



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.00 am, 6th October 2022, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Wayne Harding**, presided.

Councillors Present: Elaine McGinty and Sharon Tolan.

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillors Tom Behan, Geraldine Keogan, Stephen McKee and Paddy Meade.

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 8th September 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th September 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty**

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Wayne Harding made a statement where he confirmed that, in relation to Item 4.2.1 – Community Amenity Project Scheme 2022 and in accordance with their democratic duties, councillors had acted within their remit in having proposed amendments, in relation to a decision which is a reserved function, and for which there is a precedent. Councillors Tom Behan, Geraldine Keogan and Stephen McKee spoke in support of this statement and Councillor Paddy Meade confirmed that, whilst he had spoken in support of the recommended grant allocations, he respected the democratic right of councillors to amend these. Councillor Sharon



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Tolan apologised for statements made on social media following the meeting and recognised the democratic decision taken. The apology was welcomed.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Jonathan (Johnny) Hughes Flanagan, Skerries, Dublin, who had died tragically at Gormanston train station.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All the participants and winners of the Municipal District Pride of Place Awards and all staff involving in organising the event;
- Bright, a payroll software company, who have opened in Duleek Business Park;
- Duleek/Bellewstown Adult Mens Team, who have reached the Intermediate Final;
- Kevin Coleman, who is to retire as Secretary/Manager of Laytown Races after 25 years;
- Castletown Junior B and Slane Junior B on reaching the championship final;
- Bellewstown Race Committee on their race meeting;
- Fintan Bray on being elected onto Fianna Fail's National Executive, the first person with Downs Syndrome to be elected to a political position in Ireland.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant of the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001

- 4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of land adjacent to the property at St. Mary's Villas, Donore, Co Meath.



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This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on the preparation of the Meath Local Economic and Community Plan and the upcoming public consultation.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community delivered a presentation which set out the process for preparing the plan, which it is intended to have complete by April/May 2023. The consultation approach was outlined and councillors were urged to assist in increasing awareness of the plan being prepared and encourage community involvement in the consultation phases. The draft plan will be brought to the municipal district for comment prior to being presented to the LCDC and full Council for approval.

- 5.1.2 To update Members on progress on the National Broadband Plan and Telecommunications Developments within Laytown-Bettystown 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:

- Referred to the lack of a phone signal or radio signal from Slane to Grangegeeth to Lobinstown – mobile phone coverage can be impacted by hills, trees, etc. and discussions have taken place with operators with regard to possible solutions.
- Referred to Lobinstown being included in the Ardee area, which has not been surveyed yet, and asked if there was any way the survey could be expedited as many local businesses and employers in the area are relying



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on broadband being available and many agencies assume that everyone has access to broadband, including farmers – the same applies in Ratoath Municipal District, where Dunboyne is in the first phase and Dunshaughlin in the final phase, with a 5 year gap. Departmental approval is required to make any changes. Dundalk and Drogheda will be included in the first stages and, therefore, Louth is considered to be well served.

- Acknowledged the importance of Broadband Connection Points in areas where there is no broadband available.
- Queried if there was any update in relation to the concerns expressed by councillors previously in relation to the works being carried out on behalf of NBI – issues had been experienced previously with regard to the contractor in place. There is a new contractor now in place and the relationship with NBI has improved and things are progressing well.
- Suggested that the WIFI4EU be focused on community facilities to avoid people gathering outside shops and businesses.
- Queried the process for connecting broadband in new estates, whether buyers can assume that broadband is available and whether broadband connections can be delivered in conjunction with ESB connections – this is an historic issue, with Eir's methodology having been the provision of equipment when ducting was taken in charge. However, delays have improved and complaints decreased. In some estates, the developer will provide the ducting and allow access by operators.
- Underlined the need for additional hubs, e.g. in community facilities and over businesses – businesses can provide hubs, if they wish. Meath Enterprise are looking at developing more business hubs but, ultimately, it is down to cost.
- Referred to the benefits of smart benches, e.g. at bus stops, libraries or educational campuses – these work well in Dublin but complaints were received regarding anti-social behaviour in Drogheda. They are costly to install.



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- Queried if funding was available to provide additional WIFI4EU access points.
- Queried whether the fibre broadband provision in Duleek would include rural areas – SIRO is deploying in towns, whilst NBI is covering rural areas. Both will finish at similar times. Open Eir is also committed to connecting in Duleek.

5.2 Transportation

- 5.2.1 To receive a report on the Proposed Extinguishment of the public right of way at Platin as part of the R152 Platin Safety Scheme.

Christy Clarke outlined the background to the purpose of the proposed scheme and the process, which is a reserved function, including the next steps. It is hoped to bring a report to the December municipal district meeting, which will then be brought to the subsequent full council meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the public consultation.
- Acknowledged the need for additional measures to be provided, as signage has not prevented accidents at the junction, many of which result from excessive speed.
- Asked that the junction at Platin be reviewed to ensure HGVs, farm vehicles, etc. can turn safely – HGV movements around the junction will be checked.
- Confirmed that landowners are happy with the proposal, once access is maintained – meetings have taken place with landowners.
- Suggested that there may be issues regarding rights of way on cul-de-sacs if these are not taken in charge and this can affect property sales –



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the road will remain a public road under the council's care with no public right of way.

- Referred to issues turning towards Mount Hannover school with a need to widen the junction to deal with traffic – limited funding is available with the intention being to reduce the number of accidents at either end of the road.

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

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

- Referred to the need to collect the dead birds on the beach, which can pose a danger for dogs.
- Referred to ongoing issues with vandalism in playgrounds, e.g. Laytown, and queried if CCTV can be installed to deter anti-social behaviour – data protection issues apply with CCTV in playgrounds.
- Queried when gullies are due to be cleared, e.g. Narrowways, as leaves fall from trees – gullies will be cleared when all leaves have fallen.
- Referred to issues regarding poor road reinstatement after road openings, with many roads left in poor conditions over the weekend, and requested a list of planned road opening licences with a view to letting people know in advance – it is not possible to provide a timed schedule as works covered by licences can occur over a period of time.
- Requested an update on works in St. Cianan's Villas – bollards were installed yesterday with the ramps to follow.
- Requested an update on the new placename signs for Duleek – the signs have been ordered and will be installed when received.



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- Welcomed the maintenance works on playgrounds.
- Referred to traffic issues in Duleek arising from the road closure of the R152, asked that the impact of road diversions be reviewed and that night time works be considered – this is being managed centrally and a process was involved, including advertisements, following which no submissions were received. Traffic is being diverted to the R150. Night time works can increase costs by 25%-30% in rural areas.
- Referred to overgrowth and drainage issues affecting the footpath from Julianstown Whitecross to the church – a contractor will be assigned.
- Referred to the Platin Road out of Drogheda, which is busy, and the need to address the impacts of the tailbacks arising from the tolls.
- Requested that the hedges be cut and paths cleared on the Beamore Road into Drogheda.
- Welcomed the reopening of the N51 Navan to Slane Road, with restrictions still in place, and the excellent work at Wicker's Cross
- Referred to the lack of information given to councillors in Meath by Louth County Council with regard to the proposed N51 road closure between Slane and Drogheda, from 17th October to 5th November.

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

- 6.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 2nd September 2022.



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The minutes were noted.

7 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

8 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Referred to the need to add the junction lines at the Narrowways/Pilltown Road junction.

10.1.2 Referred to drainage issues at Bettystown Cross and the need for a footpath to Sevitt.

10.1.3 Referred to the need for two pedestrian crossings at Northlands and Inse Bay to facilitate access to the bus stop and for disability access

10.2 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Requested that speed ramps be provided on Matthew's Lane to the junction, as they are on the Louth side.

10.2.2 Requested that a bin be installed beside the bus stop on the Dublin Road, Stameen to Colpe Cross, on the Grangegeeth side and requested that the



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cleaning schedule be increased on this main approach to Drogheda – resources are limited for additional litter picking and waste collection. However, grants and other supports are available to community groups for this purpose.

10.2.3 Requested that barriers be installed on the footpath edge at the side entrance to Ashvale Court, Duleek to prevent children going onto the road.

10.2.4 Requested an update on works on Main Street, Duleek, e.g. traffic lights at the bottom of Station Road and a pedestrian crossing to facilitate access to the Post Office – this is being designed in-house and it is expected to go to tender before the end of the year. A preview will be circulated prior to going to tender.

10.3 Councillor Wayne Harding raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Referred to the need for Low Cost Safety Schemes on the road towards Slane Castle, particularly at the Sally Garden Pub, and at The Brink.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

