



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

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

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

***10:00 a.m., 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Via Zoom***

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

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

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Martin Murray

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Executive Engineer:** Shane Durcan

**Clerical Officer:** Edita Asaciova

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

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Gerry Duignan, Ferndale;



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- The family of the late Noel Lightholder, Academy Street;
- The family of the late Paddy Sheils, Garballagh, Duleek;
- The family of the late former councillor Danny Fitzpatrick, Abbeylands, Navan.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Meath Ladies and Minors teams on winning their respective All Ireland Finals;
- Ed Maguire, Donaghmore Lane on winning the ISPS Handa British Blind Golf Open in Ballymena;
- Meath Camogie Minors on reaching the All Ireland Final;
- Tom Murphy, Navan Municipal District on his retirement.

## **4 Statutory Business**

### **4.1 Planning**

- 4.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Strategic Housing Development application, reference no. ABP- 311199-21 ES Corella Creek Ltd in accordance with Section 8 (4) (c)(ii) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Billy Joe Padden, Executive Planner provided details of the application, the consultations that had taken place, the development description, including the proposed site layout, residential typology and facilities, and the next steps, including the submission of the Chief Executive's report by 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021, which will include a copy of today's meeting minutes. The decision due date is 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The closing date for receipt of submissions by An Bord Pleanála is 27<sup>th</sup> September, and the application, including submissions, has not yet been assessed.

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Matters raised by councillors included:

- Expressed the view that the Part V units should be dispersed throughout the development – the recently launched Housing for All plan may impact on the Part V provision but the Housing Department will advise on the type and location of units required.
  - Queried the appropriateness of the scale of the development, i.e. four stories, in that area – compliance will be assessed against S28 guidelines, appropriate urban design and national planning policy.
  - Queried whether a flood risk assessment would be carried out – a flood risk assessment will be carried out and all requirements will be satisfied.
  - Queried whether any objections had been made to date – the local authority will be advised of the submissions made 3 to 4 days after the closing date for submissions.
  - Referred to the existing traffic volumes on the road and suggested that the construction of the development phases be linked with the advancement of the link road – the Transportation Section had a significant input during the pre-planning stages and will advise regarding the phasing of the development and the capacity of the existing road network. The phasing of the development will be linked with the progress of key road infrastructure upgrades including the LDR1A and LDR1B.
  - Queried whether the design standards now being applied include the apartments being constructed on the road frontage – urban design standards now consider taller buildings closer to the road to be best practice, in terms of quality urban design and impact on traffic speeds.
- 4.1.2 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2020.

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- Philpotstown, Navan

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

### **4.2 Transportation**

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

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer confirmed that works are progressing on the final stages of Contract 2, including paving on Market Square and Ludlow Street. The detailed design for Contract 3, to include Kennedy Road and Kennedy Plaza, is being finalised with the intention to commence the tender process in October and appoint a contractor in Q1 2022. The detailed design for the N51 Park & Ride is also being finalised, with a view to commencing the tender process in October and commence construction early in 2022. An update on the draft byelaws for the reconfiguration of the taxi ranks will be brought to the October meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether further works are planned for Market Square – watermain works are planned for September and this area will also be included in Contract 3, for footpath upgrades and junction works.
- Queried the plans to progress the park & ride facility on the R147 at Liscarton – this is a longer-term project and there are no plans to progress it at this time.
- Queried whether the stakeholder engagement and consultation had gone well – stakeholder engagement has been ongoing and, whilst there has been some disruption arising from closures, etc., there is a general sense that the works, and standard of work, is appreciated.

#### 4.2.2 To receive an update on the Navan Town Bus Stop Works.

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Cormac Ross referred to the service changes that had been introduced at the start of the year, with five buses operating longer schedules over seven days. 51 wheelchair accessible bus stops have been delivered with two remaining for the Proudstown and Trim roads, with the former having undergone some design changes and the latter being delivered. Over the coming weeks, surfacing works, new lighting, line marking, poles and information carousels with route maps will be provided. These works are due to be completed at the end of September/beginning of October. Other locations are also being considered for bus stops. It was pointed out that, since January, the service users had increased from just under 5,000 users per month to approximately 13,500 users per month.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether a bus stop will be provided in Old Johnstown Village – two stops will be provided subject to the L5050 access road being opened.
- Referred to the need to review the town bus service stop to the rear of Navan Shopping Centre, which is shared with the expressway services, and resulting in town bus users having to go onto the road to board the town bus service and requested that consideration be given to providing a separate bus stop on Paddy O’Brien Street – the use of one stop avoids confusion. However, as part of Contract 3 of the Navan Town Scheme works, buses will be brought through the Kennedy Road Interchange. There is adequate pull-in areas and accessible kerbing on Abbey Road, which is a temporary location, and the matter will be raised with Bus Éireann.
- Queried when the bus services using Abbey Road would be relocated to the Kells Road – Bus Éireann has confirmed that the 109A and 109X services would be relocated to the Kells Road to relieve pressure on Abbey Road.
- Queried when the bus stop on the Proudstown Road would be in place – the design has been revised following engagement with property owners and the works should commence next week.

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### 4.2.3 To receive an update on the GDA Cycle Network for Navan.

Cormac Ross confirmed that the focus is on the Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle Scheme with the detailed design for the scheme from the Dan Shaw Road to the Solstice Roundabout being finalised. Data gathering and engagement with relevant stakeholders is underway with the intention to tender for construction in Q1 2022. The proposed route was outlined. Works have started on the Convent Road with the aim of commencing the 12 month pedestrian and cycling trial in 4 to 5 weeks. Submissions made as part of the non-statutory public consideration were taken into account and no issues had arisen following the monitoring of traffic movements at the junctions.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the sections for which designs are being prepared – the detailed design for key routes are being advanced, with a view to moving to the construction phase. These include the Dan Shaw Road to the Solstice Roundabout and from the Solstice, down Circular Road to the junction with the cantilever bridge and on to Convent Road. The tender for consultants to prepare the detailed design of the route from the Dublin Road to Flower Hill onto the Round O is being prepared.
- Queried whether the engagement with landowners would be likely to result in a delayed delivery – whilst there is a degree of uncertainty as to whether this will result in delays, any issues identified will be worked through and data gathering and site investigation works would continue in parallel.
- Queried whether additional resources were available to ensure the delivery of the scheme and whether consideration could be given to installing temporary measures, as previously suggested, were the scheme delivery to be delayed – additional resources have been allocated to advance relevant NTA schemes, with the NTA satisfied with the programme and phasing of works. There are no plans to provide temporary measures.
- Suggested that flexible poles at busy junctions would enhance safety.

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

The report was circulated in advance and a further update provided at the meeting. Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that Cornmarket be included in the street cleaning programme and queried if the current approach was effective – it was agreed to check if Cornmarket was included and it was confirmed that different methods were being trialled to maximise effectiveness.
- Queried the proposed locations for the solar compacting bins and requested that one be located to the rear of Johnstown Shopping Centre – the different proposed locations are to be assessed, with some bins to be relocated.
- Requested that the hedges outside Boyne View, Johnstown be cut back – this will be assessed.
- Requested an update on the works on the lane to the rear of St. Oliver's school and the OMP – this was dependent on NTA funding and it was agreed to check this.
- Referred to previous discussions on the safety of the exit/entrance to the filling station at Blackcastle and requested that the owners be requested to erect signage – it was pointed out that this was private property but it would be checked.
- Queried whether the next phase of roadworks would include resurfacing works in Bellewstown Lane and Robinstown - the three-year roadworks programme will be brought to the October meeting.



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- Requested additional signage and road markings at the pedestrian crossing on Flower Hill at the Round O roundabout – it was agreed to check this.
- Requested that accessibility be improved on the back lanes in St. Brigid's Villas – it was agreed to arrange a crew to tidy up the vegetation.

### **4.3 Corporate Services**

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted and councillors were reminded of the deadline for the receipt of completed application and deferral forms.

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

“To ask Meath County Council to explain why, after the purchase of the former home of old St. Patricks Classical School (which is on the list of protected structures of national importance) for €603,000 and its ownership of it over the last 18 years, did it not take more efficacious measures to convert it to its intended use in a timely manner in order to prevent the potentially irremediable damage that has befallen this unique and architecturally important building, to outline the route of progression from here and how much it will cost to restore, stabilise and return it to Meath's treasured built heritage stock?”

#### **Response:**

*Funding opportunities and the necessary prioritising of core services have restricted investment in the building. Please note that the matter would have been consistently raised historically by the Conservation Officer with reference to seeking external funding, which was not forthcoming over the period. However recent central government schemes,*





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*such as the Urban Regeneration Development Fund, have enabled local authorities to advance specific goals regarding urban regeneration.*

*Meath County Council's vision to transform this area and restore this building will greatly enhance the social, economic and environmental assets of the town, the county, and the wider region. The proposed project will restore and re-purpose an important historic building, adding to the cultural offer of the town and region; redevelop a brownfield, strategically located site; and provide for future employment opportunities in a town that has been impacted by unemployment. Meath's rich heritage is at the heart of Ireland's national identity, with over 500 heritage related societies. It addresses a number of key specific objectives of the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the Meath County Council Development Plan, the LECP, and the Navan Town Centre Integrated Public Realm and Movement Plan.*

*Meath County Council Have successfully secured funding to;*

- Procure technical assistance to prepare all detailed designs and environmental studies required for the consent process for the re-purposing of the former St. Patrick's Classical School*
- Procure conservation expertise to prepare all detailed conservation studies required for the consent process*

*In relation to the emergency stabilisation and protection works there are 2 main activities outstanding;*

- 1. The installation of new steelwork propping to support a number of the masonry walls that would be vulnerable in adverse weather*
- 2. The provision of temporary protection to the historic fabric of the building for medium term protection of the building from the elements*

*The temporary propping / protection has been fully designed and is with the Contractor. Note that any excavation works for new footings will be monitored by our consultant archaeologist onsite. These works will be completed by the end of October.*

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*In regard to the overall objective of restoring the building as a county Archive, including genealogy research centre and lecture and study space, internal stakeholder engagement has commenced, which will be followed by external stakeholder engagement with a milestone of commencement of Part 8 in March 2022.*

*It is the intention to then apply for Category A funding under the URDF.*

The response was noted. Councillor Emer Tóibín sought clarification on the costs of works being undertaken, the nature of the stakeholder engagement and the timescale for the provision of temporary measures to protect the structure. The Director of Service provided responses to the clarifications sought.

### **5.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

"To ask the Executive to provide an update on the number of social housing applicants in the Navan Municipal District, a breakdown per category to list the number of applicants on the 1, 2, 3 & 4 bed lists and the average timespan per list an applicant must wait before they receive an allocation."

#### **Response:**

*There are 1, 983 applicants on the social housing waiting list for Navan MD at present (1 bedroom list - 868, 2 bedroom list - 772, 3 bedroom list - 254, 4 bedroom list – 89).*

*Available units are currently being allocated on average to applicants with the following year of application:*

- *1 bedroom unit - 2010 applicants, 2 bedroom unit – 2016 applicants, 3 bedroom unit – 2018 applicants, 4 bedroom unit – 2012 applicants*

*There are a number of applicants on the 1,2,3 bedroom lists who have an application date prior to those listed, but have an un-clear Garda vetting and are therefore not being considered for allocation at present.*

The response was noted.

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### **5.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“With reference to the Boyne Canal Greenway restoration Atkins report, when will the application be ready for submission to An Bord Pleanála?”

**Response:**

*Following the current project programme, it is expected that a planning application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in Q4 2022. However, it should be noted that, given the scale and complexities of the project, there is potential that this timeframe may be extended.*

The response was noted.

## **6 Notice of Motion**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

“To call on Meath County Council to ensure that, in light of the significant damage to and ongoing passive neglect of the protected structure of national importance, Old St. Patrick's School, Navan that a detailed inspection and monitoring regime, for historic buildings in the Council's ownership, is drawn up in a timely manner to prevent anything like this happening again.”

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

*The inspection of historic buildings in the ownership of Meath County Council is managed through the Planning Section. This matter and the programme of inspections can be referred to the Heritage Forum.*

A discussion followed which included reference to how the building came into council ownership, the need for a robust inspection regime and the previously unsuccessful attempts to secure funding for the project. The objective remains to bring the building back into use.



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

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

"To ensure the safety of cyclists and to prevent illegal parking on the Athlumney to Trim Road cycle path, this council agrees to install bollards on sections of the route vulnerable to illegal parking. Paying particular attention to the stretch of footpath from the junction where Convent Road meets the R153 to the entrance of the Andy Brennan Park."

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

*Works are due to commence on a trial cycle and pedestrian filtered permeability scheme on Convent Road which may also include part of the R-153 discussed. The suggestion will be put forward to the Project Team.*

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

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

"Due to problems with anti-social behaviour, illegal parking, pedestrian and traffic safety on the Silverlawns Estate, I ask the Executive to agree to the following measures:

- Footpath upgrades on the worst affected areas
- Speed ramp upgrades and installation where necessary
- The installation of Chicanes on dangerous bends in the estate
- The re-surfacing of the road on the estate
- Close off two alleyways that give access to the Ratholdron Road."



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

*Footpath upgrades on the worst affected areas – Footpath repairs can be assessed and quantified as part of the Footpath Replacement Programme, pending on the continued availability of funding under this heading.*

*Speed ramp upgrades and installation where necessary & the installation of Chicanes on dangerous bends in the estate – There is no funding provided in the 2021 budget for traffic calming measures at this location but the works can be included for future consideration.*

*The re-surfacing of the road on the estate - The roads in the estate were re-surfaced in recent years and are considered to be in good condition.*

*Close off two alleyways that give access to the Ratholdron Road - The closing of the 2 alleyways onto Ratholdron Rd is subject to further investigation, due to the issue of services and right of ways. An update can be provided when the investigations have been completed.*

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

#### **6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“I propose that Meath County Council erect traffic lights temporarily at R153 on Kentstown Road (to facilitate residents exiting Orchard and Athlumney Castle housing estates) while the trial cycle and pedestrian scheme is in progress on Convent Road.”

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

*The works, as part of the Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme, are due to commence on the 13th September 2021 (during the temporary road closure period, which commences at 7.00am on 13 September until 7.00pm on 8 October 2021). Measures are to be put in place to limit, as far as reasonably practicable, the impact on traffic during the construction phase. Following completion of the works, Transportation Department*

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*will regularly monitor traffic levels, and the matter of traffic impacts (if any) will be kept under regular review during the 12 month trial period. The potential implementation of appropriate traffic management interventions during the trial period (if warranted) will be considered as part of this review process. It is not currently anticipated that full signalisation/ traffic lights to the Elm Park/Kentstown Road junction will be required.*

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

### **6.5 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“I call on Meath County Council to consider installing traffic calming ramps and also look at placing two-way traffic markings on the Old Athlumney Road, a highly populated area, where there is an access to Hodwett Road, Athlumney.”

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

*There is currently no provision of funding in this year’s programme of works for traffic calming at this location. Transportation Department proposes to carry out a survey to ascertain the extent of speeding and driver behaviour in the area. Any traffic management measures deemed necessary by the Transportation Department will be put forward for consideration in a future programme.*

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

### **6.6 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly**

“I call on Meath County Council to erect steel railings and automated gates at Boreen Keel playground.”

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

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*It would not be standard practice to erect steel railings and time lock gates at playgrounds and therefore it would not be recommended to take this approach. As part of most playground developments, the standard fencing which is installed is 1200mm high bow topped fencing.*

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

### **6.7 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly**

“I call on Meath County Council to install yellow lines in Stonebridge Housing Estate on the Athlumney Road.”

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

*Stonebridge Housing Estate, Athlumney, Navan is not yet taken in charge by Meath County Council.*

*Stonebridge is a residential area with low speeds and no through traffic. It is not the policy of the Transportation Section to provide internal Double Yellow lines at these locations. The placing of Double Yellow lines at this residential development will have little impact on driver behaviour, as drivers are already aware of their surroundings and also, any such Road Markings are very difficult for An Garda Síochána/Parking Section to enforce.*

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

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

The minutes were noted.

7.2 To note the report from the Joint Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services



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Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

9.1 Councillor Yemi Adenuga raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Queried why Meath County Council did not secure funding for outdoor dining facilities – having looked at the criteria, a suitable site was identified in Navan and this was discussed with the adjacent commercial and retail units. However, they were not in favour of the proposal and no application was made.

9.2 Councillor Edward Fennessy raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Requested an update on progress on the new bridge over the Blackwater – the LRD4 over the Blackwater has been confirmed, with the next step to commence the tender process. Construction is expected to be of approximately 18 months duration. Discussions are advanced with landowners and the NTA and Department of Transport regarding funding.

9.3 Councillor Emer Tóibín raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Queried when the NTA will revert with a decision on the rail line feasibility study – no date is yet available but a decision is expected in the next month or so.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**





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**An Meára**