



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.00 am, 12th May 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

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 7th April 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7th April 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 queried if a response had been received from the OPW in relation to why Brú na Bóinne had not been included for free access to OPW sites on the first Wednesday of the month, as advertised. It was agreed to issue a follow up letter.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath County Council on achieving a budget surplus after 22 years.
- Lobinstown Inn on winning the Meath Rings Championship.

Councillors acknowledged the recent loss of two good local businesses in Bettystown – Pat’s Centra and Macaris – following a fire.

4 To receive a presentation on the proposed Braymore Wind Park.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that this item would be dealt with in committee.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

- 5.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Strategic Housing Development application, reference no. APB-313272-21 (DSPL Ltd) in accordance with 4(c)(ii) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Philip Maguire, Executive Planner provided details of the application, the consultations that had taken place, the development description, including the proposed site layout, residential typology and facilities, and the next steps, including the submission of the Chief Executive’s report by 7th June 2022, which will include a copy of today’s meeting minutes. The closing date for receipt of submissions by An Bord Pleanála is 16th May.

Matters raised by councillors included:

Welcomed the ending of the SHD process.

- Welcomed the reduced number of units and storeys in the proposed development and also the number of proposed social housing units.



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- Acknowledged the suitability of the site for development.
- Referred to the need to provide traffic calming measures on the Steeples Road including pedestrian crossings, footpaths, etc. to slow traffic.
- Queried whether Duleek had the capacity for such an increase in population, e.g. increased traffic, national school capacity, no secondary school, water supply, facilities, etc.
- Queried whether the number of proposed car parking spaces was within the County Development Plan guidelines – this was confirmed.
- Queried whether the units, outside of the social housing units, would be affordable – the proposed development will meet the 20% social housing obligation, with a further mixture of affordable and cost rental. This has not yet been detailed but would form part of the planning conditions.

5.2 Transportation

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the proposed Phase 1 of the Traffic Calming Scheme on the R132 at Julianstown.

Fergal McCabe, Executive Engineer outlined the project brief, including recent progress, works update, communications and funding. He also outlined the details of the scheme and the next steps, with construction due to commence in 2022/2023.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the progress and investment being made.
- Underlined the need to continue plans for a bypass in the medium to long term but acknowledged the need for the proposed measures in the interim.



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- Queried why the NTA was not funding this phase of the scheme, as it is a major route from Drogheda to the M1.
- Queried whether the surveys had determined if traffic volumes had returned to pre-pandemic levels – surveys indicated that traffic volumes on the R150 and R135 were 20,000 to 21,000 per day, having returned to pre-pandemic levels. TII counters are available online.
- Queried if the planned narrowing of the carriage width would pose safety issues, particularly in light of the volume of HGVs on this route – the proposed width meets the standard for small urban centres and will serve to slow and funnel traffic, in conjunction with the raised crossings.
- Queried whether the Duleek junction would remain a two vehicle exit point as any plans to reduce this would result in tailbacks – one lane only meets the design standards and drone footage indicates that the traffic volumes and behaviour would not result in significant backlogs. The ramps further north of the junction would slow traffic in both directions allowing traffic to enter/exit.
- Queried the design and location of the pedestrian crossing on the Ballygarth Road – this will be a zebra crossing with flashing amber lights and to relocate it would extend the crossing.
- Queried what safety measures were planned at the school crossing – the railings are to be removed and the footpath set back further from the road with a grass verge on either side. Railings are discouraged as they can be impacted by vehicles and are not crash barriers. Three ramps are in the vicinity, which is a 50kmph zone. This can be reviewed, if required, e.g. the use of staggered railings.
- Queried if measures could be introduced to aid traffic exiting the Laytown and Ballygarth Roads heading towards Drogheda/Southgate – a yellow box can be considered.
- Referred to the need for bus lanes through the village to encourage the use of public transport.



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

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

- Welcomed the additional wheelie bins, the signage at Delaney's on the Church Road, indicating emergency access, and the footpath works in Árd Rí.
- Queried whether the compacting bins were adequate for the remainder of the year or would wheelie bins also be required – the compacting bins are adequate to meet demand.
- Welcomed the dog bag dispenser bins on the Tara Road and requested that these also be provided on the Golf Links Road, Mornington, Donacarne and the road out of Drogheda – additional bins must be maintained from available resources.
- Queried whether the temporary portable toilets would be located in the usual place or cordoned off and whether the eco-friendly portable toilets, as discussed by the Environment SPC, would be suitable – these will be located on Seafeld Terrace and can be re-located if required when the contractor is on site. The eco-friendly toilets are for long-term temporary use.
- Welcomed the provision of the bicycle repair racks and queried when the bicycle parking station would be provided at Seafeld – these are ready and will be installed when received.
- Referred to the poor condition of two roads north of Slane, with potholes – additional resources for surface dressing will be available for a month as well as pothole repairs.
- Requested that the road markings in Lobinstown be renewed – this location is on the list and a contractor will undertake these works.



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Sections of the road from Lobinstown to Slane are on the surface dressing programme and the road is not wide enough for a central line in parts.

- Referred to the poor condition of the road in Árd Rí.
- Requested an update on St. Cianan's Villas – works will commence after 20th June and will be coordinated with works being undertaken on behalf of Irish Water on Abbey Road.
- Requested that road markings on the approach roads to Donore be renewed – this will be carried out before September.
- Referred to the need for school warning signs and speed limit signs on the Mill Road at Colpe – the developer is carrying out works and is providing access to the school.
- Referred to the need for playground warning signs on the Station Road, Duleek.
- Requested that direction of the speed signs exiting Pilltown Lane be adjusted.
- Requested an update on the road safety scheme at Colpe.

5.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty



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"Can you please provide an update on when we can expect the building of the new Library in Bettystown to commence?"

Response:

The process is currently at tender award stage. Communication is ongoing with the most economically advantageous tenderer with regard to programme details, insurances, and all other associated requirements including co-ordination of the works, including commencement, and taking possession of the site.

The response was noted.

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 report from the Transportation SPC of 31st March 2022.

The report was noted.

8.2 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1st April 2022.

The minutes were noted.

8.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 11th April 2022.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.



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10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

- 10.1.1 Referred to complaints received regarding the condition of equipment in Laytown playground and queried if there is a funding source for the upgrade of playgrounds – playgrounds are surveyed annually with contractors appointed to carry out works on identified defects. Another list is compiled of replacement parts required. Laytown playground is the oldest playground in the municipal district and is subject to the effects of the sea air.
- 10.1.2 Queried when the roadworks programme will start.
- 10.1.3 Referred to the need for a footpath from Pilltown Road to Bettystown Cross due to the number of pedestrians and cyclists.
- 10.1.4 Queried if Eastham Court is taken in charge as some of the public lights are not operational.
- 10.1.5 Requested that the road under the barrier in Mornington, to prevent access to the beach, be reviewed and repaired – the road was lowered to allow the provision of new bins.
- 10.1.6 Referred to overgrowth obstructing the signs at the Julianstown Interchange.
- 10.1.7 Referred to the need for a centre line on the Pilltown Road – the carriageway width is inadequate for the provision of a centre line.
- 10.1.8 Referred to a collapsed gully in Bettystown Wood – this will be added to the list of works.
- 10.1.9 Requested updates on the feasibility study for the Julianstown Bypass and the coastal protection strategy, funding for both having been allocated – the council is working with the OPW in relation to the coastal protection strategy and will be able to go to tender in conjunction with the OPW.



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10.1.10 Referred to the need to exert pressure on the owners of derelict sites in Bettystown, particularly those backing onto the beach and on the main road.

10.1.11 Referred to the need to provide a footpath for local residents and residents of the Direct Provision Centre in Mosney to access bus services.

10.2 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Referred to potholes on Church Road, Donacarney and near the Old Forge and to overhanging branches causes issues for buses and high vehicles on Narrowways and the Pilltown Road – location details were requested.

10.3 Fiona Lawless raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Confirmed that Meath County Council had purchased 2.18 hectares of land close to the Tara Road at the Ninch, Laytown, which is zoned for community, and will provide a location for a community facility. This project will take time to deliver and engagement with the members and the community will take place in advance.

10.3.2 Construction of the Bettystown library facility will commence this year.

10.3.3 Outlined the agenda for the joint Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District and Drogheda Borough Council meeting, taking place on 26th May. It was requested that an item on economic development opportunities and vacant business sites be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

10.3.4 Requested councillors express a preference with regard to the format of the June annual and monthly meetings – it was agreed that these would be hybrid.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daire Fogarty', written over a horizontal line.

Cathaoirleach