



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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

#### ***Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District***

***10.00 am, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Duleek Civic Offices***

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

**Councillors Present:** Geraldine Keogan, Sharon Tolan, Elaine McGinty, and Tom Behan.

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** Stephen McKee

**Apologies/Absent:** Councillor Paddy Meade

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

**Director of Service:** Fiona Lawless

**Executive Engineer:** Christy Clarke

**Meetings Administrator:** Áine Bird

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **CLlr Geraldine Keogan** and seconded by **CLlr Elaine McGinty**.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

Sympathy was extended to the Fay family, Mornington on the death of their son Joseph.



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Congratulations was extended to Evan Ferguson & the Irish soccer team.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Transportation**

4.1.1 To receive an update on Safe Routes to School and an update on the Eastham Road project.

Nicholas Whyatt, SE, Transportation provided an update on the following Active Travel schemes:

- Bettystown to Donacarney Pedestrian/Cycling Scheme which is at tender stage with construction to commence Q3/Q4 2023
- Drogheda R132 Cycle scheme is due to start, to discuss linking into Louth County Council Scheme. and to appoint a design team.
- Footpath Rehabilitation – Millrace and part of Fr Ryan Park, Duleek. The construction contract has been awarded with construction to commence 2023.
- New Footpaths, Donacarney Community Centre to Bus Stop, Beamore Road, Mill Road (ET to Gaelscoil). At design stage, to tender in Q2 2023, with construction Q3-Q4 2023.

Paul McKeon SEE Transportation provided an update on the **Safe Routes to School** programme as follows:

- An Taisce Green-Schools coordinates the Safe Routes to Schools programme 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.
- Realt Na Mara Girls NS and Boys NS schools have been selected by An Taisce for this round.
- Jacobs have been appointed as the technical consultant and have completed the preliminary design.
- Have met with the schools in developing the proposed design.
- The proposed works will be progressed under Section 38 “Traffic calming



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measures” of the Roads Act 1994 which has a public consultation element.

- Funding has been allocated by the NTA and it is expected construction works will commence over the summer months when the schools are closed.

The Councillors raised the following:

- Will a bus shelter be provided – advised can have a look at providing one.
- Enquired if a school warden will be provided – advised that there will be no requirement as per the design layout.
- Can bollards be included on the Donacarney road outside the houses and near the school – yes, they can be included.
- Can filter lanes be provided from the school – Traffic in/out school will change, not advisable to put in filter lanes, aim is to reduce cars driving to the school.
- Raised table crossing too close to the turn on the Church Road.
- Will the existing bus stop remain – advised it will be a green area to deter cars parking in it and that the bus will stop on the road.
- Was there a recent traffic count on the road – yes, 6-7k cars use the road daily.
- What is the timeframe for works- to do a S38 notice, depending on submissions finalise drawings for tendering, works to commence during summer holidays.

On proposal of **Cllr Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Cllr Geraldine Keogan**, members agreed to proceed with preliminary design.

Paul McKeon SE gave the following update on the **Eastham Road project** under the Active Travel programme:

- Will provide cycle facilities with improved pedestrian facilities along the Eastham Road from the Bettystown Court Hotel roundabout to Whitefield roundabout, approx. 1.4km.
- Funding has been allocated by the NTA for the design elements. Jacobs have been appointed as the technical consultant and are currently working on the emerging preferred option.
- Proposing to have a non-statutory public consultation to gather public opinion on this proposal.
- Pending the outcome and further design development a full statutory planning approval process (Part 8) would be required.

The members raised the following:



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- Need to address Bettystown junction, will it be linked into this project – advised can look at this area at the next stage of the project.
- Will the lane be segregated into cycle and pedestrian use.
- Concerns with children using the lane - advised that the lane will be enhanced as a space that is welcoming with good connectivity for users.
- Will there be public lighting on the school road, Donacarney, Eastham Road/Bettystown – yes there will.
- A need for pedestrian points on the Eastham Road – advised a survey currently being carried out to identify locations for raised tables along the road.

The members were advised that a public consultation will be held to discuss the emerging preferred route and all submissions will be considered.

On proposal of **Cllr Tom Behan** and seconded by **Cllr Elaine McGinty**, members agreed to proceed with preliminary design for public consultation.

- 4.1.2 To consider pursuant to Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 that Meath County Council make a declaration that a section of the road at Ninch, Laytown, Co. Meath be a Public Road. This is the School Access Road linking the L5632 “Coast Road” and R150 “Tara Road.

Details were circulated in advance of the meeting and noted.

On the proposal of **Cllr Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Cllr Tom Behan**, the members agreed to the declaration.

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

The report circulated in advance was noted.

## **4.2 Corporate Services**

- 4.2.1 To note details of recipients for the MD Awards night Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Audrey Norris gave an update on nominations received. Members queried if reps



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from a St Patricks Day parade committee could be nominated. It was agreed that an individual could be nominated on behalf of the committee. Final nominations to be circulated prior to the event.

- 4.2.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The list circulated in advance was noted.

### **5 Notice of Question**

#### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee**

*“To request an update on the Duleek Public Realm Plan; the timeframe on the delivery of the Plan and furthermore to ask when proposed traffic calming and road safety measures for Lower Main Street and the bottom of Station Road, Duleek will be put in place.”*

#### **Response:**

Meath County Council was successful in accessing funding from The Heritage Council to prepare a Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Duleek under the umbrella of the Historic Towns Initiative. On foot of same we will be procuring consultants to progress the drafting of a public realm plan.

Meath County Council are currently working on the design of Junction Improvement works at Station Road Duleek which will include a traffic calming table and a signalised junction. The design is nearing completion and we anticipate that we will be in a position to go to tender before the end of April.

The response was noted.

#### **5.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan**

*“What progress has been made in relation to establishing a Coastal Protection Plan for Meath, and when will the District Councillors meet with the appointed Consultants to outline our concerns and ideas?”*



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### **Response:**

Meath County Council are involved in a number of different projects which are designed to protect our coastline from the effects of coastal erosion due to more frequent storm surges, as well as controlling vehicular and pedestrian movements in dune systems which are vulnerable to such movements.

The Council are collaborating with National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) who have appointed Consultants to prepare an overall Management Plan for the dunes system in Mornington and designed to regenerate and protect these dunes from damage being caused by vehicular traffic, horses, walkers and sporting clubs using this amenity for training purposes.

The Management Plan will examine the current parking situation within the dunes area which are in private ownership and make recommendations to regulate same. The Consultants have commenced work on the preparation of the draft plan and will engage with the local elected members and other stakeholders who wish to make their views known. The draft plan when completed will have to be agreed with the various stakeholders including the Council NPWS, landowners, etc.

Meath County Council in association with the East Border Region are lead authority with Louth, Ards/North Down & Newry & Mourne in a coastal erosion project titled "Exploring Sustainable Nature Based Solutions to Coastal Erosion" and for which funding of €147,000 is being awarded under the Shared Island funding stream. Tender documents are being finalised to engage Consultants with a view to identifying possible natural solutions in each jurisdiction. It is envisaged that funding will then be sought from either the Shared Island or Peace Plus funding streams to carry out any capital projects identified.

With funding of €90,000 provided from the OPW the Council have procured Consultants to carry out a Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study for the Meath coastline. The Study will identify the locations that are at risk of flooding and erosion and will include recommendations on how they should be addressed. The programme for the study is one year and work is due to commence in the coming weeks.



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The Council also await the findings from an interdepartmental Working Group who have been established to scope out an approach for the development of an integrated, whole of Government coastal change management strategy.

The response was noted.

### **5.3 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan**

*“To call on Meath County Council to commence the taking in charge of the roadway through the Educational Campus in Bettystown, that runs between the Coast Road and the new Tara Road.”*

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

Meath County Council proposes to commence the process to declare this road a Public Road and will attend the April meeting to advise further.

The motion proposed by **Cllr Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Cllr Tom Behan** was agreed.

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

- 6.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise, and European Affairs SPC of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The reports were noted.

## **7 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **8 Any Other Business**



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- 8.1 To receive the second biannual progress report on the Drogheda Implementation Plan.

Graíne Berrill, Co-ordinator and Michael Keogh, Chairperson of the Drogheda Implementation Board gave an outline on the progress within the report which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

They advised that the structures are working well with the sub-groups, with work completed on actions. There has been an increase in interagency co-operation and the focus this year is on Employment/Business/Enterprise and Community Development, Arts, Culture and Sport.

Members raised the following:

- Commend the works that have been done.
- Concerns with young persons using other types of illegal drugs and the effect it may have on them. – looking at what works well around the country, and liaising with the guards.
- Parents unaware what drugs young persons are taking.
- More investment needed into tackling drugs and drug awareness.
- More funds invested into the Red Door and Ask for Angela initiatives.
- New Library being built in Bettystown, channel some funds into the library for young person's projects.
- Investment required towards the Community Unit of An Garda Síochána for more community policing.
- Commend the work with the Training hub, Drogheda and all agencies involved.
- Any update on the sports proposal – The Board supports the proposal and will liaise with the Minister of Sport; agencies will submit and lead out on the proposal.
- Any plans to improve facilities in the Southside of town – trying to attract more funding for this side of town and will keep monitoring.

Members advised that there is currently a grant scheme in place where 41 applications have been received.

It is intended to hold a Town Hall meeting with agencies to agree next steps and seek views on what is working/ not working and/or improved.

Members thanked Grainne and Michael for their updates.

The members raised the following issues under AOB:

- To raise awareness of public transport to the beaches and signage to the carparks.





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- Tree fell at derelict property on The Narrowways – advised that the tree surgeon removed tree with the cost paid by the council.
- Wall falling at derelict property reducing the carriageway due to the foliage – advised that the property owner cannot be traced.
- Slane Bridge/Mill Hill, there may be an issue with traffic lights for the lanes – advised will request Traffic Lights section to look at timing and the sequence of lights.
- Issue with dog fouling in Slane village – advised to give list of areas that require signs.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach