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Ordinary Meeting

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

9.30a.m., 13th February 2020, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, presided.

Councillors Present: Tom Behan, Wayne Harding, Annie Hoey, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 16th January 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th January 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- David Jones, Housing Department, on the death of his father, Gerry.

Congratulations were extended to:



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- Former councillors Darren O'Rourke and Johnny Guirke on being elected to represent Meath East and Meath West respectively and all candidates who both stood for election and were elected in those constituencies and in Louth.

Both congratulations and commiserations were specifically expressed to Councillors Sharon Keogan and Annie Hoey on the recent election.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted.

- 4.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed traffic calming scheme in Julianstown Village.

Fergal McCabe, Executive Engineer, Transportation, and Eoin O'Mahony, AECOM, provided a verbal update to the meeting, outlining the amendments to the proposed scheme, which is at preliminary design stage, since the last update was provided. Discussions with landowners are ongoing and the planning process has commenced, with requirements for a Natura Impact Statement, EIA screening report and landscape visual assessment. Recommended actions include the preparation of a cultural heritage report and further environmental assessment, to include mitigating actions, e.g. River Nanny. The proposed scheme will be assessed against the reports prior to a submission being made to An Bord Pleanála.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried why this scheme was not subject to a Part 8 – the EIA had recommended the NIS, which means that the application must go to An Bord Pleanála.



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- The timeframe for the process – this is dependent on a number of factors. The cultural heritage report is in draft format and is due to be completed in 2-3 weeks. The visual assessment should be completed in March/April. The intention would be to submit the application to An Bord Pleanála in May/June. Following receipt of feedback, which can take three months, a detailed design can be prepared. However, a significant amount of preparatory work has been undertaken. It is likely to be 2021 before works can commence on site. It was pointed out that the nature of such schemes, including the report requirements, etc. does take time.
- Queried the funding allocations made – a capital programme allocation has been made and it is also hoped to secure NTA funding.
- Acknowledged the complex traffic issues that affect the area, including traffic volumes at peak times and traffic speed during off-peak times – the business case for reducing traffic volumes is advanced, remains a priority and will be progressed in parallel with the scheme outlined.
- The possibility of carrying out night works when the scheme commences – constraints would apply, including health and safety considerations, arising from the narrow road width, the additional cost and time involved, and the impact on local residents due to the associated noise. A key part of the scheme will be effective traffic management, including a phased approach along the 900m length.
- The possibility of reducing the road width and providing pedestrian and cycling facilities in addition to bus lanes – there are a number of pinch points which could not accommodate a bus lane, resulting in buses having to move in and out of the main traffic flow.
- The need for additional public transport in addition to traffic calming measures – the traffic calming scheme is intended to benefit the village, including pedestrians, schools, etc. The wider issues, including public transport and the bypass, can be considered at a future meeting.
- The consideration given to causing traffic build up outside of the immediate area and the need to consider traffic issues in the wider area.



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4.1.3 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Coney Hall Estate in Mornington in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

Matthew Rafferty, Technician, Transportation, outlined the report, which was circulated in advance.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The process for introducing the proposed measures – this was outlined.
- Issues around a tree affecting visibility exiting the estate – it was agreed to check this.
- Queried the consistency of approach in terms of installing ramps in estates – the national guidelines allow for ramps to be provided as a last resort, as they can lead to accidents and can affect access by emergency vehicles.
- Referred to the effectiveness of chicanes in other locations.

4.2 To consider and adopt the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to the expenditure on pre-let repairs – this expenditure represents an investment in the local authority's housing stock and is part funded centrally. The extent of works undertaken depends on the condition of the property and what works are required, e.g. fire safety works, energy upgrades, adaptation works, etc. A pilot scheme is to be undertaken in Navan, whereby planned maintenance works will be carried out in occupied units, thereby reducing the need for extensive pre-let repairs. The outcome of this pilot scheme will inform the rollout of a more extensive programme of works.



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- Queried the timeframe for completion of works in Alverno, with the footpath and clean up works being welcomed – tender documents are being prepared with the intention being to appoint a contractor in Q3 2020.

Des Foley, Director of Service, Transportation outlined the planned expenditure in the municipal district, including reference to the Spine Road, the Slane Bypass and the Public Realm Plan. It was pointed out that the information presented today refers to the revenue programme, with the capital programme, being separate, dealing with works such as footpaths, public lighting, etc. The proposed works take a number of factors into account, including the PCSI, population, etc. Consideration must also be given to the time associated with bringing schemes to commencement stage, the availability of consultants, archaeologists and contractors, tender prices, etc.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation Section highlighted the increase in funding whilst also referring to construction cost inflation, for which a contingency provision has been made. This will be subject to review, with additional works added to the programme if it is not fully required.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the spread of proposed works across the municipal district and the additional funding allocated and also acknowledged the progress made since 2014.
- Queried the timeframe for the submission of the Slane Bypass design to An Bord Pleanála – this will be submitted when the County Development Plan is adopted.
- Queried the omission of roads that were in poor condition and which were not surveyed as part of the PCSI – whilst a whole network survey is planned for 2020, 99% of the network has been surveyed, which compares very favourably with other local authorities. Any locations of concern should be submitted to the Transportation Department and these will be surveyed, if not already included.
- Expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in relation to Laytown car park, the park & ride and footpath under the bridge.



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- Queried the possibility of gritting routes outside each school – currently, over 80% of the regional road network is on the winter gritting programme, with the aim of increasing that to 100% over the next two years. For schools not on the regional road network, it is not advised to grit one section only, as this is misleading for road users. The approach to the gritting programme and the capacity constraints were outlined.
- The need for traffic calming on lower Main Street and bottom of Station Road, Duleek.
- Queried the plans for the additional funding allocated to street sweeping – this will be used to increase the areas covered as part of the standard programme and as requested.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

Councillor Paddy Meade wished to have his objection noted, based on his belief that the 1% of the road network that was not surveyed includes the roads in the worst condition.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 7.1 To note the report from the Planning Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of 19th December 2019.

The report was noted.



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- 7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 22nd January 2020.

The report was noted.

8 Other Matters Arising

- 8.1 Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Asset Management raised the following issue:

8.1.1 Referred to the Section 183 in respect of extending the lease on Duleek Courthouse - this was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Concerns expressed by residents and businesses on Tower Road, Mornington regarding flood warning signage erected and the possible implications for insurance and planning applications – three advance warning signs have been erected on the Coast Road notifying motorists that, in the event of heavy rainfall and/or high tide, a section of the road may flood, and enabling them to turn.

10.1.2 Line marking required at Deepforde – this is included on the list.

10.1.3 The provision of bins in Duleek graveyard – bins are not provided in graveyards where signs are in place advising people to bring any rubbish with them.

- 10.2 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Acknowledged the excellent coastal protection works carried out to date and



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requested that a funding application be made to continue the work towards Bettystown, where the gabions are crumbling and the wire frame is protruding, representing a danger.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach