



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

7th December 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, 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:

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

Planning Staff: Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

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

The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd November 2015 were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Preliminary Budget meeting held on 23rd November 2015.



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The minutes of Preliminary Budget meeting held on 23rd November 2015 were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 23rd November 2015.

The minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 23rd November 2015 were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Malachi Jenkins, former employee and Ciarán Mangan, Co. Librarian, and on the death of their wife/mother-in-law Mary Jenkins.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ratoath, Curraha and Dunboyne (ladies) GAA teams on their recent success.
- **Councillor Wayne Forde** extended appreciation and thanks, on behalf of the Gargan family, to all those involved in the ongoing river rescue attempt to recover Mark Gargan.

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 Planning

- 5.1.1 To consider the Draft Meath County Development Contribution Scheme and the Chief Executive's report on submissions and if thought fit, to resolve to adopt the draft scheme in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Executive, pursuant to Section 48 of The Planning and Development Acts 2000-2015.



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It was noted that the draft scheme had been on public display and that it had also been considered at the Planning Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

The Draft Meath County Development Contribution Scheme was duly adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

5.2 Corporate Services

- 5.2.1 To receive a presentation on the Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund.

Claire King, Administrative Officer, made a presentation, which included an overview of the current fund and details of the applications and the amount of funding spent across the six Municipal Districts. It was noted that a new protocol for the Discretionary Fund would be brought to the January meeting.

The Cathaoirleach advised that Item 9.3 on the agenda was a motion submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors with regard to the Discretionary Fund. It was agreed that the motion would be considered at the January meeting. Councillors were invited to make contributions and comments regarding the nature of the fund and all contributions and suggestions were noted.

- 5.2.2 To consider, and if thought fit to adopt, the list of qualified Electors for the purpose of a plebiscite in accordance with Section 78(1) of the Local Government Act 1946, to change the name of Broadmeadow Street (otherwise known as Broadmeadow Castle) Ashbourne to Thomas Ashe Street.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, made a presentation and explained the progress to date and informed Councillors of the next steps in the process.

The list of qualified Electors for the purpose of the plebiscite was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

5.3 Finance

- 5.3.1 To receive a report on the Management Accounts of Meath County Council in respect of Q3 2015.

Noted by the Councillors.



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6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Noted by the Councillors.

Councillors raised a number of issues including adaptation grants, choice based letting, housing allocations, flooding issues in the Laytown Bettystown area, inspection of septic tanks and the report regarding the N2.

Responses were provided by the Chief Executive and Management Team.

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 some items. The CPG also received an update and noted reports from the following SPC meetings: Transportation - 30th September, Planning Economic Development and Enterprise – 17th November, Housing Community and Cultural Development – 18th November.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Protocol Committee received and noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Correspondence from An Garda Síochána in response to Notice of Motion 9.7 adopted at the July meeting of the Full Council re. seeking a meeting to discuss recruiting more Gardaí for County Meath.

Noted by the Councillors. It was also noted with concern that the additional Gardaí were assigned in a probationary capacity.

7.2 Correspondence from Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources in response to Notice of Motion 9.8 adopted at the October meeting of the Full Council re. new wind energy guidelines.



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Noted by the Councillors.

7.3 Publication of Draft Flood Maps for Public Consultation.

Noted by the Councillors. Councillor Kelly requested that the flood maps would be put on public display in the Laytown Bettystown area.

7.4 Circular: Housing 34/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme – Mortgage to Rent Scheme.

Noted by the Councillors. Councillors also noted their concern for people facing mortgage arrears.

7.5 TII Circular No. 12/2015 – Transport Infrastructure Ireland re. National Speed Limit Review – National Roads.

Noted by the Councillors. **Councillor Enda Flynn** suggested that the default speed limit at schools should be 30kms.

7.6 Circular: Housing 42/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. new tenant purchase scheme for existing local authority houses and changes to existing purchase schemes.

Noted by the Councillors.

7.7 Correspondence re Boundary Review Committee

The Cathaoirleach noted that a briefing for Councillors would take place on Thursday 10th December in advance of the forthcoming meeting with the Boundary Committee on 18th December in the Boyne Valley Hotel. The Cathaoirleach stressed the importance of attending these meetings. A lengthy debate took place on the matter and the meeting dates were noted.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“How many tenants has Meath County Council evicted in the last 10 years for anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and other criminality?”



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Response

Meath County Council, as a Housing Authority, can seek an order for possession of a house when a tenant breaches his/her tenancy agreement.

A tenant, joint tenant or a member of a tenant's household engaging in anti social behaviour and /or in the sale or supply or distribution of a controlled drug, are deemed a breach of tenancy.

The procedures for seeking an order for possession are set out in Meath County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, and involve the issuing of warnings in the first instance. In cases of persistent breaches of tenancy, despite the issuing of warnings, and subject to sufficient evidence, Meath County Council will proceed to terminate the tenancy by service of a Notice to Quit.

In certain cases of anti-social breaches, there are also breaches of tenancy due to rent arrears, and the matter for possession is pursued on the grounds of rent arrears rather than anti-social behaviour.

Furthermore, in certain cases, where tenants are advised that the Local Authority intends to commence legal proceedings to repossess the house, pre-emptive surrenders of the properties occur.

Meath County Council obtained possession of four houses since 2005 where there has been dual breaches of tenancy of anti-social behaviour and rent arrears, and the matter was pursued on the grounds of rent arrears; one possession based exclusively on anti social behaviour, and seven pre-emptive surrenders.

All procedures for the termination of a tenancy and the repossession of a house have been amended by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 2014, which was enacted in April 2015. The Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee recently received a presentation of the main provisions within the Act, with an amended Anti-Social Behaviour Policy currently be drafted for consideration by the Policy Committee early in 2016, with subsequent recommendation to full Council in due course.

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I ask the Executive what will be the projected final costings when all the County Council staff are redeployed out to Buvinda House in Johnstown? How many staff will be working there? and is the building fit for purpose?"



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Response

The fit-out works for Buvinda House has commenced in November and the total value of this contract is €7.2 million excluding vat.

There will be approximately 400 staff based in Buvinda house and the building will be fit for purpose.

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"How many

(a) group water schemes

(b) private commercial water schemes

(c) domestic water supplies

(d) domestic waste water schemes are there in County Meath?

How many in group a-d are currently in compliance with regulations specifically with respect to microbiological and chemical compliance and how many supplies in each group a-c are deemed at risk?

What is the potential to increase the number of inspections carried out in each of these categories and what are the limiting factors to doing this?"

Response

There are 2 Private Group Water Schemes in Meath.

There are 217 Small Private Water Supplies in Meath.

Domestic Water Supplies - We assume you are referring to private domestic wells – these are not a matter for Meath County Council or Irish Water and hence we do not have figures as to the number of domestic wells in the county.

Domestic Waste Water Schemes - We assume you are referring to Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (i.e. septic tanks and similar) – There are currently 18,642 registered in the county.

In relation to a) and b) above – Meath County Council as the appropriate Authority undertakes regulatory monitoring. The two Group Water Schemes and the Small Private Water Supplies are consistently compliant with the drinking water standards.



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Where any non-compliance arises with Small Private Supplies the Council in consultation with the HSE works with the Private Supplier to address same.

The frequency of monitoring is based upon regulatory requirements.

In relation to d) microbiological and chemical compliance criteria does not form part of the inspection process. Inspections are carried out in accordance with the EPA Inspection Plan. (43 each year for the next 3 years)

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Maria O’Kane

“To ask the Chief Executive the exact protocol which exists regarding the naming of new housing estates and if it is the case, as it is in many other counties that an advisory Coiste Logainmeacha is in place to support in this function / Ceist a chur ar an bPríomhfheidmeannach an prótacal atá ann maidir le heastáit tithíochta nua a ainmniú agus an é an cás, mar atá i neart contaethe eile, go bhfuil Coiste Logainmeacha comhairleach ann chun tacú leis an bhfeidhm?”

Response

I refer to the Notice of Question submitted by Cllr. O’ Kane and an earlier response on a similar enquiry at the March Ashbourne Municipal District meeting.

Councillors are advised that the Meath County Development Plan includes a policy statement setting out the Council’s approach to street and location naming protocols.

I set out below the full text of Section 11.2.2.8 of the plan:

“The names of residential developments and roads shall reflect local place names, particularly town lands or local names which reflect the landscape, its features, culture and/or history within which the development is located, including names of historical persons who have some association with the area .

Meath Co. Council shall approve the names chosen prior to launching of any advertising campaign for a development. Name plates should be fixed to walls and buildings where they can be clearly seen. In order to assist the public and postal authorities, all houses within housing estates or in Comprehensive Street developments shall be provided with numbers and / or names which where feasible shall be visible from the adjoining roadway. Street nameplates should be erected on all estates roads at a location that is clearly visible to the motorist. Ideally, they should be placed at junctions to be of maximum assistance to the navigating motorist, cyclist or pedestrian.”



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The Planning Authority requires proposals for place names to be submitted for agreement where they were not included in the schedule of the development proposed within a planning application. The approval of place names is an Executive function of the Planning Authority under the Development Management process.

Response noted by the Councillors.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask Meath Co. Council if Eircode or company working on behalf of Eircode (Autoaddress) has asked to access or is accessing the Electoral Register in order to obtain information to assign an Eircode and if so what implications will this have on citizens data protection rights?”

Response

The Electoral Register is put on public display in draft form in November each year and the live Electoral Register is published in February each year. The Register may be inspected at Council offices, libraries, post offices and Garda Stations. An edited version of the Electoral Register may be purchased by companies or organisations who wish to undertake market research or publicity campaigns.

With regard to the inclusion of eircodes on the Register, the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) met with the DoECLG to determine its requirements for EirCodes from the iReg and CheckTheRegister applications. All Local authorities were requested to provide the LGMA with a copy of their iReg databases in March 2014. A full amalgamated address database for the entire Country was then forwarded to the Postcode Management Licence Holder to apply EirCodes to all the dwellings

From the perspective of iReg and Check the Register the LGMA has modified the database so that the EirCode field can be added to each dwelling. The Eircode is part of the printed Draft Register alongside each matched electors. Eircodes will print onto the Polling Cards for the general election (if after 15th February). It is also now a search field on the www.checktheregister.ie which is fed from the Meath database.

Response noted by the Councillors – **Councillor Tobin** sought clarification on the matter, which was duly provided.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly



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"I call on Meath County Council to immediately reinstate the 'Low Cost Private Sites for Sale' Scheme in the Ratoath and Ashbourne Municipal districts. This is intended to ease the pressure from the housing crisis currently faced by long standing local residents from these districts, who are priced out of their home districts due to market forces arising from the proximity of these municipal districts to Dublin."

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

Section 57 of the Housing Act 1966, as amended by Section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 makes provisions for Local Authorities to provide housing sites at low cost to assist households in housing need to meet their accommodation needs.

In order to avail of a Local Authority low cost private site, an applicant must comply with one of the following criteria in order to be deemed eligible:

- Registered on a housing waiting list with a local authority
- A local authority tenant or a tenant purchaser and who wants to buy a private house and return their present house to the local authority
- A tenant for more than one year of a home provided by a housing association under the Rental Subsidy Scheme and wants to buy a private house and return their present house to the local authority
- A member of a co-operative or non-profit housing group of which at least 75% of the members are tenants, tenant purchasers or registered on the local authority housing waiting list

Meath County Council currently has private sites available in Cortown, Carlanstown, Newtown Creeagh, Oldcastle and Kilmaimhamwood. There has been limited, if any, interest in same in recent years.

Meath County Council has no lands available for the provision of low cost private sites in the Ratoath Municipal District or Ashbourne Municipal District at present.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** was adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Ronan McKenna

"That Meath County Council engages with the Department of Transport and the T.I.I. (formerly NRA) with the aim of moving the Toll Bridge on The N4 between Kilcock and



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Enfield further west to best position Enfield for economic development in line with our Economic Strategy.”

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

A road authority may prepare a scheme for the establishment of a system of tolls in respect of the use of a public road. In the case of a national road the road authority is TII (formally the NRA), and for regional and local roads it is the local authority in whose functional area the road is situated.

Toll Bye-Laws for the M4 Kinnegad-Enfield-Kilcock Motorway were made pursuant to section 61 of the Roads Act, 1993 as amended. Before the bye-law is made the road authority is obliged to go through a statutory consultation process and consider any objections or representations made. The NRA made the toll scheme for the M4 Kinnegad – Enfield- Kilcock motorway and the relevant bye-laws came into operation on 12th December 2005. The issue of alternatives considered and the preferred location of the toll plaza(s) would have been analysed in detail and presented in the EIS for the project. It is noted that there is currently a limited facility in relation to the payment of tolls whereby someone who decides to stop over at Enfield does not have to pay again when they rejoin the motorway to continue with their trip provided that they continue in the same direction and within a limit of three hours.

Meath County Council has a very limited role in relation to tolling of National Roads and is not a party to the contract with the current concessionaire, Eurolink. A preliminary enquiry was made to TII in regard to the matter set out in the Notice of Motion. They indicated that significant costs and complexities with the existing commercial contract would arise if the toll plaza(s)/toll point(s) was to be moved. Should a formal request to engage on the matter be sent to TII, the response is likely to be that they would not countenance such a proposal.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O’ Reilly** was adopted.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive that at least 5 children's playgrounds be constructed in rural areas and parts of Meath every year starting from 2016 to 2019.”

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



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The provision of playgrounds is part of the capital program. There is no provision in the current capital programme for the delivery of 20 playgrounds in the period 2016-2019. This will form part of the capital program which will be presented to the members early in 2016.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**. Following a debate on the matter and advice from the Head of Finance, the motion was noted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“To ask the Chief Executive, on foot of the presentation made on the National Broadband Plan and the recommendations made by Fergal Mulligan, to lodge a formal submission to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources detailing why it is imperative for the strategic development of Meath that the County is prioritised under the Plan.”

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

Meath Co. Council made a submission to the National Broadband Plan before the deadline for submissions of 14th September 2015.

That submission drew the Department’s attention to the Council’s Economic Strategy. The submission underlined the requirement to improve services in designated towns together with the roll out of services to the broader hinterland area. The Council also underlined its concerns that current providers were not investing in the roll out Broadband to un-serviced areas, where they deemed it uneconomic to do so.

The Council recommended that the universal service obligation for telephone landlines should be extended to encompass Broadband connectivity.

Following the recent presentation to the SPC, the Council will now examine what, if any, additional information it needs to provide to the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources to ensure that the county is well positioned to capitalise on an early roll out of improved Broadband services.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox** was unanimously adopted.

9.5 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors



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“That the Members Discretionary Fund would be dismantled; that all those elements of the current protocol which intrinsically link the fund to individual councillors be scrapped; that the funding per Municipal District be maintained and directed instead to a new Community Development Fund which would be administered at Municipal District level with invitation for application and collective decision making regarding funding allocation made by Municipal District elected members / Go scriosfar Ciste Lánroghnach na gComhairleoirí agus go scriosfar gach eilimint den phrótacal reatha a dhéanann nasc idir an gciste agus comhairleoirí aonáracha; go gcoiméadfar an maoiniú sna bardais go fóill ach é a bheith mar Ciste Fhorbairt Phobail anois ar a ndéanfar riarachán ag leibhéal an Bhardais agus lena nglacfar le iarratais agus comhchinnteoireacht maidir le leithdháileadh an mhaoiniú ag baill tofa an Bhardais.”

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

A presentation will be made at the December Council Meeting on the operation of the Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund for 2015 and the views of the Councillors on its application would be welcome.

It is intended to bring a report to the January Council Meeting on the General Municipal Allocation of €480,000 which has been provided for in 2016 and the proposed administration of this fund.

See item 5.2.1.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“The Elected Members of Meath County Council note with concern the very high number of mortgage distress cases presenting at Trim Court and abhors the aggressive approach taken by individual banks; calls for the Settlement Office of Meath County Council to offer support to people threatened with economic eviction at the earliest possible juncture / Tugann na Baill Tofa Chomhairle Chontae na Mí dona n-Aire go himníoch an ráta ard do chásanna anacair mhorthgáiste a chuirtear faoi bhráid Cúirt Bhaile Átha Troim agus cuireann sé déistin orthu an chur chuige ionsaitheach glactha ag bainc aonáracha; glaonn siad ar an Oifig Socraíochta Chomhairle Chontae na Mí tacaíocht a thabhairt do dhaoine a bhfuil bagairt díshealbhú eacnamaíoch orthu ag an pointe is luaithe.”

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

Prevention of homelessness is central to Meath County Council’s Homeless Service. Preventative work focuses on sourcing alternative accommodation and formulating



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settlement plans with clients including referrals to and from other relevant services, but also working on this issue from a policy perspective through interagency co-operation, and co-ordination of services.

Persons threatened by home repossession and as a result may be at risk of homelessness, are advised to make contact with the Homeless Service at the earliest possible stage, in order for the Service to engage in preventative work, with a view to avoiding homelessness and the need to access emergency accommodation.

Following a debate on the matter, the motion, proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**, was noted.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That Meath County Council work with their representatives on the Knockharley Liaison Committee and other interested parties to adopt a representative stance on the proposed expansion of operations at the Knockharley landfill site in Kentstown, identifying particular potential effects on residents and the environment and make this case to the deciding regulatory body.”

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

Members are asked to note that Meath Co Council has been notified by An Bord Pleanála that it has received a request to enter into pre application consultations with the operators of Knockharley Landfill.

The purpose of such consultation is to determine if a proposed development comes within the remit of Section 37 of the Planning and Development Acts relating to Strategic Infrastructure Development. If the project is considered to constitute Strategic Infrastructure, then An Bord Pleanála will be the competent authority to determine the application.

Notwithstanding that An Bord Pleanála may be the competent authority Meath County Council will have a statutory role in the application process as set out in the act. This involves the preparation of a report on the merits of the proposal and its potential effects on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. This report will come before the Council in due course and there will be an opportunity to append any comments made by the members at that stage. In exercising this statutory role the Council will be bound by the provisions of the County Development Plan, the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Regional Waste Management Framework, together with any other relevant guidance.



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In that context the Planning and Development Acts provide a clear separation of duties between the Chief Executive and the Members of the Council in respect of Strategic infrastructure proposals.

The Council, to date, has not been notified of any decision by the Bord on the matter nor do we have any detail of the development proposed such as would allow us to consider matters for inclusion in a report at this stage.

It is, of course, open to Councillors, either collectively or individually to express a view on an application. As outlined above the members have a statutory role in making their views known on the merit of a Strategic Infrastructure application. Members may also participate in the decision making process by separately making a formal submission to the Bord.

In summary the Chief Executive must exercise a statutory role in the process and in any event cannot commence the preparation of a submission until such time as the Bord makes a decision and full details of the application are received. Furthermore in preparing a submission the Chief Executive must do so in accordance with the provisions of the legislation.

Therefore, it would be inappropriate for Meath Co Council as a Planning Authority with a statutory role to participate in the formulation of a policy position by an external lobby group.

Notwithstanding the above, Members are not restricted in adopting an individual or collective stance on the merits of any development proposal.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**, was noted and referred to the Environmental SPC for consideration.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I ask the executive to review all slipways on all rivers and waterways in County Meath and to prepare a report on their present conditions, suitability, ease of access and to consider the need for more slipways in higher populated areas for public safety."

