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Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 21st April 2021, Via Zoom

An Leas-Mheára, **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Yemi Adenuga, Francis Deane, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Alan Lawes, Tommy Reilly and Emer Tóibín.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Paul O'Brien

Executive Engineer: Shane Durcan

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th March 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th March 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Peggy Clancy, Trim.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All parents who had managed the home schooling of their children, particularly working parents.

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 Old Balreask, Navan, Co Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on the amendment of the Taxi Rank Bye-laws for Navan.

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation referred to the submissions received and outlined the proposed ranks to be included in the draft bye-laws, including the number of spaces by location, the timeframe for their introduction and the provision of night-time ranks. The proposed bye-laws will allow for 28 spaces, to increase to 42 spaces post-Navan 2030 scheme. If agreed, the draft bye-laws will proceed to statutory public consultation.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that delivery trucks on Market Square be accommodated without parking tickets being issued.
- Requested that adequate public lighting be provided on the Fairgreen and access lanes, including Cornmarket and Bakery Lane, to ensure the safety of



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those using the taxi ranks at that location – this was raised previously and it is intended to provide adequate lighting and CCTV.

- Queried how the loading bays on Ludlow Street would be monitored to ensure access by emergency services – whilst the loading bays are not specifically reserved for emergency vehicles, it would be a matter for the Gardaí to enforce this.
- Queried why further spaces cannot be provided – it is proposed that the scheme be introduced and that the number of spaces then be reviewed. When the Navan 2030 scheme is completed, the bye-laws can be reviewed again.
- Welcomed the addition of spaces to the rear of the shopping centre.

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update provided at the meeting. Matters raised by councillors included:

- Thanked council staff for assisting Johnstown Tidy Towns in establishing the Green Kilometre initiative.
- Commended the works on the roundabout at Boreen Keel, including the raised pedestrian crossings, which have slowed traffic and improved safety – plans are in place to provide additional bins and street furniture.
- Welcomed the provision of pedestrian crossings on the Slane and Proudstown roads and requested that consideration be given to providing a pedestrian crossing at the top of Flower Hill and also from the fire station to the Round O – it was agreed to check to see if these could be added and it was pointed out that resurfacing works are outstanding following the Irish Water works.



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- Requested that the 60kmph speed signs on the Proudstown Road be renewed – these are included in a sign replacement scheme, with a tender out for new signs.
- Requested an update on the provision of safety measures, such as ramps, outside rural schools, in particular Cannistown, Bohermeen, Lismullin and Boyerstown – a scheme for Cannistown N.S. is being looked at.
- Queried the timeframe for works to commence behind St. Oliver's Park – it is hoped to secure NTA funding to upgrade the walkway to a shared space with public lighting along the school boundary towards the car park at the rear of Blackcastle Shopping Centre.
- Queried whether the council can address the rat infestation issue on an area between Millbrook and Beechmount – further details were requested but this may be private land.
- Queried the timeframe for the reopening of the road from Dunville to the L5050 and from Cairn Hill to Metges Road – it is intended to install a roundabout on the road from Johnstown village to Metges Road.
- Queried when contractors would return to complete the landscaping at the former playground in Claremont – the contractors will return as soon as possible to complete drainage works and reseed the area, when top soil becomes available.
- Queried if bins are to be provided at the Ramparts car park – a new bin base has been installed and contact will be made with the contractor to expedite the provision of the bin.
- Queried if solar compacting bins are to be installed in Johnstown – three additional bins have been provided in the town centre with 10 now provided in total. Due to their capital and maintenance costs, these require special funding and are targeted at high capacity locations. The bin collection schedule for Johnstown will be checked.



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Councillors thanked Paul for his work in the municipal district over the last number of years and wished him well in his new role. Shane was also welcomed to the municipal district.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Navan Deployment of the WIFI4EU.

Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation on delivering free public WiFi, the background to WIFI4EU and the locations to be covered in Navan. A number of access points remain to be connected and it will be formally launched in the coming days.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The poor broadband coverage in Robinstown – a survey to be undertaken as part of the National Broadband Plan has started around Navan and will identify issues such as this. A Broadband Connection Point is available at the Meath GAA Centre for Excellence with external free public WiFi available and another is planned for Bective GAA in the coming months, with external access planned initially and internal access to follow. A survey is to be carried out to identify networks in place with Open Eir preparing the infrastructure. The deployment of the National Broadband Plan is due to start in the Navan area in 2023. Those who are building new houses or renovating should plan for connectivity by installing appropriate ducting.
- Queried whether Meath County Council has a WhatsApp contact number to facilitate free telephone access in the public WiFi area.
- Queried whether there was a risk that local businesses would use the public WiFi for internet access and restrict availability for others – most businesses will opt not to use a public network due to security issues.



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- Queried whether the internet is available to users outside the Unity Centre – it is used primarily for training and other activities within the centre and it is not intended to encourage congestion outside the centre.

Councillors welcomed the provision of free public WiFi in Navan.

5.3 Corporate Services

5.3.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan Municipal District.

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“To ask the Executive to provide an update on council plans to manage traffic around the St. Stephen's/Colaiste na Mí school campus in Johnstown. Response should include, completion update on the through road at the Dunville estate with a timeline around when it will be operational.”

Response:

The Council does not have any immediate plans to provide additional traffic management measures around Colaiste Na Mí / St. Stephens's Schools although we had understood that the Department's Advisors were proposing to implement on-campus changes to the road layout and parking to facilitate set-down and pick up of students. The planning permission for Dunville incorporates a link to the L5050 and we anticipate that this will be completed and opened in due course. We further anticipate that this road will ultimately be taken in charge by the local authority and will provide another access route to the school. The Council is working with the NTA to improve cycle linkage to Johnstown and it is proposed to look at the Transport Plan for Navan as part of the Local Area Plan process for the town.



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The response was noted. Councillor Edward Fennessy sought clarification on whether the on campus parking would impact on the tailbacks at peak times, the timeframe for the opening of the link road and whether submissions from the public and councillors will be facilitated as part of the LAP process.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Have Meath County Council plans in place for a shopfront paint scheme similar to previous schemes in recent years? If so, shop owners have suggested such a scheme would be welcomed by Navan businesses when the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.”

Response:

The Community Grants scheme recently closed with grants awarded at the April Full Council Meeting. There are no plans for a shop front paint scheme in 2021.

The Economic & Enterprise Section recently ran a shopfront scheme which proved very successful. This scheme sought to improve shop fronts in general and was not specific to a paint scheme. Given the success, it is intended to replicate the scheme in 2022.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

“Following on from my motion in December, have we received a response regarding the possible roadway, pathway and traffic improvements on Boreen Keel, Navan?”

Response:

The Brews Hill/Cannon Row/Boreen Keel triangle was included in an application for the URDF, but unfortunately this scheme was not successful in securing funding in this round of allocations. There is no other funding stream available for this area at the moment.

As previously outlined, the flows on Boreen Keel and Emmet Terrace could be considered in the future, but not until the Navan 2030 project is complete as the management of the



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works has been based on existing road layouts and there will be many road closures during those works.

The response was noted. Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons sought clarification on whether the options for the area can be assessed and, if so, when.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“In the interest of ensuring the safety of motorists and pedestrians using the Trim Road from the "Borallion" crossroad to the O'Mahoney's second pitch, agrees to consider the following;

1. A continuation of the public lighting network from the O'Mahoney's second pitch to the "Borallion" crossroad.
2. The installation of a filter road on the Navan side of the "Borallion" crossroad.”

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

DBFL have been appointed to progress the LDR1b road and as part of this work they are required to carry out the following review.

The Consultant will undertake a safety and capacity review of the existing 4-arm Balreask junction between the R161 Trim Road and the Borrallion for both do-nothing and do-something scheme. This review may result in the generation of possible option selections related to the junction. The consultant will prepare an Options Report to include an indicative design and cost estimate for any recommended preferred options for dealing with any capacity/safety deficiencies identified as part of their review.

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



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7.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“In the interest of promoting local music and culture, that Meath County Council agrees to install a Bandstand or an Outdoor Auditorium as part of the planned re-development of the Blackwater Park.”

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

There are currently no proposals or funding available to install a bandstand or outdoor auditorium as part of the re-development of the Blackwater Park. However, this request will be considered as part of the formation of future grant applications in Blackwater Park. The only redevelopment works planned at the moment is the provision of the changing rooms/toilets, with construction scheduled to commence in 2021.

It was agreed to deal with Items 7.2 and 7.3 together and, following a discussion, it was agreed to provide councillors with a report on the overall plan for the park.

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

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

“That Meath County Council outlines its plans for this year in Blackwater Park.”

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

Meath County Council are planning to commence construction on the changing rooms/toilet facilities in 2021. The procurement process has been completed and the tenders assessed. It is intended to commence construction in the summer of 2021 and this project could take up to 12 months to complete.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, was agreed.



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7.4 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“To ask Meath County Council to redouble its efforts in calling on the NTA to provide public transport to the people of Robinstown, who live only 9 kms from our capital town.”

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

The NTA is undertaking a nationwide study into improved services for rural areas to inform its approach to rolling out improved public transport across the country (excluding the Greater Dublin Area, Regional Cities and Large Towns) by providing better connections between villages and towns by linking them with an enhanced regional network connecting regional centres nationwide.

Meath County Council officials and other key stakeholders participated in a workshop in February with the NTA, as part of a two-phase consultation on its proposals, titled 'Connecting Ireland'. MCC are continuing to liaise with the NTA to feed into this study. This proposal can be suggested during this consultation period.

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

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I propose that Meath County Council will include additional categories to the Pride of Place garden awards for this coming season. Residents are spending more time in their gardens and are aware of the importance of biodiversity, pollination of plants and ecological life support.”

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

The Pride of Place Scheme for 2021 was launched on 12th March 2021 with a closing date for applications of 28th May 2021.



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There are a number of categories within the scheme with a focus on Biodiversity and Climate Action. To help promote the Council's Climate Action agenda there will be a category called "Climate Action Project" category with a focus on climate action projects e.g. Grow It Yourself gardens/allotments, zero waste initiatives, energy efficiency, planting trees, etc. As Meath County Council has become a partner to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and as part of MCC's commitment to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan the "Nature/Wildlife" category will be extended with a focus on pollinators, the category will be renamed to "Actions for Pollinators". Both these categories allow for a wide range of projects to be submitted.

There are also new categories under the headings of Apartment Complex and Community Wellbeing. Full details of all the categories together with applications forms can be found www.meath.ie. Details of the Pride of Place Scheme have also been circulated to all groups registered on the Public Participation Network and via social media platforms.

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

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Meath County Council to examine the feasibility of erecting a speed ramp on the entrance to Waters Lane, Commons Road, via Leighsbridge. This walkway is used by many young pedestrians as they access Parkvilla Football Club. Local residents have concerns relating to cars speeding along this entrance. Residents have also suggested that Meath County Council erect warning signage to highlight the awareness of pedestrians at this location."

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

Meath County Council will investigate the requirement for speed control measures at Waters Lane. The initial part of this process will be a referral for a traffic speed survey and count. The results of this survey when known will determine what course of action will be taken.



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

7.7 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to extend the pathway from Boyerstown Church / School to Boyerstown Cemetery and to include it in our Programme of Works.”

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

The Schedule of Municipal District Works for Navan as adopted by Members at the March meeting unfortunately does not contain this project as an objective for 2021. This proposed project shall be added to our ‘Request for Works’ database and consideration shall be given for its execution in future works schedules subject to the necessary budget being made available.

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

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

- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 26th February 2021.

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.



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9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Emer Tóibín raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Referred to communication received from a member of the public regarding the proposed demolition of outbuildings at Blackcastle Demesne as part of a planning permission granted – it was pointed out that all elements of the planning application would have been considered in full and as appropriate as part of the statutory planning process, which has now concluded.

10.2 Councillor Alan Lawes raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Requested a response from the Housing Department regarding the failure to provide emergency accommodation for a young homeless couple earlier this month.

10.3 Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Queried what plans are in place for the unit on Kennedy Plaza, e.g. as a tourism information hub or coffee stand – as part of the Navan 2030 scheme, the unit is to be replaced, with the plaza to be extended and seating added, and this will be done in 2022.

10.3.2 Queried what criteria apply to those interested in providing coffee or ice cream vans at the Ramparts or Blackwater Park – it was pointed out that the Ramparts are in private ownership and that the park bye-laws prohibit selling or commercial activities. It was confirmed that the council will support the hospitality sector, e.g. if a formal proposal is received on behalf of traders from the Chamber of Commerce, and through schemes such as grants for outdoor dining, which is now open for applications.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára