



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

### ***Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***10.00am 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020, County Hall, Navan***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Tom Behan**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan, Elaine McGinty, 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 Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan**.

#### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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



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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Fiona Lawless on the death of her sister, Siobhan;
- The families of the late Conor McColgan and Amy English who recently died in a traffic accident on the Navan to Slane road;
- The family of the late Cormac Wall, Slane who recently died tragically, with tributes paid to the first responders, including Boyne Fisherman's Rescue & Recovery Service.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Duleek Girls N.S. 6<sup>th</sup> class and their teacher, Ms. Costigan, on winning the Class of the Year award at the national Junior Entrepreneur Competition for their classroom business "Where are you Mammy?";
- Mornington Green Coast on achieving Green Flag status;
- Deputy Thomas Byrne on being appointed Junior Minister for European Affairs;
- Deputy Helen McEntee on being appointed Minister for Justice;
- Senator Regina Doherty on her appointment to the Seanad.

#### **4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

- 4.1 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

#### **5 Statutory Business**

##### **5.1 Corporate Services**

- 5.1.1 To adopt the revised Standing Orders for the meetings of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District – Sections 1 & 2 regarding meeting dates.



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

These were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

- 5.1.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

### **5.2 Planning**

- 5.2.1 To receive a presentation on the Strategic Housing Development application, reference no. ABP-307240-20 Davy Target Investments ICAV in accordance with Section 8 (4) (c)(ii) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Philip Maguire, Executive Planner provided details of the application, the consultations that had taken place, the proposed site layout, residential typology and facilities, and the next steps, including the submission of the Chief Executive's report by 21<sup>st</sup> July, which will include a copy of today's meeting minutes.

Councillors raised a number of concerns regarding this proposed development, including:

- The overdevelopment of the site, its impact on the core strategy of the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 and the implication for Settlement Strategy Objective 13 of the County Development Plan 2013-2019, which aims to ensure that small towns such as Duleek grow in a balanced and self-sustaining way.
- The inadequacy of the local road infrastructure to support existing traffic volumes, including HGV traffic, and the implications of such a development on traffic volumes and road safety.
- The absence of a bypass for Duleek and/or a HGV ban and the possibility of related development levies being ringfenced to progress these.



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

- The inappropriateness of such a development design for the area, given the proposed style and scale, including high-rise dwellings, and its impact on the character and heritage of Duleek.
- The inadequacy of the local social infrastructure, including schools and other services.
- The inadequacy of the water services infrastructure to support such a development.
- The inadequacy of public transport networks and services to other urban centres.
- Requested that an oral hearing take place.
- Queried the financial implications for the local authority for the provision of transport and other infrastructure, if this application were to be granted.
- Referred to the undemocratic nature of the SHD process, where the public are restricted in objecting to proposals unless they pursue costly legal action.
- The impact of this development, if granted, on the draft County Development Plan in this and/or other areas in terms of the number of residential units being permitted.
- The need for a helpline or other support for local residents to seek advice in relation to SHD applications without having to seek legal advice and/or appoint a solicitor.

In response, it was pointed out that national policy aims to increase housing supply within towns, villages and on zoned, surplus, serviced sites, of which this is one due to its proximity to the town centre. The proposed density is in compliance with that set out in the County Development Plan. The Transportation Section has reviewed the application and has commented on the need for road safety audits and traffic management assessment. A special



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

transportation levy may be applied. The application, if granted, would impact on the core strategy and zonings, with the need to assess how other lands could be phased out.

### **5.3 Transportation**

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

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:

- Acknowledged the work of Christy Clarke and the outdoor staff over recent months, with reference to the regular cleaning of the playgrounds.
- Requested an update on the timeframe for commencement of works on the footpath and cycleway in Donacarney, with reference to the bat survey – the formal bat survey report has not yet been submitted but it is hoped to commence the Part 8 in September.
- Queried the street sweeping schedule in Slane – it takes place every 2 weeks in Slane.
- The possibility of increasing the street sweeping visits to Duleek, Julianstown and Lobinstown.
- Requested an update on the timeframe for the provision of the pedestrian crossing at Harry's and the possibility of extending the barrier on the footpath to prevent parking – works will commence in mid-August. Whilst it was agreed to look at the barrier, it was pointed out that this may obstruct visibility for children.
- The need for additional funding for road improvements.
- Welcomed the provision of underpasses to enhance road safety.



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

- The possibility of erecting advance warning signage in Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District for the road closure in Rathkenny.

### **6 Notice of Question**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty**

“I am looking for a list of all estates not taken in charge in East Meath Bettystown - Laytown area and completion timeframes for those going through the process.”

**Response:**

*Please see attached spreadsheet Laytown/Bettystown estates on record, not in charge.*

*This information is available on localgov crm HReg at the following link:*

[https://localgovcrm.meathcoco.ie/index.php?module=HERIG\\_HEReg&action=index&parentTab=Planning](https://localgovcrm.meathcoco.ie/index.php?module=HERIG_HEReg&action=index&parentTab=Planning).

The response was noted.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee**

“That Meath County Council make funding available immediately to provide the additional traffic calming measures that are needed on Lower Main Street Duleek in order to complete and complement the works that have already taken place further up the street.”

**Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:**

*There is currently no funding ring fenced for the further traffic calming works at Lower Main Street. Meath County Council will consider any traffic calming measures that could*



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

*improve the street from a pedestrian/vehicle interaction perspective, when funding becomes available.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

A short discussion followed, with councillors highlighting the impact of traffic volumes on businesses and residents and the need for traffic calming measures at this location. In response, the potential financial implications of COVID-19 on the local authority were referenced.

The motion was adopted.

### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan**

*“To call on Meath County Council to identify and address the very serious areas of coastal erosion and gabion damage along the Meath Coastline, and in particular the very serious and dangerous condition of the section between Laytown and Bettystown, and the areas of Mornington that are being destroyed by vehicles on a daily basis.”*

#### **Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:**

*In 2018 a report commissioned by Fingal County Council on behalf of nineteen local authorities whose coastlines are under threat from coastal erosion was produced by the MaREI Centre in UCC. The report titled Local Authority Coastal Erosion Policy and Practice Audit was submitted to the Office of Public Works (OPW) and who in turn referred it to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government as that Department have strategic responsibility for the coast, including coastal erosion.*

*In July 2019 by the Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform issued the following response to a Dáil Question as to when the OPW expects to agree a template and parameters for a coastal monitoring programme.*

*“The OPW is currently preparing a plan for regular coastal monitoring surveys to be undertaken at a number of coastal sites that are considered to be at risk of coastal flooding and or / coastal erosion. These surveys will provide important and detailed*



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

*information to assist with the ongoing monitoring of local rates of coastal erosion and to inform associated risk assessments. “*

*The Council await decisions at national level in respect of the Audit report and the outcome of the surveys referred to in the Dáil response and note a provision in the recently agreed Programme for Government to “Progress a national policy on coastal erosion and flooding having regard to climate change”.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

A discussion followed, with councillors underlining the need for urgent action to prevent further damage, with particular reference to the stretch where the gabions have disintegrated. It was urged that an application for funding be made to the OPW to carry out the necessary remedial works. It was also requested that the boulders at Mornington be replaced to prevent vehicle access to the dunes.

The motion was adopted.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan**

“To call on Meath County Council's Transportation Section to write to the NTA to progress some of the pedestrian and cycle schemes identified in the Arup Report completed in 2014, and to deliver said schemes as a matter of urgency, following Anne Graham's comments and commitment at the meeting of the Full Council last December.”

**Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:**

*The Transportation Department will raise the matter with the NTA and inform the Councillors of their response.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty**.

A short discussion followed, with councillors highlighting the urgent need for such schemes, particularly in light of the increase in walking and cycling in recent months.





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

The motion was adopted.

### **8 Other Matters Arising**

- 8.1 Councillor Elaine McGinty requested that all future planning permissions granted would include a condition that the construction of cycle-lanes and footpaths would be mandatory at the pre-construction phase – it was agreed to forward this request to the Planning Department.

### **9 Correspondence**

- 9.1 Correspondence received from An Garda Síochana in response to the letter issued on 20th May re additional patrols on the beach at Bettystown/Laytown.

The correspondence was noted.

### **10 Any Other Business**

- 10.1 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:

- 10.1.1 Queried when councillors would receive a copy of the documentation to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in respect of the planning application for the Boyne Greenway and whether the councillors and public will have an opportunity to comment prior to it being submitted due to ongoing concerns regarding flooding and wildlife habitats.
- 10.1.2 Referred to the need for greater cooperation between Louth and Meath County Councils, with specific reference to the timeframe for the Joint Urban Area Plan and the completion of works in Rosevale on the Louth side – discussions are ongoing with the relevant authorities in relation to Rosevale.
- 10.1.3 Queried whether it would be possible to provide hanging baskets on the Dublin Road, approaching Drogheda, and whether a company could fund the provision of flower beds on the Colpe roundabout – a roundabout sponsorship scheme is in place and any interested business can discuss this with the Transportation Department.



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

10.1.4 The need to review speed limits, e.g. reduce the speed limit to 50kmph at Stameen/Southgate, and also the need for new or replacement speed signs in a number of locations – a speed limit review takes place on a periodic basis, with requests stored centrally. Councillors are asked to submit suggestions to the Transportation Department.

10.2 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Queried as to whether the Gardaí could be requested to increase patrols at the playground at Narrowways and Bettystown Woods, where anti-social behaviour is increasing – it was agreed to discuss possible measures with the Gardaí.

10.3 Councillor Elaine McGinty raised the following issue:

10.3.1 The lack of facilities for teenagers, e.g. youth café, community centre, etc.

10.4 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issues:

10.4.1 Referred to the importance of providing parking spaces on the beach at Bettystown for those with a disability – this had been discussed by the Environment SPC and parking spaces are being made available on the beach for the elderly and those with a disability. The matter is to be further reviewed in September.

10.4.2 Queried whether casual trading licences would be issued for the beach this year – this was discussed at the Environment SPC and it was agreed that no applications for licences would be accepted this year, due to the difficulties in complying with public health requirements. All potential applicants were made aware of this and have expressed interest for 2021.

10.4.3 The need to ensure emergency vehicle access to the beach – emergency services can access the beach.

10.4.4 The impact of restricted parking on the beach on local businesses – alternative parking has been provided.



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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

---

**Cathaoirleach**