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Ordinary Meeting

Trim Municipal District

2:00p.m., 15th December 2017, Trim Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Noel French**, presided.

Councillors Present: Enda Flynn, Trevor Golden, Caroline Lynch, Ronan McKenna.

Apologies: Councillor Joe Fox.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Maura Daly

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

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

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th November, 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline Lynch**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Enda Flynn requested an update on the visit to be arranged to discuss the congestion and parking issues at the bus stop and Supervalu in Enfield – it was confirmed that this visit was being arranged.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Michael Dempsey.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- All involved in Trim having been named as a finalist in Ireland's Friendliest Town.
- Trim Tidy Towns and Council staff for their success in the National Pride of Place Competition and the Tidy Towns Competition. Tributes were paid to Brian Heffernan, who was in attendance, and all those who volunteer to improve Trim's ranking each year. The efforts of Councillors and Council staff were also acknowledged and recognition given to Enfield, Rathmolyon and Longwood who were also doing well.

4 To receive a presentation from Kilbride National School.

Students, Tara Fay and Brendan Smith, delivered a comprehensive presentation to the meeting which included a profile of the school and village, the reasons for the need for a footpath, actions taken to date by the school including a traffic survey, engineering report and petition, the role of the Student Council and the proposal for a footpath.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Tara and Brendan for their excellent presentation and commended their efforts to date. Matters raised included the need to facilitate students to walk or cycle to school and the probable need for a pedestrian crossing with lights in addition to the footpath. It was agreed to consider these works as part of the roadworks programme and budget.

The Cathaoirleach made a small presentation to the students and their teacher on behalf of their school and class.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on works completed/ planned within Trim Municipal District.

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



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- The pooling of water outside a residence on the Enfield to Clonard road – it was agreed to check this.
- Welcomed the pipe replacement works commencing on the old Lackanash Road.
- The issues with parking at Griffin Park and its use as a through road – it was agreed to check this.
- The need for a pedestrian crossing at Aldi and the proper definition of the junction at the post office.
- The need to repaint the crossing at Market Square/Bridge Street – it was pointed out that Irish Water would return to do this.
- The location for the erection of the Entente Florale and Retail Excellence Ireland plaques – it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna** that the Entente Florale plaque be erected in the Porchfields, possibly near the seating area, and it was suggested that the REI plaque be erected in Norman Pratt Park.
- The need to include Kildalkey and the Laracor to Enfield to Rathmolyon road in the winter gritting programme – it was pointed out a sub-committee of the Transportation SPC had been established to review the winter gritting programme for next year, the upgrades to the fleet were outlined with 100% of national primary and secondary roads and 82.5% of regional roads being gritted, and the need to consider the impact on other works if the programme was further extended.
- The need to develop policy to guide operational and budgetary decisions and manage expectations.
- Issues arising for St. Joseph's due to parking on Patrick Street, particularly at peak school times.



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- Responsibility for potential flooding issues, e.g. on the Kildalkey Road, and the role of the OPW – it was confirmed that the reason for this had been identified and the Council and the OPW were undertaking works to rectify the issues.
 - The need for a larger information sign to be erected on the stone bridge in the town.
 - Update on the report on pedestrian crossings in the town – it was confirmed that this would be provided at a later date.
 - The provision of Age Friendly parking bays in the town.
 - An update on discussions with Supervalu with regard to reversing their entrance – it was confirmed that this would be provided at a later date.
- 5.1.2 To receive a presentation on the AECOM Dunboyne & Environs Traffic Assessment Report.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation Section attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the report, including the traffic study background and approach, the stages undertaken, an overview of the implementation and the next steps.

Reference was also made to the Black Bull roundabout, the issues at this location and reasons for same, the options considered and the plans to signalise the junction. It was pointed out that the local authority had no role or control over the tolls.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The costs of the tolls as the reason for toll avoidance.
- The congestion at the Shire junction.
- The use of alternative routes and the impact on these roads/towns.



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- The financial implications of the planned signalisation on commuters/road users if forced onto the motorway.
- The need for a slip for the Trim Road onto the motorway.
- The possibility of getting all commercial traffic on the motorway.
- The absence of a rail network and proper public transport system.
- The responsibility of national transport agencies to facilitate people in accessing work, etc.
- The higher fare structures that apply to train services to/from Enfield.

The context of the study was outlined, i.e. the variation of the County Development Plan to encourage economic development in the south of the county and it was pointed out that the Council continued to engage with TII and the NTA in relation to the study. It was also pointed out that the Blackbull to Clonee road was proposed as an urban road due to the amount of potential development along it with footpaths and lighting and that, having considered all options, it was considered that signalising the Blackbull roundabout would improve it from the current situation. Any such change would form part of the County Development Plan review and would be decided at full Council level.

- 5.1.3 To receive a presentation on proposed works at Haggard Street/Loman Street junction.

The proposals in respect of both locations were outlined. Following a short discussion, Option 1, with press button lights, in respect of Haggard Street was favoured. However, it was agreed to make a further approach to Supervalu regarding their traffic management arrangements. The proposal presented for Loman Street pedestrian crossing was agreed.

It was agreed that the Traffic Management Plan for Trim would be presented at the February meeting.

5.2 Corporate Services



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

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“Can the council provide figures for the number of properties used for emergency accommodation in Trim and the inspection status for these properties?”

Response:

Two Bed & Breakfasts and one hotel are occasionally used for emergency accommodation in the Trim area as the need arises.

These properties are in good condition and are visited regularly when clients are placed there, as part of the Settlement Team’s case management approach.

It is important to note that the Minimum Standards Regulation for Rented Accommodation do not apply to hotels and Bed & Breakfasts.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn

“As it is the policy of Meath County Council not to allow smoking in playgrounds, I request that a number of signs stating this message only, be placed in the Enfield Playground and that the bins with cigarette trays be placed outside the playground, and be replaced by more suitable bins inside the playground.”

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



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The existing sign at the entrance to this playground has No Smoking signs incorporated into it. If the Environment Department are in a position to supply additional 'No Smoking' signs these can be erected. There are no plans to remove or replace the bins currently in place in this playground – the bins accommodate gum disposal in addition to cigarette refuse.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**, as follows:

“As it is the policy of Meath County Council not to allow smoking in playgrounds, I request that a number of signs stating this message only, be placed in the Enfield and Trim Playgrounds and that the bins with cigarette trays be placed outside the playground, and be replaced by more suitable bins inside the playground.”

Following a discussion, it was suggested that this be referred to the Environment SPC for consideration and, if it is agreed, that it would apply to all playgrounds.

The motion was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn

“In the light of the increase in traffic volume moving through Clonard and the significant increase in vehicles being parked along the main road in Clonard, I request that Meath County Council employ a School Traffic Warden for St. Finian's N. S. Clonard, to help to keep all pedestrians, but especially children, safe while coming to the school and going home from the school.”

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

It is proposed to provide a pedestrian crossing at that point rather than replace the school warden - funding is in place and the procurement process will commence soon.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to look at the possibility of providing a temporary school warden until the pedestrian crossing is in place.

The motion was noted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“In view of the lighting policy that has now been adopted by Meath County Council can the pilot project for Mornington Heights in terms of upgrade and review be advanced as soon as possible.”

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

Mornington Heights is being considered for a pilot, for a possible upgrade to the lighting in this estate. The first step in this process involves the removal of a number of trees obstructing the lights. The feasibility of this is currently being investigated and the outcome of this investigation will be forwarded to the Members.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

The motion was adopted.

It was agreed to provide an update at the January meeting.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting of 14th November, 2017.

The report was noted.



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- 8.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 23rd November, 2017.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to the Notice of Item 7.2 – Notice of Motion as adopted at November meeting re funding for unfinished housing estates.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Ronan McKenna raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Update on the theatre – it was confirmed that 9 pre-qualification questionnaires had been received but not yet opened; five would be selected, based on experience, to tender for the design; the award criteria and weighting was outlined; evaluation will take place in January with a view to appointing in mid-March.

- 10.2 Councillor Caroline Lynch raised the following issues:

10.2.1 The projects that received Structures at Risk funding – it was agreed to refer this to the Heritage Officer.

10.2.2 The public meeting taking place in Ballivor.

- 10.3 Councillor Noel French raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Requested that a letter issue to the Brady Family sending Councillors best wishes.

10.3.2 Requested that all shop local this Christmas.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach