



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

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

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

***9.30 am, 15<sup>th</sup> April 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 4th March 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Elaine McGinty** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

Sympathy was extended to:



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

- The family of the late Paul Monahan, former Meath County Council employee and Slane Area Administrator.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All teachers, staff and parents on the return of students to schools;
- Slane Men's Shed for returning newly crafted crosses to Slane village, in recognition of those who lost their lives;
- Andy Corcoran, Star of the Sea Athletics Club on his performance in the European Indoor Athletics Championship.

### **4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

#### **4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of Land at Cribena, Laytown, Co. Meath.**

In response to queries raised, Una McNamara, Facilities Management outlined the background to the proposed disposal.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**. Councillor Paddy Meade wished for his objection to be noted, based on possible alternative uses for the site, and Councillor Elaine McGinty expressed her reservations in relation to the proposed disposal value.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

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

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:



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

- Commended the district engineer and his team for the excellent work being carried out despite the restrictions.
- Referred to the need for additional bins and queried when new bins will be installed – there is evidence of increased domestic waste disposal in bins and this is being monitored. Solar compacting bins have been procured and will be installed in the coming weeks.
- Requested the timeframe for completion of repairs in playgrounds, e.g. Laytown.
- Requested that a full discussion be held with regard to planned coastal erosion works, with reference to the gabions procured for Laytown – the gabions procured are for maintenance works, to replace damaged gabions at the car park entrance. The relief works from Laytown to Bettystown form part of a major project.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed traffic calming for the R132 at Julianstown in advance of lodging a formal application under Section 177AE of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, to An Bord Pleanála.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposal and drawings circulated and noted that the additional environmental, cultural and heritage reports required for this scheme had now been completed. Approval was being sought to proceed to submit the planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The planning process will take approximately 24 weeks, with the overall project cost in excess of €2.5million, of which €800,000 had been allocated in the council's capital programme. Subject to planning approval, the project will include a number of phases, subject to funding.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Underlined the continued need for a bypass and a Drogheda ring road – A Drogheda and East Meath Traffic Study, which is required as part of a feasibility study for a bypass, has been delayed due to COVID restrictions but MCC have met with the NTA and Louth County Council re this study



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

and it is hoped that this study will commence shortly. The traffic calming measures will compliment a bypass, if it were provided.

- Queried whether the proposed narrowing of the carriageway would result in an increase in accidents – the intention is to slow traffic.
- Queried whether increased traffic arising from new residential developments in south Drogheda had been taken into account and whether remote working, due to COVID, would result in reduced commuter traffic – the project appraisal guidelines allows for traffic growth, with no further guidance currently available relating to COVID.
- Requested that consideration be given to including a raised table at the Laytown junction – raised tables are not generally considered suitable for regional roads; those proposed for the school and Duleek junctions will be very low, with the intention of calming traffic at prioritised locations.
- Queried whether consideration had been given to traffic lights at the Laytown and Duleek junctions – whilst these were considered initially, the current proposal was considered the most suitable option to calm traffic in Julianstown.
- Requested that buses, including private coaches, be facilitated – whilst the road width does not allow for designated bus lanes, the existing bus stops will be upgraded and will be wheelchair accessible.
- Queried whether any response had been received, following the adoption of a Notice of Motion, requesting that the R132 be made a national road – it was agreed to check this.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors welcomed the proposed measures.

- 5.1.3 To receive a presentation on the 'Laytown and Bettystown Walking and Cycling Study'.



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

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer and Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting with John Fahey, ARUP, who delivered a presentation which included an overview, the reasons for the review and updates, the routes and key findings, the proposed network and prioritisation and a summary of the findings.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Expressed concern that the proposed schemes were dependent on the delivery of the Boyne Greenway, which was subject to further information requests, and the probable timeframe for its delivery.
- Referred to the opportunity to deliver a significant path and cycling scheme to link the Boyne and Delvin rivers, which could be trialled when the Spine Road opens.
- Suggested that both the Eastham and Golf Links roads represented two pieces of infrastructure that could easily be delivered, due to their width, and as both of which were experiencing a lot of issues including a large number of estates, limited crossings and speeding traffic – the Eastham Road to Donacarney had been identified as a priority. The Golf Links Road had been identified as a medium priority, but this was subject to change if considered easier to deliver.
- Pointed out that the NTA had made a funding commitment – small allocations were anticipated to start with. The NTA is making significant investment in pedestrian and cycling schemes.
- Requested that consideration be given to making the Laytown to Julianstown road a high priority.
- Queried the process in making funding applications to the NTA – applications can be made at any time. Another fund emerging relates to traffic management at schools and creating safe access to schools. The purpose of the report is to create a pipeline of schemes to avail of



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

appropriate NTA funding. Subject to additional staff, selected projects can be progressed.

It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated and any comments submitted would be considered at the May meeting.

### **5.1.4 To receive an update on N2 Slane Bypass.**

Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation and Una Mullen, Westmeath Regional Design Office attended with Michael Noonan, Project Manager, RPS, who provided a brief update on the N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. It is hoped to commence public consultation in Q3 2021 and submit an application to An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2022. The inclusion of the public realm enhancement scheme, and the need for adequate detail, had resulted in the application timeline being extended. Contact will be made with residents in advance of on-site surveys and councilors will be updated as appropriate.

Councillors welcomed the proposal to consider both the bypass and the public realm enhancement scheme together and thanked all for the progress made.

## **5.2 Community**

### **5.2.1 To receive details of the recommended grant offers by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme and if in agreement to forward to the Full Council of Meath County Council for approval.**

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department outlined the report, which had been circulated in advance, including the recommended funding applications.

Responses were provided to specific queries raised in relation to the recommendations.



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

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan**.

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

### **5.3 Environment**

5.3.1 To receive an update in relation to casual trading licences – Summer Season 2021.

Jarlath Flanagan, Administrative Officer, Environment Department outlined the consultation that had taken place and the proposal in relation to the six licence bays, including their designated location and with reference to the additional conditions.

Responses were provided to a number of queries raised in relation to the selected location and the timeframe for the allocation process.

Councillors welcomed the decision to proceed this year.

### **5.4 Corporate Services**

5.4.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

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

## **6 Notice of Question**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Eline McGinty**

“What applications for URDF funding have been submitted in the Laytown/Bettystown MD to date and what do we plan on asking for?”



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **Response:**

*In 2018, the Council applied for funding under the URDF to progress and deliver a number of projects, which included:*

- a) the preparation of a Public Realm Plan for Bettystown and implement the recommendations (e.g. streetscape, public plaza, carpark etc)*
- b) to prepare a Traffic and Parking Management Plan for Bettystown and its environs and identify a suitable car park location for the beach, purchase the land and construct the car park.*
- c) Develop a Seafront Building and Public access to Bettystown Beach*

*In 2020, the Council applied for funding under the URDF to progress and deliver a number of projects, which included:*

- a) Provide the public realm enhancements in Bettystown as identified in the public realm plan*
- b) Construct a new public library and community facility in Bettystown*
- c) Provide the public realm improvements in Laytown (including the proposed seafront park) and the provision of a new commuter car park adjacent to the train station.*

*Unfortunately, the Council was unsuccessful in both applications. The Council will consider what items to include in future applications, when these future funding schemes are available.*

The response was noted. Councillor McGinty sought clarification on the funding available and the projects being considered for same, including URDF.

## **7 Notice of Motion**





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

### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee**

“That Meath County Council immediately begin planning and preparing for the provision of a community playground on Council-owned land (marked as a spot objective site in the new County Development Plan) in the centre of Donacarney.”

Deferred to the May meeting.

### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Tom Behan**

“Calling on the Council to take a full comprehensive review of the road safety issues on the R132 Julianstown Road, with particular emphasis on residential areas, where there is a serious lack of street Lighting and footpaths”.

Deferred to the May meeting.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Tom Behan**

"Calling on the Council to address the increasing hazardous conditions of the Beach Gabions at the beach entrance in Laytown."

Deferred to the May meeting.

### **7.4 Submitted by Councillors Wayne Harding and Geraldine Keogan (Emergency Motion)**

“In light of the Councils recommendation and in the spirit of inclusivity we’re calling on Meath County Council to create an accessibility badge that will permit those within our community who have mobility or accessibility issues, but do not qualify for a disability badge access to our beaches.”

Deferred to the May meeting.

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



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

- 8.1** To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The report was noted.

- 8.2** To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The report was noted.

- 8.3** To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The report was noted.

## **9 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **10 Any Other Business**

### **10.1 Road Naming Consultation Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.**

The proposal regarding the naming of the Spine Road was outlined. Following a short discussion, it was agreed to proceed as outlined.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



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