



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:45a.m., 14th June 2017, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 17th May, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th May, 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Leah Barnville on her performance in Britain's Got Talent;
- Philip Traynor for organising the bollards and liaising with the Gardaí;



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Padraig Beggy, Dunboyne on winning the Epsom Derby.

4 To receive an update from Bus Éireann on bus services in the Municipal District.

Adrian O'Loughlin and Dominic Conlon, representing Bus Éireann, outlined the updates in respect of the main routes servicing Ratoath Municipal District, including the 103 and 105 routes. The issues that had affected these routes in the recent past, including reliability and punctuality, were acknowledged and the measures employed to address these were outlined. These included a study to identify what was causing delays on certain routes/timetables and the introduction of a revised timetable in September to account for additional time needed at certain peak periods. They also acknowledged the issues of using private contractors in terms of accessibility. It was confirmed that low floor, accessible coaches had been requested from the NTA as part of the next fleet investment. The discussions with Meath County Council in relation to the provision of bus stops were also outlined, e.g. at Harlockstown and a new terminus in Ratoath.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The 109/109A routes – it was pointed out that the 109A route was now a 24 hour route and that a new timetable for the 109 route would become operational in late July/early August with details to be made available online and directly to stakeholders and to include additional services including a Navan Express running every 20 minutes and with increased frequency at weekends.
- The possible locations for a bus terminus in Ratoath – it was pointed out that a turning area was required at a location not too far from the village.
- The need for the 105 route to service Connolly Hospital and meet customer needs.
- The policy in terms of stopping where no official bus stop is provided – the policy was clear in that drivers could only stop when it is safe to do so and that, currently, it is at the driver's discretion as to whether it is safe to stop outside of designated bus stops and to accommodate passenger needs.
- The ongoing issues with providing a bus stop at Harlockstown – it was pointed out that this would be considered in the context of the wider traffic management study and is being progressed.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need to provide a feeder service to M3 Parkway – it was pointed out that this would be a NTA decision and that the request from the meeting would be fed back to the NTA. It was also pointed out that this would be considered as part of the transport study for the area and discussed with the NTA/TII.
- The failure to respond to complaints through the established customer service channels – it was agreed to bring this information back and it was pointed out that the NTA had access to all communications/complaints received.
- The need for park & ride facilities to prevent long term parking in towns/villages – it was pointed out that, ideally, these would be at the start and/or end of routes to avoid delays to journey times.
- The possibility of enforcing the bus lanes during peak times only – it was agreed to check this but it was pointed out that Bus Éireann had a preference for 24 hour bus lanes for future planning.
- The continued acceptance of cash fares – it was pointed out that the NTA set the policy/fares in this regard but whilst cards were being encouraged, it was unlikely that cash would not be accepted.
- Reference was made to overhanging trees on the Ballybin Road, which was causing fleet damage and it was agreed to check this.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Adrian and Dominic for attending and an invitation was extended to them to attend the October meeting for a further update.

5 Planning Matters

The planning list, circulated in advance, was noted.

The number of solar farm applications was raised, particularly in the south east of the county, and the level of engagement with local communities. It was confirmed that there were no national policy guidelines but that each application was subject to the normal planning considerations. Each, whilst not subject of an EIA, did have to submit an environmental report. It was confirmed that pre-planning was taking place and that the various applications were at different stages. Examples of submissions received to date included traffic during construction, glint/glare, noise and visual impact. A plotting exercise was being undertaken to understand the cumulative effect of those planned. It was also pointed out that archaeology

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

was a consideration, given the large areas covered, and that many may not proceed due to issues connecting to the grid. It was also conceded that the impact of solar farms was less significant than wind farms.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Housing

- 6.1.1 To receive and consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2016 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2015 on proposed housing development of 17 houses at Saint Oliver's Park, Ratoath and if thought fit to approve the report.

Padraig Maguire, Senior Executive Planner, introduced this item and Frank O'Donnell, Executive Planner outlined the report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was proposed that, due to the statutory timeframe for consideration of the report, this item would be brought to the July meeting to seek formal approval and this was agreed. It was pointed out that a lot of work had been put into the design of the scheme and units and that the internal configuration can be adapted to meet differing needs.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The residents request for a small playground – it was pointed out that funding would be required and that the Playground Policy was currently under review.
- Concern of residents regarding speeding and the possibility of introducing traffic calming measures.
- The removal of post and panel fencing and the need for a review of the boundary treatment.
- The need for low maintenance windows – it was confirmed that these are being provided.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Accessibility – it was confirmed that all units would comply with Part M in terms of accessibility standards with wet rooms being provided in the 1 bed units and the capacity for wet rooms in all other units.
- The possibilities for providing additional parking.
- The linkages with the housing list – it was confirmed that the design/configuration matched the housing profile but that no units had yet been allocated, with the exception of those with specific disabilities.

6.2 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and further updates provided at the meeting. It was also agreed to circulate the report on the Big Belly Bins.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The installation of a camera or sensor at the Drumree Road junction – it was agreed to check this.
- Requested an update on the policy on roundabout sponsorship – it was confirmed that a draft policy had been presented to the last Transportation SPC and, following a number of suggestions, a revised draft policy would be brought to the next meeting in July.
- Welcomed the signage at Mullinam Lane.
- Concerns regarding increased speeding at Hillview – it was confirmed that Transportation Planning & Design had been requested to consider appropriate traffic calming proposals.
- Illegal dumping at the bottle banks/clothes bins on the Rooske Road and the possibility of removing the clothes bins as they are no longer required – it was agreed to refer this request to Environment.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The poor reinstatement of grass areas following road openings – Councillors were asked to submit a list of locations and these would be dealt with.

6.2.2 To receive an update on the capital projects in the Municipal District.

It was pointed out that the capital programme, agreed in April, were still planned but that progress had been delayed due to insufficient technical resources. It was confirmed that additional technical staff were being recruited for projects with a view to establishing a team to advance projects to 2019. The suggestions made by Councillors with regard to capital projects would be considered and advanced, where possible.

6.3 Water Services

6.3.1 To receive a report on water supply in Ratoath.

Gerry Boyle, Senior Engineer, Water Services attended the meeting and explained that Ratoath was at the end of the East Meath Water Services network, which was a large network of approximately 6,000kms, and which has been subject to some disruption issues for a number of reasons. A total of 77 complaints had been received from Ratoath, 35 in 2017, with particular locations being more impacted. Reference was made to the mains rehabilitation scheme, which was announced in November 2016 and which included 1.5kms mains replacement in Ratoath, and for which a contract was due to commence in August. A study by Irish Water and the Council was looking at hydraulic models for the area and small scale works in relation to inter-connectability were also being considered. On the capital side, the option of taking Ratoath from the East Meath network and moving it to the Dunshaughlin network was actively being pursued with Irish Water and it is hoped that this would be included in their 2017-2021 investment programme. Bursts on the trunk main from the Staleen plant were also being recorded. On the wastewater services, it was confirmed that the current schemes could comfortably facilitate future development in Ratoath, Dunshaughlin and Dunboyne. In Dunboyne, water services will benefit from infrastructural improvements being introduced to cater for the Facebook and Shires developments.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The possibility of reopening pumping stations provided on private developments – it was pointed out that there was sufficient capacity in Ratoath, the issue being localised network constraints, and that there were no plans to reinstate these.
- Water/wastewater capacity for planned developments/zoned lands – the watermain replacement, to be completed by Q1 2018, would meet immediate capacity requirements. There is an awareness around lands for sale and discussions were ongoing with Irish Water.
- Capacity of Dunshaughlin network to supply Ratoath – this was confirmed, with the water treatment building designed to increase in size as part of a Phase 2 upgrade.
- Harder water quality in Dunshaughlin.
- Capacity issues on the Navan side of Dunboyne to cater for future development – it was confirmed that pre-planning did take place and that there were no particular concerns around capacity, particularly in light of the infrastructural improvements taking place.
- Water pressure issues in Summerseat, Clonee – it was pointed out that the issues at this location would be resolved through the pipeline proposal for Facebook.
- The upgrade at Staleen – works are to commence in 2018 for one year.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Gerry for the information provided.

6.4 Corporate Services

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

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

7 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to write to the owner of portfolio MH29697F requesting they clean up this site at the top of the Rooske Road, Dunboyne and also enter negotiations regarding transfer of ownership to Meath County Council for amenity use in Dunboyne."

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

The requests made in this Notice of Motion are currently being investigated and more detailed information will be made available for the future meeting of Ratoath Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

The motion was noted in light of the information provided.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach