



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 10th February 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 20th January 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th January 2021 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 Anne Byrnes, Commons Road, Navan;



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- The family of the late Dom Tighe, Kells;
- The family of the late Dymphna Farrell, Beaufort Place, Navan.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To discuss the Part 8 for Proposed Scheme P8/20015 – N51 Park and Ride Facility.

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation and Marcus Clifford, CSEA Consultants were available to answer any queries arising from the report presented at the January meeting and provided to the councillors on 20th January 2021.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- How this additional facility will function given the amount of traffic currently being generated as a result of the different roads and roundabouts leading onto this road and concerns around additional traffic congestion – a traffic and transport assessment, undertaken as part of the Part 8 process and which had been put on public display, took account of future traffic levels. The Moat Hill junction is to be upgraded to a signalised junction and cycling facilities are included on the N51 linking to this junction and into the town. The aim is to reduce dependence on car based transport into and around the town. The peak usage of this facility, in serving commuters, will be earlier than school times and the traffic volumes using it will be relatively low. A right turning lane to access the facility will be provided and traffic exiting will have the opportunity to turn left and use the roundabout. As part of the LDR4 scheme, works are planned for the R147 roundabout, i.e. to create a signalised junction.
- Acknowledged the benefits of the facility to Navan.



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- Expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety in the area, given the number of existing and new developments planned and suggested that an overall plan is needed for the area with a focus on pedestrian safety.

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 Navan Municipal District that had been identified for review and asked that any further suggestions be submitted by email by 31st March. It was agreed to circulate the list of housing estates to which the special speed limit of 30km/hr already applies. Following the process, the byelaws should be presented to the full council in the summer for approval.

4.1.3 To receive an update on the Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration Scheme.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the progress to date in relation to the two parallel schemes. The non-statutory public consultation will commence in the coming weeks with regard to the route options, with the maps to be circulated to landowners and councillors in advance of going on public display. The emerging preferred route should be identified later in 2021. The overview of both projects was also provided.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The impact of COVID on progressing the project – the process has been slightly more challenging, with the surveys relating to the navigation restoration scheme slightly delayed.
- Queried the proposed timeframe – it is hoped to submit the application to An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2022, with a further 6 months to get planning



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consent. If successful, funding will be sought to advance the project on a phased basis.

- Queried the possible funding sources – funding had been secured for work being undertaken by the consultants. The feasibility study for the navigation scheme will include the cost/benefit analysis, following which a business case will have to be made. Each year, a funding application is made for the next step whilst funding has also been allocated in the capital programme.
- Acknowledged the significant likely cost of undertaking the navigation restoration scheme – the project has significant tourism potential and this will be taken into account in the feasibility study.

4.1.4 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:

- Referred to potholes on Metges Road at the roundabout in Johnstown – potholes at this location and on the road to the school campus will be repaired when weather conditions improve.
- Referred to potholes at Belcourt – it was agreed to add this to the list.
- Queried the planned locations for footpath works – all works are subject to IPB funding approval and, if approved, the planned locations were outlined.
- Queried whether the pathway from Clonmagadden Lane to Simonstown will be repaired alongside the upgrade works following the burst watermain last year – it was agreed to look at this.



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- Requested an update on the responsibility for resurfacing the bottom section of Antylstown Lane – the lane was taken in charge and is in poor condition but would require significant works. Depending on the extent of works, an application could be made under CIS.
- Requested an update on the timeframe for completion of works on Cannon Row and Kennedy Road – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.
- Queried whether Level 5 restrictions were impacting on local authority works on overgrown hedges – only one notice has been served with no information received on other locations. The local authority is exempt from hedge cutting restrictions due to road safety issues, e.g. at junctions.

4.2 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:

- Queried what portion of the budget is allocated to the maintenance of estates including door and window replacement, painting, etc. – this is generally covered under the ordinary maintenance programme, in response to requests for upkeep, and also under the preventative maintenance programme, largely as pre-let expenditure.
- Queried the role of the council in dealing with rodent control in council estates – whilst the council will deal with any problematic entry points, the responsibility for rodent control lies with the tenant. This is the current policy but the issue can be raised with the Housing SPC.



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- Queried the difference between preventative maintenance and pre-let repairs – the two programmes are interlinked. In the past, there was a rolling programme of door/window replacement and heating upgrades, most of which is now complete. Nationally there is a move towards planned preventative maintenance programmes, where a stock audit would identify works needed and this would reduce the extent of substantial pre-let repairs required.
- Queried the budget for the energy retrofit programme – €46 million is being made available nationally for the programme and further detail is awaited. However, the intention is to bring stock up to a minimum B2 BER rating.
- Queried the allocation for halting sites – the budget is for maintenance and clean-ups and may not be fully expended. The Part 8 for St. Francis's Park will hopefully commence in March, with works to start towards the end of the year. The design has been agreed and department approval is awaited to allow the Part 8 process to commence.
- Queried the timeframe for the delivery of units in Nagle Court, Windtown Road – Stage 2 approval to proceed to Part 8 has been sought from the department and, if successful, the Part 8 process and tendering will be complete before the end of the year. The plan is to provide 16 units to maximise the space available.
- Queried whether there are plans to provide housing units on the site of the football pitch on Windtown Road – the council is working closely with the Women's Refuge as a S183 is required to dispose of part of the site, at the front, for a purpose built facility for the refuge. Funding from the department is in place and the tender has issued for a design team. The intention is to provide a small scale housing scheme, for specific purposes, to the rear and depending on the space remaining.
- Queried whether there are plans to provide for affordable housing on the lands at Farganstown – a condition of the LIHAF funding is that a percentage of the privately developed area be handed over as low cost units. Approximately 25 affordable units will be provided to the council.



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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:

- Queried the allocation for Balreask village – this is for the distributor, or central, road in the village, which is in poor condition.
- Queried the 2020 and 2021 allocations to Newgate – the surfacing allocation for 2020 was redirected to a different section of the R147 in order for the safety scheme, which provision has been made for in 2021, to be completed first. Subject to grant funding, the surfacing works will follow.
- Queried the timeframe for culvert works in Johnstown – approval is required to proceed and, if approved, following preparation of a design and tendering, works may take place in late summer or autumn.
- Queried the approach to works on the N51 at Dunmoe – some advance works have commenced with the tenders for the main civil construction element due in early March, with works expected to commence in early summer (subject to any COVID restrictions which may apply). Depending on the successful contractor's programme, works may be of 18 – 24 months duration.



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- Requested an update on Clonmagadden Lane –Following the discussion on the report on the submission received pursuant to the publication of notice to take in charge Clonmagadden Lane at the July 2020 meeting of Navan Municipal District it had been agreed to defer the taking in charge for the moment. Given the progress with the review of submission on the County Development Plan, it is considered that engagement with the landowners can recommence.

The 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Navan Municipal District was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“Can I get an update on the rollout of CCTV in Navan, to include installation dates and areas covered?”

Response:

The documentation required as part of a part VIII planning process for the extension to the Navan CCTV scheme is currently being prepared. It is expected to commence the part VIII planning process before the end of February. It is proposed to install 7 cameras at the following locations:

- *Roundabout at Supervalu*
- *Johnstown Village*
- *Junction of R137 and Sion Road*
- *Junction of R153 (Kentstown Rd) & Metges Road*
- *Academy St/R147 junction*
- *Opposite Willows Pub*
- *Junction of R147 Dublin Road/Metges Rd*

On completion of the Planning process, an application will be prepared and submitted to the Garda Commissioner seeking approval of the CCTV scheme. On receipt of this



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approval, the procurement process can commence with construction of the scheme to begin as soon as possible after the receipt and assessment of received tenders.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“When will appropriate 30km speed limit signage be erected in Ferndale (following traffic management report conducted on estate)?”

Response:

The Agenda for the February meeting of Navan Municipal District contains an item which shall inform Members of the next stage of the rollout of special speed limits for housing estates where information and discussion of relevant locations can take place. Ferndale Estate is included in the draft list for discussion by Navan Municipal District members.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“To ask Meath County Council to quantify the cost of cleaning up illegal dumping in the Navan Municipal District for the last 4 years, to outline the sanctions and level of enforcement throughout the local area and to explain the Council policy change in terms of its erstwhile responsibility to manage all works related to rubbish collection and rural areas' clean-up.”

Response:

The costs associated with illegal dumping and littering can mainly be broken down over the headings of Street Cleaning, Litter Management and Provision of Waste to Collection Services. While the costs of street cleaning can be apportioned across the six Municipal Districts it is not possible to break down the costs for the other two headings



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	2017	2018	2019	2020
Street Cleaning – Navan MD	496,333	438,006	449,802	442,281
Litter Management Full County	509,368	514,350	654,912	613,317
Provision of Waste to Collection Services Full County	136,734	140,329	257,823	183,998

*The legal position in relation to littering and illegal dumping and enforcement provisions is set out in the Litter Pollution Act 1997, the Waste Management Acts and the Protection of the Environment Act 2003. The 1997 Act provides that leaving or throwing litter in a public place is an offence which can be subject to an on the spot fine of €150 or a maximum fine of €3,000 in court while people who are found to be responsible for, or involved in, the unauthorised disposal of waste are liable to a maximum **fine of €5,000** on summary conviction and/or **imprisonment for up to 12 months**, and to a maximum fine of €15 million on conviction on indictment and/or imprisonment for up to 10 years.*

The Council through its waste enforcement officers and Community Wardens are continuously monitoring the situation on the grounds with specific incidents and patterns of illegally activity being investigated thoroughly. Investigations do lead to fines and prosecutions in the Courts.

In addition to this the Council engage in comprehensive street sweeping in the larger urban centres where the greater footfall is including Navan, and while this service was somewhat impacted by the Covid pandemic and leading to a reduction in activity every effort has been made to maintain bin maintenance and town centre litter picking. It will be noted from the recent IBAL report that notwithstanding the various Covid lockdowns there has been a considerable increase in the amount of litter generated and with a reduction of 25% in the number of the towns being judged to be clean.

The Council are also involved in local and national educational and awareness campaigns in respect of litter and dumping and provide support to local groups wishing to take part in clean ups including the provision of equipment, and financial supports through various



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grants schemes including amenity Grants, Pride of Place, Tidy Towns, Anti litter etc. The recently introduced Green Kilometre Scheme is proving extremely popular with groups and individuals who would like to contribute to their local community.

The response was noted. Councillor Tóibín sought clarification on why CCTV cannot be used to catch those responsible for littering in rural areas. It was pointed out that issues remain with regard to data protection and the enforcement process is problematic and costly. A working group has been established to look at the related issues.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"In the interest of providing motorists with a safe entrance and exit from the disability respite centre on the Commons Road, this council agrees to install a yellow box at the entrance to the centre in Clogherboy."

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

Navan Municipal District Transportation Section will assess the mentioned location to determine if additional road markings are required. It should be pointed out that National rules and regulations governing the use of road markings and signage on public roads are very specific and need to be adhered to in order to be both legal and useful.

Councillor Fennessy requested that consideration be given to provide a yellow box at the entrance to the centre on the opposite side of the road to facilitate vehicles exiting the centre and it was agreed to look at this.

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

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy



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"In the interest of providing safe passage to pedestrians accessing the St. Finian's Cemetery, Navan Municipal District agrees to consider reducing the Old Athboy Road, from Mullaghboy to Boyerstown, to a one-way system in order to create the space that would allow for the construction of a footpath with adequate public lighting from Mullaghboy to St. Finian's Cemetery."

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

Meath County Council has no current plans for the installation of a footpath from Mullaghboy to St. Finian's Cemetery. Any project to install this proposed facility would be subject to funding being realised before a commitment could be given to delivery. The approximate distance is 1km and any works would need to include road drainage and public lighting so the costs would be significant. Should project finance be realised for this project, Transportation Section shall examine the requirement or need for the imposition of traffic restrictions as part of the planning process.

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

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Meath County Council to carry out repairs on the pedestrian passway between Millbrook estate and Johnstown Wood because, at present, the gapway is a trip hazard and should be made safe and secure for schoolgoing children who walk to Johnstown School Campus."

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

Transportation Planning Section is currently working on a design solution for the stated location. It is the intention when the design is complete to approach the receiver appointed to the developer of the Millbrook Estate to seek permission to carry out remedial and improvement works. If this is forthcoming then the Council intend to undertake the works but at the present time Meath County Council unfortunately does not have permission to enter upon the Milbrook lands to carry out the works.



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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

“I propose that Meath County Council would include Poolquay Road, Flowerhill, in 2021 roadworks programme. This road is in Meath County Council's charge and has experienced huge problems from flooding in recent years and needs to be resurfaced.”

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

The L-8698-0 is not on the current 3 year programme covering the years 2019 to 2021. As 2021 is the last year of the current 3 year programme, the Council expects that a new 3 year programme will be prepared in consultation with the elected members later in the year and this road can be considered for inclusion in the surfacing programme for the years 2022 to 2024 together with other demands on the available funding. In the interim the road has been included on the maintenance schedule for the Navan MD for localised repairs.

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

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“To ask the Council that when mature trees need to be removed that local people be notified of the works, that tree stumps are also removed and replaced with another tree.”

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

Navan Municipal District only removes trees which have been identified as a hazard or have been deemed as unhealthy by a professional arborist. Generally speaking, most such trees which are removed have been notified to the Local Authority either by local residents themselves or by Elected Members on their behalf and only after having their health and



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hazard status fully assessed. Navan Municipal District does not canvass for or seek to have healthy trees removed and, due to the cost involved in tree removal, only trees in really poor condition are usually attended to. Stump removal is always included as part of any tree removal item. In some circumstances, the stump removal process can be delayed due to access problems/issues due to parked cars etc. If the Elected Member is aware of any locations where stump removal has not yet taken place, we would request that the Municipal District Office be notified for follow up. The Local Authority is not obliged to notify people in advance of such works on public roads but shall investigate if notification of works by Contractor can be included on future works contracts.

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

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to install pedestrian crossings at the "Round O" roundabout to allow for safe passage for pedestrians.”

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

There are future plans to redesign the Round-O junction, but ideally this would not happen until after the link road from the Kells Road to the Rathaldron Road has been completed, at which stage the altered traffic movements can be assessed. There are no plans to install pedestrian crossings in advance of the junction redesign.

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

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to install a railing along the pathway at Aura Leisure Centre, from the building to the disabled parking bays, to enable easy access for those with mobility disabilities and for the elderly.”



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

Meath County Council currently has no proposals to provide a handrail from the entrance of the swimming pool to the disabled parking bays as requested in this Notice of Motion. However, this request will be kept on file for consideration during future upgrade works at the facility.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**, was noted.

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

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

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence



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There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Alan Lawes raised the following issue:

- 9.1.1 Referred to reports received regarding slurry spreading at Garlow Cross and queried whether this activity had been permitted – it was confirmed that the matter was being investigated and an update would be provided when available.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára