



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*4<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Council Chamber*

#### **Presiding**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Wayne Harding

#### **Councillors Present:**

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Seán Drew, Eddie Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Joe Fox, Noel French, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Annie Hoey, Suzanne Jamal, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

**Apologies:** Councillors Joe Bonner; Pdraig Fitzsimons

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

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Kevin Stewart

**Meetings Administrator:** Robert Collins

**Senior Executive Officers:** Larry Whelan, Dara McGowan, David Jones, Fiona Fallon

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

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

There were no matters arising.



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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Norah Kelly, former employee, on the death of her husband Eamonn Kelly
- Pdraig Maguire, employee, on the death of his wife Fiona
- The family of the late Anne Gibney, former Navan Town Councillor
- Councillor Paul McCabe on the death of his uncle John McCabe
- Councillor Tom Behan on the death of his uncle Pat Brodigan
- Family of the late Alice Cassidy and the family of the late Bridget Gillic (both centenarians) honoured by the Council in 2016

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kildalkey Hurling Team on winning the Senior County Championships
- Ratoath Football Team on winning the Senior County Championships, including Davy Byrne and his Management Team and Joey Wallace as Man of the Match
- Jack Reagan, winner of Player of the Year in the Christy Ring Cup
- Walterstown GFC on their achievements
- Boyne Valley Tourism, Meath County Council, Louth County Council and Failte Ireland for the organisation of the Puca Festival
- Boyne Valley Tourism on winning the world Food Trail title.
- Hinterland Festival for the organisation of the Samhain Festival
- Clann na nGael GAA on winning the junior Football Championships
- Meath Players Conor McGill, Donal Keogan and Bryan Menton shortlisted for the Football All-Star Team 2019
- Aisling Lowe – walk from Trim to Dublin to fund-raised for homeless people
- Nobber on winning the County Intermediate Football Championship
- Various towns and villages on receiving grants under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- Keith Keoghan, Sean Geraghty and Jack Regan nominated to the Championship 15 Hurling Team 2019
- Katie Taylor on being crowned Double World Champion and her manager Brian Peters
- Ashbourne Pride of Place winners
- The Ireland Women's Hockey Team on qualifying for the 2020 Olympics
- Matthew Costello on his rise from the minor to senior County Football Team

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



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### **4 (a) Presentation by Mr. Stephen Kent, Chief Executive Officer, Bus Éireann on the provision of bus services in County Meath**

Mr. Stephen Kent, Chief Executive Officer, Bus Éireann made a presentation to the meeting outlining the context within which the company provides services in the county. The presentation set out the challenges that the companies faces and its plans for improvements in the coming years. Mr. Kent was joined by his colleagues: Mr. Alan Parker, Chief Customer Officer; Mr. Adrian O'Loughlin, Operations Officer and Mr. John Sheridan, Media and Communications Officer.

There was an extensive debate with the following members making contributions: **Councillors: Sean Drew; Noel French; David Gilroy; Darren O'Rourke; Aisling Dempsey; Alan Tobin; Sharon Tolan; Nick Killian; Tommy Reilly; Mike Bray; Ronan Moore; Eugene Cassidy; Tom Behan; Gerry O'Connor; Gillian Toole; Paddy Meade; Alan Lawes; Maria Murphy; Deirdre Geraghty-Smith; Paul McCabe; Sharon Keogan; Damien O'Reilly; Sarah Reilly; Suzanne Jamal; Trevor Golden; Yemi Adenuga; and Stephen McKee.** Comments and questions focused on the operation of the bus service in the county, including direct experiences and comments and complaints received from constituents. Some of the issues raised are not under the remit of Bus Éireann but rather the National Transport Authority. The Bus Éireann representatives provided feedback and clarification and informed members about the company's representation email, which is set up to provide responses on issues raised by elected members.

## **5 Statutory Business**

### **5.1 Finance**

5.1.1 To note the Audited Annual Financial Statement 2018 and Local Government Audit report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

Noted on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**

5.1.2 To approve the raising of a loan of €1,815,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to provide finance for approved house purchase applications, loan restructuring and other housing loan related activities, as authorised by the Housing Acts 1966-1992.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**

### **5.2 Environment**

5.2.1 To receive a presentation in relation to the Draft Litter Management Plan 2019 – 2021.



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Ms. Bernadine Carry, Environmental Education Officer, made a presentation on the draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2021, which included an overview of the activities of the Council in managing waste, the challenges it faces in addressing litter issues, the general objectives of the Litter Management Plan and the actions that will be implemented to achieve these objectives.

There were contributions, follow-up questions and commendations from the following members:

**Councillors: Noel French; Nick Killian; David Gilroy; Alan Lawes; Maria Murphy; Ronan Moore; Conor Tormey; Eugene Cassidy; Paul McCabe; Sharon Keogan; and Damien O'Reilly.**

The Litter Management Plan 2019-2021 was agreed on a proposal from **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

### **5.3 Community**

5.3.1 To approve a replacement member of the Meath Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Local Action Group (LAG), representing the Meath County Chambers.

This item was deferred.

5.3.2 To receive details of and approve the allocations under the Community Amenity Scheme as recommended by the Members of each of the Municipal Districts at the October Municipal District meetings.

Clarification was sought by **Councillor Maria Murphy** on the use of non-allocated funding and this was provided. The allocations were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

### **5.4 Transportation**

5.4.1 To enter into an agreement with Louth County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001, whereby Louth County Council will exercise the statutory powers, functions and duties of Meath County Council in relation to the construction of Traffic Calming measures, located at Dublin regional road R132 in the townlands of Bryanstown, County Meath, which are described in the Schedule to the Agreement.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Chief Executive's Report**



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Clarification was sought by Councillors Nick Killian; Mike Bray; Annie Hoey; Alan Tobin; Tom Behan; Sharon Keogan; and Paddy Meade on a number of matters in the Report. The main issues focused on:

**Housing** – Dunshaughlin development; rapid build schemes at Cortown and Oldcastle; Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans; Alverno Court re-development; scheme at Killegland, Ashbourne;

**Transport** – public lighting at Newtown Cross;

**Community** – Ashbourne Playground; Community Grant scheme.

Responses were provided on the issues raised by the Management Team.

### **6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda and addendum for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The CPG received an up-date on the preparation of Budget 2020 and confirmed the next steps, which included the series of meetings with Municipal Districts. It also received an up-date on the preparation of the Corporate Plan 2019-2024. It reviewed the minutes of the first meetings of the Transportation and the Climate Action and Environment SPCs. The Meetings Administrator also advised that the Chief Executive has provided the Chief Executive with a prescribed notification under Section 147 of the Local Government Act 2001 regarding her tenure in office.

The **Cathaoirleach** confirmed receipt of the prescribed notification and informed the meeting that he would be informing the Minister and the Local Appointments Commissioners, as required under the Act.

### **6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee**

The Meetings Administrator gave a summary of items discussed by the Protocol Committee, including: an agreed definition of a Question and Motion, to be used in conjunction with Standing Orders; agreement on a protocol on the lighting of Council properties; endorsement of a commemoration by the Meath Archaeological and Historical Society in Kells; approved the list of attendance at conferences and training events and approved conferences for future attendance under Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001. The Protocol Committee also agreed not to continue the use of a break during Council meetings, as piloted at the October meeting.

## **7 Correspondence**

7.1 Correspondence from the National Transport Authority in response to Notice of Motion 9.8 adopted at the October 2019 meeting of the full Council.

This item and Item 9.8 were both noted by the Elected Members.



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- 7.2 Correspondence from Bus Eireann in response to Notice of Motion 9.8 adopted at the October 2019 meeting of the full Council.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.3 Circular 20/2019: Department of Public Expenditure and Reform re. Promoting the use of Environmental and Social Considerations in Public Procurement.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.4 Circular L2/19 - Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re: Approval of schemes/projects under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019–2021 and grant Allocations to Local Authorities for 2019.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.5 Circular Letter: PL 07/2019 - Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re: Recent High Court Judgement re Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 12 of 2019).

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.6 TII Circular No. 5/2019 – Winter Service Arrangements for Winter 2019/2020.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.7 Correspondence from the Health Service Executive in response to Notice of Motion 9.7 adopted at the September 2019 meeting of the full Council re. opposition to roll-out of 5G on health grounds.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.8 Correspondence from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment in response to Notice of Motion 9.14 adopted at the October 2019 meeting of the full Council re. electric car charging points.

Noted by the Elected Members.



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### **8 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

*'Subsequent to a motion passed during the November 2018 meeting of Meath County Council, I ask the Chief Executive for an update regarding the commencement of a pilot part-time work placement scheme across council offices, for people with disabilities.'*

**Response:**

As outlined in the supporting information to the motion passed in November 2018 Meath County Council is an equal opportunities employer which accommodates applications for jobs and work placements from candidates from a range of backgrounds including candidates with a disability. Since November 2018 the HR Department has continued with the main area of priority ensuring that the Council has the appropriate staff resources available so we may deliver on our current and planned service/business requirements.

Staff recruitment and facilitation of work placements from a range of candidates continues and while it has not been possible, due to HR Department service demands, to implement a specific programme as prescribed in the motion of November 2018 it may be possible to do so at a future point. In the meantime the HR Department will continue to seek to accommodate candidates with a disability who are seeking work placements wherever feasible. It must be noted that the work in relation to Prosper Meath continues and that this partnership process is proving successful in addressing disability related issues.

Noted by the Elected Members.

#### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke**

*'To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the Meath County Council local authority energy consumption rates for the last two years and whether it is believed that Meath County Council is in line to meet its 2020 target.'*

**Response:**

Meath County Council's energy consumption in 2018 was 38,615,414 kWh, which was a 1.3% reduction on energy consumption in 2017 of 39,106,003 kWh.

The Council's energy consumption has reduced by 15% from a baseline of 2009. The target is 33% by 2020. While other local authorities have a better rate of reduction, they are using an earlier baseline, when energy consumption was higher and thus their relative rate of reduction is greater. The roll-out of the LED public lighting programme on over 18,500 lights in the county will be a significant advance in reducing the Council's energy consumption. Public Lighting currently accounts for 49% of



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energy consumption and the LED programme, when complete, should bring a reduction of between 30-50%.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray**

*“To provide the number of fines issued and the number of fines paid for dog fouling in each municipal district in 2018 and to date in 2019.”*

#### **Response:**

A total of 9 dog fouling fines were issued in 2018 and of which 3 were paid - fines issued were as follows - Navan MD 4, Laytown/Bettystown MD 3 & Trim MD 2. Four dog fouling fines have issued to date in 2019 two of which have been paid to date. Fines are also issued in respect of dogs that are not under control - 11 in 2018 and 7 to date in 2019.

It is pointed out that sufficient evidence of littering is required in order to obtain a prosecution in the Courts and in many cases, while fines are issued based on information received from members of the public, getting the witness to subsequently attend Court to give evidence often proves very problematic. This is particularly so in the case of reported dog fouling incidences.

It is also pointed out that the Community Wardens do target areas which are subject to regular complaints over dog fouling and advise dog owners of their responsibilities in terms of cleaning up and in the vast majority of cases such advices are taken on board without the need for any further action including the issuing of fines. The erection of signage at popular dog walking areas also serves to remind dog owners of such responsibilities.

In all cases, consideration has to be given as to whether it is in the public interest to proceed to the courts based on the significant legal costs involved and the difficulties in securing payment of such costs, even where a conviction is obtained based on the circumstances of the offender.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.4 Submitted by Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith**

*“To ask the Chief Executive to describe the specific actions currently being undertaken by the Housing department to ensure that the vacant sites register is fully up to date in the County.”*

#### **Response:**

Following the adoption of Variation 4 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 in December 2017 Meath County Council has placed 23 sites on the Vacant Sites Register. Sites are





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identified in accordance with the criteria set out in the legislation and a Proposed Notice of Entry on the Vacant Site Register is sent to the landowner(s). This gives the landowner the opportunity to set out why the site does not meet the criteria for the Vacant Sites Register. If the appeal is unsuccessful, the site is placed on the Vacant Sites Register with a further appeal mechanism to An Bord Pleanála.

The Planning Authority continues to implement this policy on sites that meet the relevant criteria, i.e. zoned appropriately, have not applied for and/or activated a permission and are serviced with transport links and water supply.

Cllr. Geraghty-Smith sought a clarification, which would be provided to her directly. Noted by the Elected Members.

### **9 Notice of Motion**

#### **9.1 Submitted by the following Laytown-Bettystown District Councillors (Councillors: Sharon Keogan; Wayne Harding; Paddy Meade; Stephen McKee; Annie Hoey)**

*"The elected members of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District call on Meath County Council to cease all progression of the proposed council house development at Staleen, Donore (including not placing the proposed development on e-tenders or seeking tender by any other method), until such time as a majority of the Laytown-Bettystown County Councillors vote in favour of a proposed plan."*

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

Housing Need for the Scheme: Meath County Council as part of its statutory remit as a Housing Authority is required to assess the housing need throughout the County, including Donore. The housing need in Donore alone stands at 38 households (with a total of 83 applicants from all areas expressing a preference for Donore). Housing need has existed in the area for the past number of years and is expected to continue even with the implementation of this scheme.

Initiation of the Scheme: In order to meet housing needs in the County, a strategic review of the Council's land bank was carried out to identify suitable sites for the provision of social housing. On foot of this review approval was sought from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in mid-2017 to progress schemes at seven different locations including Donore. Stage 1 approval to proceed with the Donore scheme was received in June 2017. A design team was appointed in October 2017.

Planning Process: After the initial designs were received, Departmental approval was obtained in May 2018 to go to a Part VIII process for 21 Houses. Prior to the formal commencement of this process a variation of the County Development Plan was required. The variation went on public display in November 2018 and was approved by the full Council (including the Laytown/Bettystown



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members) at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019, following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report and the submissions received.

Once the variation was approved, a Part VIII application went on public display on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 and the Chief Executive's Report was presented to the meeting of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The officials from the Planning and Housing Departments were in attendance and outlined the process for the members i.e. that they would have to bring forward a motion to either reject or amend the Part VIII within six weeks of receiving the Chief Executive's Report. If no such motion was brought forward within that period, permission was effectively granted for the development. No motions were brought forward within the six week period.

Departmental Approval: As the planning process has been completed, Departmental approval has now been obtained to go to tender on the scheme within an overall scheme budget of €4,521,902. The Donore Scheme, as with all direct construction projects, is subject to the Department's four stage approval process, including Capital Appraisal and Project Review, Pre-Planning Statutory Approval, Pre-Tender Approval and Tender Approval. For each of these four stages, a project cannot proceed without the Department's formal sanction, which includes approval in respect of scheme design, technical aspects and costs. The Donore scheme is now in the third stage of the approval process.

Conclusion: Meath County Council, as the statutory Housing Authority, has an obligation to assess the housing need and to meet that need as effectively as possible. The housing need in Donore has been established and is growing. The proposed development will be a significance response to this need.

Given the stage at which the project is at, the motion would negate the exchequer funds already expended in the planning and design of the project and cast doubt on Meath County Council's commitment to implementing its programme under Rebuilding Ireland, potentially putting in jeopardy the €4.5m approved, thus undermining its ability to attract future funding for housing in the county.

Following the approval of the variation to the County Development Plan and the completion of the Part VIII process by the Councillors, the provision of this housing scheme is now an executive function and it is intended to proceed with the next stages of the development, in accordance with the approvals granted by the Department to date.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**. There was an extensive debate on the motion with contributions from **Councillors Paddy Meade; Stephen McKee; Sharon Keogan; Alan Lawes; Nick Killian; Gerry O'Connor; Sharon Tolan; Sarah Reilly; Darren O'Rourke; Eugene Cassidy; Joe Fox, Maria Murphy;** and the **Cathaoirleach**. A response was provided by the Chief Executive and clarifications given by Directors of Services: Kevin Stewart and Barry Lynch. The Cathaoirleach decided to put the motion to a roll call vote.



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The roll call vote was taken as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Yemi Adenuga		X		
Cllr. Tom Behan	X			
Cllr. Joseph Bonner				X
Cllr. Mike Bray		X		
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy		X		
Cllr. Francis Deane				X
Cllr. Aisling Dempsey		X		
Cllr Sean Drew				X
Cllr. Eddie Fennessy				X
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald		X		
Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons				X
Cllr. Joe Fox		X		
Cllr. Noel French				X
Cllr. Deirdre Geraghty-Smith		X		
Cllr. David Gilroy		X		
Cllr. Trevor Golden			X	
Cllr. Johnny Guirke				X
Cllr. Wayne Harding	X			
Cllr. Annie Hoey	X			
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal		X		



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Cllr. Sharon Keogan	X			
Cllr. Nick Killian		X		
Cllr. Alan Lawes	X			
Cllr. Paul McCabe		X		
Cllr. Stephen McKee	X			
Cllr. Paddy Meade	X			
Cllr. Ronan Moore			X	
Cllr. Maria Murphy		X		
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor		X		
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly		X		
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke		X		
Cllr. Sarah Reilly		X		
Cllr. Tommy Reilly				X
Cllr. Amanda Smith	X			
Cllr. Niamh Souhan		X		
Cllr. Alan Tobin		X		
Cllr. Emer Tóibín			X	
Cllr. Sharon Tolan		X		
Cllr. Gillian Toole		X		
Cllr. Conor Tormey				X

A total of 31 members were present for the vote. The result was as follows: For: 8; Against 20; Abstain: 3. Motion 9.1 was deemed to be rejected.



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On a proposal from **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**, it was agreed to extend the meeting to 6.30pm.

### **9.2 Submitted by the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District Councillors**

*"To call on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross, to designate the R132 as a national road."*

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

The R132 Dublin — Dundalk, County Louth (Part Old National Route 1) extends from its junction with R803 at Parnell Street in the city of Dublin to its junction with R174 at Feede in the county of Louth. It passes through the administrative areas of four local authorities namely Dublin City, Fingal, Meath and Louth.

The proposition to make the R132 a national road was raised at the meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport on September 25, 2019. The response given by the Department was that even if the Minister made an order designating the R132 as a national road, TII would still have to go through the same process of undertaking the analysis and justification of the project in conjunction with the local authority. Funding would also have to be found for the project. While there may be a perception that TII might be in a better position to deliver the project more quickly, the actuality is that the same timelines would apply to delivering the scheme regardless of whether it was a national road or a regional road project.

A reclassification of the R132 to a national road would have other implications. Meath County Council would remain as the Road Authority, however, the TII would have overall responsibility for the planning and supervision of works for the construction and maintenance of the road.

TII is required, as far as possible, to arrange that these functions shall be performed on its behalf by the relevant road authority. However, where TII considers that it would be more convenient, more expeditious, more effective or more economical that the function concerned should be performed by it, it may decide accordingly. Under section 20 of the Roads Act 1993, TII would also have the power to direct Meath County Council to do certain things in relation to the road and the Council would be obliged to take all such measures as would be necessary to comply with such a direction.

It should also be noted that should the road be re-classified as a national road the provisions of the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines 2012 would apply, which would cause potential restriction to/from the road in the context of development control.

The current status regarding Julianstown is that a draft business case to address the traffic volumes in Julianstown was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in December 2018, with the by-pass emerging as the preferred option. Following the meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 a final business case was



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submitted in October 2019 and the Council await the Department's comments on same. In the meantime, the Council has made provision for €800,000 in its Capital Plan 2019-2021 for traffic management measures in Julianstown. The Transportation Department is currently preparing a submission to An Bord Pleanála for approval of these proposed traffic management works. This is due to be submitted in November 2019.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Annie Hoey** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**. There were contributions from the following members: **Councillors Annie Hoey; Sharon Tolan; Alan Tobin; Maria Murphy;** and **Mike Bray**. It was agreed that this motion be referred to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

### **9.3 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore**

*"That Meath County Council undertakes to ensure that all new public buildings when designed – with particular attention paid to sanitary facilities – incorporate a Universal Design approach so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability. Furthermore, that Meath County Council encourages all entities that receive funding from Meath County Council for the construction and/or refurbishment of facilities open to the public, consider a Universal Design approach."*

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

During the design of any new building, Meath County Council considers statutory requirements, available space, end use of the building and best design principles. The Universal Design approach has been previously utilised during the design phase and this is something that will continue going forward. In addition to considering Universal Design in Meath County Council projects, this approach can also be considered through the various Community grant schemes that have an element of building design.

The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Ronan Moore** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**, was noted.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*"That Meath County Council investigate the feasibility of recycling stair lifts in appropriate circumstances."*

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

The Housing Department will investigate the feasibility of the reuse of stair lifts, in particular in instances that arise through our own housing stock, and had been subject to Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme funding. Matters of compatibility of equipment, installers' willingness to



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utilise pre used stair lifts and storage will need to be examined in this context, while schemes operated by other Local Authorities will be ascertained.

The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**, was noted.

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"Following the unanimous passing of my motion in 2015, I call on Meath County Council to follow through as soon as practicably possible to introduce "bye laws on the prohibition of consumption of intoxicating liquor on roads and public places."*

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

This matter was the subject of a Motion considered at the September 2015 Council Meeting and a response issued as follows:

The motion has since been the subject of discussion with the Gardaí and particularly at Joint Policing Committee meetings and while further discussions are proposed it has been suggested that sufficient authority is already available to the Gardaí to deal with public order offences often associated with consumption of alcohol in public places through the Criminal Justice Acts as well as the Councils own Meath Parks and Playgrounds Bye Laws 2014.

The matter has been raised at subsequent Joint Policing Committee level meetings however, the Gardaí in whom responsibility for enforcing the bye-laws would inevitably fall, have not called for such bye-laws to be introduced and suggest they have sufficient enforcement powers as vested in Public Order legislation.

It was agreed that the motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, would be referred to the Joint Policing Committee for consideration.

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"That Meath County Council use opportunities available to it to encourage the public to take the flu jab as well as other recommended vaccines for the overall health of our older people, those that are pregnant, young children, teenagers and those with compromised immune systems."*

There was an intervention from Councillor Ronan Moore. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**, was noted.



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### **9.7 Submitted by Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith**

*“That this Council would write to the Garda Commissioner expressing its dissatisfaction at the announcement that the new Garda Divisional Headquarters is not to be located in County Meath, following the recently announced merger of the Meath and Westmeath Garda divisions; in spite of the larger population in this County. That this Council would also seek a full, written description of the proposed resourcing plan and organisational structure on a district by district basis for County Meath. That the Council would further impress upon the Commissioner the need for increased visibility and resourcing on the ground in County Meath in line with population growth; such as in South County Meath, and the need to invest significantly in the physical resources available to an Garda Síochána across the County.”*

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

The Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) has already written to the An Garda Commissioner inviting him to attend a meeting of the JPC on December 9, 2019. This invitation has been accepted and all Councillors will be invited to attend and participate in the meeting. Should this motion be passed, it will be forwarded to the Commissioner in advance of the December meeting.

There were interventions from Councillors Gerry O'Connor and Alan Tobin. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Ashling Dempsey**, was agreed.

### **9.8 Submitted by Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith**

*“That this Council would write to the NTA inviting them to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss a range of issues relating to transport in the County, including the bus network and the Navan Rail Link.”*

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

Following the passing of a motion by this Council at its meeting in October, the NTA has been invited to attend a meeting of the Council and has accepted this invitation. It is planned that executives from the NTA will make a presentation and discuss transportation issues with elected members at the December Council meeting.

This motion was considered as part of Item 7.1

### **9.9 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke**

*'In order to better inform the ongoing review of the Meath County Development Plan, and recognising 1) the implications of the provisions of national and regional strategies on rural one-off housing, 2) the related restrictions to be provided on those seeking planning permission in rural*





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*areas, and 3) the potential impact that this will have on rural areas, including Gaeltacht areas, in Meath; that this Council will write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for an urgent update on the local planning implications of the 'Flemish Decree' judgement by the European Court of Justice."*

There was an intervention from Councillor Damien O'Reilly and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, was agreed.

### **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
- 10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community

Noted by the Elected Members

### **11 Any Other Business**

The following items were raised: **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** welcomed the Section 147 notification from the Chief Executive. **Councillor Alan Tobin** highlighted the boil water notice that had been issued again by Irish Water. **Councillor Gillian Toole** provided an information source on the flu vaccine.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cllr. Wayne Harding  
Cathaoirleach

Date:

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