



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30a.m., 11th February 2015, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**, presided.

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Maria O'Kane, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Maurice Kelly

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Also in attendance: John McGrath, Senior Engineer; Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer; Tom Traynor, Senior Executive Engineer; Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner; Aoife Kennedy, Assistant Planner; Fergal O'Bric, Executive Planner.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 14th January 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th January 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Peter Woods, former Water Caretaker;



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- The family of the late Derek Alan McKay, Leigh Valley, Ratoath, Gateway Assistant.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The children of Rathbeggan Gaelscoil, Dunboyne Senior N.S., Kilbride N.S. and the other Meath schools, whose choirs participated in the Peace Proms Concert, which featured four soloists from Meath.

4 Presentation from Dunboyne Monument Committee

Rory Kissane delivered a presentation on behalf of Dunboyne Monument Committee, which outlined the group's plans to erect a monument in Dunboyne to commemorate the 1916 Rising. A central location in Dunboyne had been identified and the draft proposal was to erect a bronze statue, with seating, a flag and design works on the ground with tree planting. The cost was estimated to be approximately €60,000. The plan was at an early stage and no funding had yet been sourced and further consultation is to take place. Planning permission would be required and pre-planning discussions had been positive.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the group representatives for their presentation. The discussion that followed agreed that the proposal had merit and it was pointed out that some local sponsorship and support had been indicated and there may also be some funding available nationally. The absence of any public art in Dunboyne was mentioned. The ownership of the site being considered was not yet clarified and it was agreed that this first needed to be investigated before a planning application could be made. It was agreed that Meath County Council would look into the ownership of the site.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on the current status of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer presented a verbal route on the current status of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route and related issues, including discussions that had taken place with Kildare County Council.

It was agreed that a response would issue to Kildare County Council, proposing a meeting in Dunshaughlin Civic Offices with Councillors Gerry O'Connor, Brian Fitzgerald and Damien O'Reilly to attend with Nicholas Whyatt, Transportation



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Department and Bernard Greene, Planning Department and it would be requested that officials from Kildare County Council also be in attendance.

5.2 To consider and adopt the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Joe Fahy provided the background to the Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW), including the legislative context, the process for adoption and the major service divisions, housing and transportation, to which it applies in terms of repair and maintenance. It was pointed out that the SMDW does not include the capital programme, which will be available in March/April.

He also outlined the categories for housing maintenance and repair and explained the background to the allocations, including those managed centrally. John McGrath, Transportation Department provided an overview of the breakdown of funding relating to transportation, the sources of funding and how these can be spent, the rationale for the allocations to the Municipal District and the central budgets that are allocated over the six municipal districts.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The time taken to make vacant units available and the issues that result from units being vacant for a period of time;
- The obligations on the local authority as landlord and on tenants;
- The percentage of social housing stock in the Ratoath Municipal District;
- The standards applied with regard to the purchase of housing units;
- The need for each of the six municipal districts to receive an equitable distribution of the available funding for road maintenance and repair;
- The decrease in overall national funding towards road maintenance and repair;
- The importance of Ratoath Municipal District in acting as a gateway to Meath;
- The application of the Community Involvement Scheme;
- The other initiatives being planned by Meath County Council, including expenditure on economic development;
- The expenditure on public lighting - a number of locations were identified that require public lighting, including Hillview and Powderlough.



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It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

Responses provided included:

- It was agreed to provide councillors with a breakdown of the locations of the 329 units in Ratoath Municipal District;
- The methodology for the allocations was outlined;
- The Special Improvement Grant is included to recognise the discontinuance of the block grants allocated to the former town councils;
- It was agreed to provide councillors with information on the cost of installing and maintaining a public light;
- It was agreed to change 'Trees' to 'Tree Maintenance' on page 13 of the SMDW.

Councillors acknowledged the work involved in preparing the draft SMDW and welcomed the opportunity to contribute towards its development. It was agreed by councillors that 2015 would be a transitional period and that the SMDW would evolve over subsequent years.

The 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Ratoath Municipal District was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared pursuant to Section 20 (C) (1) of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2014 on submissions and observations received with respect to the proposed amendments to the following Local Area Plans:

- Dunboyne Clonee Pace Local Area Plan 2009-2015
- Dunshaughlin Local Area Plan 2009-2015
- Ratoath Local Area Plan 2009-2015

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Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner delivered a presentation to the meeting that outlined the background to the process to date and also the submissions received and recommendations made.

Matters raised by the Councillors, and responses received, included:

- Confirmation was sought regarding whether or not the lands identified with a Phase II residential land use zoning would be considered favourably in the event of an application for permission being lodged. It was clearly indicated that any such application would be refused as constituting a material contravention of the Development Plan. It was clarified that over the course of the Development Plan that, if Phase I lands were not being released for their intended purpose, a review was possible whilst noting that we do not yet have a normal functioning construction sector in operation. Caution should be expressed in this regard at present.
- Confirmation was also given that water services capacity is available through Irish Water working in collaboration with Meath County Council in relation to all extant planning permissions for multiple residential developments in Ratoath.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** to accept the recommendations made in the report.

The revocation of the 30 no. Local Area Plans was also discussed following the circulation of the Chief Executives' report summarising submissions received last week. This included the Local Area Plans which cover the period 2009-2015 for Kilbride, Kilcock Environs, Kilmessan and Maynooth Environs which are included in the Ratoath Municipal District. It was outlined that 3 no. submissions from statutory bodies were received which were acknowledgements rather than submissions. No objection to the proposed revoking of any of the 30 No. Local Area Plans had been received. It was indicated therefore that Meath County Council would make the decision to revoke or not to revoke all 30 no. Local Area Plans at the scheduled March meeting of Meath County Council. This was noted by Councillors.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Damien O'Reilly

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“What would the costs be to locate a children's playground in the vicinity of Kilcloon Church and proposed site for Kilcloon Community Centre and what is the amount of development levies received by Meath County Council over the last 15 years for the Kilcloon and Mulhussey areas? I believe the people of Kilcloon deserve at least one amenity from the amount of development levies Meath County Council has received from one off housing in this area.”

A response was provided by the Community and Planning Sections, as follows:

An estimate cost of a playground installation would be in the region of €150,000-€200,000. This figure is subject to variance depending on the scale of the playground and necessary site works.

The Planning Authority has carried out a search on the development contributions levied and collected in the two areas in question and can advise as follows:

<i>Amenity / Social Infrastructure levied since 2000 in the Mulhussey and Kilcloon Areas</i>				
<i>Development Contributions</i>	<i>Levied</i>	<i>Paid</i>	<i>Not Yet Commenced</i>	<i>Unpaid</i>
<i>Mulhussey</i>	<i>€44,920.00</i>	<i>€40,138.00</i>	<i>€4,626.00</i>	<i>€156.00</i>
<i>Kilcloon</i>	<i>€20,860.25</i>	<i>€20,860.25</i>	<i>€0.00</i>	<i>€0.00</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>€65,780.25</i>	<i>€60,998.25</i>	<i>€4,626.00</i>	<i>€156.00</i>

It should be noted however, that Development Contributions are levied on a county at large basis, in accordance with the Development Contributions Scheme. The Planning & Development Acts 2000 – 2014 specifically state that contributions may be conditioned for payment in respect of facilities benefiting development in the area of the Planning Authority.

The area of the Planning Authority is not limited to the town land in which planning permission may have been granted but is the wider administrative area of Meath County Council.

Development Contributions which were collected in earlier years would have been allocated to county wide projects and most of this money may already be committed to projects.

The response was noted.



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7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Launch of 2015 Anti Litter Initiative – Application Form.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

9.1.1 He sent best wishes for a speedy recovery to Councillor Joe Bonner, Ashbourne Municipal District, who is currently in hospital;

9.1.2 He requested that notifications from the Water Services Department regarding issues such as water flushing be sent to councillors in all affected Municipal Districts.

9.2 Councillor Maria Murphy pointed out that works were ongoing on the M3 but councillors and local communities were not made aware of the nature or impact of the works being undertaken – Joe Fahy confirmed that a contract was in place for the maintenance of the motorway, which included drainage, tree planting, etc. in addition to ducting for future developments and that these works were not impinging on other facilities.

9.3 It was confirmed that Mr. Adrian O’Loughlin, Services Manager, Bus Éireann would attend the March meeting of Ratoath Municipal District.

9.4 Joe Fahy informed the meeting that a grant of €2.254m had been received in 2015 for Sustainable Transport Initiatives for 14 projects, two of which were in Ratoath Municipal District, cycle networks in Ratoath and Dunboyne.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach