



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

### ***Ratoath Municipal District***

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9:30a.m., 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Gillian Toole**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Maria O'Kane, Damien O'Reilly.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Des Foley

**Executive Engineer:** Philip Traynor

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

**Apologies:** Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

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

Councillor Gillian Toole referred to Item 11.1.1 and informed Councillors that the minutes of the Health Forum meetings would be circulated.

Councillor Toole also referred to Item 11.1.2 and confirmed that the issue had been resolved with efforts being made to ensure that it does not reoccur.

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



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Mountain View Tug of War, and Martin Egan, Dunshaughlin, for becoming World Champions and who are due to compete in China.

### **4 Planning Matters**

The planning list, circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The impact of roads designations on planning applications and the consideration of this in the review of the County Development Plan.
- An increasing incidence of former commercial units and ‘granny flats’ being advertised as residential rental properties, particularly in Dunboyne, and the planning requirements in respect of same – it was agreed to refer this to Planning.
- The ongoing issues with regard to the unauthorised development at Portan, outside Clonee.
- The previously available discount offered by the Council for development levies in respect of water connections to rural houses when the amount due was paid up front and which has been discontinued by Irish Water – it was agreed to refer this to Irish Water.
- An update on the MOOR and the implications for the development of a new school in Maynooth – it was confirmed that there was a Judicial Review of the Part VIII for the MOOR, that further legal advice was awaited and that a special briefing would be arranged for Councillors as appropriate.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath



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The report had been circulated in advance, with an update on works provided, and matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to alleviate the flooding and erect a Cul de Sac sign at Ballymagillan – it was pointed out that a new culvert was needed and the ditch to be brought below road level, which the landowner had agreed to do.
- The need for a traffic survey in Batterstown village to determine the requirement for a pedestrian crossing and the review of the location by the Road Safety Officer – it was confirmed that this would be referred to Transportation.
- The provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Trim Road, Batterstown and the possibility of Eurolink providing funding for this – it was agreed to raise this issue.
- The need to review the location of the bollards in Woodview and Beechdale to prevent motorcycle access – it was agreed to check this.
- The provision of a bin on the old Navan Road in Dunboyne at the crèche.
- Update on the works in Dunboyne and Dunshaughlin business parks – it was pointed out that an update had been circulated on 20<sup>th</sup> January but that a further update would be sought.

5.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed Part VIII for the Ratoath Cycle Network.

Pat Shore, Assistant Engineer, Planning/Strategic Infrastructure, attended the meeting and outlined the changes to the scheme made following the January meeting and subsequent separate meetings with Ratoath-based Councillors. Proposals were invited from Councillors with regard to the name of the scheme. It was confirmed that, on agreement to proceed with the Part VIII, the scheme would go on public display in March for 8 weeks, during which submissions



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would be invited. It was agreed that public information evenings would be held and the scheme displayed in convenient locations.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to proceed to Part VIII for the Ratoath Cycle Network.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Pat and the consultants for their efforts in addressing the issues raised.

With regard to the Dunboyne Cycle Network Scheme, it was confirmed that a separate meeting would be held with Councillors before coming back to the Municipal District in March or April.

### **5.2 Corporate Services**

5.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District.

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

### **5.3 To consider and adopt the 2017 Schedule of Municipal District Works.**

David Jones, Housing Department outlined the categories for housing maintenance and repair and explained the background to the allocations, including those managed centrally. An update on housing activity in Ratoath Municipal District was also circulated. It was pointed out that the proposed programme of works was based on the 2016 funding allocations, as the 2017 allocations had not yet been confirmed but should be similar to that in 2016, if not slightly increased. Councillors were reminded that ongoing updates would be included in the monthly Chief Executive's Report presented at the full Council meetings.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The increase in rents in Ratoath Municipal District and the limited supply of rental units.



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- The lack of land available in the area for social housing and the need to progress developments on those lands that are available, including the rear of Lagore, Dunshaughlin, and accessing state owned lands, including that owned by the HSE, NAMA, etc. – it was confirmed that Stage II approval had been sought from the Department for 17 units in Ratoath and, if approved, the Part VIII proposal would be presented in early Summer. It was also confirmed that a presentation on the housing landbank had been delivered to the Housing SPC and that, whilst there were limited opportunities to create sustainable communities on council owned land in Ratoath Municipal District, expressions of interest for suitable lands had been sought in December and the 11 submissions were currently being examined, with an update to be presented to the SPC. The review of the County Development Plan also presented an opportunity to assess the requirements in each Municipal District.
- The policy on building extensions to local authority houses to accommodate changed needs and reduce the need for transfers – it was confirmed that these were prioritised based on medical grounds but that this would be reviewed, subject to funding.
- The impact of the limited availability and higher prices of units in terms of the acquisition programme in Ratoath Municipal District – the allocation of €4 million was welcomed.
- The need to change national policy with regard to income limits and access to social housing.
- The policy of dealing with tenants who engage in anti-social behaviour and/or constantly break tenancy rules – it was pointed out that a multi-agency approach is adopted and that, whilst the majority of tenants were excellent, the small number of problematic tenants were dealt with as well as possible.
- The impact on the housing list of the need to be registered in order to access HAP – it was confirmed that some of those on the list were happy to remain in private rented accommodation.
- The need to provide further information to landlords and estate agents on HAP – it was agreed to work with Councillors to arrange a briefing as suggested.



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- Part V provision – it was confirmed that a number of units from legacy developments would come on stream in 2017 in Ratoath Municipal District and that updates would be provided in the monthly Chief Executive's Report.
- The implementation of the Tenant Purchase Scheme – it was confirmed that certain categories of houses cannot be sold, e.g. Traveller accommodation, disabled/elderly units, etc.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, 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. The increase in funding to Ratoath Municipal District was highlighted.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The number of schools, estates and urban centres in Ratoath Municipal District and the need to consider these when allocations are made.
- The need for tangible improvements arising from rates income from current large developments to make up for the disruption caused to local communities.
- Queried the decision by the Corporate Policy Group and Transport SPC to allocate 7.5% of the increased roads restoration/improvement grant to the CIS rather than the budget amount adopted in November 2016 – it was agreed to refer the Notice of Motion – Item 7.1 – to the full Council meeting.
- The need for works on the R156 and R157 due to the increased amount of traffic and the use of these roads as alternatives to the motorway.
- The need for a review of the CIS where community contributions are required for roads that are in charge – it was pointed out that roads in charge are maintained where possible but that the CIS supplements this work and delivers a higher specification. It was also pointed out that applications would be sought for works under the LIS, for roads not in charge, and the amount allocated would depend on the number of applications received.



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The 2017 Ratoath Schedule of Municipal District Works was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

### **6 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor**

“That the funds deducted for CIS schemes from the Ratoath Municipal District roads budget be used for CIS schemes in the Ratoath Municipal District only.”

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

*At the Transportation SPC meeting, held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017, it was agreed that 7.5% of the Restoration Improvement Grant from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport would be deducted from the allocation, for the purpose of funding Community Improvement Schemes, before the grant was then distributed to each of the Municipal Districts. The allocation would therefore be held in a central fund to progress applications for the CIS scheme across the County.*

*This will be discussed further under Item 5.3 – To consider and adopt the 2017 Schedule of Municipal District Works.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

This was discussed under Item 5.3.

The motion was adopted.

### **8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes**



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8.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 26th January 2017.

The report was noted.

### **9 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **10 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**