



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

### ***Navan Municipal District***

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

***10:15 a.m., 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, County Hall, Navan***

An Meára, **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Yemi Adenuga, Francis Deane, Edward Fennessy, Tommy Reilly and Emer Tóibín.

**Apologies:** Councillor Alan Lawes

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Martin Murray

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Executive Engineer:** Shane Durcan

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

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

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.



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### **4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

4.1 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

4.2 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the road safety audit to be carried out on Metges Road/L5050 – a full road safety audit at the junction will take account of traffic numbers, speeding, etc. to inform the proposed junction design.
- Queried the status of the pedestrian crossings at the Round O – the tender reports are being prepared with the intention of completing works prior to the schools returning.
- Referred to complaints regarding the signs directing traffic to turn right onto Academy Street being too high – it was agreed to follow this up.
- Requested a list of upcoming works under the footpath remediation scheme – it was agreed to check this.
- Queried an update on footpath works in St. Mary's Park – the works are being undertaken on behalf of Irish Water with services to be replaced being located under footpaths and front gardens. All footpaths will be fully reinstated. It was agreed to check the timeframe.

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- 5.1.2 To receive a presentation from the Transportation Department on a proposed pedestrian and cycling filtered permeability trial for Convent Road.

Cormac Ross, Senior Executive Engineer provided a background to the proposed scheme, which was subject of a Part 8 in 2018, with concerns having been expressed regarding proposals relating to the walls and trees. It is now proposed to commence a trial scheme, on a 12-month temporary basis, with the emerging preferred option outlined. The next steps include a non-statutory public consultation for 3 weeks, commencing on 5<sup>th</sup> July, with the deadline for submissions being 26<sup>th</sup> July and a decision to be taken by 30<sup>th</sup> July. A contractor will be appointed in late August, with works to commence at the end of August/beginning of September to last 4 to 6 weeks and to be completed by mid/end October. Traffic count data from 2019 and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, on the number of vehicles and pedestrians, will form the baseline.

It was pointed out that the intention is to achieve the objective of connectivity, including connectivity with the lands at Farganstown, whilst taking the concerns into account.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the trial approach and queried if, whether it became apparent that it was not working within a shorter timeframe, could the scheme be halted – if the scheme is clearly not working, the trial will not continue for the full 12 months.
- Queried the proposed locations for CCTV – these were outlined.
- Underlined the need to engage with local residents, particularly those most affected – a meeting will take place with residents to discuss any concerns.
- Expressed concern regarding possible pressure on the R153 Athlumney junction and the Athlumney Castle/Orchard junction – the capacity at the junction will be reviewed to see if any interventions are required during the trial.

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- Queried the proposed access to the cemetery for funerals, including walking processions – funeral access will continue to be provided with consultation with the key stakeholders to be undertaken.
- Queried whether the scheme will not proceed if objections are made as part of the public consultation – the aim of the consultation is to identify any aspects not yet considered with the detailed design having been prepared by consultants with experience of similar schemes in other urban locations.
- Referred to the need to advance the proposals for the bridge across the Boyne from Dunmoe to Farganstown to alleviate traffic into the town – whilst the objective is still live, some projects are more easily achieved than others, which require significant funding.

### 5.1.3 To receive an update on the Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030).

Cormac Ross, Senior Executive Engineer provided an update on recent works on Ludlow Street to Market Square. A four week road closure from 28<sup>th</sup> June from the exit of Old Cornmarket to Market Square is planned with pedestrian and cycling access to be maintained. Whilst some disruption will result, efforts will be made to mitigate disruption. The bus stop on Market Square will be relocated on a temporary basis to Watergate Street.

Matters raised by councillors included:

Queried the timeframe for completion of works on Ludlow Street – the works in this location are complex and the intention is to reopen by 31<sup>st</sup> August with the works in Old Cornmarket to take approximately 4 weeks.

Queried whether traffic could be directed into the town by the Fifth Province rather than Circular Road – a number of proposed developments will have access off Academy Street resulting in additional traffic and therefore there is no direct proposal to divert traffic onto Academy Street.

## **5.2 Corporate Services**



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

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

### **5.3 Housing**

- 5.3.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report (reference P821004) in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2020 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2020 in relation to the proposed development at St Francis Park, Windtown, Navan.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner confirmed that the six-week consideration period of the report commences today.

## **6 Notice of Question**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

"I submitted a motion on Age Friendly Parking in Navan in March 2019 and was informed that a review process of the county was underway and that Navan would be considered for the provision of such spaces as part of that process. Can the Executive provide update on that review please?"

#### **Response:**

*As upgrading works continue across the county, Age Friendly parking spaces are being located in key areas. In Navan, 2 spaces have been identified for installation in Kennedy road carpark and other locations will be identified as works progress on the Navan 2030 plan.*

The response was noted.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

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*“Can Meath County Council confirm if a bond is in place to facilitate the clean up of the site at Academy Square, Navan to include the removal of the scaffolding and hoarding at the entrance?”*

**Response:**

*A small cash deposit is held relating to the foot path and railings within the unfinished part of the development. This cannot be used for the removal of scaffolding and hoarding.*

The response was noted.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*“Has there been a report carried out by Meath County Council pertaining to the structural condition of the stone walls at Old Athlumney graveyard / Ardmulchan graveyard and if so have applications been submitted for heritage grants?”*

**Response:**

#### ***Ardmulchan Graveyard***

*An inspection was undertaken at Ardmulchan graveyard. Supported by funding from Meath County Council under its Community Heritage Grant Scheme, Navan and District Historical Society have engaged a specialist conservation company to undertake a conservation assessment of the graveyard in July 2021 which will include:*

- *Site visit and photographic survey*
- *Identifying conservation issues within the site to include the boundary walls, church remains, grave markers and any other above-ground features*
- *Providing a schedule of conservation recommendations for the site and its structural features (and prioritising of same)*

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- *Organising a Heritage Week project to highlight the site's conservation needs and management*

### ***Old Athlumney Graveyard***

*An inspection was undertaken at Old Athlumney graveyard and no structural issues with the boundary walls were identified.*

The response was noted. Councillor Francis Deane agreed to discuss his concerns regarding the walls at Old Athlumney directly with the Heritage Officer.

## **7 Notice of Motion**

### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

"That Navan Municipal District Council, as part of the regeneration of Flowerhill, using finance available from that project, agrees to fund the provision of window boxes and hanging baskets to hold flowers, to be made available to any business premises or house on Flowerhill who wishes to participate in the initiative. The intention of which is to make the area colourful and friendly for the local community and visitors to the area."

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

*Meath County Council received funding to carry out a number of regeneration projects on Flowerhill. As part of this funding scheme, there are a number of approval stages to ensure that the project delivered is aligned with the proposed works included in the funding request. As the provision of flowerboxes and hanging baskets was not included in the grant application, this request would not be approved from the regeneration grant monies.*

It was pointed out that, whilst the URDF funding could not be used for this purpose, other suggestions could be considered.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was noted.

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### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

"In the interest of ensuring the safety of patrons using the Blackwater Park in Navan, this council undertakes to install a public access Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on the external wall of the changing rooms planned for construction on the park this year. The AED located on Trimgate Street to be used as an example."

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

*It is hoped that work on construction of the Changing Facilities/Toilets in Blackwater Park will commence in the coming months. The installation of a public access Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can be included as part of the works.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was noted.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons**

"I propose the motion to discuss the possibility of placing further speed control measures in Woodlands Estate."

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

*Meath County Council will undertake a traffic survey within Woodlands Estate when resources are available, to establish the necessity for further speed control measures at this location and will revert back to the Members if found that additional measures are required.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was agreed.

### **7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**





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“In cases where overgrown trees are causing damage/obstruction I propose that Meath County Council would engage with property owners whose houses are located adjacent to boundary walls between different housing developments under the charge of the local authority. Were the trees to fall they could cause structural damage to property and also there are health and safety considerations. Examples of such unoccupied areas where ownership is disputed are to be seen in Athlumney Abbey and Johnstown Wood where they are described by residents as 'no man's land'.”

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

*There is no specific annual budget set aside for the maintenance of trees in housing estates etc. in Navan MD and funding for such works has to be found from existing resources at the appropriate time of year for such activities. The level of tree maintenance depends on the number and condition of trees requiring attention, as determined by a qualified professional in this field and Navan MD acts on advice and recommendations received from this contractor. The consideration of specific funding for such works is something that Members may take into account at the annual budget meeting.*

*Trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owners. Where Navan MD is made aware of a hazardous tree on private property, a Section 70 Notice issues, under the Roads Act 1993, instructing the registered owner of the property on the measures that must be taken to alleviate the hazard/potential hazard, within a specified time frame.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**, was noted.

### **7.5 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“I call on Navan Municipal District, Meath County Council to give consideration to relocating the pedestrian crossing in Old Johnstown Village to a safer position such as adjacent to the village veterinary practice. Meath County Council have plans to resurface roads in the Old Village following the very successful installation of traffic calming ramps, and perhaps a pedestrian crossing could be placed in a better position while the proposed resurfacing works are being completed.”



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

*Meath County Council will consider the relocation of the pedestrian crossing following a full safety audit of the junction in question. In the meantime, drainage works are required to rectify a damaged culvert in the area which will be completed prior to any further resurfacing works commencing.*

*For information, the new 3 year programme of works for the Navan Municipal District is due to be compiled in the coming months for the period 2022-2024.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, was agreed.

### **7.6 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**

“I propose the motion to initiate an appraisal of the number of disability car parking spaces in the town centre. In particular, to focus on

- i) where they are situated and is it the best location for that particular street or area.
- ii) are there enough in that location.
- iii) where do we need to place new or more spaces.
- iv) are spaces very visible and is there adequate signage at their location.”

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

*If this motion is passed by the Navan MD Councillors, Meath County Council will undertake an appraisal of the number of disability car parking spaces in the town centre.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, was agreed.



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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The minutes were noted.

8.2 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The report was noted.

### **9 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **10 Any Other Business**

10.1 Councillor Edward Fennessy raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Queried the timeframe for the decision of An Bord Pleanála in respect of the bridge over the Blackwater – the decision is due by the end of July.

10.1.2 Referred to the condition of the steps at Kennedy Plaza, where people are congregating – additional funding has been received for outdoor activities and this can be used towards increased frequency of cleaning such locations.

10.2 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Referred to potholes on the Fairgreen.

10.2.2 Referred to complaints from businesses on Trimgate Street regarding delivery drivers for McDonalds using parking spaces on Trimgate Street – it was agreed to liaise with the Gardaí in relation to this issue.

10.3 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issue:



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- 10.3.1 Requested that consideration be given to relocating the pedestrian crossing outside Blackwater Park further towards Abbey Grove, where the footpath is wider – it was agreed to look at this.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**An Meára**