



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 6th October 2021, Council Chamber, County Hall

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Asaciova

Apologies: Meetings Administrator, Claire King

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8th September, 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th September 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole thanked Transportation for the email circulated regarding Moulden Bridge which was conveyed to locals. Only one resident was identified for screening; however, there are three other residents impacted by the realignment of the road – It was pointed out that one house didn't have any screening, whereas, the other properties already have screening. It was agreed that an engineer would meet with the other residents.



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Councillor Gillian Toole referred to the feeder light on the centre of the road coming from Ratoath heading east on the R125 which is causing confusion for drivers with a mismatch between green and red signals.

Councillor Gillian Toole requested an update on the opening of the Ratoath Outer Relief Road – It was agreed that a letter be written to LMETB requesting an update on the opening of the school's entrance to the new Relief Road. It was also requested that the grass be cut as a good will gesture as you enter The Avenue Estate on the right hand side and the possibility of a yellow box at the Kilbride Road junction.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Claire King on the death of her mother, Bernie King.
- Alan Rogers on the death of his mother, Eileen Rogers.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kevin Hartnett for reaching the finals on The Deal Arts Performance Programme.
- Dunshaughlin Retailers for reaching the final of a competition in relation to their customer services.
- Paul Hand Senior, General Operative on his retirement from Meath County Council after 45 years of service.

4 To discuss issues relating to Bus Éireann services.

Adrian O'Loughlin, Senior Operations Regional Manager and John Hegarty, Service Manager in Broadstone attended the meeting. Adrian outlined Bus Éireann's contract works with the NTA, the services provided by Bus Éireann, their obligations and bus services decided upon. They are aware of the correspondence, concerns and criticisms with regard to the 109A changes and the impact on people going to DCU and other areas. He reminded the councillors that Bus Éireann operates the 109A under a PSO contract with the NTA. Timetables, routes, level of services are



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all dictated by the NTA and Bus Éireann is a provider of that licenced service. In December 2020, as part of a review, the NTA decided to operate the 109A service as far as Dublin airport and not operate directly to DCU. The NTA did put in two college direct services from Trim and Navan through Dunshaughlin, Ratoath, Ashbourne to DCU in the mornings and a return service at 5.15 p.m. directly back from the college. All correspondence, phone calls and emails have been forwarded to the NTA. There is no indication of any change coming in the 109A timetable. Following today's meeting Bus Éireann will do a briefing with the NTA about issues raised in relation to the 109A. Adrian also thanked Meath County Council Transportation Department for their co-operation in the provision of bus stops and bus stop infrastructure.

Matters raised by councillors included: -

- Asked what kind of representations have Bus Éireann made to the NTA. The common figure is €60 per week for students using the recommendation to disembark at the airport and switch over – It was pointed out that there are two formal mechanisms used for feedback. They operate a customer service get management system where any correspondence received is logged with a case number as part of the PSO contract and the NTA get full visibility of those. They also provide monthly operating report back to the NTA which includes a stakeholder update which includes any correspondence they receive.
- Requested a formal letter from Bus Éireann outlining why the 109A service has been withdrawn, so it can be taken formally to the NTA. Also indicate how Bus Éireann is tied under the remit of the NTA.
- The NTA are not aware of the growth of our areas and the number of people who depend on this service.
- The need for joined up thinking and connectivity between Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus and Irish Rail.
- School transportation is causing a lot of stress for parents and families – It was agreed that Adrian would talk to Sean Griffin, Regional School Transport Manager for the east on school transportation issues.



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- Sought an update on bus shelters – Dara McGowan, Area Manager informed councillors that there were tenders for four bus shelters in Ratoath Municipal District as follows:-
 - Dunshaughlin, R147 Northbound outside Ardlea Estate.
 - Dunshaughlin, R147 Southbound outside Grange Hall Estate.
 - Ratoath, R125 Southbound outside Steeplechase Estate.
 - Rathbeggan, R147 Northbound after the County Club.

It is anticipated that works will commence this November/December and be completed in the first quarter of 2022.

- Dara McGowan, Area Manager confirmed Meath County Council has completed a survey and undertaken a preliminary design for the preferred location on the Skryne Road opposite the cemetery.
- Asked about the possibility of a bus bay on the bypass near the train station.
- Referred to a bus trip that was to be arranged around Ratoath pre-Covid to assess for disability users. An Age Friendly audit of Ratoath was also to be carried out pre-Covid which would tie in with Age Friendly transportation.

It was agreed to issue a letter to the NTA requesting a joint meeting with themselves, Bus Éireann and Ratoath Municipal District Councillors.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 To note the three-year Roadworks Programme 2022-2024.

Philip Traynor, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed three year Road Works Programme 2022 – 2024, which was prepared based on 2021

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funding received and a PSCI survey which rated roads 1 – 10. The programme must be submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport as part of the multi annual submission. It was pointed out that the programme is a draft and may be subject to change. A more detailed Schedule of Municipal District Works Programme will be brought to the February 2022 meeting for adoption.

Matters raised by councillors, and responses provided, included: -

- Asked if there were any plans for the roundabout on the R149 at Clonee village – It was confirmed that it is to be surfaced in the coming weeks.

The three year Roadworks Programme 2022-2024 was noted.

- 5.1.2 To receive a presentation of Part 8 drawings for “Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycling Scheme” and seek permission to proceed with putting the proposed scheme on public display later in Q4.

Pat Shore, Executive Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting and outlined the plan has been reviewed to reduce the number of trees to be removed from 49 down to approximately 5. Other amendments made include the extension of the footpath on the Curragha Road and extended proposals on the Fairyhouse Road to tie in with the proposed extension of the bypass road. It was confirmed, that on agreement to proceed with the Part 8, it is hoped to put it on public display in November.

It was pointed out that Curragha was added to the Part 8 to try and obtain funding for it. The funding already put aside will only cover the public lighting and underground telecom. Without undergrounding the telecom, they could put down a footpath with ducting but without public lighting from Foxbrook to Foxhall. This would leave 160m of footpath to be done but land take will be required for this section. It will remain in the Part 8 in the NTA scheme until funding is obtained from the NRA.

Matters raised by councillors, and responses provided, included: -

- Asked if there would be resistance to the removal of the trees – It was



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confirmed that Pat met with representatives and they would prefer to keep the green space rather than the trees.

- It was hoped that the relocation of the boundary wall wouldn't be an issue for Woodlands Park Residents.
- Requested that the Part 8 be put on Public Display in the Community Centre in Ratoath.
- Asked if the design of the junction from the R155 where it intersects the R125 at the hairdressers capable of taking the HGV's.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

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

The report was circulated in advance with further updates provided.

Matters raised by councillors included: -

- Sought an update on public lighting in The Downs.
- Referred to the new footpath at the GAA Club on the Drumree road where one of the shores has vegetation growing causing the water to flow into the GAA grounds. It was asked about the possibility of an additional shore.
- Requested an update on the possibility of an extension to the Newtownmogaddy Road to link in with the roundabout. It was pointed that money has been assigned for a feasibility study for this road under Climate action.
- Expressed concern of the dangers at the pedestrian crossing at Batterstown School and asked about the possibility of a raised pedestrian crossing – It was agreed that this would be followed up.



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- Requested the three grit boxes on order for three locations be distributed.
- Asked if a response had issued to Dunsany Pride of Place.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

As a follow on from last month's meeting, Dara McGowan, Area Manager referred to staffing levels in the Municipal Districts. He provided a schedule of outdoor staffing since the formation of the Municipal Districts. For the period 2015 to 2021 the outdoor staffing levels are up 70%.

5.2 Corporate Services

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

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

5.3 Planning

- 5.3.1 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 2000-2021:

- Congress Hall, Dunboyne

Assurance was sought that the green area in Congress Hall would be reinstated to a suitable standard for the residents. It was also requested that maintenance work be carried out on the evergreen trees.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**.

- The Laurels, Dunboyne.



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This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian

"To request an update on the taking in charge of the roadway leading into Corballis and Stonebridge Estates in Ratoath from the R125."

Response:

No valid taking-in-charge request has been received on either development. However, it should be noted that Corballis is a gated development and Stonebridge Estate is noted as being a live site.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian

"That the Executive will arrange to have road name signs installed on roads that were named following adopted motions last year:

1. Jamestown Road
2. Woodlands Road
3. Steeplechase Road."

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



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Ratoath Municipal District Office will arrange for the requested Road Name Signs to be ordered and installed, once produced and delivered, at the following locations:

1. *Jamestown Road*
2. *Woodlands Road*
3. *Steeplechase Road.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**, was agreed.

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

- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 3rd September 2021.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 29th September 2021.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issue: -

10.1.1 Sought an update on the Rooske Road Project. - It was confirmed that approval for the linear walkway to the GAA pitches was approved in 2019 and commenced in 2020. However, the grant agreement has not yet been signed. The grant



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agreement is now being finalised and it is hoped to be signed in the latter half of October. In relation to the works, the tender for the GAA pitches is complete, and the tender for the walkway and bridge is also complete. Once the grant agreement is signed the works are ready to commence. The programme of work is to finish the linear walkway followed by the base for the carpark and complete the bridge. The GAA pitches will commence in Spring and then the final surface will be put on the car park.

10.2 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

- 10.2.1 Referred to a meeting he attended with the Skane Valley where there were advised to go with a Public Realm Project for the Church and use the Capital funds set aside for it. – It was confirmed that it is the Council's intention to look at Kilmessan Church. It was put into the Capital budget with a plan to prepare for a grant application.
- 10.2.2 Requested that future Municipal District meetings be held in Dunshaughlin Civic Offices. – Following Public Health Guidelines to be announced on the 22nd October, a decision will be made for the location of future meetings.
- 10.2.3 Asked in relation to €50,000 set aside in the Capital Plan for the Distributor Road for Dunshaughlin as to how it can be moved on – It was pointed out that presently staff resources are an issue.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach