



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Special Planning Meeting 8th June 2011, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher, presided.

Members Present:

Councillors, Sirena Campbell, William Carey, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Jimmy Cudden, John V Farrelly, Jimmy Fegan, Brian Fitzgerald, Joe Fox, Oliver Fox, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Niamh McGowan, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Seamus O'Neill, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

Apologies: Joseph Bonner, Francis Deane, Wayne Harding, Eoin Holmes, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, , Tracy McElhinney, Bryan Reilly,

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager Tom Dowling

Directors of Service: Tadhg McDonnell, Kevin Stewart, Brendan McGrath

Meetings Administrator Martin Rogers

Senior Executive Officers: Michael Griffin,

Planning Staff: Pat Gallagher, Deirdre Fallon, Orla O' Brien, Bernard Greene

Administrative Officer: Olive Falsey

1. To receive a briefing on variation No 12 to the Meath County Development Plan 2007/2013 to include a Core Strategy in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2010.

The Core Strategy was presented to the Councillors in three parts as follows:

- Policy elements – Deirdre Fallon
- Population and household elements – Orla O' Brien
- Economic elements – Pat Gallagher

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Planning staff for the in-depth presentation and invited questions and comments.

The main issues raised by the Councillors included:

- Clarification sought on the difference between the maps displayed in the presentation and those in the packs.
- Recognition that this is a short-term plan, not as ambitious as expected but practical.
- The number of housing units (375) targeted for Dunboyne is low in the context of the amount of land zoned to support the rail development.
- Still a demand for social housing in the County. Density too high and needs to be reduced in towns and villages. Existing planning permissions should be highlighted in Table 6.
- Concern about landowners not developing land with planning permission may be inhibiting other willing developers.
- Excess land – what will happen with this e.g. 36ha in Enfield. – Table 5 figure re housing units in Enfield appears to be wrong. The fact that Enfield is well positioned with rail line, motorway and interchanges should be emphasised to encourage development.



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

- Density may be too high but reducing the figures may cause difficulty with the Department e.g. would funding for future sewerage schemes be affected?
- The development of a deep sea Port has huge potential and there should be a strong focus on this development.
- Concern that there is not enough emphasis on Navan. The language used is weak and there needs to be a strong reference to the requirement for the delivery of the Navan rail line and the Regional Hospital.
- The Strategy as proposed should be more productive in terms of targeting development to specific areas.
- Will land be de-zoned?
- What is the status re the 2km. wide corridor for Leinster Outer Orbital Route – Duleek to Naas – does not allow Council to plan.

Responses – Pat Gallagher and Orla O’Brien

- Acknowledged that maps in packs are different. Explained that it is a work in progress and that the economic strategy includes the three towns Navan, Kells and Trim. There will be further consideration re the final document. An indicative Port study area is shown on the map.
- There are ten cross-cutting items identified:
 - Rail line is a core objective of Meath Co. Council and business is done as far as statutory planning is concerned.
 - As regards delivery of the Regional Hospital there is a statement of intent in R.P.G. and Meath County Council will do whatever it can to influence delivery of this project.
 - A deep sea Port would be of great benefit to Meath and is a key agenda item for Meath County Council.
 - With regard to the overhang of zoned land, it is not the Council’s intention to de-zone land. There are other options i.e. phasing of development and rezoning objectives (residential to industrial etc) by amending the County Development Plan.
 - Densities are average.
 - Dunboyne has the largest allocation of units and it is not appropriate to allocate further at this time. The Co. Development Plan will address further allocations.

Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services indicated that the Core Strategy Map No. 1 should identify more prominently the rail lines in Enfield and Laytown. He also pointed out that the LOOR has no place in the Core Strategy Policy at the moment.

Tom Dowling, County Manager thanked the Councillors for their input and stated that all comments were noted and will be included if possible.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** that the proposed variation to the County Development Plan should, as required be placed on public display.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all present and closed the meeting.