



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

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

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

***10:00 a.m., 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021, via Zoom***

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

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 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:

- Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons and the family of the late Paddy Fitzsimons;



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- The family of the late Helen Callan, Townspark, Navan who had been one of the original founders of Féile na bPáistí and Navan Community Development Project;
- The family of the late George Nkencho, Blanchardstown, who had died tragically.

Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons thanked his fellow councillors, the executive and staff and the wider community for their support and condolences on his father's passing. He referred to his father as being a proud Navan and Meath man, his involvement in the local business and sporting communities and his time in politics.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Transportation**

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

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted and a further update was provided at the meeting. Due to the current public health restrictions, only emergency and essential works are being undertaken, including local pothole repairs, flooding issues, drainage works and water cuts.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the works at Clogherboy playground – a small amount of outstanding works will be completed when restrictions are lifted.
- Queried whether the works at the Ramparts will require the closure of walkways – efforts will be made to keep closures to a minimum but some sections may need to be temporarily closed off due to safety issues.
- Queried whether a tree at Millbrook had been assessed by the tree surgeon as no works were undertaken – the tree was assessed and was not considered a danger. In addition, the estate is not taken in charge so no works could be carried out.



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- Queried the locations of the proposed speed ramps in Johnstown – the details of the locations will be circulated following the meeting.
  - Referred to queries received regarding access to the Ramparts from the Slane Road side and whether the public are permitted to use this access and also whether there are any plans to provide an improved walkway on this side of the Ramparts – this area is in private ownership and the council is not permitted to undertake works or permit access. There may have been rights of way established by particular groups over time but there is no known public right of way. On the Boyne side of the Ramparts, only non-intrusive maintenance and walkway improvement works are being carried out and this requires the agreement of An Taisce and other interested parties.
  - Referred to a minor road in Old Johnstown Village where regular damage is caused to the wall of a private property due to speeding and icy road conditions – a response is to issue from the Transportation Department but this road is not included in the winter gritting programme.
  - Referred to delivery vehicles parking on the cycle lanes at Johnstown Shopping Centre and also on the corner, impeding vehicles exiting the car park – a funding application for a Low Cost Safety Scheme is to be made but funding may not be available this year. A design for measures, such as bollards, is required.
- 4.1.2 To receive an update on the Part 8 for Proposed Scheme P8/20015 – N51 Park and Ride Facility.

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation confirmed that six submissions had been received as part of the public consultation, most of which had been considered as part of the Chief Executive's report. He drew attention to one submission relating to a request for cyclist priority over the junction access and to the rear of the bus set down area. Following road safety and accessibility and mobility audits, this was not being recommended. It was confirmed that this can be discussed again in February if any queries arise.

## **5 Notice of Question**



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

“With regard to the Flowerhill properties acquired by Meath County Council under the regeneration plan, what is the present status concerning the tendering process?”

**Response:**

*Meath County Council are currently preparing an Expressions of Interest document for this site. As part of this document, there is a review to identify the appropriate development that could be included on this site in line the Council’s planning policies. Unfortunately, this latter process is being affected by the Covid restrictions, which is limiting site visits and meetings. While this is progressing, it is progressing slower than anticipated, but it is still hoped to advertise the Expression of Interest in Q1/Q2 2021.*

The response was noted.

## **6 Notice of Motion**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

"In the interest of protecting the safety of pedestrians and service users from the disability respite centre on the Commons Road, this council agrees to install pedestrian crossings on the Andy Connolly roundabout at Mullaghboy."

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

*In previous discussions with the NTA about installing pedestrian crossings at the approach roads to the Andy Connolly roundabout, they were concerned about installing crossings on dual lane approaches. If the dual lane approaches were reduced to single lane, this would have an effect on traffic flow through the roundabout, which is not desirable. Notwithstanding this difficulty, there is currently no funding allocated to providing pedestrian crossings at this roundabout.*

A discussion followed, with the points raised in the supporting information being acknowledged. However, it was also pointed out there is no safe pedestrian access to

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locations such as the retail park and the respite centre on the Commons Road and that many students do access the retail park. It was pointed out that the junction at the turn to the hospital will be fully signalised as part of the planning permission for the residential development and pedestrian crossings will be provided, with a footpath on the opposite side of the road part of a longer term plan.

It was requested that an overall plan for the road from the roundabout at Teagasc to the junction and the Andy Connolly roundabout be developed with consideration to be given to any measures that can be taken to improve pedestrian safety and access to the retail parks, school, residential developments, hospital, etc.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**, was noted.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

“In the interest of providing safe pedestrian access to the crèche, national school and housing estates in the Robinstown area, this council agrees to install road traffic signage such as, children at play, speed limit etc. Signage should be placed on each of the approach roads in to the village.”

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

*A survey of existing signage at Robinstown has been carried out. There are currently “School Ahead” signs (yellow diamond sign depicting two children) on the approaches from Trim, Dunderry and Kilmessan as well as additional signs with flashing beacons on each side of the school. A couple of the signs that include text are in need of refurbishment. The sign on the approach from Dunderry is after the creche, so consideration could be given to relocating this sign or providing an additional sign in advance of the creche, if numbers of pedestrians crossing warrants it.*

*There are speed limit signs in place on all approaches to the 50kph speed zone, in accordance with statutory requirements, as well as a driver feedback speed sign on the approach from Kilmessan. There is therefore no requirement for any additional speed signs.*



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

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

“I call on Meath County Council to give permission to Navan Municipal District Tidy Towns Committee to install beehives on two roundabouts, namely the Andy Connolly roundabout and also the roundabout at Kilcarn, exit 8, off motorway N3/M3. This proposal stems from the importance of pollination to both areas which have shrubbery and would be a great way to boost the local bee population.”

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

*Navan Municipal District has no objection in principle to the installation of beehives on these two roundabouts. The Tidy Towns Committee should contact the District Engineer in advance to agree the size and location of the beehives, as well as arrangements for their installation, due to safety issues with accessing the roundabouts.*

*These roundabouts are also part of the Roundabout Sponsorship scheme, and if this sponsorship is renewed in 2021, the agreement of the sponsors would be required.*

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

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

“Considering the grave present housing crisis in Navan I propose that Meath County Council would contemplate engaging with Tara Mines in relation to their vacant properties on the Kells Road (R147), all of which could possibly be leased to the local authority or perhaps the local authority and Tara Mines could enter into a shared lease agreement, in an effort to relieve the local housing waiting list.”

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

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*The Housing Department has previously engaged with Tara Mines in relation to vacant housing stock in their ownership, with a view to possible transfer for social housing use. At the time of that engagement, Tara Mines advised that they were not considering same.*

*Notwithstanding the above, it would be timely that the matter be revisited with Tara Mines, and the Housing Department commits to doing so.*

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

### **7 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **8 Any Other Business**

8.1 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issues:

8.1.1 Requested an update on the provision of ramps at Cannistown N.S. – it was agreed that measures were needed and suitable ramps may be required.

8.1.2 Requested an update on Kilsaran Lane.

8.2 Councillor Emer Tóibín raised the following issues:

8.2.1 Referred to complaints received regarding damage to cars from the ramps at Circular Road – temporary zebra crossings with ramps had been put in place by the contractor, with advance warning signage and lighting. Whilst these will be reviewed as works continue, there are no immediate plans to remove them.

8.2.2 Queried the recent statement by the Minister for Housing on Prime Time that local connections would not prevent access to emergency accommodation, even if registered with a different local authority, and how this was conveyed to local authorities.

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- 8.2.3 Queried the number of complaints needed to result in the council reviewing a particular issue – there is a three year roadworks programme in place, with the next programme to run from 2022 – 2024. Proposals are made and considered based on a technical assessment.
- 8.3 Councillor Alan Lawes raised the following issue:
- 8.3.1 Thanked the Housing Officers for their work in assisting homeless people over the Christmas period.
- 8.4 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:
- 8.4.1 Referred to the request by residents in Silverlawns that the lock on one of the pedestrian side gates be removed – whilst not aware of the lock, some residents do want the gate locked.
- 8.4.2 Requested that the sweeper be sent out to Donaghmore Lane.
- 8.4.3 Referred to potholes on Academy Street.
- 8.5 Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons raised the following issues:
- 8.5.1 Queried when the remaining section of the L-74153 would be resurfaced – whilst clarity was needed in relation to the exact location, the section referred to may not be a public road. It was agreed to check where the public road ends.
- 8.5.2 Requested an update on the Navan 2030 Scheme – the current works, due to last three weeks, are taking place on the post office side and at the Garda Station, with works on the roundabouts on Abbey Road due to take place in March. A out of business hours road closure will take place on Bridge Street from 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February. It was pointed out that the increased public health restrictions were impeding progress to some degree but it was intended to complete this contract in April. The next phase, subject to approval to proceed, will commence in Ludlow Street, followed by Market Square, Kennedy Road/Trimgate Street junction and advance works on Kennedy Plaza. The design of the roundabouts at Cannon Row and the Garda Station will be similar to that at Solstice.





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8.6 Una McNamara, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services – Asset Management raised the following issues:

8.6.1 Referred to the proposed extinguishment of the Public Right of Way on the road between the L-3409-58 Ratholdren Road and L-34095-6 New Lane, Navan, Co. Meath (known locally as Linky Lane). The public consultation was closed on the 18<sup>th</sup> January and only one submission was received which was not opposed to the extinguishment of the public right of way.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

8.6.2 Referred to a proposed disposal, by way of a long-term lease, of 0.17 hectares (0.4200791 acres) in Beechmount Industrial Estate to Navan Childcare Centre for the provision of a play area for the creche.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**An Meára**