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Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 9th March 2022, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Nick Killian, presided.

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

The Cathaoirleach referred to the situation in Ukraine and commended those who had already contributed materials for transportation.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9th February 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th February 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Gillian Toole and seconded by Councillor Maria Murphy.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Maria Murphy referred to a number of locations in Dunboyne where the road surface needs attention.

Councillor Gillian Toole raised a number of issues, including:



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- Requested an update on the completion of outstanding works at Moulden Bridge, with no contact having been made with residents;
- Requested that the feeder light on the R125 exiting Ratoath be switched off as it is causing confusion and this will increase when works start at Harlockstown;
- Queried why a S155 has not been issued for the L5020 at Glascarn Lane.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

4 To meet with representatives from the HSE to discuss the HSE site in Ratoath.

Tom Oxley, A/General Manager, Meath Community Services, HSE attended the meeting and confirmed that, whilst the site had been purchased with the intention of providing a health facility, the provision of HSE infrastructure had changed over the years, with no capital funding available and facilities being provided by way of lease arrangements. Facilities such as those in Kells and Navan are being built by a third party and the HSE takes out a 25 year lease, which is the approach preferred by the Department of Health. However, in the event that funding does become available, the HSE does not intend to sell or donate the site. A commitment was given to undertake more frequent grass maintenance and repair the fence.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the type of facility required in Ratoath – the model in Meath is based around a network, served by a number of main centres. The current priority is the provision of facilities in Navan and Laytown and reference was made to the facilities available close to Ratoath, in Dunshaughlin and Ashbourne.
- Referred to the population increases in south Meath and the need for additional facilities and requested that the HSE develop a plan to identify the services needed in the area, not currently being provided.



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- Suggested a number of possible uses for the site, including step-down housing for older people and/or respite services for young adults.
- Queried whether the HSE would consider offering it to the council on a lease basis, for the provision of a park, until such time as it is required for an alternative use, thereby serving the community in a positive way, and with a commitment given not to erect any permanent structures.

Tom Oxley agreed to highlight the issues raised with senior management and suggested that a separate meeting be arranged to consider any short-term solutions. He also undertook to forward any indications regarding immediate and future plans for the site prior to the next Regional Health Forum meeting on 28th March.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether playgrounds are inspected and whether the damaged equipment in Ratoath playground is to be replaced – the municipal district undertake weekly inspections whilst the annual inspections related to the maintenance programme are outsourced. It was agreed to follow up in relation to the damaged swings, as there is a lead in time to order replacements.
- Queried whether the traffic light system used in the evenings and weekends in Dunshaughlin, as a result of the works being undertaken on behalf of Irish Water, can be synchronised with the pedestrian lights.



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- Requested that raised crossings be provided at all rural schools located on busy roads, with reference to the volume of heavy plant using these roads, and requested that these be prioritised.
- Referred to the art piece, which promotes recycling, being located in Dunshaughlin.
- Requested that a white centre line be provided on the bend at Millfarm.
- Requested that additional warning/slow down signs be provided at the roundabout at Loughsallagh.
- Underlined the need to maintain a focus on the need for a wider traffic management scheme in Batterstown.
- Queried when remedial measures will be provided on the L2206 Kilmessan to Dunsany road.
- Referred to the condition of the road outside a building site on the Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath at weekends.

- 5.1.2 To inform the Members of the commencement of a Review of Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County of Meath Bye Laws and seek representations in relation to any roads or locations which the members feel should be included for review.

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the key points included in the letter, circulated in advance. Submissions are to be made by 29th April. All roads submitted will be subject to engineering, speed and traffic volume surveys, following the national guidelines. It is expected to be the end of the year before the initial draft revised bye-law will be available for discussion in advance of commencing the statutory process. It was agreed to circulate a map with road numbers to councillors.

Matters raised by councillors included a request that the R156 Sarney Lane and the stretch at Shire/MSD be included in the review and also that the speed limit



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change on the Fairyhouse roundabout side of Batterstown be reversed and the speed limits be equidistant on both sides of the village.

5.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 5.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District.

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

- 5.2.2 To discuss the 2022 Arts, Festivals, Festive Lighting & MD Renewal budget (Christmas Lighting Fund - €7,500)

Dara McGowan outlined the allocations made for Christmas lighting in 2021. It was agreed to circulate this information to councillors and discuss this at the April meeting.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"Please advise of any planned road/footpath improvements or traffic measures on the Clonee/Ongar Road at the junction where the R149 turns towards Lucan."

Response:

Planning permission was granted for a development on lands along the R149 at Williamstown Stud, Clonee, Co. Meath – PI Ref:RA191224. The permission includes new pedestrian and cycle linkages along the R149 to link the development to Clonee. Full details can be viewed online on the ePlanning website.

The development has commenced and Meath County Council is liaising with the developer to agree the works required.

The response was noted.



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7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 4th February 2022.

The minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Referred to changes being made to primary school start times in Ratoath, which will result in a significant number of children starting school at the same time. It was requested that the Road Safety Officer assess the situation and contact the Junior Primary School Board of Management with his recommendations.

10.2 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Commended all involved in progressing the works in the park in Dunboyne.

10.3 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Requested a response in relation to a query raised in January regarding monitoring of compliance with planning conditions.

10.3.2 Referred to the impact on businesses in urban areas of large infrastructural works and the need to consider measures to minimise these impacts, e.g. night time



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works.

10.4 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:

10.4.1 Requested that the Road Safety Officer's report on schools in Dunboyne be circulated.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Killian', written over a horizontal line.

Cathaoirleach

