



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

### ***Ratoath Municipal District***

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

***9:30 a.m., 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gillian Toole, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly.

**Apologies:** Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith.

#### **Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Philip Traynor

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Damien O'Reilly and seconded by Councillor Maria Murphy.

#### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Gerry O'Connor and seconded by Councillor Damien O'Reilly.

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

Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issues:



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

- Referred to the recent Blessing of the Graves in Dunboyne cemetery, where people were parking on the grass area designated as new plots and suggested that this area be fenced off to prevent parking and associated surface damage.
- Suggested that the Civil Defence should be in attendance at such events – it was pointed out that such arrangements were the responsibility of the event organisers.

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald requested an update on the two Masterplans – it was agreed to follow this up with Planning.

Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

- Requested a copy of the council's report submitted to An Bord Pleanála in respect of the SHD application, on which a presentation was given at the June meeting – the Chief Executive's report is not yet finalised and will be submitted by 21<sup>st</sup> July.
- Queried the next steps in progressing the Public Realm Plan for Ratoath. It was pointed out that, generally, this would go for public consultation, following which it would be brought back to the municipal district with any changes. Councillor Gillian Toole pointed out that, whilst the plan was very good, many of the sites referred to were in private ownership and consultation would first need to be undertaken with the relevant landowners. Dara McGowan pointed out that public realm plans generally deal with footpaths, open spaces, etc. whilst Town Centre First Plans include backyard developments, dereliction, events, etc. Funding has been received for the first of these in Enfield and this may be more appropriate to pursue.

Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

- Requested an amendment under Item 4.1.1 – this was noted.
- Requested an update on the proposed meeting with the HSE – reference was made to the email circulated on 4<sup>th</sup> July.
- Referred to the Part 8 for the Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme and whether the six week consideration period still applied following the discussion at the June meeting – this is a statutory period.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Conor Tormey on the death of his father, Joey.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Larry Whelan and Declan Grimes, Environment Department on the opening of the extension to Dunboyne graveyard;
- Councillor Nick Killian on his election as Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Transportation**

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

A verbal report was provided to the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that the footpath between the church and Church View be resurfaced if the major traffic calming measures are not proceeding in Batterstown.
- Referred to the ongoing water problems in Batterstown.
- Referred to damage caused to footpaths following the works undertaken on behalf of Irish Water in Dunshaughlin and requested that these be fully reinstated.



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

- Referred to the works schedule published by the Transportation Department, which included relatively few works planned in Ratoath Municipal District despite a lot of work being required, particularly during the summer months – the programme of works is based on the scheduling of crews, with roads being done together where possible. These works are also separate from the capital programme.
- Referred to illegal dumping at the bottle banks in Dunboyne.
- Referred to the signs on the Rooske and Maynooth roads being obstructed by hedges.
- Requested that the small sweeper be sent to the distributor road to deal with the weeds.
- Referred to issues with sightlines at the crossings in Dunboyne due to parking.
- Referred to the ramp near St. Mary's Terrace, which is close to the shore and may affect drainage – the raised table does not extend to the full width of the road and a gully is in place to deal with water.
- Referred to noise created by drain covers.
- Requested an update on the timeline for the completion of tree pruning, e.g. in Sadliers Hall – works undertaken are based on the arborist report and it was agreed to check this.
- Requested an update on an allocation made in 2017 under the MD Allocation Scheme for a crossing in Dunboyne.
- Welcomed the provision of the yellow box at the junction of the Kilbride and Ashbourne roads and the Slow Down signs on the Ballybin and Kilbride roads.



## ***Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes***

- Complimented Pat Shore, David O'Reilly and Andy Faulkner on the works at various locations.
- Referred to the poor road condition and potholes at the junction of Supervalu in Ratoath.
- Asked that the grass on the right hand side of the Cabin Hill junction be monitored.
- Referred to the dangerous junction at the entrance to Coláiste Ríoga and the amount of traffic at the entrance to the new community national school.
- Requested a speed survey at the stretch of road that includes the entrances to The Willows, the business park and Coláiste Ríoga and the development of a traffic management plan, to include the extension of the lower speed limit past the entrances and the consideration of traffic calming measures to slow traffic.
- Requested that Corballis Road, Ratoath be taken in charge as soon as possible in order to install double yellow lines to prevent parking.
- Requested that the road to the rear of Woodview and Oldbridge Crescent be resurfaced.
- Requested additional signs and road markings in The Knocks.
- Requested that signage be erected in the park in Dunboyne to make people aware that the park is locked at night.
- Requested an update on the Dunsany to Kilmessan Road at Kilsaran.
- Referred to the impact on businesses if chicanes and double yellow lines are installed at Somerville, Ratoath.



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### 4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

#### 4.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded that the deadline for receipt of completed applications is 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### 5 Notice of Question

#### 5.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to provide in tabular format, the social housing need for each housing application over the age of 55, for every settlement in towns, villages and townlands across Ratoath Municipal District."

**Response:**

RATOATH MD					
	NO. OF APPLICANTS Over 55	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Batterstown	1	0	0	1	0
Clonee	5	4	1	0	0
Dunboyne	15	9	4	1	0
Dunsany	1	1	0	0	0
Dunshaughlin	21	19	0	0	2
Kilmessan	4	3	1	0	0
Ratoath	9	6	3	0	0



### Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

<b>TOTAL</b>	56	42	9	2	2
--------------	----	----	---	---	---

The response was noted.

#### 5.2 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

"Can Meath County Council outline what funding the NTA provide for active travel initiatives and school safety?"

**Response:**

*In relation to schools the NTA provide specific funding for the Safe Route to School Programme (SRTS) and Green Schools Walkability Audits. The NTA allocated €285,000 to Meath County Council for this work in 2022.*

**SRTS Programme**

*Over the last year the Green-Schools SRTS officers from An Taisce have been liaising with the schools principals, the wider school communities and the Local Authority in relation to the following schools which were selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of the SRTS programme:*

<b>School Name</b>	<b>School Address</b>
Ashbourne Community College	Deerpark, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
Gaelscoil na Mí	Campas Oideachais Chill Dhéagláin Cill Dhéagláin Co. na Mí
St Stephens NS	Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath
Bunscoil Buachaillí Réalt na Mara	Donacarney, Mornington, Co. Meath
Réalt Na Mara GNS	Donacarney, Mornington, Co. Meath
SN Pheadair agus Phoil	Drumconrath, Navan Co. Meath

*The SRTS officers have now collected baseline information including maps of school travel patterns, surveys of parent attitudes and concerns, front of school audits and walkability audits. This baseline information provides both an evidence base and a local mandate for potential active travel interventions. The SRTS officers have discussed and agreed potential improvements in the local walking and cycling infrastructure with both the*



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

*school and ourselves. These interventions are compiled in an Outline Delivery Plan. Outline Delivery Plans are being completed by An Taisce Green-Schools for the initial 6 schools in County Meath that are being funded under the SRTS programme. Once these are received, we will review the proposed works within the Delivery Plan, and prioritise elements that could be implemented quickly, such as front of school treatments, with funding available within current allocations to progress these interventions. Other interventions may require further work including more detailed design, and input from stakeholders such as landowners and the local community. Some interventions may require a planning process to be followed, and these will be progressed over a longer time period.*

### **Green Schools Walkability Audits**

*Separate to the SRTS programme, as part of the long standing An Taisce Green Schools Travel Behaviour Change Programme, Green Schools have sent the results of Walkability Audits conducted with school students to the local authority with suggested improvements. These can be relatively small interventions but can have a positive impact for pedestrians and generally have local support. The NTA are happy to fund interventions from these Audits.*

The response was noted.

## **6 Notice of Motion**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

"I call on Meath County Council to write to Irish Water management requesting them to provide an update if they are turning down water pressure serving Ashbourne, Ratoath and Kilbride in recent weeks."

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

*Meath County Council will write to Irish Water, as requested.*





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

Councillor Damien O'Reilly introduced the motion by referring to water disruptions affecting the areas mentioned, particularly those at the end of the line, and the perceived deterioration of the customer services offered by Irish Water. This was supported by Councillors Nick Killian, Gerry O'Connor, Maria Murphy and Brian Fitzgerald. Dara McGowan outlined the transition arrangements, which will result in the transfer of staff to Irish Water on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and the implications for the local authority. Councillors expressed concern at this.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Damien O'Reilly and seconded by Councillor Nick Killian, was agreed.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

"I call on Meath County Council to work with the community groups in Clonee, Kilcloon and Kilmessan to maximise potential department funding streams to deliver playgrounds in these areas and assist with the current community playground projects in Kilmessan."

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

*Meath County Council continues to work with community groups to provide facilities and amenities in their area. In working with the Kilcloon Community Centre CLG group, Kilcloon was awarded a grant of €100,000 under the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the development of a playground and plaza area at their proposed new community facility and the Council are currently working with the group to progress this project.*

*There are limited funding schemes for the development of playgrounds however the current town & village renewal scheme allows for "Projects to develop parks, plazas, public outdoor dining spaces, green spaces (including allotments and community gardens) and recreational spaces/amenities (to include outdoor sports facilities such as skate parks, basketball courts, tennis courts, etc.) in town centres to make them vibrant hubs for community enjoyment, and to increase footfall for local businesses" which could include playgrounds. Expressions of interest are currently being sought under the 2022 scheme (until 30<sup>th</sup> June). Following this date, all expressions of interest will be assessed and 6 applications for funding submitted to the Department for consideration.*



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

Councillor Damien O'Reilly introduced the motion by welcoming the information provided and asked that, should land become available, these be progressed. Councillor Maria Murphy referred to a green area within an estate in Clonee that is taken in charge but it was pointed out this land remains in the ownership of the developer. It was agreed to look at the options available in the towns identified.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Damien O'Reilly and seconded by Councillor Maria Murphy, was agreed.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor**

"That the Transportation Department following the NTA educational programme in Copenhagen explore and cost the installation of a cycle lane on the Drumree Road to encourage and facilitate active travel."

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

*The NTA's Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area states that it is the intention of the NTA and the local authorities to deliver a safe, comprehensive, attractive and legible cycle network in accordance with the updated Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network.*

*The updated GDA Cycle Network plan classifies the Lagore Rd, the R147 and the Drumree Road in Dunshaughlin as Secondary Routes on the cycling Network i.e. moderately trafficked cycling connections between local zones and other network classifications, which provides resilience to the Primary Networks. Therefore, it is our intention to look at the provision of appropriate cycle infrastructure on these routes in due course.*

*At the moment, the priority of the Active Travel Office in the Ratoath MD is to progress cycling and pedestrian improvements Ratoath and Dunboyne. However, consultants are to be procured for a public realm scheme in Dunshaughlin, and as part of that exercise we will include in the scope of services a requirement that they consider what the appropriate future cycling infrastructure for Dunshaughlin is and provide a cost estimate of same so that the public realm improvements are compatible with cycling plans.*



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

Councillor Gerry O'Connor introduced the motion by stating the road width would allow the provision of a cycle lane, which would encourage cycling to school and reduce traffic speed. He also referred to the failure of HGVs to observe the ban on the Drumree Road and how buses stop at the pedestrian crossings, impacting on visibility for other traffic. This was supported by Councillor Nick Killian and Gillian Toole.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Gerry O'Connor and seconded by Councillor Nick Killian, was agreed.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gillian Toole and seconded by Councillor Maria Murphy to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes to 11.45am.

### **6.4 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor**

"That Meath County Council provide a pedestrian crossing on the Drumree road adjacent to the new Dún Riga housing estate, the Dunshaughlin Community National School, Dunshaughlin GAA and Dunshaughlin Community College."

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

*There is an existing zebra crossing at the Gaelscoile and there is a new pedestrian crossing going in at Dun Rioga as part of the planning conditions for the Castlethorn development. In relation to pedestrian crossings at the GAA Club and the Community College, they will be added to the works list for when funding becomes available.*

Councillor Gerry O'Connor introduced the motion by pointing out that the new footpaths will increase the number of students walking to school and a crossing is needed. Councillor Nick Killian suggested that this crossing be a controlled crossing.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Gerry O'Connor and seconded by Councillor Maria Murphy, was agreed.

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

### **7.1 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC**



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

of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The report was noted. Councillor Nick Killian queried when the draft Litter Management Plan was going on public display and it was agreed to refer this to Environment.

### **7.2 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

The minutes were noted.

### **7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

The report was noted.

## **8 Correspondence**

### **8.1 Correspondence received from Richard O'Flaherty, European Commission in response to the Notice of Item 9.1.2 from the May meeting re visit to Grange.**

The correspondence was noted and it was agreed that the proposed visit would proceed on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

## **9 Any Other Business**

### **9.1 To agree the meeting schedule for September – December 2022.**

Following a short discussion, with consideration given to the possible options, it was agreed that the meeting schedule for September 2022 to June 2023 would revert to the original schedule presented at the Annual Meeting, as per below.

Meetings will commence at 9.30 a.m. on the following dates:

<b>Municipal District: Ratoath</b>	<b>Venue: Dunshaughlin Civic Offices</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Ordinary
Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Ordinary
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Budget (Venue TBC)
Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Ordinary
Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Ordinary
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Ordinary
Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Ordinary
Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Ordinary
Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Ordinary
Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Ordinary
Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Annual
Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Ordinary

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gillian Toole and seconded by Councillor Gerry O'Connor to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes to 12.00pm.

9.2 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

- 9.2.1 Confirmed that, following the intervention of the Road Safety Officer, the issue at the Dunboyne schools has been resolved with school start times having been amended.

9.3 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issue:

- 9.3.1 Referred to the maps used as part of the public consultation for a solar farm at Curraghtown, near Summerhill, which had resulted in confusion as to location of the proposed development – it was agreed to contact Planning to see if alternative maps were available.

9.4 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

- 9.4.1 Queried what input the Transportation Department had into the planning



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

permission granted for Coláiste Ríoga as there are difficulties exiting the site onto the R147.

9.4.2 Queried when the community capital grants for each municipal district will be brought to the members for decision as many groups had hoped to commence works earlier in the year.

9.4.3 Queried whether efforts could be made to progress a twinning initiative – it was pointed out that other successful twinning initiatives in the county are as a result of individual towns/community groups developing linkages.

9.5 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

9.5.1 Referred to the recent meeting with the management and staff of Our Lady's Hospital Navan and the outcome of the discussions.

9.5.2 Referred to a possible twinning proposal being made by AILG with Ukraine.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Gillian Toole

Cathaoirleach

7/9/2022