



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 16th February 2022, County Hall, Navan

An Meára, Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons, presided.

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

Apologies: Councillor Alan Lawes.

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 19th January 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary-Meeting held on 19th January 2022 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:



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- The family of the late June Murray, Woodview, Trim Road, Navan.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Owen Ashton, originally from Navan, who won the 2021 FBD Young Farmer of the Year.

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

- 4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.01 acres at Townparks Estate Navan, Co Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

- 4.2 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.036 acres at Townparks Estate Navan, Co Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

- 4.3 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.009 acres at Claremont Estate Navan, Co Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report was circulated in advance and a further update provided.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Queried when tree maintenance works will commence as the hedge cutting season will finish shortly – due to a delay in receiving the arborist report, these will be undertaken this week.
- Requested that the laneways to the rear of Connolly Avenue be cleaned up.

5.2 To consider and adopt the 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Barry Lynch, Director of Service, and Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer, Housing Department outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year. Reference was made to a national programme of planned maintenance to be procured by mid-year, with a budget allocated from own resources to carry out a stock asset survey.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the planned energy upgrade works – it is expected that funding will be received to undertake energy upgrades in approximately 50 pre-let and older units.
- Queried the criteria for selection for energy upgrades, e.g. entire estates – it is planned to complete 50 units this year, targeting houses with energy issues initially. All stock will be done over time.
- Queried when the local authority adaptation grant amount will be known and when these can commence – the budget should be announced in the coming weeks.
- Queried the number of occupied and vacant local authority houses in Navan – this information is updated in the monthly Chief Executive's Report.
- Requested that the Choice Based Letting system be revised to include information on units no longer available – the issue has been identified and efforts are underway to rectify this.



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- Queried the time taken to make vacant units available – the target timeframe is 12 weeks but energy upgrade works can take longer.
- Queried whether a significant budget increase is needed to provide higher specifications, including energy efficiency measures, in every house – this is an ongoing process, with older units needing more significant deep retrofit measures. The aim is to achieve a minimum B2 BER.

Martin Murray, Director of Service introduced Caroline Corrigan, who is due to join the Transportation Department as Senior Engineer, and referred to some changes due to be implemented in the Transportation Department. John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the process and timelines for the Schedule of Municipal District Works, the funding amounts, where known, and sources, a road survey update and summary of PSCI ratings, the proposed programme of works, including the funding breakdown. Reference was also made to the additional funding available for footpaths, the planned public lighting programme and specific projects being implemented in Navan Municipal District.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the management and staff of the Transportation Section on delivering a significant roads programme and acknowledged the progress made.
- Queried whether more extensive works were planned for Commons Road.
- Queried when the cycleway works on Flower Hill were due to commence – a tender will be issued in March for consultants to implement the design and planning stages, with a the Part 8 to be ready this year and it is hoped to commence works next year.
- Queried when the works on the N51 at Dunmoe are due to be completed – this is an 18 month contract, due to be completed by the end of this year or early next year.
- Queried if additional funding would be made available for CIS and LIS and if projects in Navan Municipal District will be able to proceed – similar funding to



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2021 has been confirmed. The list is being worked through, with two projects in Navan Municipal District. Tender prices remain an issue and will determine how many schemes can be progressed.

- Requested an update on the provision of cycle lanes on Circular Road – this is part of the Proudstown Road to Trim Road phase, with design and advance works progressing. The council is liaising with the NTA. Phase 1, Dan Shaw Road to Solstice, is due to be completed first before moving on to subsequent phases. The phased approach to implementing the pedestrian and cycling network is required for traffic management reasons.
- Referred to the need for traffic calming on the Boyne Road at the cemetery to reduce speed.
- Queried the purpose of the proposed HGV transport study – as active travel and road infrastructure changes are being progressed, the HGV status is being kept under review.
- Queried the plans for funding allocated for the pedestrianisation of Trimgate Street – this is intended to analyse the impacts of pedestrianisation.

The 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Navan was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Tommy Reilly and seconded by Councillor Edward Fennessy.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Has Meath County Council approached the OPW in relation to the floodlighting of Athlumney Castle, Convent Road?”

Response:

No formal discussion has taken place between MCC / OPW regarding same.



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The response was noted. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the OPW requesting that they provide the lighting.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

"Can we get an up to date assessment of when works are to start on:

- i) the new road from Ratholdren Road to the Kells Road
- ii) the 2030 scheme for Market Square and Kennedy Road
- iii) the regeneration works at Flower Hill."

Response:

The update for the schemes listed is as follows:

i) the new road from Ratholdren Road to the Kells Road

The Local Distributor Road (LDR) 4 scheme from the R147 Kells Road to the Ratholdren Road in Navan is currently at Phase 5, which involves some advanced works contracts, such as ground investigation, detail design and preparation of Tender Documentation for the procurement of a Contractor to construct the scheme. This Phase is expected to take 12 months with construction currently expected to commence in 2023 (subject to funding). Construction of the scheme is currently expected to take 18 months to complete.

ii) the 2030 scheme for Market Square and Kennedy Road

The next phase in the project is currently at tender stage, with Contract 3 for the Navan Town Scheme advertised at present. The Transportation Department anticipates, subject to a straightforward tender process, to have received tenderers, undertaken a tender assessment, appointed a successful Tenderer, and for the Contractor to commence work in April of this year.

iii) the regeneration works at Flower Hill

The Transportation Department intends to commence a tender competition in March for the appointment of Consultants, to undertake design works and



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prepare a planning application for the provision of cycling and walking facilities on Flowerhill. The scheme is to also include public realm upgrade works on Flower Hill.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I propose that Meath County Council would review the present layout of Convent Road and consider planting mature trees to replace the cumbersome, huge, awkward, and unwieldy planter boxes that are currently placed there, in addition to installing bollards which may allow access to funeral undertakers and stonemasons."

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

The Convent Road trial is ongoing, and accordingly the current arrangements with the planter boxes is a temporary measure. Should a decision be made to proceed with a separate planning process to formalise the traffic restrictions, the Council will consider the replacement of some, or all of the planter boxes with trees and/or bollards.

It has been noted that existing utilities and services are present in the road pavement on Convent Road, and that therefore it may not be possible to install 'tree pits' to accommodate the roots of any new trees proposed.

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

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Meath County Council to make safer the access path from Boyne View to the Business Park via Metges Road by installing an amber light at the access point of that junction. This could perhaps be included in the Boyne View taking-in-charge process."



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

Transportation Department will assess the feasibility of a controlled pedestrian crossing at this location. At present an uncontrolled crossing is in place, allowing pedestrians to cross when safe to do so.

This will be addressed outside the "Taking in Charge" process for Boyne View.

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

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

"I propose the motion to write to Bus Eireann to move the bus stop for the 109A from Abbey Road to the Kells Road. This has already happened with the 109 and is working very well with increased arrival times, better service, less congestion and will help to alleviate confusion among passengers and anti-social behavior in the locality."

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

The 109A service being queried has been relocated to the Kells Road.

The location for the 109 service, currently interchanging with the NX services (Navan to Dublin Express) and the Navan Town bus services is, in the view of the Transportation Department, best situated to serve the population of Navan Town at the current temporary Abbey Road bus stop.

Upon completion of the Navan Town Scheme Bus Interchange on Kennedy Road next year, this temporary interchange location will be relocated to the new stops on Kennedy Road.

Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons introduced the motion by referring to the concerns expressed by local residents and bus drivers in relation to the continued use of Abbey Road for the 109 service and the benefits of its relocation for the Navan town bus service. Councillor Edward Fennessy expressed his support.



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It was agreed to write to the NTA to request that they consider the relocation of the 109 service to the Kells Road.

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

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

"I propose the motion to seek government funding for a walkway from Poolbeg Bridge to Kilcarn Bridge, thereby opening up views of the rivers Blackwater and Boyne and enabling the community to walk, run or cycle in safety whilst enhancing the river areas."

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

The Council received an allocation this year from the NTA, to look at introducing segregated cycle tracks along the R147 between St Martha's Bridge and Circular Road. Work has begun on considering possible options for this, including a wide two way cycle track along the riverside of the R147.

In addition to the above, work is also progressing on the detailed design of another two way cycle track along the river side of the R147, between the junction of Circular Road and the New Bridge, as per the approved Part 8 P818014 Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme. (For information, the Part 8 drawings illustrating the planned cycleway are available at <https://consult.meath.ie/qa/consultation/planning-notice-part-8-p818014-athlumney-trim-road-cycle-and-pedestrian-scheme>.)

In time, the intention is to have segregated cycle facilities along the R147 between Kilcarn and the Blackwater Retail Park. While this will largely be a road based facility it may achieve some of the objectives set out in this Notice of Motion.

Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons introduced the motion by referring to the benefits of providing a safe walkway inside the cycle path/railing to Kilcarn Bridge, thereby opening up the view of the river and providing community and tourism benefits. He suggested that discussions be held with the OPW in relation to the cutting back of trees. Councillors



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expressed their support for the motion. It was confirmed that this was being worked on, with a design first needed.

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

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

"I call on Meath County Council to carry out a safety audit of traffic congestion and road and street usage on Abbey Road itself leading towards the junction with Watergate St, Navan and to assess the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing on Abbey Road to facilitate safer passage for pedestrians to and from Navan Shopping Centre."

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

The Transportation Department will request that the Consultants currently working on the Navan Town Scheme visit Abbey Road and undertake a provisional assessment of the operation of the temporary bus stop facilities on Abbey Road, and access arrangements to same for pedestrians. It is currently anticipated that the temporary bus stop on Abbey Road will be relocated to the new Kennedy Road Bus Interchange, to be constructed as part of the Navan Town Scheme, towards the end of next year (Q4 2023).

Should any further issues be identified as part of the assessment, further action(s) will be arranged, such as the commissioning of a Road User Quality Audit.

Councillor Emer Tóibín introduced the motion by referring to difficulties being experienced by some in accessing the town bus service and issues of speeding during quieter times. Councillor Tommy Reilly expressed his support for the motion. It was agreed to review the location and pointed out that all modern infrastructure is designed with account taken of disability issues.

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



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

The minutes were noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC of 20th December 2021.

The report was noted.

- 8.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 2nd February 2022.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 To agree arrangements for the March meeting of Navan Municipal District.

10.1.1 It was agreed that in-person meetings would be held in County Hall Chamber.

- 10.2 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Referred to the use of the laneway at Kilcarn as the terminus for the town bus service, which is causing issues for those turning in to Johnstown – it was agreed to raise this with the NTA.

10.2.2 Requested a report on the taking in charge of The Priory, Johnstown.

- 10.3 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Referred to overgrown hedges at Castle View, Athlumney.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:


An Meára