



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

### ***Navan Municipal District***

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***10:00 a.m., 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020, County Hall, Navan***

An Leas-Mheára, **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, presided.

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Francis Deane

**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 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**.

#### **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 Dennis Gibney, St. Ultan's Terrace, Navan;



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- The family of the late Tommy McGill, Ardbraccan, Navan;
- The family of the late Noreen Darby, Woodlands, Navan.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Planning**

4.1.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2020.

- Pineview, Navan.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

- Carne Wood, Navan.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**.

- Ard na Gréine.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

#### **4.2 Transportation**

4.2.1 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.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Welcomed the works being undertaken in Navan, which will create longer term benefits in creating a pedestrian friendly town.
- The ongoing issue of dogs loose in Blackwater Park and the possibility of cordoning off an area to provide a separate area where dogs can be let off the leash – it was agreed to refer this to Community and Environment.
- Referred to potholes on the middle of the road and turning area in Belcourt – it was agreed to check this.
- The need for tree pruning in estates, such as Abbeygrove, Kilcarn, Dean Cogan and Ard na Greine, where trees are obstructing lighting, and the possibility of residents associations undertaking such work themselves – the arborologist report, which will identify required works, has not yet been received. Limited funding is available and the works will be prioritised based on whether they pose a danger.
- Queried whether a regular tree maintenance programme is in place – the tree management programme is based on the arborologist recommendations as there is insufficient funding to undertake a wider regular maintenance programme.
- The need for works to be undertaken in Blackcastle estate – this will be included in the 2021 footpath programme and, following a road condition survey, may be included in the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works as part of the estate works.
- The possibility of providing a yellow box to assist traffic exiting Athlumney Wood – this will be provided in the coming weeks.
- Requested an update on the flooding issue at Windtown – it was agreed to check this.
- The possibility of widening the footpath from Aura to Abbeygrove to improve safety for pedestrians – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation but it was pointed out the adjacent land is in private ownership.

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- The possibility of erecting a converse mirror to assist traffic exiting Blackwater Abbey and the issue for traffic exiting the houses further out on the right hand side due to the hedges – the use of such mirrors will not be considered as they are not reliable. The sight lines are adequate if traffic exits correctly from Blackwater Abbey.
- Requested an update on completing drainage works in Belcourt – the council crew will commence the annual gully cleaning programme in the coming weeks, focusing on the town centre, trouble spots and approach roads.
- Requested an update on the plans for the playground in Claremont estate – the majority of residents had indicated a preference for the playground to be decommissioned and this will commence in the coming weeks. The larger of the two playgrounds will be replaced with grass, trees and a bench, with landscaping to be undertaken gradually over 12 months, and the smaller playground will be lawn, once the fence is removed.

Cormac Ross, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation provided an update on the Part 8 for the proposed N51 Park & Ride Facility, for which the public consultation commences on 19<sup>th</sup> October until 17<sup>th</sup> November and the deadline for receipt of submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> December. The proposed development was outlined, including the provision of 181 spaces, 6 mobility impaired spaces, 25 cycle racks, 18 EV charging points, bus stops and shelters, and landscaping.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The impact of this development on the proposed park & ride facility at Liscarton – this proposal is intended to facilitate access to Navanwith discussions underway with Bus Éireann in relation to a NX stop, and will provide access to the hospital, etc.
- Queried whether parking charges will apply – these will be considered if demand exceeds supply and to pay for parking management.
- The timeframe for completion – if all goes well with site investigations, etc., it could be completed by this time next year.

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- Requested an update on the proposed park & ride facility on the Kells Road including the provision of a footpath to Newgate – this forms part of the Navan 2030 plan and, whilst planning permission is in place, this has not yet been progressed further.
- Queried the proposed access and the existing traffic volume on the road – the proposed access, egress and road layout, was outlined, with the transportation assessment indicating that it will not create any additional congestion. The junction at Moathill will be served by a signalised junction as part of the opening of the development opposite.
- Raised the issue of possible archaeology – a detailed archaeological investigation will be undertaken in advance of construction works. A geophysical site survey has been conducted and Archaeological Assessment Report which is on public display as part of the Part 8 process. The proposed facility has been designed to create minimum ground disturbance and preserve any findings.
- Queried the planned bus routes serving the development – two bus stops on the R147 will facilitate town access, with potential use by the 190 and the NX service, every 20 minutes at peak times. The N1 and N2 services will use it once Kennedy Plaza is operational.

In response to a request for an update on the town centre works, it was confirmed that the two-way system on Canon Row north has been opened to alleviate traffic pressure between the two roundabouts. Abbey Road will become two-way at the end of November. Kerbing works on Circular Road will have minimum traffic impacts, with no traffic management lane closures or restrictions planned for December unless in an emergency.

### **4.3 Corporate Services**

#### **4.3.1 To discuss the 2020 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.**

Audrey Norris, Corporate Services outlined a proposal whereby the available budget would be used to invest in new festive lighting for the main streets and also the large tree on Kennedy Plaza. Reference was also made to the Shop Local campaign being undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce and the



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Economic Development Unit with the Chamber of Commerce also having launched the My Meath Shop Local Card, which can be used throughout Meath. Some of the available budget will be used to promote these initiatives alongside the parking initiative. The Economic Development Unit is also due to launch a new shopfront campaign.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested further information on the planned initiatives to assist with their promotion.
- Underlined the need for the Chamber of Commerce to promote online business.
- Referred to the challenges facing all businesses in terms of paying fixed costs.
- Requested that, where possible, the lights being replaced be retained for use in other locations, e.g. smaller streets – it was pointed out it may not be possible to reuse the lights being replaced and that consideration must be given to the availability of poles, power and connections on both sides of the street.

The proposal, as outlined, was agreed.

4.3.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan Municipal District.

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

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“What plans/incentives are under consideration for our Navan shop Local Christmas campaign and will retailers in the town be invited to participate in the planning with our local authority and the chamber of commerce?”

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This item was deferred to the November meeting.

### 6 Notice of Motion

#### 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“To call on Meath County Council to provide Johnstown with a playground, playing fields and a community facility to house all the various community groups seeking to provide much-needed services and amenities to local people on the ground and to finally draw to a close the years of empty promises and under delivery, and to give firm commitment to the 12,000 strong population in Johnstown that despite 20 plus years of development in this part of Navan that there will be no more delays, setbacks, postponements of the immediate provision of essential community buildings and amenities.”

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

*The Council is committed to the delivery of community facilities in the Johnstown area. A survey of all residents in the Johnstown area was carried out in 2017 to determine the people of Johnstown would like to see in their community area which determined that a playground was the highest priority. Consequently a number of sites have been examined for a playground and most recently, a site was brought to Part VIII planning and was subsequently rejected by the Elected Members of Navan Municipal District.*

*A site for community/recreational uses will become available in due course in accordance with the approved planning permission NT/130058. It is proposed to engage consultants to prepare a masterplan for these lands setting out the community amenities that will be located here. The facilities to be included will take cognisance of the results of the previous survey of households in Johnstown on what amenities the residents would like to see in their area. It is envisaged that some of the funding set out in the Capital Expenditure Plan will be used to deliver this plan.*

A discussion followed on the urgent need to provide community facilities for the growing population, with reference made to the previous efforts made to secure social and educational facilities. It was agreed to seek an update for the November meeting on the other potential sites for a playground in Johnstown.



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

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

“To call on Meath County Council to continue the current LDR6 scheme at Farganstown, Navan all the way (500m) to the Boyne Road to allow for a more manageable flow of traffic into and out of Navan and to prevent the untenable traffic levels that would result from the inhabitants of 400 houses at Farganstown adding to already unsustainable bottlenecks and logjams on the Kenstown Road and thus allow for the future planning of a connecting road and bridge from the Boyne Road to the Slane Road so that all arteries leading into Navan can link up and bypass what is an already an over-congested town.”

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

*With regard to the Notice of Motion relating to continuing “the current LDR6 scheme at Farganstown, Navan all the way (500m) to the Boyne Road and thus allow for the future planning of a connecting road and bridge from the Boyne road to the Slane road”:*

*In 2008 Part 8 planning consent was obtained for a proposed 1.7km road scheme linking the R153 Kentstown road to the L-3400 Boyne road (known as RT8 – planning reference P8-08012). The current LDR6 LIHAF scheme under construction is effectively the first 1.2 km section of this road starting at the junction between the R153 Kentstown road and the Metges road and running in a north-westerly arc to a point approximately 500m southeast of the proposed junction with the L-3400 Boyne road.*

*Meath County Council have also secured an additional area of land to allow for the future construction of this road for an additional 280m length up to the existing railway line however we currently do not have the lands required to cross the railway line and continue for the additional 220m to connect with the L-3400 Boyne Road.*

*The design and construction of this additional section of the road, to connect the existing LDR6 scheme to the Boyne road, has a number of constraints to deal with which would be expected to require significant funding to overcome.*





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*There is currently no funding allocated to progress the connection of the LDR6 scheme to the Boyne road however the Transportation section of Meath County Council have been in discussions with the NTA in relation to potential funding for assessing the feasibility of a possible future connection of this road across the Boyne river to connect up with the N51 Slane road. It is recommended that this feasibility study be completed before a decision is made in relation the expenditure of additional public funds on a possible extension of the LDR6 scheme.*

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

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“With reference to the Old Athlumney Road which has been operating as a cul de sac over the past year I propose the present arrangement becomes permanent given the huge future proposed development at Farganstown and the traffic implications which will affect local residents.”

This item was deferred to the November meeting.

### **6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“I call on Navan Municipal District to engage with the directors of Navan Racecourse and Navan Historical Society to plan a suitable way to commemorate the 100 years of service by Navan Racecourse in May 2021.”

This item was deferred to the November meeting.

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.



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The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment & Emergency Services SPC meeting of 24th September 2020.

The report was noted.

- 7.4 To note the report from the Planning Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs of 25th September 2020.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Irish Water in response to the Notice of Item 9.1.1 from the September meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Councillor Alan Lawes raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Referred to a recent large social gathering that took place in Navan, resulting in a number of positive COVID-19 cases, and requested that this be raised with the Regional Health Forum.

9.1.2 Referred to advice being given by the HSE to members of the public who require COVID testing but who do not have transport to use public transport and requested that the HSE and Regional Health Forum be asked to comment.

- 9.2 Councillor Emer Tóibín raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Queried how an estate be taken in charge where the majority of those that live there are renting – it was agreed to check this with Planning.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**An Meára**