



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

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

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

***9.30 am, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Via Zoom***

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

**Councillors Present:** Wayne Harding, Elaine McGinty, Geraldine Keogan, 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 Ordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Elaine McGinty** 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**

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Geraldine Keogan and Senator Sharon Keogan on the death of their mother, Teresa;



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- The family of the late John Heffernan, Inse Bay, Laytown to whom tribute was paid for his contribution to the community and particularly to East Meath Utd.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Evan Ferguson, son of Barry Ferguson, FAI Development Officer, who has signed for English Premier League club Brighton & Hove Albion.

Councillor Paddy Meade also extended his congratulations to Jude Perry, Ballymote, Sligo, who was attending the meeting as a member of the public, and who had had received an Honours Degree in History and Politics from Queens University, Belfast and who is now undertaking a Masters in Public Policy.

## **4 Statutory Business**

### **4.1 Transportation**

- 4.1.1 To receive an update on the Part 8 process for the N52 Grange to Clontail Scheme, and the CE report already provided to the Members.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer and Ricky Nolan, Executive Engineer, Transportation were in attendance alongside Shane Tobin and Ursula O'Higgins, Atkins Consultants.

Dara McGowan confirmed that the six week period of consideration of the Chief Executive's report commenced on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the date of receipt. He outlined the proposed works, the actions taken to date, the number of submissions received, the internal and external consultations undertaken and the recommendation that the proposal proceed with seven conditions, all of which were relatively standard and could be delivered. The report had also been received by councillors in Kells Municipal District. Discussions will continue in the interim period on other elements of the project required prior to construction.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Welcomed the proposal in improving safety for all road users by realigning the road whilst improving cycling and walking facilities.
- Requested that any compensation offered to affected residents be sufficient.
- Requested that consideration be given to providing overpasses or underpasses for all affected farms.
- Referred to the need for certainty for residents in terms of maintaining any cul-de-sacs created as a result of the works.

It was pointed out that the next phase would include discussions with landowners and the subsequent phases will include consideration of all key matters in due course, including land acquisition, accommodation works, etc. All cul-de-sacs are different, e.g. the number of landowners involved, and these will be considered on a case by case basis. The detailed design will first have to be prepared.

- 4.1.2 To inform the Members of the commencement of a review of submissions received regarding housing estates to be considered for inclusion in an update to the current 30 km/h Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Law and seek representations in relation to any estates which the members feel should be included for review.

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation referred to the estates in Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District that had been identified for review and asked that any further suggestions be submitted by email by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

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

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted.

## **4.2 Planning**

- 4.2.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that



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the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2020.”

- The Grange, Donore

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

### **4.3 To consider and adopt the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works.**

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year. Reference was made to a national commitment given with regard to the Energy Retrofit Programme, which will represent an annual programme of works over the coming years.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the Housing Department on the volume of work being undertaken.
- Queried the basis of allocation of funding based on the percentage of housing stock in each municipal district and whether account was taken of the age/BER rating of the housing stock and the related amount of works required – a profile of the housing stock has been completed and is up to date, with basic information such as the age and condition to be added. Nationally there is a move towards preventative maintenance rather than reactive maintenance. The percentage of calls logged is similar to the percentage of stock in this municipal district.
- Welcomed the works being undertaken in Alverno, including the roads and footpaths.
- Queried the timeframe for the allocation of houses in the Maudlins, Duleek by Respond – 30 units are coming on stream, with the final snagging to take place before Easter. It was agreed to seek a full update.



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It was pointed out, that in 2020, of the 456 social housing units provided by various means in the county, 147 were provided in Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

- Referred to the delays in allocating the units in Phase 2 of Shepherd's Lodge – the water connections had caused a delay but the final snagging was completed yesterday and the units are due to be handed over on 15<sup>th</sup> February.
- Requested that councillors be notified as early as possible when Approved Housing Bodies plan to purchase an entire estate to facilitate the making of submissions or observations and referred to the use of Part V by local authorities, which allows for greater integration – this represents a very successful and significant form of delivery of new housing units but there is no formal process, unlike a Part 8. The process will be reviewed to see how information is relayed to councillors but without compromising the independent process between Approved Housing Bodies and developers.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation outlined the programme for the delivery of the Schedule of Municipal District Works, as it relates to Transportation, including the funding sources and status. Some grant allocations have not yet been confirmed and a contingency allocation in the Restoration Improvement Grant has been allowed in the event that grants are reduced from 2020 levels and/or inflation leads to increased costs.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed programme of works, across the different categories and schemes and including the funding breakdown. It was pointed out that the programme being outlined excluded works planned under the capital programme.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the level of works carried out in recent year, including work undertaken in housing estates, the provision of speed tables and pedestrian crossings, the standard of works and improved accessibility at Harry's Garage and the safety improvement works at Minnistown/Pilltown Road junction.



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- Welcomed the progress made in relation to the Spine Road project, which will create significant benefits for the community, including students, in providing safe pedestrian and cycling connections, and commended the level of engagement that had taken place with local residents.
- Welcomed the progress in relation to Julianstown bridge and underlined the need for a footpath across the bridge.
- Referred to the delay in advancing the footpath from Donacarney to Bettystown Cross and underlined the need for road improvements to be undertaken in tandem with the footpath works – essential road maintenance will be carried out in the interim.
- Referred to the need to improve safety for all road users, including pedestrians accessing the bus station, on the Narrowways and the junction with the Pilltown Road.
- Requested that Mornington bridge be added to the list of works due to the number of collisions by buses and HGVs.
- Welcomed the feasibility study in relation to the Julianstown Bypass – funding had been allocated for the feasibility study for the bypass, which forms part of the wider Transport Study for Drogheda, with a traffic calming scheme progressing despite a number of environmental considerations. It was noted that both are capital projects and outside the remit of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.
- Referred to the need to consider the road infrastructure to facilitate the increased amount of development in south Drogheda – once the County Development Plan is adopted, a Joint Urban Area Plan for south Drogheda will be prepared with Louth County Council, with a Strategic Issues Paper to be prepared initially. A Transport Study for the Greater Drogheda Area has commenced and a meeting with both the NTA and Louth County Council is planned, with the locations experiencing pressures and new infrastructure and road improvements to be highlighted. The funding will involve a combination of sources including development levies, conditioned on planning permissions, and the NTA, which has funded part of the Transport Study.



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- Requested that this Transport Study include the Beamore Road, the new link road in Beamore, the need for parking at Colpe and a possible railway station.
- Referred to the incidents at Colpe Cross and the need for road realignment and the extension of the footpath across Colpe Bridge with public lighting.
- Referred to the concerns of residents regarding the road level in relation to the footpath on the L1604 – the surface dressing will not result in a significant increase to road levels with property owners to be contacted during works.
- Referred to the need to provide road markings on the L1603, Clogher Road and Davidstown Road – the guidelines for road markings require a minimum road width.
- Referred to damage caused to the Monknewtown Road outside Slane arising from a road closure through Slane, the need to widen this road and provide three additional pull in areas in the interim.
- Referred to the need for safety improvement works at the junction at Rath/Crooks Cross – the design for the scheme at Rathbran junction will be reviewed.
- Requested that funding be allocated for estates in Lobinstown and Newtown in 2022.
- Queried the percentage of funding allocated to each of the municipal districts for roads and suggested that many local roads had not been surveyed – the PSCI will be reviewed in the context of preparing the next three year road programme. It was the Council's intention to survey as close to 100% of the network as possible but this was not always achievable for a number of different reasons and not all roads identified on the schedule can be surveyed, e.g. some may be inaccessible. It was noted that the Community Involvement scheme has been popular in the municipal district and has addressed some of these cul de sac roads. It was noted that funding sources have been identified for the different road categories and that the programme for non-national roads includes restoration maintenance



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and road surfacing. Roads selection is based on the PSCI assessment with adjustments for population.

- Referred to the need for traffic calming measures at the bottom of Station Road and Mill Road, Duleek, particularly to facilitate access to the Post Office.
- Referred to the safety issues for traffic entering and exiting Duleek Soccer Club and requested that consideration be given to traffic calming measures, such as a filter lane or an island.
- Requested that ramps be installed at Donacarney N.S. and past the community centre on the Garrow Road to slow traffic coming from Mornington.
- Requested that consideration be given to gritting at all schools, e.g. Duleek N.S.
- Queried if the allocation for beach cleaning can be redirected if not fully expended – any surplus funding can be reallocated if not spent but this budget was fully spent in previous years.

The 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Laytown-Bettystown was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**. Councillor Paddy Meade requested that his opposition to the schedule being adopted be noted.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.





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

- 7.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Planning Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The report was noted.

- 7.4 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment & Emergency Services SPC meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Referred to the decision taken to relocate the Educate Together school to the far side of Drogheda despite a commitment given by the Department of Education & Skills regarding the land on the Mill Road and without any consultation or consideration of the impacts on families or traffic implications and the capacity of the proposed site to accommodate additional student numbers.



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It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

A discussion followed with a number of related matters raised and it was agreed that a letter would issue on behalf of councillors to both the Department of Education & Skills and the LMETB urging that this decision be reversed, with reference to the associated impacts on the families and children involved and on traffic levels in the wider area.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**