



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 12th October 2022, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, Councillor Edward Fennessy, presided.

Councillors Present: Francis Deane, Padraig Fitzsimons, Alan Lawes, Tommy Reilly.

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillor Yemi Adenuga.

Apologies: Councillor Emer Tóibín.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Executive Engineer: Shane Durcan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14th September 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th September 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Oliver (Ollie) Casserly, Old Windtown, Navan;
- The family of the late Esther Smyth, St. Benildus Villas, Navan;
- The family of the late Yemi Christie Abitogun;
- The families of all those who died tragically in Creeslough, County Donegal.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Trim GAA Senior and Minor hurling teams;
- The Irish Women's Football team on qualifying for the World Cup.

4 Disposal of land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.0096Ha of Land in at Alexander Reid, Navan.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**.

4.2 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.0139Ha of Land in at Alexander Reid, Navan.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

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.

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Áine Bird, Administrative 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.

Matters raised by councillors included querying whether transportation would be included as complaints have been received regarding the NX bus service and bus stops. It was pointed out that this plan would focus on high level goals, with any actions or objectives raised to be considered for inclusion in the implementation plan.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on progress on the National Broadband Plan and Telecommunications Developments within Navan 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:

- Welcomed the progress being made, e.g. WIFI4EU.
- Queried whether any road opening licences had been granted for broadband providers and the need to have a moratorium in place when street works are completed – as there is good ducting in place in the town centre, the need for such works should be minimal. In addition, a moratorium will follow recent works completed.
- Queried whether property owners must dig up their own property to access fibre broadband – this is not an issue in newer estates but may be an issue in some older estates where connections from direct buried cables in the path must be connected to the house, either by digging up access or overhead. Service providers have different methodologies,

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which aim to minimise impact. In the town centre, this is dealt with by use of the facades.

- Queried the likely timeframe for broadband works being completed – that information is not currently available. The council has control over certain initiatives such as BCPs and WIFI4EU but, for national initiatives, as no direct control.
- Queried whether the council could introduce a WhatsApp contact number to facilitate free calls by those with WiFi access – it was agreed to check this.
- Acknowledged the coverage available in the urban area but queried the level of coverage available in rural areas, e.g. Donaghpatrick – large areas are covered by Open Eir and NBI will be in place by the end of 2023. Eircodes can be entered into the NBI website for direct area updates.

5.2 Transportation

5.2.1 To receive an update on proposals for a Part 8 Planning Application for the Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation Scheme.

Paul O'Brien, Executive Engineer, Transportation Department provided an update on the consultation with businesses on the proposals and taking into account comments provided. The public consultation, part of the Part 8 process, will commence at the end of November/beginning of December and an information evening, to which businesses will be invited, will be held in the Newgrange Hotel. It is expected to present the Chief Executive's report in the new year. Martin Murray pointed out that the preferred option, outlined in the last presentation, is being refined based on this consultation. Ancillary projects outside the Part 8 process may also be developed to address concerns and support businesses. He thanked councillors for their support.

Matters raised by councillors included:

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- Queried what the council can do to address the issues being raised – the proposals around traffic, parking, loading, etc. are being explained. Whilst the issue of anti-social behaviour is outside the direct remit of the council, it has been referred to the JPC and the Part 8 process for the expansion of the CCTV scheme is underway. A number of public lighting schemes are also planned.
- Queried whether 24-hour access would be maintained for car parks such as Tara Mall or would this be limited to certain times – a full closure is not planned and access to private car parks will be maintained. The proposed pedestrianisation scheme will support business and other activity on the street such as the church, etc.
- Requested that correspondence issue to residents on the street – a new email address has been set up and the database updated to facilitate invitations to the information event being issued.
- Queried whether all CCTV would be in place prior to the pedestrianisation – this is the intention; however, the commissioner is still to sign off on it. The CCTV was to be upgraded as part of the Navan 2030 scheme.
- Requested an overview of the feedback provided by businesses – a full survey was carried out as well as one to one consultation. Issues raised included anti-social behaviour, public lighting, parking, etc.

5.2.2 To receive a presentation on the emerging preferred route for the 'Navan Cycle/Pedestrian Scheme – Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road.

Shane Tobin, Atkins delivered a presentation on the scheme overview, the design process, preferred option and preliminary design, benefits and impacts and next steps, including the Part 8 going on public display for four weeks from November with the Chief Executive's report due to be presented in January or February 2023.

Matters raised by councillors included:

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- Requested that urgent action be taken to slow traffic exiting the Kells Road roundabout and the need for a pedestrian crossing to facilitate safe access for school students.
- Queried the proposal for the junction off the R147 to Flowerhill – this will entail improved pedestrian and cycling facilities and forms part of the Flowerhill scheme. This will be coordinated with the LDR, with the design for Flowerhill to follow. A number of schemes are to be delivered with Part 8s due for Martha's Bridge and Convent Road. It was suggested that an update be provided at the November meeting with regard to the primary and secondary cycle routes, their status in terms of development and how they can be progressed.
- Referred to the challenges presented where roads and footpaths are narrower – the primary arteries are being delivered first with the aim of maintaining traffic flow.

5.2.3 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report, circulated in advance, was noted. The park & ride facility on the N51 was highlighted, to be completed in mid-November and provide 170 additional parking spaces. As an interim solution, a temporary solar panel beacon lit crossing with a raised platform will be installed to alleviate risk for pedestrians.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to trees in several locations which require attention, including Blackcastle, Silverlawns and Beechmount.
- Requested an update on the second pedestrian crossing on Metges Road – the council is liaising with the developer in terms of opening up Dunville Road, following which all junctions in Johnstown will be reviewed and traffic schemes considered.

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- Referred to the backlogs on the Athlumney and Boyne roads and asked that the traffic lights be realigned – the works on the Dublin Road are now completed and it was agreed to check the sequencing. It was also pointed out that full road reinstatement will take place at night.
- Referred to the road resurfacing at Boyles Cross and queried if the road was narrower in parts – the road edge had broken away over the years and kerbing and new gullies were installed. The kerbing may give the impression that the road is narrower but, as the hedges were cut back, it is in fact wider.
- Referred to a new drain installed on the Trim Road to Shambo with water lying on the left hand side of the road – this forms part of an attenuation system, with the drain opened to help drainage. A pull in area has also been agreed to facilitate passing traffic. It was agreed to check any outstanding issues.
- Referred to parking issues in Stonebridge estate on the Kentstown Road, which is not taken in charge, and asked if a yellow box can be provided at the estate entrance – these are generally provided when a minor road is coming onto a major road. A number of different options are available in a private estate to deal with such issues.

5.3 Corporate Affairs and Governance

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

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To ask the Executive to provide an update on the number of Social Housing applicants in the Navan Municipal District Area, the reply to be broken down per category to list the

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number of applicants on the 1,2,3 & 4 bed lists and the average wait time per list an applicant must wait before they receive an allocation."

Response:

NAVAN MD					
	NO. OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Bohermeen	9	5	4	0	0
Castletown	9	3	1	3	2
Dunderry	6	2	4	0	0
Navan	1448	653	535	190	70
Robinstown	4	1	1	0	2
TOTAL	1476	664	545	193	74

AREA	MD	<u>1 bed</u>	<u>2 bed</u>	<u>3bed</u>	<u>4 bed</u>
Bohermeen	Navan	2009	2013	2017	2020
Castletown	Navan	2009	2013	2017	2020
Dunderry	Navan	2011	2016	2017	2017
Navan	Navan	2010	2015	2018	2013
Robinstown	Navan	2011	2011	2015	2009

**** 2,3,4 Bedroom units are all allocated through CBL system ****

Councillor Edward Fennessy sought clarification on the variation in numbers compared to the response provided to a previous similar Notice of Question. Brian Murphy, Administrative Officer, Housing Department pointed out that the question was worded

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slightly differently than before and the response provided today takes into account single applications only, whilst before, it included three choices per applicant, thereby increasing the number. The housing list is also currently under review. The focus will be on the delivery of one and two bed units in conjunction with the Approved Housing Bodies.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"When is work due to commence on the link Road from Rotholdron L3049 to the roundabout on Kells Road R147?"

Response:

Advanced works contracts are currently underway on the LDR4 scheme, which connects the R147 Kells Road to the Ratholdren Road in Navan. Draft procurement documents for the main construction contract are currently being finalised, and it is expected that the scheme will be tendered in Q4 of this year, with construction expected to commence in late Q1 of 2023.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"In light of the upcoming Parking Bye-law Review in Navan, I ask the Executive to include a 'Park and Stride' scheme to alleviate congestion problems at school gates across the town."

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



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Meath County Council has initiated a Park and Stride for schools in Navan Town centre. Park 'n' Stride was introduced for parents to reduce congestion at the Mercy School, Leighsbrook and St Anne's Primary School, Fairgreen. The schools promoted this information on their webpages for parents. Parking Department Staff distributed leaflets to all parents at the schools on school opening days, copy leaflet attached.

The arrangement is; parents can park free for 30 minutes in O Mahony's Carpark Brews Hill at school opening and closing time and walk to the school gates. Signs are erected in O Mahony's Carpark.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was noted. It was agreed to re-engage with schools to refresh the message.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To improve connectivity between the rural parts of the Navan Municipal District and the centre of the town, I ask the Executive, the NTA & Bus Éireann to extend the local bus service by creating an orbital route that connects Robinstown, Dunderry, Boyerstown, Bohermeen, Gibstown, Simonstown, Kentstown, Tara and Bective with Navan Town Centre."

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

The responsibility for the provision of the bus services is a matter for the relevant bus operators and the National Transport Authority, in the first instance. It is noted that Section 48 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 provides that the NTA has the function to secure the provision of public passenger transport services.

All requests for new bus routes/services in locations in County Meath should therefore be directed to the National Transport Authority. Public Representatives can send queries via email to oireachtaslaison@nationaltransport.ie

Alternatively, written communications can be made to: National Transport Authority, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2, D02 WT20.



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Councillor Edward Fennessy introduced the motion by suggesting that the expansion of the local bus service could facilitate access to schools by students, thereby reducing congestion at schools and carbon emissions. In light of the supporting information, it was suggested that councillors make direct contact with the NTA. Councillor Tommy Reilly spoke in support of the motion and suggested that the local bus service should also start earlier in the morning.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was agreed.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Meath County Council to write to Bus Éireann requesting a bus stop on the bus route to Kells at R147 Newgate junction."

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

The responsibility for the provision of the bus stop infrastructure is a matter for the relevant bus operators and the National Transport Authority in the first instance. It is noted that Section 44A of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 provides that the NTA has the function to secure or provide public transport and cycling infrastructure in the State in relation to, among other things, bus stops, bus shelters, bus stations, stands and bus fleets.

Meath County Council provides assistance to the National Transport Authority in respect of the delivery of the sustainable infrastructure, such as the project management of the construction works relating to bus stops and those necessary to facilitate the erection of the bus shelters by the Authority's bus shelter installation contractor. All requests for new bus stops at locations in County Meath should be directed to the National Transport Authority. Public representatives can send requests via email to oireachtasliaison@nationaltransport.ie

For information, the Transportation Department understands that the NTA is currently reviewing the potential for adding new bus stops at this location on the R147.



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Councillor Francis Deane introduced the motion by pointing out that, whilst bus drivers did stop at this location previously, they no longer do so since the road was upgraded and that, due to the number of houses in the area, it would be a useful pick-up and drop-off point. It was also suggested that the local bus service should be extended to include the Kells side of Navan. Martin Murray pointed out that works were complete on the LDR4 to Newgate and the council is liaising with the NTA regarding the full design, which will include a bus stop. The process has commenced and, whilst at an early stage, has been positive to date.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Francis Deane and seconded by Councillor Tommy Reilly, was agreed.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I propose that Meath County Council extend the 60 kmph speed limit northwards from Navan on the R162 to the environs of the Navan Racecourse Complex with a view to improving pedestrian and traffic safety."

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

The Council's Transportation Department can confirm that the speed limit on the R162, between Navan and the race course, is being reviewed as part of the county-wide speed limit review currently underway. It is intended the Transportation Department will attend all Municipal District meetings later this year / early 2023 to outline the results of the speed limit reviews within each district.

It should be noted that all requested locations are assessed having regard to the National Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland.

Councillor Francis Deane queried when the speed limit review would be implemented. It was confirmed that a lot of surveying is being carried out as part of the review and it will likely be Q2 2023 before it applies. This issue has also been raised with Horse Racing Ireland with regard to horses crossing the road and effort are underway to reach a solution.



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The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Francis Deane and seconded by Councillor Tommy Reilly, was agreed.

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

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

The minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Referred to the lights at Andy Brennan Park being out of order.

10.2 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Queried if the parklets would be removed before Christmas – one parklet on Watergate Street is to be removed before Christmas, with a further review of the parklets to take place at the end of the year.

10.2.2 Asked that the ivy on the church, walls and grounds at Old Athlumney Graveyard be cut back – this was done yesterday, including the removal of graffiti, etc.

10.3 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Requested an update on the Convent Road and queried if residents had been surveyed – the closing date for the receipt of submissions is 27th October, with the Chief Executive's Report, as part of the Part 8 process, due to be brought to the municipal district in November or December. Significant engagement has taken place and residents can also make submissions.



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10.3.2 Requested an update on the plans for the road and bridge from the Ratholdren Road to the bridge – the design for the Navan to Nobber cycleway includes linkages to the LRD4 and N51. The cycleway to the LDR4 forms part of the LDR4 junction, with the junction onwards to form part of a later design phase. The tender for the LDR4 is to be progressed by the end of the year.

10.3.3 Referred to a request by the Men's Shed for assistance in finding a suitable premises – a meeting is being set up to establish the group's requirements.

10.4 Councillor Edward Fennessy raised the following issue:

10.4.1 Requested an update on the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the Andy Connolly roundabout – this will be included as part of the update to be provided at the November meeting.

10.5 Councillor Yemi Adenuga raised the following issue:

10.5.1 Requested an update on the taking in charge of Millbrook, Johnstown – whilst no date has yet been set, this is being advanced, with surveys, etc. being undertaken.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



An Meara