



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.00 am, 10th February 2022, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Elaine McGinty, presided.

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

Apologies: Councillor Tom Behan.

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 13th January 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th January 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Sharon Tolan and seconded by Councillor Geraldine Keogan.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Sharon Tolan requested that the wording under Item 3 be amended – this was agreed.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Ryan Whelan-Griffin, Duleek, following his tragic death.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Drogheda Wolves Basketball Club on reaching the finals of the national league, including the players from Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District;
- Eugene Farrelly, Community Department and formerly Slane Area, and Jimmy Young, Transportation Department on their recent retirement;
- Leona Maguire on her LPGA win.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

- 4.1.1 To receive a briefing on proposed Public Realm Plan for Duleek to be prepared by students from Queens University Belfast.

Alan Russell, Executive Planner delivered a presentation, which provided a background to public realm plans, the partnership approach being taken, accessibility and connectivity, the built and natural heritage, visual appearance and funding opportunities. It was confirmed that the students were developing proposals in conjunction with their supervisors, who are qualified planners, the consultants who are dealing with public realm plans and the council's Planning Department. The draft plan should be finalised in May, with the next stage, including public consultation, to be determined. Councillors will be kept updated on progress.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the plan and looked forward to engaging with the process.
- Requested that the Laytown-Bettystown Public Realm Plan be updated to reflect the removal of cars from the beach.



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- Expressed frustration at securing funding for the implementation of actions identified in public realm plans and the need for projects to be shovel ready.
- Requested that the work of local groups in Duleek be acknowledged.
- Underlined the need for the completion of traffic calming works at the bottom of Station Road, the provision of safe routes to schools and the community centre and also consideration of the introduction of a bypass in the longer term.
- Referred to the potential of Duleek, particularly in terms of its built and natural heritage.
- Referred to the concerns of retailers and businesses in terms of losing parking spaces and loading bays.
- Queried whether the plan will impact on ongoing projects – the plan will have regard to these.

4.2 Transportation

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

A report was provided at the meeting and matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested an update on cycle parking at Seafield – a separate funding stream is available for such facilities.
- Queried whether all roads in a poor condition are suitable for surface dressing – all roads are subject to the PSCI rating and the treatment will be based on the road standard.



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- Requested an update on plans for Mount Hanover cross – a process to extinguish the public right of way, to provide a cul-de-sac for local farm access, was preceded by a survey of Platin junction, to facilitate HGV access to the Beamore Road, and this identified the need for works at the junction.
- Referred to the need for resurfacing works on the Beamore Road – a lot of works are ongoing on the Beamore Road and these are being monitored.

4.3 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 an asset survey. It was also pointed out that phase I of the capital project in Alverno is to be completed by the end of February, with the refurbishment of the next five units to follow. The delivery of the 21 units in Donore is on schedule for completion by the end of July.

Matters raised by councillors included welcoming the works being carried out and queried when the 5 units in Alverno would be ready for occupation – this is a 12 week programme of works.

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. Funding has been secured from the NTA to ensure projects can be advanced to planning stage, thereby facilitating applications to be made for larger capital funding.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Acknowledged the significant improvements in roads, footpaths and estates - it was pointed out that the information presented supported the approach being taken in terms of investment, which is based on relevant data and engineering information.
- Acknowledged the progress being made in improving Slane village, through the efforts being made in relation to the Slane Bypass, the Slane Public Realm Plan and the Boyne Greenway.
- Welcomed the funding allocation for roads and footpaths in housing estates - whilst €50,000 is included in the revenue budget for estates, a further €250,000 per year capital allocation per municipal district has been made for 2022/2023, with a further €600,000 available across the county. This expenditure will be made in the most appropriate locations identified following a safety audit.
- Queried whether Low Cost Safety Schemes are proceeding in other municipal districts – funding applications have been made, including Rathbran junction, and councillors will be advised of funding received.
- Referred to the need to raise the footpath from Lobinstown village to the school.
- Requested that the Tara Road and all school locations be included in the winter gritting programme – this can be raised with the Transportation SPC.
- Requested an update on the Part 8 for the footpath in Donacarney – a report will be brought to the municipal district at a later date.
- Referred to the need for a footpath and cycleway from Narrowways to Bettystown Cross to facilitate access from the estates to the bus stop.
- Referred to the need for pedestrian and cycleway facilities on the Eastham Road, as traffic levels have increased since the opening of the Tara Road.
- Queried the omission of works at Laytown Bridge, for which a feasibility study had been carried out a number of years ago – the budget for bridge works is centralised.



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- Requested that road markings be provided on the Pilltown Road, following surfacing works.
- Requested an update on the safe routes to schools programme – schools must apply to An Taisce and the Road Safety Officer and Active Travel Officer will assist.
- Welcomed the funding for surface dressing at Mosney and referred to the need for a footpath also.
- Referred to the need for a footpath from Southgate to Donacarney, the need to make the footpath on the Mill Road permanent and the need for footpath works in St. Cianan's Villas and The Commons.
- Referred to the need for increased funding to improve safety measures such as pedestrian crossings at Colpe Road and Southgate.
- Referred to the need for a mandatory default 30kmph speed limit in all estates – this can be raised at the Transportation SPC.
- Referred to the need for NTA funding to advance the projects identified in the Arup Pedestrian and Cycling Report.
- Referred to the need to ensure safe pedestrian and cycling linkages to schools in south Drogheda.

The 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Laytown-Bettystown was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Stephen McKee and seconded by Councillor Wayne Harding.

4.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance

4.4.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

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



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5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"To call on Meath County Council to carry out a mid-plan review of the current Beach Management Plan."

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

The Beach Management Plan, which was finalised in 2019, has been subject to regular review and, particularly, the 31 recommendations contained therein. These recommendations are broken down across 8 headings as follows:

(1) Improve Beach Access, (2) Beach Parking Management, (3) Tackle Dog Fouling, (4) Litter Management, (5) Implement Animal Control, (6) Improve Signage, (7) Increase Beach Tourism and Activities in Spring & Summer Only (April to August inclusive outside the wintering Bird season, (8) Achieve Blue Flag Status.

The recent decision to impose a permanent ban on cars from the beach at Bettystown has resulted in many of the objectives contained in headings (1) & (2) being achieved, while it is hoped that development works on the new Community Building and Library at Seaview Tce will commence in Quarter 1 of this year.

Tackling Dog Fouling presents an ongoing challenge and, particularly, in gathering evidence to initiate enforcement proceedings. However, the Council are continuing to combine Educational & Awareness campaigns with enforcement in an effort to tackle the problem.

Litter Management initiatives are being carried out on an ongoing basis and working with and supporting local communities.



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Implement Animal Controls – these are being carried out in accordance with the amendments made to the 2010 Meath County Council Foreshore Bye-Laws

Improve Signage – the provision of beach related signage is being examined in conjunction with tourism signage in the Public Realm Plan for the area and following discussions with Fáilte Ireland.

Increase Beach Tourism – this is being pursued on an ongoing basis and with high profile events such as the Yachting Championship and Beach Volleyball being held on the beach at Bettystown in recent times.

Achieve blue Flag status – this will be pursued following completion of the new Community & Library building as the provision of the associated infrastructure is a necessary requirement involved in achieving blue-flag status.

The Council will continue to review the plan and discuss any proposed amendments with the various stakeholders, including the Elected Members and the Beach Management Plan Committee.

Councillor Sharon Tolan welcomed the comprehensive information provided but requested that a full consultative mid-plan review be undertaken, involving councillors and the public. Reference was made to how Covid had dramatically changed how the beach was being used and the permanent removal of vehicles. Some issues remain unresolved, including the protection of the dunes and ad hoc parking at Mornington. Such a review was welcomed by Councillors Paddy Meade and Elaine McGinty.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Sharon Tolan and seconded by Councillor Stephen McKee, was agreed.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"In light of the recent NTA funding announcement, to call on Meath County Council to immediately begin the planning and design of a new pedestrian and cycle path scheme for the Eastham Road in Bettystown, and to include traffic calming measures in the design."



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

The Active Travel team is currently working on the Tender Documents for the engagement of consultants for the planning and design of this Bettystown Eastham Road Scheme.

Councillor Sharon Tolan introduced the motion by referring to the impact of the opening of Tara Road on other arteries, including Eastham Road, the number of estates along the road and the need for safe pedestrian and cycling facilities.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Sharon Tolan and seconded by Councillor Elaine McGinty, was agreed.

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

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

The minutes were noted.

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

The report was noted.

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

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business



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- 9.1 To agree arrangements for the March meeting of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.
- 9.1.1 It was agreed that meetings would be held in-person in Duleek Civic Offices.
- 9.2 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:
- 9.2.1 Referred to a dip at the entrance to Southgate Shopping Centre, which is causing vehicular damage, and queried as to who was responsible – it was agreed to check this.
- 9.2.2 Requested that a letter issue to Southgate Shopping Centre management to request additional disability parking spaces at ground level – this is a planning matter and would be referred to Planning Enforcement.
- 9.2.3 Requested that consideration be given to moving the 100kmph speed limit past Sage & Stone on the R150 – this can be referred for consideration as part of the upcoming countywide speed limit review.
- 9.2.4 Requested that the National Parks & Wildlife Service be invited to meet with councillors to discuss respective roles and responsibilities in relation to the dunes at Mornington – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section in the first instance, as communications have been ongoing, and that an agenda should be agreed in advance.
- 9.3 Councillor Wayne Harding raised the following issues:
- 9.3.1 Requested that the Road Safety Officer assess the increased traffic volumes and speed from Lobinstown to the castle gates at Slane, with a view to requesting that the Gardaí deploy speed detection vans to the area.
- 9.3.2 Referred to an incident at a walled off ESB sub-station in the Highlands Estate, Drogheda Environs and queried if the estate is taken in charge

This concluded the business of the meeting.



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Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathaoirleach', written over a horizontal line.

Cathaoirleach

