



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9: 45 a.m., 16th June 2021, County Hall, Navan

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

Councillors Present: Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Brian Fitzgerald, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Asaciova

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12th May 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th May 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following matters:

- Requested an update on the boundary and safety issues relating to Moulden Bridge – it was confirmed that several meetings had taken place and commitment given with regard to landscaping.



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- Referred to remediation works to address subsidence on the R154/M3/R147 and similar issues of subsidence now affecting the flyover off the M3 on the R147 at Roestown – TII had given a commitment to send out contractors to resolve the issues at Pace and it was agreed to raise the issues at Roestown.

Councillor Maria Murphy requested that further discussions take place with regard to the Ratoath Village Enhancement Scheme and, specifically the proposed removal of trees, prior to any further work being undertaken or plans finalised. Councillors Gerry O'Connor and Gillian Toole requested that the feasibility of introducing traffic calming measures, whilst retaining the trees, be considered and, if not considered feasible, that the reasons be outlined. It was agreed that a meeting with the Transportation Department be arranged on site to discuss these issues.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Dara McGowan on his appointment as Director of Service.

4 Disposal of three (3) properties, under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Cost Reduced Housing Units Scheme, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

- 4.1 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

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

- Thanked Philip and his team for all the work undertaken in the municipal district.
- Referred to the need for a footpath and a pedestrian crossing on the Drumree Road past the GAA club.
- Referred to traffic congestion in Dunshaughlin arising from works permitted to take place between 8am and 6pm – it was pointed out that works were completed in one day and if works had exceeded this, the licence would have been reviewed.
- Queried the timeframe for the implementation of traffic calming measures in Batterstown – this will be dealt with under Item 6.1.
- Welcomed the additional bin collections in Dunboyne, particularly at weekends.
- Requested that the street sweeper include the entrances into estates.
- Referred to the need to cut the grass verges at Baytown Cross and measures to slow traffic– verge cutting is underway, with regional roads to be followed by local roads. A traffic count and speed survey would first be required.
- Referred to queries as to whether the weed killer being sprayed is eco-friendly.
- Queried whether the gap into the Broadmeadow River on the L5017 at Greenhills Bridge can be filled in.

5.2 Corporate Services

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



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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“Please advise when the proposed Batterstown Traffic Calming Scheme with the latest amendments will be brought before the members?”

Response:

The proposed R154 Traffic Calming Scheme at Batterstown, which was the subject of a non-statutory Section 38 public consultation in 2019, is not now expected to be carried out until 2023. The Transport Section of Meath County Council will endeavour to update the Municipal District Members on any proposed amendments to the works before the end of 2021. We note that Vehicle Activated signage has been installed as an interim measure and that speed data from the R154 at Batterstown will be reviewed to monitor compliance with the posted speed limit in the area.

The response was noted. It was agreed that representatives from the Transportation Department would be invited to the July meeting to advise councillors of the current plans and whether the scheme can be expedited and interim measures provided. It was also agreed to request the Garda Superintendent to deploy the speed detection vans to Batterstown to deter speeding.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“To call on Meath County Council to provide in tabular format, the social housing need per each application for every settlement in Ratoath Municipal District, villages, and townlands for applicants with disabilities (adults / children).”

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

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RATOATH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT: NO. OF APPLICANTS WITH A DISABILITY PER AREA OF CHOICE & HOUSE TYPE

Area of Choice	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	Total
Batterstown	0	1	1	0	2
Clonee	4	2	2	0	8
Dunboyne	8	5	2	2	17
Dunsany	0	0	0	1	1
Dunshaughlin	10	4	2	0	16
Kilmessan	0	0	0	1	1
Ratoath	1	0	1	3	5
TOTALS	23	12	8	7	50

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

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to provide an update on the Dunboyne Industrial Estate link road to the R157 Ringroad to M3 Parkway."

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

It has taken longer than anticipated to appoint a consultant to provide the technical and environmental services. However, the Transport Section is aiming to have the Part 8 for the link between the Dunboyne Industrial Estate and the R157 on display by October 2021.

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

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7.3 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian

“That the CCTV System, situated at Arkle House, be remediated with an up to date CCTV Camera with night vision focussed on Ratoath Playground to assist in curbing the constant Anti-Social behaviour that occurs on a weekly basis.”

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

The CCTV scheme at Arkle House is a private scheme and, as such, it is a matter for the operators of Arkle House to upgrade it if necessary. As it is a private scheme, it is not possible to use the camera for Ratoath playground.

It was agreed to get an update on the new legislation being introduced to allow local authorities use CCTV to tackle illegal dumping, in the context of data protection, and whether this legislation could also allow the use of CCTV to deter anti-social behaviour in playgrounds.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith**, was noted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“We call on Meath County Council to seek expressions of interest for allotments to establish if there is a demand for them in the Dunboyne area.”

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

Meath County Council has no land available for the provision of an allotment in the Ratoath Municipal District and there are no proposals to acquire land for this purpose. Based on this, it is not intended to advertise an Expression of Interest, as this will provide a level of expectation from the interested parties, that won't be met. If land becomes available in the future for use as an allotment, then this notice of Motion will be considered.



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A short discussion followed, where the demand for such facilities was underlined. It was suggested that the provision of allotments could be discussed further when the local area plans are being prepared.

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

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“While we support the concept of outdoor dining on public green spaces and beaches, we call on Meath County Council to assess each of the proposed locations (which are not serviced by business) for littering issues with a view to additional bins and portaloos at each location with daily litter collections incl. weekends. We also ask that said locations should be considered for trial glass and can collection points.”

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

The Municipal Districts have responsibility for the provision , servicing and emptying of litter bins in their respective areas and each request for additional bins is considered on its own merits and having regard to increased footfall in the area , the extent of litter being generated and the availability of resources.

By Circular dated 5th May local authorities were advised by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment of the allocation of an additional €5m nationally in support of the provision of anti-littering efforts and infrastructure and to take account of higher levels of outdoor living, dining and domestic tourism arising from the easing of Covid 19 restrictions. The additional funding to support:

- *The provision of quality litter picking material such as litter pickers, gloves and bags*
- *Immediate Mapping of existing levels of on-street infrastructure (bins and dog fouling receptacles) and the urgent provision and immediate roll out of additional infrastructure to address any gaps identified*



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- *Support for servicing of on street infrastructure*
- *Additional education and awareness efforts.*

As part of the process to develop specific funding proposals under the funding scheme the Department asked each Local Authority to provide data on the current status of litter bins and servicing schedules and such information was submitted by this Council and we await further confirmation in respect of specific allocations.

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

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

- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 7th May 2021.

The minutes were noted.

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

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

- 10.1.1 Referred to requests by the St. Seachnall's N.S. Parents Association that bollards be installed on the path from the church to allow safe pedestrian access to the school with reference made to bollards in Dublin that are designed as pencils to indicate proximity to a school.



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- 10.1.2 The need to move the town speed limit further out the Dublin Road past The Willows.
- 10.1.3 Referred to concerns of businesses in Dunshaughlin Business Park with regard to the secondary school site entrance into the business park and the associated construction traffic and requested that a site entrance be provided off the main road.
- 10.1.4 Referred to the Valuation Office assessing community centres for commercial rates.
- 10.2 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:
 - 10.2.1 Queried the planning opening of the LIHAF road in Ratoath – reference was made to an email circulated with an update.
 - 10.2.2 Requested an update on the junction at Glascarn Lane/R155.
 - 10.2.3 Queried the process regarding the awarding of grants under the Live Performance Support Scheme, where applications made by Solstice and The Venue, Ratoath were unsuccessful.
- 10.3 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:
 - 10.3.1 Queried what assurances can be provided by the Planning Department that sites granted planning permission for residential development cannot be used for commercial gain.
- 10.4 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:
 - 10.4.1 Requested an update on the lands at Drumree for the July meeting.
 - 10.4.2 Requested that Bus Éireann be invited to a meeting to discuss relevant issues, including the alternative bus stop on Cemetery Road, Ratoath.
- 10.5 Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith raised the following issues:



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- 10.5.1 Requested an update on the heightening of the railings and installation of a time-lock gate at Ratoath playground, including costings.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach