



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

### ***Trim Municipal District***

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***17th October 2014, Trim Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Joe Fox**, presided.

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

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Des Foley

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Administrative Officer:** Fiona Skehan

**Senior Executive Engineer:** Vincent Collins

**Clerical Officer:** Fiona Casserly

**1 To receive a presentation from Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd (trading as CRDS Ltd) Archaeological and Historical Consultants – Update on the Blackfriary Project.**

Finola O'Carroll and Stephen Mandal, Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd., delivered a presentation to the meeting, which included an outline of the archaeological project, the field school, the benefits accruing to the local economy, the supports received from the local authority, the role of the community and the international recognition of the site and project.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Finola and Stephen for their presentation and congratulated them on the success of the project.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The future plans for the site and the archaeology found;
- The economic and community benefits to the town;
- The positive impact of the students in the town;
- The projected timeframe for the remainder of the project;
- The identification of other sites in Trim;
- The need to deal with the illegal dumping on the site;



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- The involvement of local schools in the project.

Finola and Stephen responded to these issues as follows:

- The options for the site including the protection of the archaeology found as vandalism had been an issue, the role of the National Monuments Service, the cost of the options to be considered and how input on this would be welcome;
- The possibilities of opening up access to the site from the town centre and creating a trail from the castle, thereby benefiting local businesses;
- The increase in student numbers and the impact of this on the timeframe of the project, which could be 5 – 10 years;
- The possibility of extending into the winter months and introducing additional teaching elements including research, surveying techniques, legislation, etc. as case studies from Trim can be applied elsewhere;
- The extent of the graveyard has not yet been defined;
- Local schools had visited the site and a schools project is to be launched with the schools to capture local folklore, stories and memories of the site.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Finola and Stephen for their presentation.

## **2 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **2.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

### **2.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

The Minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

## **3 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Councillor Ronan McKenna requested updates on the following items raised under Any Other Business and a response was provided to each:



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- The public lighting at Parkstown View, Ballivor was fixed yesterday but this was outside of the ten day period – Vincent Collins stated that this particular issue had to be referred to the ESB;
- The derelict unit in Ballivor – Vincent Collins stated that this had been referred to the Environment Section - Derelict Sites;
- The road width at the church in Castlejordan – no update was available;
- Trim Town Hall and the meeting with the OPW – Des Foley confirmed that this meeting will take place in the coming weeks.

### **4 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kiltale Hurling Club on winning the County Championship.
- Trim Tidy Towns, who have been selected for Entente Florale 2015.
- Kelly Hyland, who was named Retail Employee of the Year at the recent Retailing Excellence Awards.

### **5 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

- 5.1.1 Disposal of Lands at Site Nos. 13 and 13A - Eamon Duggan Industrial Estate, Athboy Road, Trim to MLF Investment Company Limited.

Fiona Skehan explained that, whilst this matter had been approved previously, an administrative error on the part of the purchaser required it to be reapproved.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

### **6 Statutory Business**

#### **6.1 Transportation**

- 6.1.1 To inform the Members of the commencement of the process of the Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way on the R161 Navan –Trim road.



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Paul McNulty, Transportation Section, attended the meeting and outlined the process to be followed, as included in the report that had been circulated. Councillors were being informed of this process at this stage and the matter will be before the Municipal District again in January 2015.

- 6.1.2 To receive an update on works completed and planned within Trim Municipal District.

Vincent Collins had provided Councillors with an update on works completed and planned for Trim Municipal District.

### **7 Notice of Question**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Ronan McKenna**

“To ask the Executive for a report on St. Kinneths Church, Ballivor, a chronological report on activity to date, an explanation as to the whereabouts of €35,000 donated by NEC to the community and the immediate and medium term plans for St. Kinneths.”

***A response was provided by Ciaran Mangan, County Librarian, as follows:***

*I wish to confirm that Meath County Council purchased St Kinneth's Church in 2004 and progressed an ambitious project for a library and community facility through the relevant design and planning stages .The local authority is not in a position to progress the project any further in the short to medium term due to the absence of funding .The project is entirely dependant on the future availability of amenity levy funding.*

*I note that a donation of €35,000 from NEC Semiconductors Ireland Ltd was received by Meath County Council in December 2006 and that this funding was provided to allay the cost of providing a library.*

*I note that Meath County Council has already expended €342,000 on the premises inclusive of the purchase price, associated legal costs and design fees.*

*Meath County Council is committed to exploring all avenues of funding in order to progress the project. Meath County Council is engaging with the local community and supportive of their attempts to attract alternative sources of funding for this very worthwhile project.*

Councillor Ronan McKenna sought clarification as to who had agreed how the €35,000 donation from NEC was to be spent.



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### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn**

"In the light of concerns expressed by traders in Enfield regarding the provision of adequate and convenient parking for their customers, can Meath County Council please outline the present parking arrangements in Enfield and outline the plans for the future?"

***A response was provided by Vincent Collins, Senior Executive Engineer, Trim Municipal District, as follows:***

*The main street of Enfield contains numerous marked out parking bays. The traffic management plan for Enfield, and street signage, states that parking on the street between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday for a period in excess of 3 hours is prohibited.*

*Longstay parking is available in the Iarnrod Éireann carpark at the railway station.*

*There are no plans to amend the current arrangements at this time.*

Councillor Enda Flynn sought clarification as to who enforces the parking restrictions. Vincent Collins agreed that an alternative management plan for enforcement was needed and this would require the involvement of the Gardaí.

## **8 Notice of Motion**

### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch**

"That Trim Municipal District contact the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting the immediate allocation of additional funding for the provision of social housing to address the acute shortage of housing in the Trim Municipal District, as presented to Councillors at the September meeting of Trim Municipal District. We also request that 10 percent of the existing housing stock in the area be ring fenced for people with disabilities and documented medical needs and that this ring fencing is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that people with special housing requirements are not overlooked."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

***Supporting information was provided by David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing, as follows:***

*The Housing Department has continuously made its case to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for additional funding for the provision*



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*of social units throughout the county. It is not possible to ring fence 10% of housing for any sector without first reviewing the Council's Scheme of Letting Priorities, in order to have any such amendment included in same, and such a change would have to be taken in context with all other interest/minority groups.*

Councillor Caroline Lynch indicated her intention, following receipt of the information from the Housing Section, to submit a Notice of Motion to a meeting of Meath County Council calling for a review of the Scheme of Letting Priorities to allocate 10% of social housing to those with a disability or medical condition and requested Trim Municipal District Councillors to support this motion. She also emphasised the need to continue to request additional funding from government for social housing.

Councillor Noel French highlighted the needs of other groups.

Councillor Ronan McKenna stated that this motion was a matter for Meath County Council and that the Housing Department did not have the resources to deliver the type of housing needed by this group.

Councillor Joe Fox referred to the recent budget announcement that indicated that a Housing Strategy is due to be published in the coming weeks.

The Housing Section will attend the next meeting of Trim Municipal District to provide an overview of the housing programme.

### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Ronan McKenna**

"That Trim MD includes the Ballivor to Trim and the Kildalkey to Trim Roads for winter gritting this year. The cost to be funded out of the Municipal District budget."

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

"That Trim Municipal District includes the Ballivor to Trim, Kildalkey to Trim and Rathmolyon to Enfield roads for winter gritting this year, with the cost to be funded out of the Municipal District budget."

***Supporting information was provided by Vincent Collins, Senior Executive Engineer, Trim Municipal District, as follows:***

*The plant and resources that Trim Town Council used to carry out some gritting in Trim town would not be adequate to undertake the gritting of the Trim to Kildalkey or Trim to Ballivor roads to the standard as carried out by the County winter gritting crew.*

*The area has always operated a system where specific issues arising in any type of weather is dealt with during the working day to the best that can be done with the*



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*existing plant and labour resources available. These types of works have to be charged to the general road maintenance budgets. Thus, any money expended on winter maintenance is not available for road maintenance and restoration when the winter is over.*

*The Council's main winter gritting operation is grant aided by DOECLG through the NRA with the express purpose of keeping the national road arteries through the country passable for economic purposes.*

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Joe Fox**

"With the winter season approaching, I am calling on Meath County Council to investigate the possibility of using private contractors and farmers to grit roads that are not on the existing gritting routes, such as the R156 from Ballivor to Brannockstown and the R158 from Rathmolyon to Enfield . This practice is used abroad and I believe would be cost effective."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

***Supporting information was provided by Vincent Collins, Senior Executive Engineer, Trim Municipal District, as follows:***

*There is no particular evidence at this time to suggest that such a method would be any more cost effective than that operated by Meath County Council currently of using employed staff and owned plant.*

Councillor Joe Fox suggested that a pilot scheme could be implemented using available machinery and expertise with adequate monitoring and supervision.

Councillor Noel French asked if the streets in Trim would be excluded from the gritting programme.

Councillor Caroline Lynch queried as to whether the Council would supply gritting salt to volunteers within the community.

Vincent Collins explained the use of the Icecast system and the responses by Meath County Council depending on the forecasts and weather conditions. He stressed that the solution was the purchase of additional gritters to enhance the existing system. He stressed that the standards set by the current gritting programme would be hard to replicate using alternative systems. He confirmed that a small gritter was available in Trim town. He also referred to the restrictions on resources to cover all routes. He confirmed that the practice of leaving grit at certain locations for volunteers would continue.



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It was agreed that this motion would be referred to the Transportation SPC for further discussion as it would involve a policy to be developed.

### **9 Correspondence**

9.1.1 Correspondence received from Killyon Community Development Association.

9.1.2 Protocol for Taking Estates in Charge – Inclusive of Trim Municipal District Estates taken in charge list.

This was provided following a request at the September meeting.

### **10 Any Other Business**

Councillor Enda Flynn expressed his disappointment at developments relating to the delivery of the playground in Enfield. Des Foley confirmed that a number of parties - Meath County Council, the OPW and Supervalu – were involved and that the issues around the process had been resolved. The Part 8 was to be advertised next week and will go on public display, which will give interested parties the opportunity to make submissions; the report on the submissions received will be presented to Trim Municipal District at the January meeting.

Councillor Caroline Lynch raised the following issues:

- Whether a response had been received from the Department of Education and Science with regard to youth facilities. It was confirmed that no response has been received and this will be followed up.
- Her disappointment that a Meath County Council road safety report promised to the residents of Lackanash would not be made available for circulation as it was for internal use.

Councillor Noel French raised the following issues:

- The difficulties being experienced by residents in St. Patrick's Park due to the strong odours emanating from the Leper Stream which must be resulting from pollution and asked when a solution would be delivered. Vincent Collins confirmed that the Environment and Water Services Section are to carry out further investigations next week to attempt to identify the sources of pollution and then a plan for addressing these can be devised.
- Speeding at Lackanash and the new guidelines being introduced by the Department of Transport for housing estates whereby a 30kmph restriction would apply in addition to other traffic calming measures. Des Foley pointed out that the Transportation Section would be responsible for implementing these guidelines.





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- The importance of having a Joint Policing Committee at Municipal District level to ensure that the level and nature of drugs within the community is minimised.

Councillor Joe Fox raised the following issues:

- The need for fresh road markings and possibly additional signage at Rathkeenan Crossroads as the two yield signs are not being observed.
- The need for disability parking spaces to be marked out at the door of Clonard Hall, as commuters tend to park there and users of the hall have difficulty accessing the building as a result.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**