



## Clár / Meeting Agenda

### Ordinary Meeting

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Solstice Theatre @ 1.30p.m.**

#### Presiding

Councillor David Gilroy, Cathaoirleach

#### Councillors Present:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga (remotely), Tom Behan, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey (remotely), Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith (remotely), Trevor Golden, Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan (remotely), Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Elaine McGinty, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore (remotely), Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan (remotely), Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín (remotely), Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey (remotely).

**Apologies:** Councillors Suzanne Jamal, Aisling O'Neill, Sarah Reilly,

#### Officials in attendance:

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Larry Whelan,

**Meetings Administrator:** Robert Collins

**Senior Executive Officers:** Dara McGowan, David Jones Sean Clarke

In advance of the meeting, the Meetings Administrator outlined the various measures in place to protect the health and wellbeing of the meeting participants, which have been implemented in line with the latest public health guidance and the Standard Operating Guidance agreed by the LGMA, AILG and LAMA. As a result, members were informed that the meeting would be of a maximum duration of 1hr 55mins. The meeting commenced at 1.36pm.

### 1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Preliminary Budget meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The minutes of the Preliminary Budget meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.



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### **1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

The minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 30th November 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.

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

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Cllr. Suzanne Jamal on the death of her sister, Máire Clements;
- Ms. Caroline Reilly, Water Services on the death of her sister, Jackie Lynam
- Former Councillor Patsy O'Neill on the death of his sister Nancy McGough (née O'Neill)
- Ms. Ann Dillon on the passing of her husband Mr. Tom Dillon, brother of the late Councillor Ann Dillon Gallagher.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath Intermediate Ladies Football Team on reaching the All-Ireland;
- Jack Fagan, Rathmolyon GAA Club, on his success with the Waterford Senior Hurling Team;
- John Tobin, Trim on receiving a volunteering award;
- Gary Rodgers on his winner the FAI Cup with Dundalk AFC;
- Larry Clarke on his cycling efforts to raise money for various charities;
- MCC Corporate Services on the roll-out of festive decoration and projectors across the MDs;
- County businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors on successfully reopening from Level 5
- Councillor Wayne Harding on his election as LMETB Chair
- All Community Initiative Award Winners;
- Dunshaughlin Gaels – Community Initiative Award winners
- Frontline Workers, especially those in the health and emergency services and MCC workers
- Ms. Sheila Carroll, Teacher, Loreto School
- Navan O'Mahoneys GAA club for the food appeals
- Mr. Paul Murphy, journalist, on the publication of his book;
- Kells Colmcille Committee – 1500 anniversary preparations for 2021
- CORE – Community Initiative Award winners

### **4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

### **5 Statutory Business**

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### 5.1 Corporate Services

5.1.1 To adopt the 2021 Protocol for the Municipal District Allocation Scheme.

**Councillor Gillian Toole** asked that in promoting the scheme that specific reference should be made to the LPT. This was agreed. The 2021 Protocol was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

### 5.2 Finance

5.2.1 To receive Quarterly Financial Statement at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The statement was noted by the Elected Members.

### 5.3 Planning

5.3.1 To receive an update on the schedule of the Special Planning Meeting and progress in considering the Chief Executive's Report.

Mr. Sean Clarke, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department made a presentation setting out progress to date at the Special Planning Meeting, informing members that 35% of submissions and only 12% of Notices of Motion had been decided on. He also outlined the meeting schedule and proposed the possibility of online meetings in future. Both **Councillors Noel French and Nick Killian** expressed their opposition to online meetings.

An Cathaoirleach underlined to the meeting the pressure on time that exists to get the business done and asked that members refrain from speaking unless they are seeking clarification or providing some new or additional information to a meeting. He also stated that his objective was to apply the rules in a consistent manner and to facilitate the effective running of the meetings. The Chief Executive informed members that the Executive would identify additional dates for January and would assess the state-of-play again at the end of the week.

### 5.4 Environment

5.4.1 To enter into an Agreement with Louth County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 whereby Louth County Council will be the Lead Authority and exercise the statutory powers, functions and duties of Meath County Council in the delivery of the Louth Flood Relief Schemes which incorporate the Rathmullen, Sheephouse, Lagavoreen, Stagrennan and Stameen Townlands in County Meath.



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Mr. Larry Whelan, Acting Director of Services, outlined the proposed Section 85 Agreement, which was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Elaine McGinty** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

### 6 Reports

#### 6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Clarification was sought by Councillors Nick Killian; Gillian Toole; Paul McCabe; Mike Bray; Paddy Meade; Wayne Harding; Tommy Reilly; Pádraig Fitzsimons; and Alan Lawes on a number of matters in the Report. The main issues focused on:

**Housing** – Part V delivery and allocation; acquisitions; AHB projects in the north of the county; number of households that became homeless/NTQs and number of landlords that have left the market;

**Economic Development** – remote working hubs;

**Community** – Town and Village Renewal Scheme – allocation of funding; roll-out of broadband; positive impact of new broadband connection points; preparatory works for the NBI rollout and the timeframe for delivery

**Transportation** – paving and road works in Navan – accessibility for pedestrians during the Christmas period.

Responses and clarifications were provided on the issues raised by the Management Team.

#### 6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The CPG also discussed the state-of-play regarding the Special Planning Meeting and agreed that the December meetings of the Planning SPC and the Environment SPC would be deferred until early in the new year.

#### 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator gave a summary of items discussed by the Protocol Committee, including: two recommendations from the Civic Commemorations Committee which were endorsed by the Protocol Committee:

- (a) Commemorative Plaque on the Salford Ambush, Moynalty – agreed wording and other conditions



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Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**.

- (b) Renaming of the Linear Park Zone 4, Ashbourne, as 'Frederick Bourne Park' and installation of an information board

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

The Protocol Committee also considered the nomination of three members to the Members' Forum of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, as referred to it by the Council in November. The Committee agreed to nominate: An Cathaoirleach and the Cathaoirligh of the Ashbourne and Laytown-Bettystown MDs on a rotational basis.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

The Meetings Administrator also informed the meeting that the Committee had approved two training events/conferences for members' attendance, details of which would be circulated.

### **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Correspondence from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in response to Notice of Motion 9.13 adopted at the September 2020 meeting of the full Council re. baseline review of local authority funding models.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.2 Correspondence from Monaghan County Council re. resolution passed at their November meeting.

This item was considered with Items 9.9 and 9.10. Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.3 Correspondence from Senator Victor Boyhan enclosing letter received from Peter Burke T.D., Minister for Local Government and Planning re. Flemish Decree.

**Councillor Nick Killian** spoke on this item. Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.4 Launch of Illegal Dumping Communications Campaign by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan T.D.



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Noted by the Elected Members.

7.5 Correspondence from the National Transport Authority re. Navan Railway Line Assessment Study.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### 8 Notice of Question

#### 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

*“To ask Meath County Council to provide the number of Repair and Leasing Schemes entered into in each Municipal District for 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020; the number of refused applications; and the number of properties leased through Approved Housing Bodies (AHB).”*

#### **Response**

There is currently one property in the County (Ashbourne) under the Repair & Lease Scheme, directly with Meath County Council, which commenced in 2018.

Overall, the level of interest in the scheme has been limited, with few enquires made since the scheme was launched in 2017.

No applications have been refused, though a number of properties preliminarily put forward have been discounted due to location and the lack of social housing demand in the area.

Noted by the Elected Members.

#### 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

*“I call on Meath County Council to provide in tabular format for the last 2 years the amount of refusals of housing offers / allocations per Municipal District from applicants on Meath’s social housing list.”*

#### **Response**

For 2019 and 2020, there has been 211 refusals of houses that were offered to applicants in accordance with Meath County Council’s Allocation Scheme.

The number of refusals per Municipal District is outlined below



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<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Number of Refusals</b>
Ashbourne	12
Kells	33
Laytown/Bettystown	24
Navan	80
Ratoath	41
Trim	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211</b>

The primary basis for refusal as relayed by applicants include i) applicant seeking larger accommodation from their required need, ii) no longer interested in the area of choice as selected previously, iii) concerns regarding the location of property, and iv) are currently in receipt of HAP and do not wish to leave private rented property.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore**

*"To ask the Chief Executive how many Strategic Housing Developments have been approved and have received planning permissions in Meath by An Bord Pleanála (ABP); how many of those that have been approved are of a density that is above the density currently permitted under our present County Development Plan; and how many of those that have been approved have had their permissions activated?"*

#### **Response**

A total of 10 Strategic Housing Development applications have been granted by An Bord Pleanála with respect to Meath, two of which have commenced in Dunshaughlin and Drogheda. In all cases, An Bord Pleanála has granted higher densities than are set out in the Meath County Development Plan.

Councillor Moore sought a clarification, which was provided. Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes**

*"How many people were taken off the housing list in 2017, 2018 and 2019 for not filling out the Housing Needs Assessment form?"*

#### **Response**

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments requires Housing Authorities to review qualified households not currently in receipt of social housing support to ensure that they still want and



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qualify for support, and to ensure that the detail of the applicant households is up to date and accurate.

Since 2016, the Summary of Social Housing Assessment is completed annually.

A rigorous process is undertaken in order to make contact with those applicants that are subject to review, including initial notification in writing, followed by a second reminder letter. Where an applicant fails to respond to the two letters, other available means of communication is utilised.

Only after a number of attempts to make contact have been made, is an application closed due to non-response. It should be noted that applicants are given a reasonable timeframe (six months) to revert with information after the formal date for receipt of information has lapsed before their application is closed. The failure to respond may be attributed to a number of reasons, including no longer being in need of social housing support or having moved out of the County.

The total number of applications that were closed due to non-response since 2017 are as follows:

- 2017 205
- 2018 356
- 2019 286

Noted by the Elected Members.

### 8.5 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

*“Has Meath County Council implemented social clauses in public procurement contracts? If so, what clauses have been used?”*

#### **Response**

Public procurement can be used to encourage suppliers to include actions that advance social and environmental policy considerations. The range of policies is broad and can include disability access, conscientious designs for public building, greener utility supplies, energy retro fitting of housing portfolios and environmental sustainability.

Wherever possible Meath County Council utilise and avail of Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) centralised contracts. These central arrangements have been awarded across a diverse range of works, goods and services taking into account social consideration and social clauses including sustainability and green public procurement. On a local level, Section 2.11 of Meath County Council’s Corporate Procurement Plan outlines the position of Meath County Council in relation to social clauses.

Meath County Council contracts that incorporate social clause and consideration include:

- New housing construction projects



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- Public building works and upgrades
- Energy retrofitting schemes for existing housing portfolio
- Upgrade of public lighting assets with energy efficient units
- Energy improvement works to public buildings and facilities including swimming pools, libraries, offices, community buildings, water and waste water plants
- utility supplies (electricity, oil and gas) etc.
- Fleet hire
- Fuel of vehicles
- Catering services
- OGP central contracts for PPE, cleaning supplies, waste management services, office stationery, managed print services etc.
- Electronic tendering

In line with Meath County Council's Corporate Procurement Plan the Council is committed to exploring opportunities for the inclusion of social clauses in our procurements.

Councillor Gallagher sought a clarification which was provided. Noted by the Elected Members.

### 8.6 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

*"To ask Meath County Council to detail in full the terms of reference of the investigation into the possible breach of the Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service by a Councillor in relation to the rezoning of lands at Liscarton, Navan"*

#### **Response**

In reviewing a media query from the Village Magazine, on September 25, 2020, the Council's Ethics Registrar brought a possible contravention of Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 to the attention of the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach, in accordance with Section 174 (7) of the 2001 Act. In such situations, Section 174(8)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001, provides for a report to be prepared by An Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive.

Preparation of the report included a review of the Council's processes and the meeting documentation relevant to Variation No 2 of the Navan Development Plan, a review of the resulting planning application (mentioned in the media query), as well as, an interview with the Councillor in question.

On the basis of the review, the report concluded that the Councillor in question inadvertently breached the Ethical Framework, in not up-dating his Register of Interests, but that he believed in good faith that he had met his statutory and ethical obligations by disclosing a conflict of interest and absenting himself from consideration of the particular matter from a Council meeting in July 2017. The Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach considered that, on the information available, no further action was warranted on this matter.



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The report was completed on October 29, 2020 and all Elected Members received a summary of it on November 5, 2020. The Standards in Public Office Commission has been informed of the report and its conclusions.

Councillor Tóibín sought a clarification, which was provided. Noted by the Elected Members.

### 9 Notice of Motion

#### 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty

*“Calls on Meath County Council to consider the implementation of the ‘See Something, Say Something’ initiative, which is already in operation in a number of counties in partnership with An Garda Síochána”.*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The Joint Policing Committee (JPC) provides a forum to support consultation and cooperation on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, local authority officials, elected representatives and the community and voluntary sectors. Meath JPC has delivered a number of initiatives and recently purchased a property marking machine which will be available to groups in 2021. In relation to the proposed “Say it, See it” initiative, the scheme will be considered and assessed along with a number of other options. The information will then be presented to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention sub-group of the JPC for consideration and at a subsequent JPC meeting.

There were interventions from **Councillors Elaine McGinty; Sharon Tolan; Alan Tobin; Paul McCabe; Gillian Toole; Tommy Reilly** and **Wayne Harding**, with most supporting the motion and proposing that it was an issue for the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to consider. It was agreed that the supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Elaine McGinty** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** would be referred to the JPC.

#### 9.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

*“To ask Meath County Council to offer 3 hours of free parking to shoppers in all Meath towns for the month of December to help both shoppers and shop owners who have lost so much to Covid and the restrictions.”*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The purpose of pay parking is to ensure an adequate level of turnover and ensure that parking is available for potential customers. This effectively means that pay parking charges are set at an acceptable level that are not prohibitive to potential customers.



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When considering pay parking incentives, the Council has to consider the many reasons for potential customers to visit, i.e. short trips for click & collect, visit one to two shops for specific items or longer trips to meet friends, browsing in shops, etc. The current incentives are set at a level to maximise the number of customers, who would receive a benefit, while at the same time ensuring that there is a reasonable turnover of spaces to allow customers to find a space when they visit.

If a free parking incentive was introduced as suggested, it is feasible that over the 9 hours of pay parking in a day, a space would have a turnover of 3 vehicles per day (3 vehicles x 3 hours), while the current turnover averages between 6 – 8 vehicles per space per day. Based on the desire to maximise the turnover of spaces for people to visit a town, the Council is not proposing to add to the existing incentives already in place in the three towns.

It was agreed that the supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** would be referred to the relevant Municipal Districts for consideration. Councillor Tóibín also informed the meeting that the motion should read '2 hours of free parking' and not '3 hours'.

### 9.3 Submitted by the Fine Gael Councillors

*"Despite the tremendous efforts of the IT Section in Meath County Council, Councillors are still experiencing persistent and multi-faceted issues with their tablets, that are undermining our ability to perform our role in an effective and professional manner. Hence, Fine Gael Councillors call on the Executive to replace all devices as a matter of priority."*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The Council's IT Department is currently undertaking a significant project called the forest migration, which essentially involves the migration of the Council's system, including its security, operations, user management and access rights systems that have been built and updated during the last 20 years. The requirement to undertake this massive project has arisen because the service provider is no longer in a position to provide this service to over 17 local authorities.

A key part of the migration is ensuring that there is no security vulnerability in relation to the Council's entire information system. Over 815 users, 57 servers and 36 applications have been migrated over the last 18 months. This migration will eventually enable the Council to fully exploit the use of the Cloud.

Due to this on-going project, we have not yet been able to provide Members with the most secure way to access emails outside of their current tablets. It is recognised that this has caused issues with Members' work processes. However, the IT Department is progressing a number of solutions which should address many of the issues identified to date:

- a) Addressing specific issues raised by councillors and developing responses in terms of re-configuration of tablets/systems; possible training; better trouble-shooting;



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- b) Access to MCC email accounts via Member's phones;
- c) Access to MCC email accounts via other devices.

Tablets were supplied as a light paperless platform, providing access for emails and documents and to fulfil these two purposes but are not, by their nature, strong input devices.

However, it should be noted that changing the tablets for all or some of the Members will not alleviate the issues highlighted by Members to date. It is likely to create additional problems, such as compatibility issues between devices and software versions.

### **Responding to Issues raised by Members**

The IT Department is currently working through many of the issues that Members have highlighted, following recent discussions in the Protocol Committee and a follow-up request by Corporate Services for feedback from Members on the use of their tablets. Seven Members responded to this request.

Meath County Council's IT Department has provided dedicated services to Member's account management, training, support and maintenance. A new TeamViewer app has now been deployed which means the IT helpdesk can provide support without the need for Members to bring their tablets to Buvinda House. It is hoped that this will provide a more responsive support service to Members.

### **Providing access to emails on Phones**

It is expected to have a solution that would allow the Members to have access to MCC email accounts on their phones and that we can deploy quickly, by Q1, 2021.

### **Providing access to emails on members PCs**

Using protocols developed and put in place for remote working during the Covid crisis and additional configuration of our current email server, we are also looking at access to emails for councillors via other platforms (e.g. PCs).

It is hoped that these additional tools will enable councillors to undertake their work in a more efficient and convenient manner.

It was agreed to defer this item to the February Council meeting.

## **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor**

*"Meath County Council requests the National Transport Authority to publish the scope and key parameters of the re-appraisal of the Dublin to Navan rail line and ensure that the executive and members of Meath County Council have an opportunity to input into the process on behalf of their*



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*constituents, due to the significant importance of the project for the development of the county in economic, transport and climate action terms.”*

### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

Correspondence in Item 7.5 sets out the detailed brief of services for the Navan Railway Line Assessment Study. Tenders are currently being sought for the undertaking of this work and it is expected that the contract for these services will be awarded during December, with the study to be completed in Q2 of next year.

It is intended that the study report will be published in full as part of the suite of technical studies accompanying the draft of the new Transport Strategy which will be released for public consultation in Q2 of next year. This will allow for review and feedback from all interested parties prior to finalisation of the Transport Strategy.

There were interventions from **Councillors Gerry O'Connor, Paul McCabe, Joe Fox; Maria Murphy; Michael Gallagher** and **Padraig Fitzsimons**, with most endorsing a cross-party approach and a continuation of the collaborative approach that already exists on this issue. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** was agreed.

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

*“Calls on Meath County Council to write to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to highlight the inadequate Housing Assistance Payment rate that currently applies in county Meath with regard to single adult households, and request an increase in this rate and/or an increase in the discretionary powers of Meath County Council to extend the existing rate beyond its current 20% discretion, both as a necessary homeless preventative measure, and to facilitate exit from emergency accommodation, for this particular cohort of applicants.”*

In introducing the motion, **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** explained that this was a proposal emanating from the Housing SPC with unanimous support. There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian; Edward Fennessy** and **Alan Tobin**. The motion proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was agreed.

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole**

*“Meath County Council writes to the Ministers for Justice, Finance and Public Expenditure to:*

- 1. Make provisions for monies confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Legislation to be redirected from the exchequer back into local addiction services, youth organisations, and community initiatives to resource prevention, education and supportive projects.*



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2. *The necessary legislation is changed as a matter of urgency to allow this vital funding support to happen."*

In introducing the motion **Councillor Gillian Toole** outlined the insufficient budget that is available to organisations supporting people with substance abuse issues in the region, suggesting that the criminal assets seized could be used to enhance such support services. There were interventions from **Councillors Elaine McGinty; Michael Gallagher; Ronan Moore; Alan Lawes** and **Maria Murphy**, most in full support of the motion. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty** was agreed.

### 9.7 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

*"In light of the very positive news recently, in relation to a number of Covid-19 vaccines, to call on the Government to reassess its decision to reschedule Census 2021 out to April 2022, and to now look at the feasibility of it taking place at the original date in April 2021."*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** was agreed.

### 9.8 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

*"Meath County Council calls upon the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe T.D and Mr. Michael McGrath T.D, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, to urgently enact the private members' motion previously passed in November 2016 by the previous Government regarding the future of the Post Office Network. This is a matter of urgency to ensure the sustainability of our existing community Post Office Network."*

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

### 9.9 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

*"Meath County Council calls on government leaders to demand that Eirgrid desists from all works related to the North-South Interconnector, that the procurement and progression of contracts for pylons and construction be suspended until a comprehensive, independent and updated report on the technical feasibility and cost of undergrounding of the North-South Interconnector is carried out."*

Items 7.2, 9.9 and 9.10 were considered together. There were a number of interventions on these items from **Councillors Emer Tóibín; Brian Fitzgerald; Gerry O'Connor; Trevor Golden; Alan Tobin; Paul McCabe; Nick Killian; Damien O'Reilly; Pdraig Fitzsimons; Eugene Cassidy; Noel French** and **Joe Bonner**. Most members were supportive of the motion and the need to underground the



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interconnector. Some members sought clarifications, while others were opposed to the motion or its exact wording. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** was agreed.

### 9.10 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

*“Meath County Council calls on Eirgrid to run the 400KV proposed powerline that will run from Woodlands, Dunshaughlin to Moy, county Tyrone completely underground.”*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** was agreed in the context of the discussion on Item 9.9.

## 10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders

- 10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation
- 10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment
- 10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing
- 10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Elected Members

## 11 Any Other Business