



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.00a.m., 10th June 2015, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Nick Killian**, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Maurice Kelly

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th May 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th May 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald referred to the CIS and the funding allocated to Ratoath Municipal District. The timeframe for the submission of applications was also referred to. The background to the scheme in 2015 was explained. It was agreed to consider the issues raised for next year.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Mrs. Tugwell, who has retired from Dunshaughlin Community College after over 40 years service and who received a guard of honour from students.
- Councillor Brian Fitzgerald on becoming Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council.
- Tayto Park and Raymond Coyle on the recent opening of Europe's largest wooden roller coaster.
- Roger Casey, Joanne Quirke and the team at Tattersalls on the recent International Horse Trials.
- Clonee Tidy Towns Association on their work to date.

4 To receive a presentation from Ratoath BMX Club.

Eugene Jackson and Tom Campbell from Ratoath BMX Club attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to Councillors on the background to the club, it's current activities, achievements to date and future plans. Shay McNally was unable to attend due to a family bereavement.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The potential for the club to develop on a Greenfield site and the possible location for same;
- Funding applications and possible linkages with agencies such as Meath Local Sports Partnership and Meath Partnership;
- The discretionary funding available to other local authorities to assist with similar projects;
- The possibility of linking with colleges and other schemes to access the skills needed;



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- The provision of a footpath to the existing site – it was confirmed that this would be provided following a survey and may also incorporate a cycleway.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Tom and Eugene for attending and for their presentation. They were assured of whatever support possible from the Council.

5 To receive a presentation from the FAI Development Officer.

Mark Scanlon and Barry Ferguson attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to Councillors on participation rates, programmes and partnership initiatives.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The young population in south Meath and the number of soccer clubs in the area;
- The sharing of facilities;
- The significance of the social inclusion aspect of the work.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Mark and Barry for attending and for their presentation. They congratulated Mark on his new role as National Coordinator for Schools & Third Level, welcomed Barry to Meath and wished him well in his new position. They also wished him well in his role as Coach of the Irish Paralympic International Team and the qualifications for the 2020 Olympics.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Corporate Services

- 6.1.1 To receive a presentation on the preparation of a Draft Polling Scheme for County Meath.

Olive Falsey and Sheila Sheridan attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to the meeting that covered the current polling scheme, the purpose of the review, the format and the process, and some issues specific to Ratoath Municipal District. It was pointed out that a revised draft would be



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presented to municipal district meetings in September for approval, following which it would go before the full Council for adoption. If adopted, the new Polling Scheme will take effect from 15th February 2016.

Councillors were asked to submit any suggestions to Corporate Services by 4.00pm on Friday 31st July 2015. A map outlining the current arrangements was left on display.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Olive and Sheila for attending and for their presentation.

6.2 Transportation

6.2.1 To receive an update on the establishment of the Transportation Operations Section.

John McGrath, Transportation Operations and Ger Murphy, HR attended the meeting and provided Councillors with an update on the establishment of the Transportation Operations Section, including the context for the reform programme and the municipal district structures with a focus on operations and customer service.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The need for ongoing linkages between strategic and operational transportation units;
- The role and status of Gateway staff – plans to provide transport for Gateway staff to facilitate a broader scope of work were highlighted;
- The impact of centralising certain functions, such as tendering, on services offered at municipal district level – it was pointed out that the aim of centralising some administrative functions would benefit the services being offered at municipal district level;



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- The role of the municipal district Cathaoirleach in opening tenders for works to be carried out at that level – it was agreed to review the relevant protocol;
- The timeframe for the review of Sugar and the contact details that are to be used – it was advised that a review of usage of the Sugar system would take place later in 2015 (mostly likely in September) but that the system will take time to become fully established and that one email address – customerservice@meathcoco.ie – would be operational in the coming weeks, with all emails received acknowledged, logged and referred for action;
- The need for more effective telephone system – it was agreed that an improved system would be available in the new civic headquarters.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked John and Ger for attending and for their update.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** to extend the meeting by 45 minutes.

6.2.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was confirmed that the roadwork's programme would commence on 1st July and Councillors were asked to submit suggested locations for road markings.

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“Following several recent car accidents at the following junctions, can Meath County Council prioritise increased safety measures (signage/ rumble strips, etc.) at Baytown Cross, Dunboyne and Porterstown Lane/ Ennistown, Ratoath?”



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Response:

Ratoath Municipal District, in conjunction with the Transportation Strategic Unit, will assess the said junctions.

The response was noted.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian

“That Ratoath Municipal District requests Meath County Council to support the amendment of the policy outlined in the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, which restricts new accesses for one-off dwellings on identified strategic regional and important county link roads, including the L-1007-0, and that these roads be treated as ordinary county roads in this regard.”

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

The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (as varied) states that ‘It is vitally important that new housing in rural areas, that is located along non national routes, is located in such a manner as to avoid endangering public safety by way of a traffic hazard’.

The Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines published by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in January 2012 state ‘The policy of the planning authority will be to avoid the creation of any additional access point from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses to national roads to which speed limits greater than 60kmph apply. This provision applies to all categories of development, including individual houses in rural areas, regardless of the housing circumstances of the applicant’. The Guidelines strongly recommend Planning Authorities to identify, as part of the development plan process, those stretches of non-national roads outside the 50-60 km/ph speed limit zones where it would be appropriate to apply these guidelines.

There are a number of regionally and locally important functions of certain regional and county road routes that are particularly important transport links, and traverse County



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Meath, consequently section 10.16.2 Regional and County Roads (and Map 10.6) sets out the policy:

PD POL 40 'To restrict new accesses for one-off dwellings where the 80km per hour speed limit currently applies in order to safeguard the specific functions and to avoid the premature obsolescence of identified regional and important county link roads (see Map No. 10.6) through the creation of excessive levels of individual entrances, and to secure the investment in non-national roads'.

Section 10.16.3 of the Plan sets out the Development Assessment Criteria for this policy.

Furthermore regard is had to whether applicants have access to the site or other lands served by lesser trafficked roads, and whether they can make use of an existing access onto a protected route. If such options are not available to the applicant, regard will be had as to their specific need to reside at the proposed location.

It is respectfully submitted that the policy does not unfairly mitigate against a genuine need to live at a proposed location where no other alternative is available.

The L-1007-0 is a very heavily trafficked county road linking Ratoath to Kilbride and onwards towards Finglas. The policy referred to in the motion is considered to be appropriate to this road and it is recommended that it should be retained.

On the request of Councillor Nick Killian, it was agreed to defer this motion to the July meeting and that a representative from the Planning Department should attend.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Update on the tender for the footpath from the Drumree Road to the GAA club – Philip Traynor agreed to check this.



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- 10.1.2 The possibility of repairing potholes on the lane approaching Rathbeggan Lakes, as Minister Ring was due to attend the launch of a tourism initiative there tomorrow at 3pm.
- 10.1.3 The availability of the 2015 allocations in the capital investment programme for playgrounds in Dunshaughlin and Dunboyne – it was pointed out that the source of funding would determine the timescale and that an update would be provided.
- 10.1.4 Road markings needed at the yellow box outside the health centre on the Drumree Road.
- 10.1.5 The issue of anti-social behaviour at Supervalu, College Close and the need to determine who needed permission for the erection of a fence.
- 10.1.6 The minutes of the meeting with the NTA on 20th May to be submitted to the NTA.
- 10.1.7 Need for traffic calming measures at Maelduin estate.
- 10.2 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issues:
 - 10.2.1 The erection of welcome signs in Batterstown.
 - 10.2.2 The need for grass to be cut at the entrance to Kilbreena estate, Dunboyne.
- 10.3 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:
 - 10.3.1 The agreement to schedule regular meetings with the NTA.
 - 10.3.2 The roadworks to be carried out by Largo Foods – it was pointed out that a watermain upgrade was to be carried out from Supervalu to the Ballybin Road in Q1 2016 and that it was to be checked if all works could be undertaken together.
 - 10.3.3 The provision and funding of 58 hanging baskets in Ashbourne – it was confirmed that these had been funded from the MD own resources.



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10.3.4 The allocation of €750k for a link road in Ratoath – it was confirmed that this was for the Avenue, to upgrade the entrance, resurface the road, provide a footpath and lighting. It was also confirmed that further information would be brought to the July or September meeting.

10.3.5 The commencement of the Village Enhancement Scheme – it was confirmed that there was no fund directly available for this but that staff resources could be provided if funds were made available. It was also agreed to add this to the July meeting agenda.

10.3.6 The playground review to take place at the Housing SPC – it was confirmed that this would take place at the meeting scheduled for 30th June.

10.4 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:

10.4.1 The need for an updated list of estates being taken in charge.

10.5 Philip Traynor raised the following issue:

10.5.1 That an advertisement was to be circulated regarding works to take place between 10pm and 6am on the roundabout at Clonee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach