



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.00 am, 13th January 2022, Via Zoom

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Elaine McGinty, presided.

Councillors Present: Tom Behan, Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by wishing everyone a happy new year and by acknowledging the significant progress that has been made throughout the municipal district.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9th December 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th December 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Sharon Tolan and seconded by Councillor Tom Behan.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Christy Clarke referred to an amendment made under Item 5.3.1 regarding the tendering for works on Lower Main Street, Duleek – this was noted.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Sympathy was extended to:

- The family and friends of the late Ashling Murphy, following the tragic incident that occurred yesterday in Tullamore.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 4.1.1 To discuss the proposed meeting between the Councillors of the Borough District of Drogheda and the Councillors in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

Dara McGowan, Director of Service, Corporate Affairs & Governance confirmed that a date for the meeting had been agreed with the chairs, with the first meeting to be hosted by Louth County Council and the second by Meath County Council. The agenda was outlined and the meeting will be attended by relevant staff.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors welcomed the progress made and the agreed agenda items.

4.2 Planning

- 4.2.1 To receive an update on the Bettystown/Laytown Public Realm Plan.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner delivered a presentation, which provided an update on the Bettystown/Laytown Public Realm Plan, the Beach Park Laytown and Bettystown Square projects and the implementation action plan. It was also pointed out that the delivery of public realm plans is dependent on securing funding, e.g. URDF for which Laytown qualifies. Other funding could support the delivery of smaller elements of the plan. Whilst the main consideration for this year is the delivery of the beach front development, proposals can be submitted later this year under the URDF.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Welcomed the progress made and the projects identified.
- Queried the public consultation planned, including local stakeholder groups – whilst the level of public consultation will depend on the planning process, it is important to increase awareness of the implementation action plan to ensure that the council can work with community groups to progress it.
- Referred to the need to address the issue of derelict buildings, particularly those in prime locations – following the adoption of the county development plan, all centres will be assessed in terms of vacant sites. Whilst a consultation exercise is ongoing in relation to vacant and derelict sites legislation, the Planning Department is working with the Environment Department in terms of a joint approach. Buildings can be derelict, vacant or neither.
- Requested that a safety audit be undertaken to assess natural pedestrian crossing points and whether the existing pedestrian crossings can be aligned with these.
- Referred to the issue of ponding on footpaths.
- Referred to the need for the Coastal Protection Strategy to be implemented to ensure no further erosion occurs.
- Underlined the need to provide outdoor recreational facilities for teenagers.

An update was also provided on the Slane Public Realm Plan, which will be on public display from 19th January to 18th February. An application for the Slane Bypass and public realm enhancement scheme will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval.

4.3 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update provided at the meeting, including traffic calming works in Duleek.



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Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested an update on works at the bridge on the Station Road – works were due to commence in the first week of January but have been delayed due to Covid. This delay also affects planned footpath works in Millrace.
- Requested an update on the Mount Hanover junction, for vehicles turning off onto the Beamore Road – a design is needed to ensure HGVs can make the turn safely. If works are required, these will need to be done prior to the closure of the junction. The process for extinguishing a public right of way was also outlined. The next step is to review the junction on the R152.
- Commended the works undertaken by the outdoor staff over Christmas and acknowledged the number of people using Seafield.
- Queried if bicycle parking is to be installed near the beach entrance.
- Requested that grass removal be included as part of the grass cutting contract – grass removal does not usually form part of the contract but this will be monitored.
- Requested that the grass at the playground in Lobinstown be cut – the contractor has been reminded of requirements and the issue will be monitored. However, the facilities were not impacted as a result.
- Requested that the Covid signs be removed at the beach entrances and be replaced with No Parking/Emergency Vehicle Access signs – signs have been ordered for the beach entrances and a yellow box is also to be installed at the main beach entrance.
- Requested an update on the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Northlands – the Transportation Department are looking at footpath works, including at this location.



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- Referred to the number of pedestrians crossing the Tower Road junction to the beach and the need for an interim safety measure separate from the Boyne Greenway project – this will be raised with Transportation to see if funding is available to bring this element forward.
- Welcomed the removal of trees at Rathban Beg and commended the standard of works carried out at Marian Terrace and Stanley Heights.
- Queried if all bins can be replaced with compacting bins – the number of bins is being rationalised, with compacting bins replacing two regular bins. The number of bins overall will be reduced.
- Queried whether the footpath from Lobinstown village to the school can be raised.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Wayne Harding raised the following issues:

- 8.1.1** Referred to speeding issues at The Brink – a meeting with the Gardaí, scheduled for December, is to be rearranged for Q1 and this will include locations where speed vans can safely pull in. This location will be referred to the Road Safety



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Officer to see if this can be included.

8.1.2 Requested an additional sign indicating Children at Play at the entrance to Castle Hill.

8.1.3 Queried if any temporary solution could be found to address the safety issues at the Obelisk Bridge, entrance to Oldbridge and connection to the boardwalk – the width of the carriageway is too narrow to provide a separate cycleway. Signage and road markings can be upgraded.

8.1.4 Requested an update on the relocation of the national wildlife hospital – it was agreed to seek an update on this

8.2 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

8.2.1 Referred to speeding on the Laytown Road from the schools to the playground and requested that the Gardaí be requested to deploy a speed van at this location – this will be referred to the Road Safety Officer.

8.2.2 Requested that consideration be given to providing a raised table and pedestrian crossing at Inse Bay and also a raised table at the pedestrian crossing on the Eastham Road – this will be referred to the Transportation Department for inclusion on the request for capital works list.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach