



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

### ***Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District***

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

***10.00 am, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Via Zoom***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Elaine McGinty**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Tom Behan, Wayne Harding, Stephen McKee, Sharon Tolan.

**Apologies:** Councillors Geraldine Keogan and Paddy Meade.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Fiona Lawless

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Executive Engineer:** Christy Clarke

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

#### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

The minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

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

Councillor Sharon Tolan requested that the Laytown Bettystown Public Realm Plan be included on the January agenda.



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

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

### **4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.**

4.1 To dispose of 0.000708 Ha of land at Seaview Terrace, Bettystown, County Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Planning**

5.1.1 To receive an update on the Joint Louth Meath Initiative.

Barry Lynch, Director of Service, Housing & Community delivered a presentation on the Drogheda Implementation Board, which provided a background to the report, in which Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District is referenced, the organisations represented, the focus areas, the four sub-groups established, examples of cooperation and the current status.

Matters raised by councillors included the need for a full-time Garda station in Laytown-Bettystown to ensure adequate policing in the area and the need to address the lack for facilities for teenagers in the area.

5.1.2 To receive an update on the Drogheda Joint Urban Area Plan.

Des Foley, Director of Service, Planning confirmed that background work had commenced on preparing the statutory plan, with a lot of work to be undertaken prior to the public consultation commencing. The Steering Group had set a target to commence the plan within 6 months of the adoption of the Louth and Meath county development plans, both of which had been adopted in November, i.e. provisionally May 2022. The tender briefs for consultants in the planning,



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economic, transportation and environmental areas are being prepared, as are the statutory reports, and the data collation and in-house work in relation to planning and transportation are ongoing. The intention is to hold a workshop for Drogheda and Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District councillors in Q1 2022, representing the first element of the public consultation process, to highlight and discuss relevant issues. A Strategic Issues Paper will provide an opportunity for the public to highlight issues and make submissions on the draft plan. The statutory formal process will take approximately one year, commencing in May 2022. It was suggested that the request for a joint meeting of councillors, made by Drogheda Borough, proceed as a separate process to the proposed workshop, with an update on the joint plan to be provided.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the suggestion that the joint meeting proceed, possibly in January 2022 and asked that the agenda be agreed in advance by the municipal district level.
- Queried the impact of the workload associated with preparing the plan for the Planning Department and the impact on other planning services – the workload involved is acknowledged and, whilst this is being shared across the two local authorities, it will be reflected in the workload.
- Queried the progress being made on the joint transport study, whether this would feed into the plan and when the public consultation on this would take place – this is a key part of the joint plan and engagement with the NTA has taken place, with traffic modelling undertaken by the NTA for Drogheda.
- Underlined the importance of feeding into the review of the NTA's Greater Dublin Area Transport Study, including the need to review the rail fare structures – a submission will be made in the coming weeks.
- Queried when the East Meath LAP process would commence – a realistic work programme regarding the LAPs and joint plans will be available in the new year.



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- Queried whether funding was required – funding is not required at this stage but will be required to advance the implementation stage.
- Queried whether the orbital route for Drogheda would be included in the plan – the plan will include all traffic requirements for Drogheda and East Meath.
- Referred to the need for a train station at Colpe.
- Queried whether the plan would include a strategy for planning housing developments in the municipal district, to take account of impacts on traffic, footpaths, etc.

### **5.2 Environment**

- 5.2.1 To receive a presentation in respect of the publication of the draft River Basin Management 2022-2027 and the public consultation process for same including the making of submissions or observations.

Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer and Emmet Conboy, Executive Chemist, Environment Section attended the meeting and a presentation was delivered, which included the River Basin Management Plan, the condition of waters nationally and locally, the main themes of the plan, the main pressures and catchment response in Meath, overview of measures proposed, selected plan measures and how to make a submission and get involved locally.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried when the local plan process would commence and would it involve public consultation – the consultation will commence in March 2022, when submissions can be made, and further consultation will take place before the plan is finalised by the end of 2022. The county level plan will set targets and actions and a large element of this will be based on catchment surveys.



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- Referred to the review of the bathing water regulations, which may give local authorities the flexibility to extend the bathing water season, which includes the coast and rivers, and queried whether funding and resources will be provided to facilitate this, the benefit to those who bathe all year round and the increased number of events during the winter that affect bathing water quality – any such extension would impact on resources, in terms of monitoring and resolving issues identified. Run-off is inevitable following heavy rainfall so swimming directly after such events should be avoided. Water quality in winter will not be of the same quality as during the summer.
- Requested that advisory notices be placed on social media advising bathers to avoid swimming following heavy rainfall.
- Queried whether all incidents of excessive phosphorous are as a result of agricultural practices – the primary source of nutrients is agriculture, with urban wastewater the second most significant source. Increased fertiliser usage has resulted from intensification and better agricultural practices are required to address the impacts.
- Referred to the high fail rate of septic tanks and queried the inspection rate and follow up – inspections are targeted at areas of risk, resulting in a high failure rate. The regulations are prescriptive in terms of the process to be followed and grants are available to upgrade systems.
- Referred to the historical significance of the River Boyne and its importance as a water source and queried whether a case could be made that responsibility for the river be designated to one agency – the relevant agencies, such as the EPA and the local authority, have clear roles in relation to rivers. The biggest issue remains the need for improved agricultural practices.

### **5.3 Transportation**

- 5.3.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.



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The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Thanked Christy and his team for the excellent work undertaken throughout the year, including the footpath and cycleway works to Seafield, the additional solar compacting bins, the lowering of the wall at Narrowways, which has improved visibility and the Christmas trees.
- Referred to the need for a footpath and public lighting from Sevitt to Whitefield.
- Requested an update on works on Station Road, Duleek and queried whether additional measures are planned to improve safety, including improved accessibility over the bridge – the contractor has been delayed in starting works until January and these will take 3 to 4 weeks. Additional road markings and the strengthening of the edge of the road approaching the bridge will provide a safer approach to the footpath.
- Requested an update on the works on Lower Main Street, Duleek – works are planned for two locations, at St. Cianan’s Villas and the Maudlins, and these are due to be advertised for tender in January.
- Requested that drains be cleared on Lower Main Street, Duleek.

### **6 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

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



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- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.2 To note the Corporate Policy Group & Group Whip Meeting Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.3 To note the report from Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The report was noted.

### **9 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **10 Any Other Business**

- 10.1 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issue:

- 10.1.1 Requested that a footpath and/or pedestrian crossing be provided at Northlands to facilitate wheelchair users accessing the village – this can be considered in the context of the additional funding allocated for footpaths.

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting by thanking councillors and staff for their work throughout the year and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



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**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**