



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10th September 2014, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Adrian Hobbs

Senior Executive Planner: Bernard Greene

Assistant Planner: Aoife Kennedy

Clerical Officer: Fiona Casserly

Apologies: Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 16th July, 2014.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th July 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gerry O'Connor referred to the planning list circulated and requested that this be provided based on the Municipal District. It was confirmed that, since 1st June, the list was available on a county basis only but that the IT Section were looking at how it might be provided based on the Municipal District.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Nick Killian enquired as to whether any progress had been made in relation to the attendance of planners at Municipal District meetings. Joe Fahy referred again to the relevant legal advice received and circulated at the July meeting of Ratoath Municipal District

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Suzanne Jamal, Ashbourne Municipal District, on the death of her father, Jim Leonard.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All towns and villages in County Meath that had participated in the Tidy Towns Competition, particularly Moynalty, Trim and Ratoath.
- Jenny Murphy, who recently represented Dunshaughlin, Meath and Ireland at the World Floristry Competition in Singapore and won a bronze medal.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

- 4.1.1 To adopt the Standing Orders for the meetings of Ratoath Municipal District.

The Standing Orders for the meetings of Ratoath Municipal District were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

4.2 Planning

- 4.2.1 To receive a presentation on the proposed amendments to and revocations of relevant Local Area Plans, following the making of Variation No. 2 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 in May 2014.

Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner, delivered a presentation on the following:

- (i) Proposed amendments to the following Local Area Plans -
- Dunboyne Clonee Pace Local Area Plan 2009-2015



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Dunshaughlin Local Area Plan 2009-2015
- Ratoath Local Area Plan 2009-2015

and

(ii) Proposed revocation of the following Local Area Plans –

- Kilcock Environs Local Area Plan 2009-2015
- Kilmessan Local Area Plan 2009-2015
- Maynooth Environs Local Area Plan 2009-2015

The proposed amendments and revocations to the respective Local Area Plans are to give effect to the requirements of Core Strategy Objectives CS OBJ 2 and 3 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019.

Following the presentation, Councillors raised the following issues:

- The role of Councillors in the process;
- The reasons for and the effects of the revocation process;
- The impact on the land use zoning objectives;
- The timeframe for the availability of the IFLUTS;
- The housing shortage in Meath;
- The upcoming LAP review process;
- The plan developed by Dunshaughlin Civic Trust in 1999;
- The provision of a service station at Pace and its inclusion in the LAP.

Responses were provided by the Senior Executive Planner on the matters raised.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

“How many staff did Meath County Council have in the Dunshaughlin Electoral Area in 2006 and how many staff are currently based in the Ratoath Municipal District with a



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

breakdown of job categories and age profiles in the following age brackets: under 30, 30-40, 50 -60, 60+.”

A response was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Ratoath Municipal District, as follows:

2006 - Dunshaughlin Area						
	Total	Age Profiles				
		UNDER 30	30 - 40	40 - 50	50 - 60	60 +
Outdoor Grades						
Caretaker	1			1		
Driver Plant Operator B	0					
Ganger	2					2
General Operative	10		3	4	3	
General Services Supervisor	1				1	
School Warden	4				2	2
Senior General Services Supervisor	1				1	
	19	0	3	5	7	4

The outdoor staffing levels to service each of the six Municipal Districts will be the subject of a presentation to the full Council before the year end.

At present there are 14 outdoor staff within Ratoath M.D.

Councillor O'Connor pointed out that whilst Meath's population had increased by 30% over the period 2006-2014, Meath County Council's staffing level had fallen by 18% and the staffing in the Ratoath area by 26%. He outlined his intention to submit a Notice of Motion to Meath County Council to make a representation to the Department regarding the continuing recruitment embargo. Joe Fahy reminded the Councillors that a presentation was to be made at the October Meath County Council meeting regarding the staffing structures to take effect from January 2015.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Maria O'Kane

“With regard to building control and compliance with fire safety regulations, with particular reference to developer-led constructions sold to private residents and given that the responsibility for compliance with any conditions applying to fire safety certificates lies with the applicant, what responsibility does Meath County Council have



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

towards the private residents in cases where the applicant's professional team fails to ensure regulations were met and, in cases where such constructions have been deemed dangerous and requiring urgent remedial works, is Meath County Council in a position to ensure that negligent developers provide the monies required to cover such works to ensure that fire safety regulations are complied with? Section 8(2) of the Building Control Act 1990-2007 states that "An enforcement notice shall not be served...after the expiration of five years commencing on the date of completion of the building or works". I can verify that in the case of the Riverwalk Court Complex, Ratoath, Meath County Council was notified of problems arising there within the prescribed five year period."

A response was provided by Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"With regard to the housing situation in Dunboyne, can the Housing Department provide a report to include the following: the number of applicants on the housing list, their length of time on the list and the efforts being made to identify and progress alternative options, such as working with voluntary housing associations and private developers, a map of suitable lands in the Dunboyne area that could facilitate such alternative options, and the plans for dealing with the housing demand in the area over the next two years."

A response was provided by Brian Murphy, Administrative Officer, Housing Department, as follows:

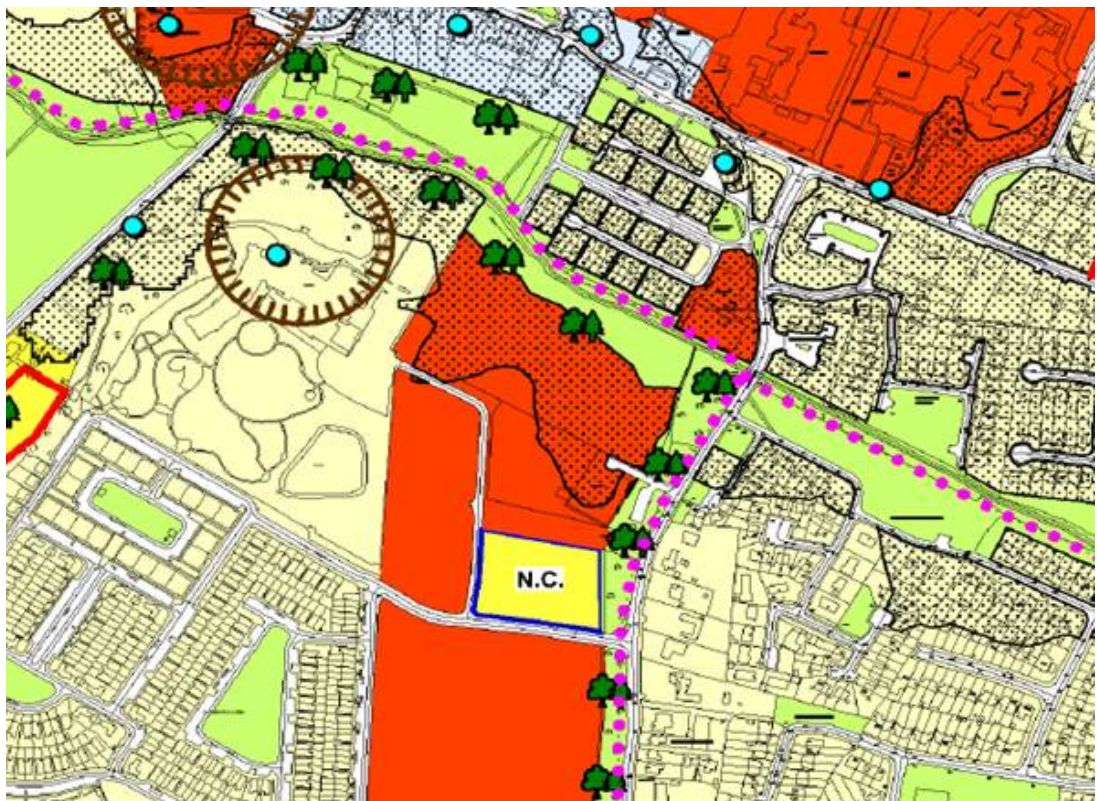
There are currently 182 housing applicants listed for consideration for Dunboyne. It is not possible to breakdown each individual application, however the average wait for social housing for Dunboyne is approximately 7 years. The Housing Department have been actively working with all approved Housing Bodies to provide social housing in this area. The Council through Fold Ireland Housing Association have had provisional approval from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government under the CALF scheme for the acquisition of 13 units in Dunboyne Castle. The Housing Department continues to work with all agencies including NAMA to provide social housing in suitable sites throughout the county. See below a map of Council owned zoned lands (8 acres); however these lands are not suitable for development.

Please also see advice from Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner:

"I attach the additional policies and objectives for Dunboyne which were included in Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2013-2019 which was made by the Council in May of this year. This replaced the land use zoning objectives map contained in the Dunboyne Clonee Pace Local Area Plan 2009. It included the rezoning of the

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Council owned lands off the Rooske Road due to the lands being located within Flood Zones A (1 in 100 year flood) and B (1 in 1,000 year flood). The OPW Flood Guidelines preclude the consideration of whether or not flood defences are in place. The lands are now primarily zoned for G1 'Community Infrastructure' with the outer areas identified for F1 'Open Space'. The mottled hatching over the G1 land use zoning indicates the interface with identified flood risk areas. These lands are not suitable for vulnerable land uses as a result and preclude the development of housing. The image below is an extract from the new land use zoning objectives map which now applies."



The Housing Department proposes to have a presentation on housing matters at the earliest available opportunity to the Municipal District Meeting.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

"That Meath County Council pass the necessary parking bye laws in all towns and villages in the Ratoath Municipal District."

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Information was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Ratoath Municipal District, as follows:

There are two different issues here i.e. the provision of traffic calming measures and the adoption of bye-laws each of which is covered under different sections of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, and the Road Traffic Act, 1961

Traffic Calming measures such as yellow lines are provided under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994. The process involves consultation with the Garda Commissioner, publication of a notice in a local paper, consideration of any observations made by the Commissioner or any representations made by the public. The making of a decision to provide traffic calming and the consideration of observations or representations are reserved functions. Enforcement of yellow lines is a matter for the Gardai.

Parking Bye-Laws to control and regulate the parking of vehicles in parking places on public roads are made under Section 101 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961 and Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994. The Motion needs to clarify whether the proposed bye laws relate to on street parking, off street parking or both, and whether they envisage a parking fee as to introduce parking bye laws without a parking fee would make them prohibitively expensive to operate and manage. I understand that Navan M.D. has prepared a new set of draft bye laws for on street parking and for car parks, which may be a blue print for the rest of the county. There are some issues that need to be resolved and perhaps the Motion could be deferred until these Draft Bye Laws are ready. The Council's Management Team and Transportation S.P.C. would also need to consider the matter.

A discussion followed on particular areas of traffic congestion, the role of enforcement, the use of Section 11, and the provision of suitable car parking.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Leasing of 2 acres at Castlefarm, Dunboyne.

The correspondence was noted .

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Disposal of Hazardous Waste

Councillor Maria O'Kane enquired as to whether there is a protocol in place for the disposal of discarded needles and syringes, is there a particular Meath County Council



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

staff member that members of the public should contact and whether outdoor workers are trained in the proper disposal of this type of waste.

Adrian Hobbs confirmed that there is a relevant Safety Management Statement in place, including a Risk Assessment, for Meath County Council staff and that relevant staff are appropriately trained. The public can notify Meath County Council if required and he referred to a pilot scheme that took place in Navan and Ashbourne.

8.2 Ratoath Municipal District – Budget Meeting

It was agreed that the October Ordinary Meeting of Ratoath Municipal District would take place at 9.00am on Wednesday 8th October and would conclude at 10.00am for the Municipal District to consider the draft budgetary plan.

8.3 Accommodation for Adult Autism Unit

A discussion took place around the identification of a suitable site for an adult autism unit and a number of potential sites were discussed.

8.4 Dunboyne Burial Ground

Information provided by Caroline Corrigan, Environment Section was given to the Councillors and it was agreed to circulate this by email. Councillor Murphy suggested that a meeting with the Environment Section was required and Joe Fahy agreed that this could be arranged.

8.5 Speed Limit Review

Joe Fahy pointed out that the speed limit review will proceed on receipt of the national guidelines and that a database of locations had been prepared.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Councillor Gerry O'Connor
Cathaoirleach



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes