



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Kells Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***4.00pm, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Kells Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mike Bray, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Eugene Cassidy, Seán Drew, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Paul McCabe, Sarah Reilly.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Aaron Smith

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Paul McCabe and seconded by Councillor David Gilroy.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the meeting.

#### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late former councillor, Patsy O'Neill;
- Councillor Niamh Souhan on the death of her father, Garry;
- Kevin Casserly, Kells MD and family on the death of their father, Johnny, a former council employee.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Athboy Development Forum on representing Meath at the Cooperation Ireland Pride of Place Awards;
- Kells Handball Club on winning two All Ireland titles, including Gary O'Connell and Brian Carroll, who won the All Ireland Senior Doubles title and Tom and Michael Sheridan, who won the All Ireland Golden Masters title.

#### **4 Statutory Business**

##### **4.1 Planning**

- 4.1.1 Having received the Chief Executive's Report on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in relation to Part 8 reference P822001 and having considered same, to seek to amend the Chief Executive's recommendation.

To pass the following resolution to vary the recommendation of the Chief Executives Report dated 4th April 2022 on the Part 8 Planning reference P8/22001:

*"To omit the recommendation of Meath County Council Transportation Department that "The existing perpendicular parking on John Street between the junction with Kenlis Place and the pedestrian crossing should be removed."*

A roll call vote was taken, with the following result:



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Councillor	In Favour	Against	Abstain	Absent
BRAY, Mike	✓			
CASSIDY, Eugene	✓			
DREW, Seán	✓			
GALLAGHER, Michael	✓			
GILROY, David	✓			
McCABE, Paul	✓			
REILLY, Sarah	✓			
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>7</b>			

The resolution to vary the recommendation of the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 Planning reference P8/22001 was unanimously passed.

- 4.1.2 To receive the Chief Executive’s Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2021 and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2021 on the proposed development which will consist of - The provision of a designated Bus Stop Facility adjacent to St. James' Catholic Church, Townspark, Athboy, Co. Meath along with relocation of the existing Recycling/Bring Bank Facility to the exterior of the Council Depot, Coille Dios, Townspark, Athboy. The proposed development will include: - Road realignment works from N51 junction to the entrance of O'Growney National School, - Junction Upgrade to the N51 Main Street and Side Street, - Junction of new and upgraded pedestrian facilities, - Redesigned public car park, - Provision of a new public space adjacent to Church Grounds, - Fully accessible bus shelter and service, - Bicycle parking, - Designated parking and pull in for recycling facility, - Public lighting, - Realignment of boundary wall and relocation of entrance to St. James's Catholic Church (Protected Structure) and, - Associated accommodation & fencing/boundary works, landscaping works, drainage/attenuation works and ancillary infrastructure works. Location: Townspark, Athboy, Co. Meath. (P822002).

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting with Kathryn Hosey, Executive Planner and Ronan Murtagh of PJ Tobin & Co. The Chief Executive’s report was outlined, as was the Part 8 process and timeline.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Queried the nature of the amendment that can be proposed – any proposed amendments must be within the red line boundary and be material in nature. Proposed amendments can be submitted and considered. Amendments that are not significant can also be considered.
- Queried the impact on the number of car parking spaces – one general parking space will be impacted.
- Queried if ducting for CCTV will be installed – ducting will be provided with a decision regarding CCTV to be made at a later date.
- Queried if traffic control measures will be provided, e.g. bollards to prevent parking on footpaths.
- Queried if works will be undertaken to address flooding on the opposite end of the street – the consultants brief included the investigation of the issues. A report has been drafted and the options and next steps will be considered.

- 4.1.3 To receive the Chief Executive's Report (reference P822003) in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2021 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2021 in relation to the proposed development of 28 housing units, including all site development works, at Convent lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy, Co. Meath.

Claire Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer and Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer, Housing attended the meeting and outlined the proposed scheme.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the proposed scheme and acknowledged the high standard of social housing provided.
- Queried whether one bed units were suitable as age friendly accommodation as it limits the capacity for relatives or carers to stay – a



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mixed tenure is proposed for those over 55 years. As they progress in age, they can move to more appropriate accommodation, if required. Alternatively, the universal design allows for areas to be converted within the units.

- Queried whether allocations would be prioritised for those with disabilities – this is a matter for the allocations team, with the units designed for those over 55 years of age on the social housing list.
- Queried whether the units would be available to those not on the social housing list but wished to down size – the priority will be those on the housing list.
- Queried the number of car parking spaces to be provided – the proposal is in excess of that required in the County Development Plan, with EV charging points also to be provided.
- Queried whether the proposed broadband connectivity – broadband infrastructure will be provided.
- Queried whether the recommendations made by council departments and other bodies had been incorporated – these have been incorporated, as appropriate, particularly the transportation requirements. Additional requirements will be considered as part of the detailed design stage.
- Queried whether it was difficult to get department approval for funding universal design schemes – the department is trying to determine the associated costs but this is considered an exemplary model.
- Queried whether those who expressed a preference for Athboy will be prioritised as a lot of work on age friendly initiatives has been undertaken in Athboy and it is important to maintain social networks – it was agreed to refer this to the allocations team.



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### **4.2 Transportation**

- 4.2.1 To receive a report on proposed safety measures to be implemented at Jim Brunnock Road Kells under the Safe Routes to School Programme.

David O'Reilly, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the main issues and proposed scheme, which was developed following a review of the concerns raised. The scheme details were outlined, including the impact on car parking spaces and the possible relocation of the bottle banks. The school principals have been consulted and are supportive of the proposals.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the proposed scheme and the consultation with the school principals.
- Queried whether bus operators/drivers had been consulted and the need to address the issues they experience at the location.
- Queried whether an alternative pick-up/drop-off location for buses had been considered – alternative locations were not considered.
- Queried whether planning permission was required – this is not required.
- Expressed the view that this was the right location for the bottle banks in the interim and concern if they were to be relocated outside the town.
- Requested that works take place during the school break in the summer – this is the intention.
- Queried if a larger scheme is being considered to encourage walking and cycling to school – as part of the active travel initiative, Road Safety Officer has met with the school principals to discuss relevant initiatives and the Active Travel Officer will work with schools to progress these.



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- Suggested that a walking bus could be arranged if a suitable drop off location could be identified.
- Requested a timeline for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Suffolk Street and Bective Square.
- Queried if any review was being undertaken with regard to the provision of pedestrian crossings in Kells, e.g. the locations where they are required.
- Referred to the need for parents to comply with the measures being introduced.
- Queried if engagement had taken place with a local landowner with regard to the possible acquisition of land – this was considered but the owner has plans which may not fit in with the timeline. Other measures can be considered in the future, if feasible.
- Queried if measures such as bollards can be used at the entrance to Eureka House to prevent u-turns and differentiate the lanes into and out of the property – this can be considered as part of the detailed design.
- Queried the cost of the scheme – the detailed design and tender prices will determine the final cost, which is estimated to be in the region of €80,000.
- Queried if the footpath can be widened to accommodate the numbers of children using it.
- Requested that the number of parking spaces be maximised as part of the detailed design.
- Queried the next steps – the detailed design will be prepared and it is intended to bundle this with other projects, with the aim of delivering it



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as soon as possible. An update will be provided if any significant changes emerge.

- 4.2.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District.

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

### **4.3 Corporate Affairs and Governance**

- 4.3.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Kells Municipal District.

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

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**

“Has Meath County Council any plans to develop their lands in Drumconrath designated for housing? This land should be used to supply houses or private sites and add to the housing supply in the present housing crisis.”

#### **Response:**

*We are reviewing the development options for these lands in Drumconrath zoned for housing in conjunction with the delivery of Housing for All. We will update the Members when optioneering is complete.*

The response was noted. Councillor Michael Gallagher sought clarification on whether some of the land, particularly along the road, can be made available as affordable sites as there is little private land available for development in the area.

## **6 Notice of Motion**





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### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe**

"That Meath County Council carry out junction improvement works at Gibbstown Graveyard in the interests of road safety and in light of recent RTA at this location."

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

*The junction in question is being considered for a future Safety Improvement Scheme, and, if successful, funding would be provided by the Department of Transport. There currently is advance warning signage in place on the Kells side of the junction, alerting motorists to the junction ahead. This signage will be upgraded and increased in size, in order to make it more obvious for motorists.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Paul McCabe and seconded by Councillor Michael Gallagher, was agreed.

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

### **7.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**

The report was noted.

### **7.2 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.**

The minutes were noted.

### **7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

The report was noted.

## **8 Correspondence**



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There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

#### **9.1 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issues:**

- 9.1.1 Requested that regular letters issue to the OPW regarding works on the Round Tower and St. Colmcille's House and that a meeting be requested.
- 9.1.2 Requested that consideration be given to opening the Tower of Lloyd during the summer and suggested that engagement take place with community groups to oversee this – it was agreed to refer this to the Tourism Officer.
- 9.1.3 Queried whether it would be possible to facilitate a trader at the Hill of Lloyd during the summer to serve teas, coffees, etc. – this would require a change to the trading byelaws and new national guidelines are expected.
- 9.1.4 Requested an update on the geophysical survey of Lloyd to facilitate the development of the car park/toilet facilities, etc. – it was agreed to refer this to the Community Department. A funding application had been made under ORIS.
- 9.1.5 Referred to complaints regarding speeding on the Rockfield Road and suggested that the driver feedback sign be relocated from the Oldcastle Road.

#### **9.2 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:**

- 9.2.1 Referred to a plan prepared a number of years ago for Lloyd – a community plan had been prepared a number of years ago but was not recent. It was suggested that a public realm plan be prepared to include Lloyd, with the introduction of non-intrusive measures to be considered.
- 9.2.2 Queried whether PSCI results for Kells Municipal District were comparable with the other municipal districts.

#### **9.3 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:**



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- 9.3.1 Welcomed the proposal to develop a plan for Lloyd, which would take account of the topography, etc. and would provide a recreational facility for the people of Kells.
  
- 9.4 It was unanimously agreed that the tender documentation for the Public Realm Plan for Kells be amended to include Lloyd as a separate area.
  
- 9.5 It was agreed to hold the June annual meeting in person.

Following a number of disruptions, the Cathaoirleach requested that a member of the public leave the chamber. The Cathaoirleach wished to have it noted that this request was repeatedly refused.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Paul McEneaney". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Cathaoirleach

