



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **Ordinary Meeting**

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 @ 1.30p.m.**

**Buvinda House, Navan (and online via zoom)**

#### **Presiding**

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Nick Killian

#### **Councillors Present:**

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Joseph Bonner, Mike Bray, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Noel French, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Wayne Harding, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Elaine McGinty, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

#### **Councillors Present via Zoom:**

Councillors Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Edward Fennessy, Joe Fox, Michael Gallagher, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Sarah Reilly, Niamh Souhan, Conor Tormey.

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor Aisling O'Neill

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Deputy Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Dara McGowan

**A/Director of Service:** Sean Clarke

**Senior Engineer:** Nicholas Whyatt

**Meetings Administrator:** Elaine Daly

**Apologies:** Des Foley, Martin Murray

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

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



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Councillor Emer Tóibín referred to Item 9.9, Notice of Motion in relation to the delivery of the rail line to Navan. She confirmed that her motion was not a criticism of Meath County Council and she was disappointed that her motion had been misrepresented by some of the Elected Members.

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

#### **3.1 Expressions of Sympathy were extended to:**

The family of the late Andy (Sonny) Bennett, former employee.

The family of the late Terrance (Teddy) Mallon - former employee and father of former employee, James Mallon.

John McKeown, GSS Duleek and Caroline McKeown, School Warden on the death of their mother/mother-in-law Maureen (May) McKeown.

The family of the late Pauline Laverty, St. Mary's Park, Navan.

The family of the late Gerry Sheils, late of St. Brigid's Villas, Navan.

### **4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

4.1 Disposal of 0.1454 Ha of land comprising of 0.0515Ha – plot A , 0.0885Ha – plot B and 0.0054Ha – plot C at Crosskeys, Drumree, Co Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on January 23, 2023, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

4.2 Disposal of 0.0010 Ha of land at Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin, Co Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on January 24, 2023, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

4.3 Disposal of 0.0019 Ha of land at Eamonn Duggan Industrial Estate, Athboy Road, Trim, Co. Meath in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.



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The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on February 7, 2023, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Community**

##### **5.1.1 To receive a presentation from Meath Comhairle na nÓg.**

Ms. Katie Bermingham and Mr. Daragh Potterton outlined the ongoing work being undertaken by Comhairle na nÓg. Ms. Bermingham noted that the aim of the Comhairle is to make County Meath a place for young people to call home. She further outlined details of the discussions held at the AGM in October 2022, which included topics such as criminal behaviour, public transport and health and well-being. She noted that the Comhairle had decided to focus on mental health issues and misuse of drugs and alcohol for the forthcoming year.

Mr. Daragh Potterton outlined details of the wallet-sized advice cards which had been produced by the Comhairle. They provide life-saving advice in the event of an emergency relating to the misuse of drugs or alcohol. He noted that the cards would be circulated after the Easter break. Mr. Potterton also outlined the disappointment of the Comhairle that more Elected Members had not supported the AGM in October last year, and he asked that Councillors include a 'save the date' in their calendars for this year's AGM on Thursday October 26, 2023.

There were queries and interventions of support from **Councillors Ronan Moore; Tom Behan; Mike Bray; Marie Murphy; Gillian Toole; Alan Tobin; Tommy Reilly; Yemi Adenuga; David Gilroy; Trevor Golden; Sharon Tolan** and **An Cathaoirleach**. The Comhairle na nÓg were commended for their hard work and commitment. The importance of engagement between the youth of the county and the Elected Members was noted, in particular for affecting change and creating an interest in politics at an early age. It was agreed that the Elected Members would support the Comhairle in the roll-out of the information campaign and advice cards.

##### **5.1.2 To approve a replacement member of the Meath LCDC & LAG, Colin Ludlow from Meath Partnership representing the Local Development Company.**

On the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, Colin Ludlow from Meath Partnership, representing the Local Development Company, was appointed as a member of the Meath LCDC and LAG.

##### **5.1.3 To approve a replacement member of the Meath LCDC & LAG, Seán Ó Coisdealbha representing Údarás na Gaeltachta.**



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On the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**, Seán Ó Coisdealbha, representing Údarás na Gaeltachta, was appointed as a member of the Meath LCDC and LAG.

5.1.4 To receive and note the Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2022.

**Councillor Francis Deane** noted that the Committee are due to meet again in March. He further noted that the Chief Superintendent, John Dollard is meeting the Elected Members of Navan MD to discuss several Garda related matters of concern in Navan.

**Councillor Trevor Golden** paid tribute to the work of the JPC and in particular on the excellent engagement by An Garda Síochána.

### **5.2 Corporate Affairs and Governance**

5.2.1 To appoint a replacement Councillor to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly following the resignation of Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald.

On the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty**, **Councillor David Gilroy** was appointed to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

**Councillors Trevor Golden, David Gilroy** and **An Cathaoirleach**, thanked **Councillor Fitzgerald** for his ongoing commitment to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly over the years. **Councillor David Gilroy** thanked the Elected Members for their support.

### **5.3 Transportation**

5.3.1 To note the Road Safety Plan 2023-2024.

Ms. Caroline Corrigan, Senior Engineer outlined the salient points contained in the Road Safety Plan 2023 – 2024. She noted that the plan is currently in draft form and that an ambitious awareness campaign would be undertaken once the document is complete. The Plan sets out the Council's vision for road safety and for ensuring roads and transport systems are safe for all road users, while recognising the particular needs of vulnerable road users. The particularly high rate of young male fatalities in the county was highlighted. Ms. Corrigan thanked the members of the Road Safety Group for their input into the Plan, she also thanked the Road Safety Officer, Mr. Mick Finnegan for his ongoing work and commitment to road safety in the county.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Gillian Toole; Trevor Golden; Alan Tobin; Ronan Moore; Tommy Reilly; Elaine McGinty; Mike Bray; Joe Bonner; David Gilroy; Sharon Tolan; and An Cathaoirleach**. The Plan was broadly welcomed and the importance of engaging with the



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public, and young adults in particular, was noted. Concerns were raised around safety at schools, drug and alcohol testing, review of speed limits, the impact of toll schemes and road gritting routes. Responses to queries raised were provided by Ms. Corrigan and Mr. Whyatt.

### **5.4 Finance**

- 5.4.1 Report on the Schedule of Uncollected Rates for 2022 - In accordance with Article 26(2) of the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014.

Ms. Fiona Lawless provided an overview of the report. She noted the increase in the collection of commercial rates to 95%, as well as the success of the business support schemes. There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Damien O'Reilly; Gerry O'Connor; Gillian Toole; Pdraig Fitzsimons; Brian Fitzgerald; Elaine McGinty** and **An Cathaoirleach**. The members welcomed the figures and commended the Head of Finance and the Finance Staff on their excellent collection rates. There were queries regarding supports to rateable businesses during periods of road works. Responses to queries raised were provided by Ms. Lawless.

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Chief Executive's Report**

There were interventions from the following Elected Members: **Councillors Trevor Golden; Elaine McGinty; Gillian Toole; Damien O'Reilly; Sharon Tolan; Sean Drew; Pdraig Fitzsimons; Alan Lawes; Edward Fennessy** and **Alan Tobin**. The issues raised included:

**Environment:** Bulky Waste Collection; Dog Wardens; Litter Enforcement; Anti-Litter League.

**Planning:** Section 254 Licences; Judicial Review Decision; An Bord Pleanála Decisions.

**Libraries:** Irish classes; Period Poverty Scheme.

**Housing:** Homelessness; Choice Based Letting; Hostel Services; Housing Schemes.

**Tourism:** Boyne Valley Tourism.

**Community:** Community Grants Scheme; Blackwater Park Facilities; Community Response Forum.

**Transport:** Donacarney Footpath Scheme; Public Bike Scheme; CIS Scheme.



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Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Barry Lynch, Mr. Nicholas Whyatt, Mr. Dara McGowan, Mr. Sean Clarke and the Chief Executive.

### **6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group**

The Meetings Administrator reported that the CPG met on Friday, March 3, 2023, and reviewed the agenda for the March Council Meeting as well as the requirements for the Local Representation Allowance. The minutes of the Housing Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting which took place on 7th February were noted and there were no recommendations to the CPG.

An Cathaoirleach advised the members of the CPG that he will be meeting with the AILG on Tuesday March 7, in Buvinda, to discuss the details of the proposed new Planning Bill.

**Councillor Gillian Toole** queried whether the meeting with the Oireachtas Members, proposed at last month's meeting, would go ahead. **An Cathaoirleach** advised that he would refer the matter back to the Protocol Committee following his meeting with the AILG.

### **6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee**

The Meetings Administrator noted that the Protocol Committee met on Friday, March 3, 2023, and reviewed the practical arrangements for the March Council Meeting. She further advised that the details of the Local Representation were discussed, and the arrangements had been circulated to all Elected Members after the Protocol Committee Meeting.

It was noted that arrangements were being put in place to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, with a tree-planting and a commemorative lecture in honour of the late Dermot Gallagher from Ratoath, a former diplomat and secretary general to the Dept. of Foreign Affairs who played a key role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process and that further details will be circulated to the Elected Members once they are finalised.

It was noted that correspondence from the AILG in relation to personal security advice for elected members had been discussed and it was agreed to invite the Crime Prevention Officer to the April or May meeting of the Council.

The Conference and Training Schedules were approved and circulated to the Elected Members.

There were interventions from **Councillors Damien O'Reilly; Trevor Golden; Noel French; Gillian Toole; Pdraig Fitzsimons; Elaine McGinty; Alan Tobin; Gerry O'Connor; Alan Lawes; Ronan Moore; Yemi Adenuga; Joe Bonner; Emer Tóibín; Wayne Harding** and **An Cathaoirleach**. The members broadly welcomed the arrangements for the Council Meeting in Buvinda House. Queries raised included the layout of the seating arrangements, provisions for members of the public to attend council meetings, requirements of the Local Representation Allowance, impact of blended working and the timelines for delivery of the new council chamber and executive offices. Responses were



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provided by the Chief Executive. It was agreed that the Whips of each of the groups would discuss the seating arrangements and revert with suggestions to the next Protocol Committee meeting in April.

### **6.4 Briefing from Women's Caucus**

**Councillor Maria Murphy** outlined the recent activities of the Meath Women's Caucus including an online consultation with Maynooth University on the role of Councillors in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and consultation with Professor Tom Wilson on his continuing research into changes in Local Government in County Meath. It was noted that the AILG had piloted a Regional Women's Caucus and it was disappointing that Meath Councillors had not been included. In addition, **Councillor Murphy** noted that although a workplan had been agreed, there was no budget for the Women's Caucus and she asked that each Elected Member would provide a minimum of €250 from their discretionary fund to fund the activities of the Women's Caucus. Councillor Murphy outlined the recent engagement between Meath Women's Refuge and the Women's Caucus which included the development of a video which will be shared on several online platforms and highlights the levels of domestic abuse in our communities and the services provided by the Women's Refuge in Meath.

**Councillor Damien O'Reilly** noted that there was a huge increase in participation by women in sports and he asked that the Women's Caucus align some of their activities to reach out to these groups. **Councillor Maria Murphy** acknowledged Councillor O'Reilly's comments and noted that the objective was included in the Terms of Reference.

## **7 Correspondence**

7.1 Correspondence from the Minister of State for the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan, Delivery and Reform in response to Notice of Motion 9.1 adopted at the November 2022 meeting of the full Council re. proposal to increase penalties for littering.

**Councillor Alan Tobin** noted the correspondence and queried what constitutes an 'on the spot' fine. He also queried whether the Council could place advertising messages on bus shelters. Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Dara McGowan.

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

7.2 Correspondence from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in response to Notice of Motion 10.2 adopted at the February 2023 meeting of the full Council re. request to increase Meath's property price ceiling on the First Home Scheme.

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.



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- 7.3 Correspondence from the Garda Commissioner in response to Notice of Motion 10.5 adopted at the February 2023 meeting of the full Council re. invite to the Garda Commissioner to the next full council meeting to discuss crime and anti-social activity in Meath as well as Gardaí numbers in the county.

The Correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.4 Correspondence from Chief Superintendent Dollard, Meath/Westmeath Division in response to Notice of Motion 10.5 adopted at the February 2023 meeting of the full Council re. invite to the Garda Commissioner to the next full council meeting to discuss crime and anti-social activity in Meath as well as Gardaí numbers in the county.

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.5 Correspondence from the Minister for Justice in response to Notice of Motion 10.2 adopted at the September 2022 meeting of the full Council re. request a change to the existing legislation to ban the sale of low alcohol drinks and 00 alcoholic drinks to all persons under the legal drinking age.

**Councillor Tom Behan** noted that the correspondence didn't deal with the premise of the motion, and he asked that the matter be referred back to the Minister's Office for clarification.

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.6 Correspondence from the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform in response to Notice of Motion 10.3 adopted at the November 2022 meeting of the full Council re. establishing a statutory River Boyne Taskforce charged with preserving for future generations the distinctive character of the River Boyne, its ecology and biodiversity.

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.7 Correspondence from Bus Eireann re. request to attend a tripartite meeting.

**Councillor Gillian Toole** noted the correspondence and queried the arrangements for same. Mr. Nicholas Whyatt advised the members that the matter had been discussed at CPG and it was agreed that, in an effort to ensure an efficient meeting, the Transport Representatives would attend a meeting, with each MD afforded a separate opportunity to discuss local issues, which would be outlined to the Transport Representatives in advance of the meeting. There were interventions from Councillors **Trevor Golden; Gillian Toole; Tommy Reilly; Damien O'Reilly; Noel French; Gerry O'Connor; Alan Tobin; Pdraig Fitzsimons** and **An Cathaoirleach**. It was agreed that each MD would consider the relevant queries for their respective MDs.



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7.8 Circular 05/2023 – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. Increase to Variable Interest Rate.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.9 Circular LG 02-2023 – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. Increase to elected member annual remuneration on 1 March 2023.

Noted by the Elected Members.

**Councillor Trevor Golden** noted that no response had been received in respect of correspondence issued in relation to Item 10.2 of the December 2022 Council Meeting, requesting an amendment to the Electricity Regulation Act and associated legislation. The Meetings Administrator agreed to issue follow-up correspondence in relation to same.

### 8 Notice of Question

#### 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

*“How long, on average, were applicants waiting on the housing list before they were offered housing units in the year 2022 for one bed, two bed, three bed and four bed housing units?”*

#### **Response**

In relation to the allocations in 2022, the table below sets out the years in which the applicants were approved for social housing support. The average waiting time is also set out at the bottom of the table.

The information in the table below does not include those accommodated by approved housing bodies, as this information is not available without a manual examination of individual files, though average waiting time would be similar.

Year on list	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	Total
2000			2		2
2001					0
2002	1				1
2003	1	1			2
2004		2	1		3
2005	1				1
2006	2	3	1		6
2007	1	2	2	1	6
2008			1		1



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2009	3	7	1		11
2010	2	5	1	5	13
2011	2	4	4	3	13
2012	2	5	4	3	14
2013	1	3			4
2014	1	3	2	2	8
2015		6	7		13
2016		8	5	1	14
2017	1	12	9	3	25
2018	2	8	14	3	27
2019		3	10	1	14
2020	1	2	6		9
2021	1		4		5
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Average Waiting time across the county</b>	12 years	9 years	7 years	8 years	

Noted by the Elected Members.

### 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

*"To ask the Executive to provide an update on the delivery of all phases of the Boyne Greenway".*

#### **Response**

Work has progressed on finalising a preferred option for the Boyne Greenway and Navigation Scheme. The announcement of a preferred option has been delayed and further work and consultations with stakeholders are being undertaken to inform the decision-making process. This further work is principally concerned with more accurately defining the significance of flooding risk. The TII have provided an allocation of €100,000 for 2023 to supplement the funding already provided by DOT, RRDF and Meath County Council. We anticipate that the preferred option will be announced in Q2 2023. Following this announcement, the preliminary design and environmental studies/reports (traditionally known as phases 3 and 4) for the preferred option will be developed with a view to bringing an application forward for statutory planning approval in 2024. Note that because some key surveys are dependent on the time of year (and are not route specific) some 'phase 3' ecological surveys for Otters and Wintering Birds have already commenced.

Noted by the Elected Members.



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### 8.3 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

*“That Meath County Council provides a breakdown of the percentage of paid parking payments that Apcoa Parking App purchases accounts for and the year-on-year growth figures in the usage of the App since 2019.”*

#### Response

The usage of the Apcoa app has increased from 2.58% in January 2021 to 12.43% in December 2022. Income from the Apcoa App represents an average of 5.81% of total parking income in 2021 and an average of 9.22% in 2022.

Noted by the Elected Members.

## 9 Notice of Motion

### 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

*“I call on Meath County Council to write to Minister Darragh O'Brien TD - Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to request his department to increase Meath's property price ceiling on the Local Authority Home Loan, from €330,000 to €360,000 in accordance with the property price ceiling for Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow.”*

#### Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Local Authority Home Loan Regulations (S.I. 701 of 2021) have now been amended as set out in S.I. No. 76 of 2023. These amendments change the house price limits, borrowing amounts and income limits that apply to the Local Authority Home Loan.

With effect from March 1, 2023 the maximum market price, or purchase price if bought under an LA Affordable purchase scheme, of houses in Co. Meath that can be purchased under the Local Authority Home Loan is €330,000.

**Councillor Damien O'Reilly** introduced the motion. While he acknowledged the benefits of the Scheme, he expressed his disappointment at the level of the maximum market price for County Meath and noted that due to house prices in some parts of the County including Ratoath and Trim, that the Scheme could not be applied in these areas. He asked that correspondence be forwarded to both the Minister for Housing and to the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning. There were interventions of support from **Councillors Ronan Moore, Gerry O'Connor, Alan Lawes and An Cathaoirleach.**



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The motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding** was agreed.

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga**

*"I call on Meath County Council to install clearly visible signages at the entrances of our Major towns in Meath that say 'WELCOME' in various languages, as an indication that Meath welcomes all migrants and refugees living in Meath or who come to visit Meath."*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

Meath County Council provides many supports for migrants and refugees in our community as set out in the Migrant Integration Strategy and through the Community Response Forum. Any changes to 'town name' signs would need to be considered by the relevant Council Departments. However, expenditure for same would need to be provided for in the revenue budget before this could be considered.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**. **Councillor Adenuga** introduced the motion outlining her disappointment at the recent protests across the country, calling for refugees and migrants to leave Ireland. She was particularly disappointed that one such protest occurred in Co. Meath outside accommodation that was being provided to women and children fleeing war in Ukraine. She acknowledged the supports being provided through the Community Section and the Community Response Forum and the installation of welcome signage in various languages would further cement the 'welcome' for migrants into Meath.

There were interventions of support from **Councillors Sharon Tolan, Alan Lawes, Ronan Moore, Gerry O'Connor and Alan Tobin**, while **Councillors Trevor Golden, Tom Behan, Pdraig Fitzsimons, David Gilroy, Joe Bonner and Damien O'Reilly** expressed concerns regarding the logistics of such signage and the unintended consequences for same. It was also suggested that the use of an international symbol of welcome could be considered. At the suggestion of **An Cathaoirleach** it was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Housing Community and Cultural Development SPC for further consideration.

## **10 General Interest Motions**

### **10.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole (deferred from February meeting)**

*"The Members of Meath County Council request the Members of Dáil Éireann to begin drafting, without delay, a Well-being of Future Generations [Ireland] Act. This Act will enshrine the rights of future generations; requiring Irish Government Ministers and the organisations they oversee, to firmly fix this commitment into everything they do."*



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**Councillor Gillian Toole** introduced the motion outlining her frustration at the lack of lateral thinking and future planning for a myriad of crises including climate action, poverty, housing, health and education. She noted that Wales had adopted a Well-being of Future Generations Act, the purpose of which is to make Wales a better place to live in now and for people in the future and that Dáil Éireann should consider the implementation of similar legislation.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** was agreed.

### **10.2 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden (as recommended by the Transportation SPC on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022)**

*"We call on the Ministers for Justice and Transportation to explore the Introduction/amendment of road traffic legislation to allow the requisite authority to deploy technologies to combat speeding and enforce speed limits within urban areas (Towns & Villages)".*

**Councillor Trevor Golden** introduced the motion. He noted that the matter had been considered by the Transportation SPC and was being recommended to the Plenary Council. He noted that there were several technologies available to assist in combating speeding on our roads and these technologies should be deployed in our towns and villages. There were interventions of support from **Councillors Tommy Reilly** and **Gerry O'Connor**.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** was agreed.

### **10.3 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore**

*"That Meath County Council writes to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, calling on them to develop a grant assistance programme to help landowners identify, and responsibly manage roadside trees that pose a threat to road users and associated infrastructure in light of the growing risk of Ash Dieback and the ever-increasing severity of winter storms."*

**Councillor Ronan Moore** introduced the motion. He noted that landowners are responsible for roadside trees on their lands and that the influx of Ash Dieback has placed a significant financial burden on landowners. He further noted that the Dept. of Agriculture would be best suited to develop a support scheme for such landowners.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Ronan Moore** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** was agreed.

### **10.4 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden**



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*“To reduce the number of personal vehicle journeys and to aid with traffic management; Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Transport to consider amending legislation relating to Bus Lanes to allow the introduction of high-occupancy vehicle lanes - HOV Lanes (Bus & Carpooling lanes). We the members suggest the R147 as a pilot project.”*

**Councillor Trevor Golden** introduced the motion. He noted that while the use of public transport should be encouraged it was not suitable for all road users. He suggested that if bus lanes could also be utilised as high occupancy vehicle lanes that this would reduce the number of cars on our roads. He noted that the R147 and the N3 could be used as a pilot for such a scheme.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** was agreed.

### **11 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)**

- 11.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation
- 11.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment
- 11.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing
- 11.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **12 Any Other Business**

**Councillor Gillian Toole** queried the schedule of meetings for the Transportation SPC as she had some queries relating to gritting routes. It was agreed that the schedule of meetings would be forwarded to Councillor Toole.

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm