



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 16th September 2020, County Hall, Navan

An Meára, **Councillor Francis Deane**, presided.

Councillors Present: Yemi Adenuga, Edward Fennessy, Padraig Fitzsimons, Alan Lawes, Tommy Reilly and Emer Tóibín.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Larry Whelan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Paul O'Brien

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8th July 2020. (See below)

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th July 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Ewan Hannon, Beaufort Place;
- The family of the late Tony Smith, Troytown Heights;



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- The family of the late Jacinta Hand, Abbeylands Crescent.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The schools, and particularly the school principals, who have reopened.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Community

- 4.1.1 To receive details of the allocations under the Community Amenity Project Scheme 2020 and if in agreement, recommend to the full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community outlined the recommended grant allocations following the assessment process. These were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**.

4.2 Transportation

- 4.2.1 To receive an update on the recent Non-Statutory Public Consultation on the Proposed Infrastructure to facilitate the proposed Navan Town Bus Routes N1 & N2.

Cormac Ross, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation confirmed that a number of submissions received during the non-statutory public consultation were being considered. It is likely that the recommendation will be to proceed with works, with a view to commencing these later this year and completing in Summer 2021. The submissions indicated considerable support for the proposal, with some suggesting new or changed routes. Meath County Council's role is in providing the infrastructure and the route suggestions have been referred to the NTA and Bus Éireann.

It was agreed to deal with Item 6.5 – Notice of Motion at this point.



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Matters raised by councillor included a number of possible route amendments – route selection is a matter for the NTA and Bus Éireann, whilst the Council will provide the bus stops to serve these.

4.2.2 To receive an update on the Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) Contract 2.

Cormac Ross, Transportation provided an update on works planned for various locations, with reference to traffic management plans in place and proposed timelines.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The timeframe for parking to be facilitated on Bridge Street- loading and parking permits are being facilitated and any further issues can be discussed separately.
- Queried whether additional traffic could be facilitated to access Boreen Keel from Canon Row to reduce congestion at the fire station junction, particularly at peak times – it was agreed to consider this when the kerbing has been installed.
- Suggested that the benefits are not clear to the public – the works will improve road safety at a major access to the town, through for example the delivery of wider footpaths and dedicated crossing facilities.
- Referred to the ongoing issue of cars parked on Cannon Row and impeding access, particularly affecting buses.
- Queried the timeframe for the completion of works and whether this will be met - the aim is to be completed in March 2021 but it was pointed out that issues can arise that may affect this so a more definitive timeline will be clearer closer to the end of that period. Two way traffic will be reinstated between the two roundabouts at the end of November and resurfacing works will commence after Christmas to minimise disruption.
- Queried whether cycleways are planned alongside footpaths – the intention is to slow traffic down and create a cycle friendly roundabout with road

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markings on approach. The available width does not allow for segregated facilities.

- The need to consider the long term benefits of improving connection of main arteries into the town to address the perception of congestion.
- Queried whether traders would be notified of the Christmas traffic plan – advance notification will be circulated.
- The possibility of moving the ‘End Cycle Lane’ sign on Railway Street – this will be looked at.
- The possibility of providing facilities for smaller coach parking to facilitate access by shoppers from north Meath.
- The opportunities to promote Navan and the improvements through councillors and social media.
- Queried the impact of the traffic wardens on businesses in the town.

4.2.3 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update was provided at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The possibility of erecting anti-dumping signs in Beechmount Estate – it was agreed to check this.
- Queried whether a residents association can fund tree pruning- the council crew can remove lower branches, otherwise a specialist tree surgeon is required. If the residents association were to carry out works themselves, they would need to implement traffic management, etc.



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- The possibility of installing a yellow box at Athlumney Wood – it was agreed to look at this when the road marking contractors return.
- Queried the timeframe for the second phase of footpath works in Silverlawns – this will form part of a future scheme, possibly 2021.
- Queried whether Reask is included in the planned programme for playground repairs – works are being prioritised based on community grant funding available, e.g. footfall, etc. In more mature estates, consideration will be given as to whether playgrounds are still required.
- Referred to recurring flooding issues at the archway at Cornmarket and Bakery Lane – the drainage issues have been addressed at Cornmarket but drains do get blocked with litter, etc. The next phase of the Navan 2030 scheme will include Trimgate Street and this will include the provision of an improved drainage system. Some works have been carried out on the gullies in Bakery Lane but the main issue relates to the lack of guttering on one of the buildings. No response has been received from the building's owner and further action may be required.
- The possibility of providing additional benches in Blackwater Park – a wheelchair friendly bench has been installed and it was agreed to see if additional benches can be provided, subject to funding.
- Queried the timeframe for the assessment of trees for pruning/removal – the arborologist's report, which was based on submissions received, has not yet been received.
- Referred to the issues for traffic exiting Moathill – the planning permission for a residential development opposite the exit, with the entrance at the same point, includes the provision of a fully signalised junction.
- Requested that the hedges in front of Boyne View estate be cut back – this will be done as part of the hedging contract in the autumn.
- Queried whether top soil can be provided for Athlumney Hall.

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- Referred to the need for road markings on Metges Road.
- Queried the delay of in carrying out remedial works on the road and footpaths in the cul-de-sac in Blackcastle – whilst no commitment was given, these can be considered as part of the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works.
- Referred to waterlogging on the path in Windtown following heavy rain.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“To ask the Executive the following:

1. How many applicants are currently on the one-bed list in Navan;
2. What is the average wait time for a one-bed applicant to receive an allocation?;
3. How many one-bed applicants have been housed in Navan over the past five years?;
4. What plans do the Council have to address long term waits on the one bed list?”

Response:

1. *There are 538 single applicants on the social housing waiting list for Navan, out of a total of 1,364 applicants.*
2. *The year of application, from which applicants are currently being allocated, should one bed units become available, is 2006.*
3. *Fifty five single applicants have been allocated a social house over the past five years in Navan.*

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4. *The strategy to address the needs of single one bed applicants is as follows:*

- *In terms of direct construction, provision for one bed units is made in schemes in proportion to the demand in which the scheme is being constructed. For example, the proposed 84 units in Fearganstown will comprise 38 one bed units (subject to Planning). This represents 42% of the overall development, running ahead of the 38% one bed applicant list currently recorded for Navan;*
- *The need for one bed properties is constantly promoted with Approved Housing Bodies, and also with developers in respect of Part V;*
- *In 2020, we will be proceeding to allocate a proportion of 2 bed units to single applicants, in recognition of the historic lack of supply of one bed units and resulting bottleneck in demand.*

The response was noted, with clarification sought on the year of applications and the number of one bed units delivered by Approved Housing Bodies and via Part V.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

“Are there any plans in the Roadworks Programme to complete the resurfacing of the road at Antylstown Lane?”

Response:

Antylstown Lane will be surface dressed in the coming weeks under the 2019 LIS Scheme.

The response was noted, with clarification sought that the top end of Antylstown Lane would be surface dressed.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

“What is the update on safety measures at the following schools:- Cannistown, Boyerstown, Bohermeen?”



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Response:

The roads approaching all of the mentioned schools have already received significant levels of investment in traffic management infrastructure including the imposition of reduced speed limits, signage, time activated warning/flashing signs, road markings and road width reduction/new kerbing in an effort to reduce & control traffic speeds in the vicinity. There are currently no plans for additional works at the roads approaching these schools but Meath County Council shall keep the matter under review.

A new parking area has been developed by Boyerstown NS which facilitates the parking of teachers cars and freed up the area at the front of the school. The area at the front of the school has been developed into a drop-off and collection facility and is working well, and overall the position at the school has improved considerably.

In relation to Bohermeen NS, agreement has been reached for parking facilities for teachers beside the parochial house. This has freed up the area outside the school for buses and for a drop-off and collection facility.

The response was noted, with clarification sought on why safety measures such as those provided at Kentstown and Skryne cannot be provided at the locations outlined.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"That Navan Municipal District list for consideration Balreask Village and Emmett Terrace for housing estate roads remedial works with a view to including them on the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District of Works."

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

It is the Council's intention to present the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works to the Navan Municipal District Meeting in February 2021 or as soon as may be after the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport grant allocations have been announced.



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Following consultation with the Municipal District Members a three-year Roads Programme was submitted to the Department of Transport covering the years 2019, 2020 & 2021. As in previous years it is proposed to liaise with the Municipal District Members before finalising the proposed works for this grant funding and presentation in the Schedule of Municipal District Works. This will present an opportunity for the Members to put forward sections of road for consideration in determining those schemes to be prioritised for funding under the 2021 programme.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, was agreed.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“That Navan Municipal District formally recognises the contribution of the Order of Malta during the Coronavirus pandemic and also the bravery of Callum Keane for saving the life of a young boy in the River Boyne and the heroics of the Parkvilla team who reached the final of the FAI 17's Challenge Cup.”

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

In accordance with the Protocol on Civic Events (adopted by the Council in March 2019), the Council awards a certificate of civic recognition to individuals, groups or organisations at MD level who succeed or achieve merit in their field of activity or honour for themselves or their community.

These certificates are presented at two Civic Recognition Events per MD each year. Since 2019, the Council has organised, when required, such events during the Spring (March/April/May) and the Autumn (Oct/November) at MD level.

If the Motion is agreed, the groups/individuals mentioned would be included in a joint event.

During 2020, no such events have been organised because of the public health restrictions introduced in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and the Council has postponed the holding of such events in the current climate. For the remainder of 2020, the possibility of holding virtual events is under consideration.



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The Council has played a central role in coordinating the response to the Covid emergency at community level across the county. In doing so, it has worked with a wide range of groups and organisations, through the Community Response Forum established in March. The Forum has successfully helped to coordinate the contribution of these groups and remains in place to respond to future needs as they arise in combatting the Covid 19 situation. It is therefore suggested that the Council recognising one particular group at this stage may not be appropriate and a little premature, given that the Covid situation is on-going.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**, was agreed.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I call on Navan Municipal District to consider installing a swimming pool hoist together with a changing area suitable to accommodate physically disabled children and adults at Aura Leisure Centre, Navan, for people who presently are unable to access the facilities in Navan. Such facilities are in place in the Kells and Trim swimming pools.”

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

Meath County Council is undertaking improvement works to the existing changing village in Navan Leisure Centre. As part of these works, there are additional family changing cubicles installed, improved accessible toilet facilities and there will also be a new hoist installed to improve access to the pool. However, there are no proposals or funding for extending the changing facilities in Navan to provide a room with the equipment to a changing places standard.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was agreed.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I propose that Navan Municipal District introduce traffic calming measures to reduce speed in Ferndale estate, similar to successful methods put in place at Athlumney Castle estate.”



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

Ferndale Estate is on a schedule of estates to be considered as part of the next proposed update to the 30kph Housing Estate special speed limit bye-law. This project is subject to funding being made available.

Speed surveys were carried out in Ferndale Estate in 2017 and the results showed that the average speed of vehicles recorded was in line with the RSA Free Speed Survey 2018 which indicates that the expected speed of vehicles in a housing estate area with a 50 km/h speed limit is 36 km/h with 85% of vehicles travelling below 47 km/h.

It is hoped that the imposition of the 30kph speed limits will have a positive effect on traffic speeds and the intention would be to carry out additional speed surveys thereafter to determine compliance.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, was agreed.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to allow for a modification to the proposed new bus routes in the Navan Town Area, specifically in relation to the Trim Road.”

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

The proposed bus routes N1 & N2 for the new Navan Town Bus Service were identified and designed by the National Transport Authority in conjunction with Bus Éireann. Meath County Council does not have any direct input in this element of the provision of the bus routes. Meath County Council are assisting the National Transport Authority in the provision of the infrastructure necessary for the implementation of the proposed new bus services, including but not limited to new bus stops, bus stops poles, and a bus turn-about facility. Meath County Council notes that upon establishment of the new bus routes, there will be opportunity in the future to request alterations and /or extension of the bus services to serve Navan Town and its expanding population. If adopted, details of this Notice of Motion will be forwarded to the National Transport Authority for their information purposes.



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The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, was noted.

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to put traffic control measures in place on Swan Lane in an effort to try to prevent speeding in the area.”

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

The Transportation section of Meath County Council will carry out speed surveys on Swan Lane to assess the level of compliance of vehicles with the speed limit in the area. A report will be provided for the Navan MD members once the surveys have been completed and the results reviewed with regard to the need for traffic calming on this road.

It was pointed out that the speed survey results will be assessed and this will determine the measures required. Resurfacing works planned, as part of the three year roadworks programme, will be undertaken in summer 2021.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was noted.

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

“I call on Meath County Council to remove dangerous trees which are a health and fire hazard at the rear of No. 88 Kilcarn Court.”

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

Meath County Council will carry out an assessment of the situation at the mentioned location and arrange for remedial measures if deemed to be required.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, was noted.



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6.8 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to resurface the entrance to the Ramparts opposite the cottages on the Boyne Road."

The motion was withdrawn.

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

- 7.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 16th July 2020.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 30th July 2020.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Referred to discharge from the Blackcastle sewerage plant, which occurs 3 – 4 times a year and has an adverse impact on fish stock levels. He queried whether the EPA is notified in advance of such a discharge – it was confirmed that the EPA is not notified and that this occurs as a result of heavy rain.

- 9.2 Councillor Alan Lawes raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Requested the support of councillors in relation to the grant application being made by the Tidy Towns group to develop a trail behind in Buvinda in Athlumney as part of the scheme being administered by the Department of



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Rural and Community Development.

9.3 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Requested clarification on why community buildings, e.g. at Townsparks, are unavailable to community groups due, e.g. to being leased out as creches, etc. – it was agreed to check this with Housing.

9.4 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issue:

9.4.1 Referred to issues of dirty water in Kilcarn/Cannistown, where, e.g. the children at Cannistown N.S. are unable to wash their hands to comply with public health requirements – it was confirmed that flushing did take place.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára