representatives from Comhairle na nÓg made a presentation on its activities during the year. The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the achievements of everyone involved in Comhairle na nÓg and commended the representatives on their informative presentation.

### **12 Any Other Business**