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

The issue of providing slipways at various locations on the River Boyne for the launch and recovery of rescue boats is the subject of a number of Notice of Motions/Questions at Full Council and Municipal District level. A report on this matter is currently being prepared and will be presented to the Environment SPC Meeting to be held on the 17th December, 2015.



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The motion, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, was noted and referred to the Environmental SPC for consideration.

9.9 Submitted by Fianna Fáil Councillors

"That this Council calls on the Government to fundamentally reform the commercial rates system and, as a temporary measure to alleviate the unexpected pressure of the Global Valuation of Utility Companies, establish a Commercial Rates assistance fund similar to the Government's decision last year to fund Irish Water's commercial rates bill."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**. Following a debate on the matter an amendment was proposed by Councillor **Gerry O' Connor** as follows:

"That this Council calls on the Government to reform the commercial rates system to alleviate the effect of the Global Valuation of Utility Companies going forward."

The Fianna Fáil Councillors agreed with the amendment to the motion and it was unanimously adopted.

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

"To call on the Minister for Finance Michael Noonan and the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, to immediately reinstate the telephone allowance for all our people over the age of 66. We would encourage the Ministers to start seeking partners in the provision of this service from all network providers to ensure best value on network charges, rental changes & best design product suitable for the use by our aged communities."

The motion proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly** was unanimously adopted.

9.11 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

"That this Council calls on the Minister to immediately reverse the cuts to drug counselling services for under 18 year olds in Co. Meath. These services are essential to provide prevention of increased adult addiction in the future / Go nglaofaidh an



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Chomhairle seo ar an Aire na ciorruithe do sheirbhísí comhairleoireachta um andúil i ndrugaí do dhaoine faoi 18 bliain d'aois i gContae na Mí a mhalartú. Tá na seirbhísí seo fíor-riachtanach chun chur i gcoinne méadú andúile i ndaoine fásta sa todhcaí.”

The motion proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde** was unanimously adopted.

9.12 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“This Council calls on the Minister Alan Kelly, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to introduce regulations to make the wearing of high visibility vests a legal requirement after dark, outside of well-lit areas and that the Council would work with the County Road Safety Officer, local community, voluntary, business and sporting organisations and other relevant stakeholders, particularly in rural areas, to raise awareness of the importance of wearing high visibility vests/clothing when out walking at night / Go nglaofaidh an Chomhairle ar an Aire Alan Kelly, An tAire Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais rialacháin a thabhairt isteach chun go mbeadh sé neamhdhleathach gan veist shofheicthe a chaitheamh sa dorchadas, lasmuigh de cheantair dhea-soilsithe agus go n-oibreoidh an Chomhairle leis an Oifigeach Shábháilteacht Bóithre, an Pobail áitiúil, eagraíochtaí deonacha agus spóirt, comhlachtaí agus páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha eile, go háirithe i gceantair tuatha, chun aird a tharraingt ar thábhacht caitheamh na veist/éadaí s(h)ofheicthe go háirithe amuigh ag siúl san oíche.”

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

9.13 Submitted by Councillor Maria O’Kane

“Following a recent human rights delegation to Brussels, led by Lynn Boylan MEP, I ask that this council write to the Department of Foreign Affairs asking them to publicly demand the release of Dublin teenager Ibrahim Halawa. This strong approach has resulted in the release of American Mohammed Soltan, Canadian Mohammed Fahmy and Australian Peter Greste / Tar éis don dealagáideacht go dtí an mBruiséil, arna raibh Lynn Boylan FPE i gceannas, iarraim ar an gcomhairle litir a scríobh chuig an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha ag impiú orthu scaoileadh an déagóir Ibrahim Halawa as Baile Átha Cliath, a éiliú go poiblí. D'éirigh le scaoilte an Meiriceánach Mohammed Soltan, an Ceanadach Mohammed Fahmy agus an tAstrálach Peter Greste leis an gcur chuige láidir seo.”

The motion proposed by **Councillor Maria O’ Kane** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O’ Rourke** was adopted following a show of hands vote.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

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

The Cathaoirleach concluded the business of the meeting by wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.