



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 5th October 2021, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Aisling O'Neill, Amanda Smith and Alan Tobin.

Apologies: Cllr Conor Tormey

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Asaciova

Apologies: Claire King, Meetings Administrator

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 7th September 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7th September 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Claire King on the death of her mother, Bernie King.
- Alison Dowling on the death of her father, Larry Boyle.
- Family of the late Pat Frawley, Coolfore, Ashbourne.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

4.1.1 To discuss the delivery of the Ashbourne Public Realm Plan.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner attended the meeting, as a follow on from her presentation at the September meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District, to discuss the implementation of the Public Realm Plan. She referred to the implementation programme and the need to set out priorities and how to deliver these. The strategy also identifies a large number of projects and collaboration with other Departments is required, as is the need for community groups to engage. Wendy outlined that this is not a statutory process so the plan can be reviewed and adapted as required.

Matters raised by councillors included: -

- The need to set out parameters of the plan, reasons for it, costings, finance and timelines and develop a framework around this.
- The need for a retail strategy for Killekland and Declan Streets and the need to improve connectivity between both streets. These, and the Tesco car park, should be prioritised as part of the Public Realm Plan.
- The need to prioritise pedestrian and cycle lanes.

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- Requested that the area opposite Dunnes Stores be included – it was pointed out that these lands are in private ownership.
- The flow of traffic through the town needs to be looked at and improved.
- Requested to meet with Transportation to discuss traffic movements, pedestrian access and then design a Public Realm Plan within these guidelines, with input from Economic Development also required.
- Sought an update on Zone 3 of the Linear Park.
- Requested that Ashbourne Chamber be involved in discussions regarding High Street becoming a one-way street.

It was agreed that Wendy Bagnall would draw up a Draft Action Plan, develop implementation of the Public Realm Strategy and circulate it among various Departments, including Transportation and Economic Development, and get feedback from them and then revert back to the councillors. In the meantime, the Area Manager will raise the issue with the Management Team and commence the dialogue.

4.2 Transportation

4.2.1 To receive a presentation on the R135 Main Street URDF Scheme.

Pat Short, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the extent of the scheme, funding sources, summary of proposed works, next steps, contractors' requirements and the duration of the works. The overall estimated cost of the scheme is €7.5 million – funding from MCC Resources, URDF Allocation and NTA.

Matters raised by councillors included: -

- Requested that trees be planted as part of the landscaping in memory of volunteers who died at the Battle of Ashbourne.

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- Asked if there would be scope to realign the Ballymadun road.
- Queried whether Racehill was ever considered for a signalised junction.

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

Mel Cronin, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed three year Road Works Programme 2022 – 2024, which was prepared based on 2021 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 included a query as to whether there was scope for cycle lanes to be included on the Ballybin Road – It was pointed out that the criteria is very strict and only allows for minor drainage improvements. No realignment is allowed or additional infrastructure under the scope of this scheme.

The three year Roadworks Programme 2022-2024 was noted.

4.2.3 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

The report was circulated in advance with further updates provided.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that the 80kph speed sign between two 60kph signs on the R125 Greenogue Road be removed as it is causing confusion.
- The need for measures to slow down traffic on the Donaghmore Road towards the church.



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- Requested a bin at the old Donaghmore cemetery.

4.3 Corporate Services

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

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

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can the Planning Department provide details on the consequences or penalties for the engineering firm that signed off the Ashbourne Education Campus, which was constructed with known defects by Western and where considerable remediation works had to be completed at a substantial cost to the state. (Planning Reference No. AA 140734).”

Response:

This is a civil matter between the applicant and the developer/agent(s) acting on behalf of the developer and therefore not a matter for the Planning Department to comment on.

The response was noted.

It was agreed that a letter be written to Cllr Wayne Harding, Chairperson of the LMETB for a response to this Notice of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask Meath County Council to arrange an inspection by a qualified arborist on trees, which were planted by Meath County Council, in two locations in Ashbourne: (1) along



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the channel c1/7 at St. Mary's schools/Hunters Lane and (2) around the pumping station at Deerpark. These are not the responsibility of the OPW or Irish Water and the problems/complaints related to both locations have been reported to the Transportation and Environment Sections of the Council."

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

The lands along the stream at St Mary's School/Hunters Lane is not in the charge of Meath County Council and Meath County Council have no record of the planting of trees in this area. We consider the issue of trees to be a matter for the residents along the riverbank and/or the school. The lands surrounding the Deerpark Wastewater Treatment Facility are in the charge of Meath County Council and an inspection report will be completed when a suitably qualified arborist becomes available.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, was noted.

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

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

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business



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There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach