



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

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

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

***9:30 a.m., 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Gillian Toole**, presided.

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

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith.

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

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Gillian Mangan

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

**Apologies:** Philip Traynor, Executive Engineer

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

#### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.**

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.



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

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

### **4 To receive an update from Eirgrid on the East Meath-North Dublin Grid Upgrade.**

Sinéad Dooley, Head of Public Engagement, Jason Kenna, Project Manager, and Eoghan O'Sullivan, Community Liaison Officer delivered a presentation on behalf of Eirgrid, which included a background to the East Meath – North Dublin Grid Upgrade and outlined Step 4, which includes the public consultation, taking place from September to November 2022, with the final route option expected in Summer 2023. Information was also provided on the studies undertaken, how route options are planned, the four route options, the benefits of the project, communications and engagement and an overview of consultation activity.

Councillors raised queries regarding specific aspects of the proposed project including additional capacity, planned road reinstatement and route options, with responses provided as appropriate.

Other matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the level of community engagement being undertaken and requested that advance notification be provided to communities directly affected by any planned roadworks – best practice guidelines are being developed in relation to community engagement and a Community Benefit Fund will also be attached to the project.
- Requested that Eirgrid liaise with other utility companies to avoid duplication of roadworks and queried the level of road reinstatement to be carried out – Eirgrid will engage with local authorities and TII with regard to specifications, road opening licences, etc. and will ensure high quality road reinstatement.
- Queried whether the cable depth will be within safety limits – the depth will be within WHO guidelines and subject to independent assessment.
- Queried whether this constitutes strategic infrastructure and therefore goes directly to An Bord Pleanála – Eirgrid will engage with An Bord Pleanála to determine whether it is a Strategic Infrastructure Development, which it is likely to be. Meetings will also take



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place with local authorities, as Prescribed Bodies, and engagement will take place at all levels.

- Referred to concerns of residents in the county, particularly in North Meath, regarding the North-South Interconnector and whether advances in technology meant that this could now be undergrounded – it is not technically possible to provide an underground solution. The Government has commissioned an independent study, the results of which are not yet available to Eirgrid. A further update can be provided when the report is published.

The Cathaoirleach, councillors and the executive thanked the representatives from Eirgrid for attending, for the information provided and particularly for the level of community engagement that has taken place.

### **5 Disposal of Land pursuant of the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act.**

#### **5.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.6490 Ha of Land at Roestown, Dunshaughlin.**

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

### **6 Statutory Business**

#### **6.1 Community**

- 6.1.1 To receive details of the proposed grant allocations under the Community Amenity Project Scheme 2022 and, if deemed appropriate, forward to the Full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor left the meeting at 10.26am and prior to this item being discussed.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department outlined the assessment criteria, the number of applications received and eligible, and the requirement that the funding be drawn down by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The recommended grant allocations, totalling €92,500 of the available €100,000



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budget, and the rationale for these, were outlined. The balance can be transferred to the next round of the scheme. The recommended grant allocations, once agreed, will be brought to the October meeting of Meath County Council for approval.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether match funding was required – match funding is not required and each recommended allocation represents the full amount required by the three groups.
- Queried when the scheme criteria is reviewed – the scheme is reviewed prior to it being announced.
- Queried whether the applicants are notified of the results in advance of the meeting agenda issuing – the information was first circulated to councillors a day in advance of the meeting.
- Queried whether groups are applying for alternative funding, e.g. SEAI or FAI – it is not known if groups are applying for alternative funding but groups are encouraged to consider alternative funding schemes.

The recommended grant allocations were unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Damien O'Reilly and seconded by Councillor Nick Killian, with agreement that the balance be allocated to Dunshaughlin Community Centre. The allocations agreed therefore are as follows:

- Blackhall Gaels GAA - €48,500
- Dunshaughlin Community Centre CLG - €7,500
- Dunboyne AFC - €20,000
- St. Oliver's Community Centre CLG - €24,000

Councillor Gerry O'Connor rejoined the meeting at 10.38am.

6.1.2 To update Members on progress on the National Broadband Plan and



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Telecommunications Developments within Ratoath Municipal District.

Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation, which provided an update on broadband in Ratoath Municipal District including NBI works, commercial operators, WIFI4EU and hubs.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether traffic statistics are available for Dunshaughlin – these are being compiled and will be available later this month.
- Referred to the traffic statistics for Dunboyne and the many businesses such as cafes, which close Monday – Wednesday, due to issues such as staffing shortages.
- Requested that the opening hours of the Enterprise Hub in Dunshaughlin Civic Offices be reviewed to encourage more users and referred to the absence of a reference to the hub on the Meath Enterprise website – it was pointed out that, as the building is a protected structure, a separate door cannot be provided to the hub. However, a strategy to resolve the issues is being developed and the website updated.
- Queried what assistance councillors can provide – councillors were asked to continue to promote the various initiatives.

The Cathaoirleach requested that Meath Enterprise be invited to the October or November meeting to provide an update on the Dunshaughlin Enterprise Hub and provide councillors with a tour of the facility.

### **6.2 Planning**

- 6.2.1 To receive an update on the preparation of the Maynooth Joint Urban Plan and proposed timelines.

Seán Clarke, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, and Alan Russell, Senior Executive Planner, delivered a presentation on the role and purpose of a



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Local Area Plan, the statutory process and plan hierarchy, the policy context, the Memorandum of Understanding between Meath and Kildare County Councils, and the pre-draft plan stages and pre-draft public consultation.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Expressed the view that Ratoath Municipal District should only have to deal with Maynooth Kilcock Municipal District, as that representing Maynooth – it was agreed to check this.
- Queried whether one report would cover both areas – there is no provision for two reports, with the areas relating to Meath to be highlighted.
- Underlined the need to take account of the 2022 census figures – the adopted figures will be used.
- Referred to the need to progress the link road to the MOOR and the link from the old N4 to the motorway at Blacklion.
- Queried whether the joint plan would be adopted separately – the report would be brought back to Ratoath Municipal District for adoption.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** that a further update would be provided at the October meeting.

Other matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested an update on Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne and Ratoath Local Area Plans – the Maynooth and Drogheda joint plans are due to be completed by mid-2023 and the judicial reviews are ongoing.
- Requested an update on the Masterplan for Dunboyne North – this is not yet agreed, with engagement with the applicant regarding the variations



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not taken into account. A SHD application was also lodged yesterday, with formal notification awaited from An Bord Pleanála. A presentation on this will be made to the municipal district.

- Underlined the need to adjust the population figures in the County Development Plan to the 2022 census figures – a variation cannot be undertaken whilst the judicial reviews are ongoing. In addition, the 2022 figures are still in draft format and have not yet been published.

### **6.3 Transportation**

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update was provided at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to a section of uncompleted footpath to the community national school, where children are forced to walk on the road – this has been raised with the Transportation Section.
- Requested that the entrance to Coláiste na Ríoga off the R147 be reviewed as it is too narrow for buses to access.
- Requested that the arborist assess the large trees at Hanson Wood, which is not taken in charge with the developer saying that the council will not allow their removal – further details were requested.
- Requested an update on the taking in charge of Fairfield and queried whether the council had any role in relation to issues of the road surface, ramps, etc.
- Referred to ongoing issues in reporting issues to Irish Water.



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- Requested that additional solar compacting bins be provided in appropriate locations.
- Requested that the routes for the street sweeper in Dunboyne be extended, e.g. to include the Old Fairgreen section.
- Referred to the need for additional measures to slow traffic at the Newtown Roundabout on the Summerhill Road, with most issues arising on the M3 Parkway and Maynooth Road sides.
- Referred to the requests by residents on the Curragher Road, Ratoath for additional measures to slow traffic, e.g. raised tables/ramps, particularly between the 50kmph and 60kmph signs.
- Referred to ongoing issues with the traffic lights at Cemetery Cross – efforts are ongoing to resolve the issues.
- Referred to the poor road surface at Kilbride, following the undergrounding of cables from a solar farm.

### **6.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, were noted and councillors were reminded of the deadline for the receipt of completed application and deferral forms.

## **7 Notice of Question**

### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole**

"Why is the Ratoath Outer Relief Road closed? What did it cost & what is the timeline to opening it?"





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### **Response:**

*The Ratoath Outer Relief Road LIHAF scheme was certified as substantially complete on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021. There are a number of minor works items and defects which the contractor has until the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to complete.*

*It is currently anticipated that the road will not be opened to the public until either Ratoath College has constructed its new entrance or housing currently under construction by Kingscroft Developments has been occupied.*

*Both the construction of the Ratoath College entrance and the housing development have been delayed due to issues outside of the control of Meath County Council and updates are awaited in relation to both projects.*

*The construction contract final account figure for the scheme was €4,505,812.97 ex VAT. The overall scheme costs, including design fees etc, are yet to be finalised and will be provided in due course.*

The response was noted.

### **8 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

9.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The report was noted.

9.2 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The minutes were noted.

9.3 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and



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European Affairs SPC of 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The report was noted.

- 9.4 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.

The report was noted.

### **10 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **11 Any Other Business**

11.1 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issue:

- 11.1.1 Requested an update on the ramps at Culmullen N.S. and church – it was agreed to check this.

11.2 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issue:

- 11.2.1 Requested that consideration be given to providing a walkway with public lighting in Dunboyne, similar to that in Kells – this was funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

*Gillian Toole*



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**Cathaoirleach**

