



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

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

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

***9.30 am, 13<sup>th</sup> May 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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Elaine McGinty** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

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

Councillor Geraldine Keogan requested updates on Item 5.1.1 – the installation of bins and the repairs in Laytown playground.

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Rose Lawlor, Donore;



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

- The family of the late John Lenehan, Duleek;
- The family of the late Ben Ryan, St. Cianan's Villas, Duleek;
- The family of the late Barbara Heavey, Duleek;
- The family of the late Michael Meegan, St. Anthony's Villas, Laytown, who had been involved in St. Colmcille's and was former station master, Laytown.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Audrey Norris, Corporate Services on arranging the lighting of the Hill of Slane to raise awareness of relevant events and issues;
- All those who participated in the recent Darkness Into Light fund-raising events and all local businesses who had supported these events;
- Ms. Costigan and her 6<sup>th</sup> class, Scoil Bheinín Naofa and all teachers who had entered the Junior Entrepreneur Programme;
- Fr. John Conlon on his contribution to the parish of Duleek/Donore, in particular his role in establishing the new primary school in Duleek, who is moving to St. Mary's Parish, Drogheda. Best wishes were also expressed to Fr. Phil, who is moving from St. Mary's Parish to Mullingar, and Fr. English, who is moving to Duleek.

## **4 Statutory Business**

### **4.1 Transportation**

- 4.1.1 To discuss the draft findings of the 'Laytown and Bettystown Walking and Cycling Study'.



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

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation referred to the information provided to councillors at the April meeting, which had since been circulated, and which councillors had been asked to review and submit any comments or feedback. Any feedback received will be considered and fed into a routes review.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that the road from Laytown to Julianstown be prioritised, as it acts as a loop road for cyclists, an access route to Drogheda and provides access to Sonairte and the football pitches. It was also pointed out that the entire road needs upgrading – there are significant constraints, e.g. road width, and this would require significant investment, requiring consideration of the level of use and benefits.
- Referred to the need to prioritise safe pedestrian and cycling access to schools, including the Eastham Road and Golf Links Road, both of which are wide enough to facilitate quick delivery.
- Referred to the need to plan for the provision of the road and footpath infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed Bettystown train station, to be included in the next County Development Plan.
- Requested that consideration be given to improving access to the bus stop at Narrowways, between Sevitt Hall/Manor to Whitefield and improve safety, e.g. use of raised tables.
- Requested that consideration be given to introducing a one-way system on the Coast Road following the opening of the Spine Road.
- Suggested that cycling apps be consulted to indicate the most used cycle routes – apps are generally used by more experienced cyclists and may not take account of the needs of younger cyclists.
- Referred to the need to install enhanced traffic calming measures outside all national schools, e.g. Donacarney N.S.

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

- Referred to the benefit of a parallel road at Beamore from the roundabout to the distillery to take traffic off the Beamore Road.
- Expressed concern that some routes are dependent on the delivery of public realm plans, which may never secure adequate funding for delivery.

It was agreed to review the report in light of the comments made, update and circulate it. If a further meeting is required to discuss this, it can be arranged.

- 4.1.2 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 receive an update and presentation on the Draft Slane Public Realm Plan.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner attended the meeting with Mehron Kirk and Kevin McGann, BDP and a presentation was given, which included the main issues and opportunities, the impact of the bypass, the future walking and cycling routes, approach to street design and transport, design principles and significant changes and enhancements. The next steps include the finalisation of the draft plan, to include feedback from relevant council departments, a second period of consultation for four weeks in June, the incorporation of any submissions received and the publication of the plan, when finalised. Councillors will be updated, as appropriate.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Acknowledged the amount of progress being made, with the bypass, public realm plan and greenway and welcome the proposed improvements.

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

- Requested that surveys be undertaken to inform possible changes at the junction, including the removal of the left-hand filter lanes.
- Expressed some concern regarding the impact on business from the loss of parking spaces and the need for a bus car park to deter commuters from using on street parking – the issues with regard to parking and commuter parking are known and a preliminary traffic assessment as part of the bypass application will consider potential locations for long-term parking.

### **4.3 Corporate Services**

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

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

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty**

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

**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.*



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

- 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. It was also pointed out that the next three-year capital programme will be presented to the June full council meeting, indicating the planned programme of works, and information on current funding applications.

## **6 Notice of Motion**

### **6.1 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.”

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

*The work plan for the Community Section has been agreed for 2021. However, it may be possible to commence the planning/design element of this project in Q4 of this*



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

*year. However, at present there is no funding available for the construction of this project.”*

The supporting information and motion was proposed by **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

Following a discussion, the following amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan**:

“That Meath County Council immediately begin planning and preparing for the provision of a community playground on Council-owned land in the centre of Donacarney.”

The amended motion was agreed.

### **6.2 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”.

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

*The 3.2km section of the R132 between its junction with the R150 and L16111 had 9 minor injury collisions in the period 2005 to 2016. The Council intend to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for traffic management measures in Julianstown Village but the pedestrian and cycling facilities in this scheme only extend approximately 150m north of the R132/R150 junction. Whilst there is no other scheme in the transportation section’s current work programme relating to the Notice of Motion, a presentation on the 2020 review of the Laytown and Bettystown Walking and Cycling Study will be given at the April 2021 meeting. This review includes high level proposals for the R132 between Julianstown and Colpe Cross.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, was agreed.



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **6.3 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."

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

*Arrangements are being put in place for the replacement of the damaged Gabions at this location and it is hoped that the work will be completed over the next four weeks.*

The motion was withdrawn.

### **6.4 Submitted by Councillors Wayne Harding and Geraldine Keogan**

*"In light of the Council's 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."*

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

*Meath County Council would be restricted in its ability to administer such a "badge" system as, for it to work, details of the citizen's mobility issues would need to be established, but there would not be personnel qualified to assess any medical information provided. Introducing a new "tier" on top of the disability badge system which is administered nationally by the Irish Wheelchair Association and the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland, might undermine their great work and cause issues at other tourist and heritage locations.*

*This Notice of Motion is well intended and the issue raised has been referred to the Access Officer, to see if there are any alternative initiatives being implemented at similar locations.*





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

A discussion followed, with the current system of assessment for the disabled parking permit being acknowledged, and the challenges associated with introducing such a system as called for in the motion, including medical assessment, data protection issues, etc. It was acknowledged also that no badge is required for the age friendly spaces and that additional signage, with enforcement by the beach wardens, may be adequate to deal with the issues raised. It was requested that a report on enforcement and associated issues be provided at the September meeting.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**, was noted.

### **6.5 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan**

“In light of the recent ARUP Report and the current Fingal Coastal Way non-statutory public consultation, I call on Meath County Council to begin the process of identifying a preferred route for a Meath Coastal Way to join up with Fingal at the Delvin River Border.”

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

*The NTA's cycle manual for the Greater Dublin Area identified Route M1 known as the 'East Coast Trail' extending from Drogheda to Dublin and links the coastal towns and villages of Meath and Fingal. It also contains an alternative inland route (M2) along the east coast using regional and local roads. The recently reviewed 'Laytown and Bettystown Walking and Cycling Study' also identifies a number of routes in East Meath which could be extended south towards the Fingal border to connect to the Fingal Coastal Way.*

*The Council currently has an application before An Bord Pleanála for a greenway between Drogheda and Mornington, and is also working on identifying a preferred route for the Boyne Greenway between Navan and Oldbridge House with a view to making an application for statutory planning approval in 2022. However, whilst we note with interest Fingal County Council's plans for their coastal way, Meath County Council is not currently in a position to begin the detailed work required to identify a preferred route between Mornington and the Fingal Border. The Council does intend to discuss the Fingal Coastal Way with Fingal County Council during the current public consultation phase and may make a submission on same in due course.*



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

A discussion followed, with information provided to councillors on how such projects, which are decided at national level, can be funded and progressed. It was agreed to consult with Fingal County Council and the NTA and see how such a project could be progressed in the future.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**, was noted.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The minutes were noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

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

### **9 Any Other Business**

9.1 To receive an update on the Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 - Land at Cribena, Laytown, Co Meath, as agreed at the April meeting.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Asset Management outlined the four main types of land disposal, i.e. commercial, community disposal, completion of CPO process and regularisation of title. This disposal, as agreed at the April meeting, relates to a regularisation of title and the implications, were it not agreed, were outlined. Reference was made to correspondence received, following the April meeting, relating to an offer by a third party to purchase the land. However, it the land is not for sale nor is the council in a position to sell it, due to the reasons outlined. It was confirmed that no further action is required and the disposal will proceed to the full council for approval.



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

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

Jarlath Flanagan, Administrative Officer, Environment confirmed that 27 applications had been received and, following an independently witnessed draw, six licences have been awarded, including three for ice cream, two for food and one for beach goods. The licences will be issued to the successful applicants in the coming weeks and the issues regarding trading, including access to beach and keeping the beach clean, formed part of the induction for the beach wardens. Additional signage has also been provided. The conditions, including litter control, will be closely monitored.

The progress was welcomed by councillors, as was the process followed and the planned monitoring of conditions.

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

- 9.3 Councillor Elaine McGinty raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Queried whether it was planned to meet with councillors in advance of the three-year capital programme being presented – the capital programme, based on opportunities and available funding, has already been reviewed and it is not planned to meet with each municipal district in advance.

- 9.4 Councillor Geraldine Keogan raised the following issues:

9.4.1 Requested that a letter be issued to Fr. John Conlon thanking him for his commitment to and support of Duleek/Donore parish during his time spent here.

9.4.2 Referred to broken equipment in the playground at Station Road, Duleek.

9.4.3 Requested that a civic reception be arranged for Keane Barry, who won the 2019 World Junior Darts Championship, when possible as it was postponed in 2020.

- 9.5 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issues:

9.5.1 Referred to remedial works carried out on the boardwalk on the Boyne Greenway



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

and the safety issues for wheelchair users, who must move onto the road for a section – funding has been secured under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for more permanent repairs to be carried out on the section from Rathmullen to the boardwalk, although these will not be to the same standard as previously. Whilst no timescale is available, the funding must be spent by September 2022.

9.5.2 Requested that a picnic table and additional benches be provided at Lobinstown playground, in addition to a zipline.

9.5.3 Welcomed the staff resource allocation to Syddan depot.

Fiona Lawless commended Councillor Tom Behan on his term as Cathaoirleach and confirmed that the Annual Meeting, followed by the monthly meeting, on 17<sup>th</sup> June would take place in County Hall, Navan. It was agreed that the meeting would commence at 10.00am.

Councillors congratulated Councillor Tom Behan on his term as Cathaoirleach. The Cathaoirleach responded by thanking his councillor colleagues and the executive for their support during his term.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**