



Miomtuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10:00 a.m., 4th April 2023, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Alan Tobin, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Aisling O'Neill and Conor Tormey

Apologies/ Absent: Councillor Amanda Smith

Councillors Present via Zoom: n/a

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 7th March 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th of March 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

4 To receive an update on the EirGrid East Meath North Dublin Project.

The members received a presentation from EirGrid representatives outlining the project details to date which will deliver a high capacity 400kV underground cable electricity connection between Belcamp Substation in Dublin and Woodland Substation in Meath.

They advised on the need to upgrade and strengthen the network to:

- improve the transfer of power,
- address the increased electricity demand,
- reduce the use of and reliance on fossil fuels,
- facilitate further development of renewable energy.
- assist in achieving climate action targets.

EirGrid announced the Emerging Best Performing option in March 2023 following Public Consultations and assessments on four route options in 2022. The best performing Options will be announced in the summer 2023 and then apply for planning permission to An Board Pleanála in Quarter 4 2023.

The members were informed that the route is approximately 37 km in length with an estimated off-road section of 9 km. Most of the route follows existing roads and will cross the river Tolka, the railway at M3 parkway and the M3 motorway. This upgrade will use High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) which is currently used in electricity grids in Ireland and internationally. The cable will be buried about 1.3 meters below the road surface.

The EirGrid representatives advised that they continue to engage with residents, landowners and community groups along the route, carry out more technical studies and onsite investigations and engage with the local authorities, elected members and other agencies. A comprehensive media and communications plan is in place with information also available on the EirGrid website.

The members raised the following queries:

- To circulate the presentation to the members
- Welcomed the undergrounding of cables.
- Will roads be dug up entirely or in the middle– site investigations will decide which roads need to be dug up.
- What type of concrete will be used – low carbon will be used to meet climate target.
- Will the Local Authority be able to share the ducts that are laid to use at a later stage.



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- The distance of the cables from other services and do the cables go under/over these services. - cables will run parallel with other ducts
- Is there a community gain fund- A community benefit fund is in place which will give back 3% of the capital cost of cable, which will amount to more than €1 million fund and a one-off payment to residents along the route.
- The roads need to be re-instated properly following the works.
- A need for proper road management and safety of the community is required- will work closely with residents, landowners, and community during construction and the planning and transportation sections for traffic management.
- What is the timeframe to commence works – submit planning application end of 2023 and if successful commence construction in 2026.
- Will cable go underground of the motorways – yes will have to drill down to lay cable, depth depends on the landscape.
- A need for consultation with the Community in Ashbourne - will look at consultation.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Skatepark.

The tender for the procurement of consultants for the linear park phase 2 has been published on e-tenders. The successful consultants will prepare the detailed design for several elements of the linear park, i.e., carpark, walkway, public lighting and prepare the tender documentation for the entire project including the design and build elements (bridge and skatepark). A more detailed timetable will be available once the consultants are appointed.

Members noted the update and requested a further update when a design is finalised.

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on NTA Schemes in Ashbourne.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation gave an update on the following schemes:



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- R135 Cycling North, at construction stage with completion October 2023
- R135 Cycling South, at detailed design stage, tender Q3 2023, to commence construction 2024.
- Castle Street, commence surveys and design 2023. Part 8, Q1 2024.
- Footpath Kilbride – Cherry Tree Drive to GAA Pitch. Construction contract awarded with construction to commence Q3 2023.
- Park And Ride - Garlow Cross, at construction stage. To open Q2 2023.
- Greenogue Bus Stop, at preliminary design stage. To prepare part 8 with a target date for approval October 2023.
- Bus Stop Improvements R132 South of Mosney Cross/ Gormanston Station. At preliminary design stage. To construct in 2023 subject to Road Safety Audit.

The members raised the following:

- Commended the works taking place.
- Enquired if the timeframe for the Greenogue bus stops could be completed sooner – advised will complete sooner if possible.
- The cycleway requires signage and lighting from Dunne Stores.
- Pedestrian crossing needs to be clearly marked out.
- Section of footpath missing on Castle Street opposite Cluain Rí.
- Enquired how to get more bus stops along the 197 route – advised that the NTA issue a licence to a bus operator which sets out designated bus stops. Can write to the bus operator if require a new bus stop and in turn the Council will decide if the set down area is a safe place to stop.
- Can the NTA change bus stops temporarily – yes, do this during roadworks.
- How can we get bus shelters along the route to Kentstown- advised to send to the Transportation section who will liaise with the NTA.
- Generator at Millennium Park causing vibrations to the apartments.
- Enquired if a Park and Ride be included at the southbound side of town – advised on plans for 350 spaces around the 9 mile-stone area. To meet with the



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NTA Park & Ride office to finalise a location.

- Enquired if there is a charge at the Garlow cross park & ride – advised none at present as new parking byelaws being prepared, to agree a minimum charge as a control mechanism.
- Why is a Part 8 required for Castle Street works – Part 8 required for big schemes.
- To look at the bus stop sign at Delvin River, Gormanstown.
- Requested a speed survey at Greenogue.
- Referred to having a VSS for Donaghmore Church.
- Enquired when the Traffic Lights on the R125 will be turned on.
- To look at the footpath on the R125 from the roundabout to Donaghmore church.
- Bus stop required at St Declan’s Graveyard on both sides.
- Noted poles being erected for bus stop at Curragha
- Referred to the R125 at Primatestown where no sequence to the traffic lights which is causing tailbacks.
- Traffic congestion at the Nine Milestone, difficult to get onto roundabout.

- 5.1.2 To update the Members on progression of ‘Safe Routes to School’ programme for Gaelscoil Na Mí and Ashbourne Community School.

Paul McKeon, SEE, Transportation Section gave an update on the Safe Routes to School project. He advised that An Taisce Green-Schools coordinate the programme by working with schools and the local authorities. Schools apply to the Scheme for inclusion. The programme aims to support active travel to school (walking and cycling). The programme is funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority. In Ashbourne, Gael Scoil Na Mí and Ashbourne Community School have been selected by An Taisce for this round. Jacobs have been appointed as the technical consultant and have completed the preliminary design. The proposed works will be progressed under Section 38 “Traffic Calming” of the Roads Act 1994 with funding allocated by the NTA. It is expected construction works will be commence over the summer months when the schools are closed.

The members raised the following:

- Enquired if the car park beside school could be used during school times – need to



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discuss with owners as not council owned.

- Welcomed pathway from Milltown Bridge
- Enquired about the finish of the pathways and delivery time.
- Asked if public lighting included at the bridge – this will be included.
- A need to define footpaths for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Concern for the turntable for the bus which parks outside the school.
- Requested a courtesy crossing with signage- one in place, need to highlight it more.
- Enquired if grass verge will be removed to deter cars parking here – knee rails being installed on kerbs.

5.1.3 To receive details of the Bike Rental Scheme for Ashbourne.

David Maloney, Moby Bikes updated the members on the Bike Rental Scheme planned for Ashbourne. He advised that Moby operate in others LA's and companies across the country. He said that the scheme is for a 12-month trial period and is the first tender in the country to have three types of bikes available for rental. Ashbourne will have 15 pedal, 15 e-bike which have pedals and a motor and 3 cargo bikes which are 2 wheeled and electric. He said the battery range to cycle is 40-45km. A launch date is scheduled for Thursday 27th April where the public will be encouraged to use the bikes. Rental price is 1 cent per minutes for pedal bike and 10 cent per minute for e-bike. Bikes will be located at Sheffield stands, which the company will set up. There are 15-16 spots currently available. Cargo bikes will have different stands. There is a scan on/off fee of €1, where you get a code to cycle, and this will deter from vandalism or people renting bikes for short distances only.

The members raised the following:

- What happens if the battery runs low and cannot pedal – A dial on the bike will tell you what distance left. Do not rent out bikes with under 20km left in the battery.
- How will it be promoted – will run promotions through company app so need to get people using the app.
- Older people are a key market as they prefer pedal bikes.

Cllr Tobin sought an extension for the meeting until 12.30pm, this was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Suzanne Jamal and seconded by Cllr Aisling O'Neill.



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- 5.1.4 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

The report circulated in advance of the meeting was noted.

5.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 5.2.1 To note details of recipients for MD awards night Thursday May 11th, 2023.

Audrey Norris gave an update on the nominations received. The members requested another week to seek further nominations. It was agreed that a full list of recipients would be circulated to the members when finalised.

- 5.2.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District.

The allocations circulated in advance were noted.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

I call on Meath County Council to provide an update on the current position on providing bus stops on the Greenogue/Swords Road.

Response

Meath County Council are continuing to engage with the National Transport Authority, in order to advance the delivery of the two new offline bus stops in Greenogue.

- Following the submission of a concept design, scope of works and estimated project costing, Meath County Council has received confirmation from the NTA that they will fund the design and construction of the two new offline bus stops.
- Land will be required to construct the bus stop on the southern side (Ashbourne bound) of the R125.



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- Sufficient space exists in the lay-by on the northern side of the R125 (Swords bound)
- Due to the nature of the works Planning permission will be required, as there is a need to adjust the existing road edge boundaries.
- The proposed preliminary timeline for the delivery of the two bus stops, as discussed, is detailed below:
 - Meath County Council will tender for, and appoint, a consultant in the coming weeks. Once appointed the Consultant will continue to advance the design, through the planning and tendering stages, to construction and completion.
 - It is our current intention to lodge a planning application for the two stops towards the end of May. It would be hoped that planning permission would be granted by the end of October. Where we would be optimistic that the scheme would receive planning permission without any great impediment, we must however note that planning is an independent statutory process, and that we have no control or influence over its outcomes, or any potential ensuing challenges.
 - Once planning is secured, the project will be tendered. This process will take in the region of two months. On completion of this stage the successful Contractor is appointed.
 - Cognisant of the works required for the delivery of the scheme, and the Contractor's requirement to safely manage the large volume of existing traffic on this arterial road, we would estimate that the construction phase may take in the region of two to three months to complete.
 - Taking all the above in consideration, the two bus stops should be available for use in early 2024.

Please note that where we don't anticipate any delays, items beyond our control may influence the above timeline.

As agreed, we will keep the group informed of progress as we achieve the key stages noted above.



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The response to the notice of question was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

There was no notice of motions.

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

- 8.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise, and European Affairs SPC of 24th March 2023 Correspondence

The reports circulated in advance were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

Members raised the following issues:

- Drainage issues on Hickeys Lane, Baltrasna on left hand side – will look at again at issues.
- Upkeep of Bile lanes to include signage, markings, and clean-up.
- Confusion around roadworks in Stamullen and if the road is open to traffic.
- A piece of Exercise equipment in Garden City needs to be repaired.
- Funding for bins on Milltown Road, Johnswood road and Hunters Lane to Archerstown Road
- Pothole in cycle lane outside Garda station.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach