

Miomtuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10:15 a.m., 20th June 2023, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Alan Tobin presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Amanda Smith

Apologies/ Absent: n/a

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillor Conor Tormey

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Deputising Elaine Daly SEO

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 9th May 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Susanne Jamal** and **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

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 family of Paul Beggy on the death of his mother Margaret.

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Congratulations was extended to:

- Fiona Lawless on her promotion to Chief Executive
- Civic Awards night
- Inline Hockey teams in the All-Ireland playoffs in Gormanston Park

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Community

4.1.1 To consider the draft Meath Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

Fiona Fallon SEO gave a presentation on the LECP where she outlined the objectives and actions that will support the economic development and the local and community development of County Meath over the next six years. She said that the economic elements will guide and support the economic development role of the local authority and is developed by the Economic Development SPC with the Community elements developed by the LCDC. She advised that the next steps are the consideration of the draft LECP by each MD and the Eastern Midland Regional Assembly with the integrated LECP to be adopted by Full Council in Quarter 4.

On the proposal of **Cllr Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Cllr Susanne Jamal** the members agreed to proceed to the next stage of the process.

Cllr Tobin enquired if there was any update on the Skate Park. Fiona Fallon advised that two tenders have been received and are being assessed with a decision this week on the appointment of a consultant. She said that construction will commence next year with any river works to take place between July and September.

4.2 Housing

4.2.1 To receive an update on proposed Social Housing Scheme adjacent to Ashewood.

Paul Barrell SEE, Housing gave an update on the proposed social housing scheme. He said that the council's housing delivery action plan identified the need to purchase additional land for social housing in the Ashbourne Municipal District. The land adjacent to Ashewood was purchased and funding was approved by the Department of Housing.

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He advised that the proposed development would consist of 74 units with entry through the existing entrance at Ashwood Green. Preliminary design and investigative surveys are ongoing with a view to preparing either a S179A application or Part 8 planning application within the next 6-8 weeks. The decision on whether a Part 8 is required will be made when the relevant investigative surveys have been completed.

Once the preliminary design is completed a tender will issue for a design build contractor to carry out detailed design and construction of the units. The estimated completion date is December 2025. The council will allocate and manage the properties directly when constructed.

The members raised the following:

- Has consideration been given to lands on right/left of this area and the traffic impact for the roads and adjoining estates.
- Will a playground be provided and how will it be managed.
- Is the scheme mixed development or all social.
- Under new planning guidelines, scheme will not go through a part 8
- Can submissions be submitted if there is no Part 8 process.
- Is there a masterplan for this area as it's good practice.
- Are planners available to meet the community on the design.
- Is entrance into proposed development in through Ashwood.
- Need an assessment of the social infrastructure as issues in the estate.
- Is 15% allocated to green space and can the hedgerows be retained.
- Are there 35 units per hectare.

Paul Barrell responded as follows:

- Do not want to preclude access to adjacent lands. Planning permission on lands to the east and lands to the west are in private ownership.
- No requirement to do a masterplan.
- Transportation section will be assessing the traffic impact on roads and estates.
- The department does not fund playgrounds in social housing schemes, can leave an area to develop a playground at a later stage.
- The scheme is 100% funded by the department.
- Emergency planning guidelines in place which allow LA lands zoned residential be exempt from preparing a part 8 application, however the LA must advertise it's intentions.
- Access to units will be through Ashwood entrance.

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- More detailed design will be brought back to members prior to advertising.
- There is 15% allocated to green space. Hedgerows don't work between gardens, can have hedgerows along the boundary areas.
- No name has been decided, there is protocol to follow when naming an estate.

4.3 Transportation

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

The report circulated in advance of the meeting was noted with the following raised:

- Commend the outdoor crew and firefighters on water distribution during the water outages – advised that the outdoor crew were distributing water over 7 days so works schedule is behind.
- Request an update from Uisce Eireann on how they will manage future outages.
- Why is the council doing this work on behalf of Uisce Eireann- advised that the council has the equipment and expertise of the water caretakers. The Service Level Agreement in place with Uisce Eireann is now up for review.
- Businesses had to close and send staff home and no compensation available.
- Welcomed the new footpath in Stamullen which is near completion.

4.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

The allocations were noted.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

“In relation to Greenogue Bus Stop:

What is progress since last municipal meeting?”

Has a consultant been appointed?

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Has there been any communication between Meath County Council and the land owners?

If there has not been any communication, can you confirm what the delay is?

Response

The Greenogue Rural Bus Stops Scheme continues to remain on track to advance through planning by Q4 2023, with construction (subject to planning approval) intended to commence in Q1 2024. Further response will issue prior to the meeting.

The following updated response was read out and will be circulated to the members.

“Meath County Council have prepared and undertaken the tendering for Consultancy Services, for the Greenogue Rural Bus Stops Scheme.

Please note, that where the National Transport Authority has previously confirmed it is willing to fund the full extent of the scheme, formal allocation of this funding from the NTA remains outstanding. This is required in order to advance the project.

Once the design team is appointed, a detailed design will be undertaken. This process will confirm the extent of any boundary adjustment requirements. At this point in time further contact will be made with any affected landowners.

The project remains broadly on track, to advance through planning by Q4 2023, with construction (subject to planning approval) intended to commence in Q1 2024.”

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can Meath/Fingal County Council and TII publish revised timelines on the M2 extension including the preferred route, entrance and exit points and some clarity on when residents can apply for planning permissions for *homes, extensions and retentions.*”

Response

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) published it’s Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads, Active Travel and Greenways in February 2023. This included funding

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in 2023 to meet current project commitments for the proposed N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross scheme.

The deliverables for Phase 2 of the TII Project Management Guidelines have been completed for the proposed N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross scheme. The project team are currently awaiting TII approval to proceed to the next phase of the process – Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Within the Phase 3 process, more detail is gathered to help define the required land necessary for the project. This detail is garnered from topographical surveys, archaeological geophysical surveys, ground investigation surveys etc. Some of these surveys will be undertaken as advance works, prior to the approval to proceed to Phase 3 by TII, or in order to meet seasonal survey requirements/restrictions.

Potential junction layouts at Rath and Kilmoon are currently being considered by the project team as advance works, prior to the approval to proceed to Phase 3 by TII, in order to inform survey requirements. Following the identification of a preferred layout for the proposed junctions, the extent of the junction corridors at Rath and Kilmoon will be reduced. The extent of the planning notification boundary associated with the preferred option corridor for the scheme will also be reduced at these locations.

We note that the project website will be updated at key points as the scheme progresses. There will be further liaison with stakeholders and landowners once more information is available.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“I call on Meath County Council to begin to initiate a Part 8, including public consultation on a site in council ownership in Ashewood, townland Dun Reagh, (currently being used by OPW) for a public playground. This site is currently zoned F1 Public Open Space. (See map/folio MH61505F below)”



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

There are no plans in the Capital Programme of works to develop the lands for a playground with the priority at present to deliver the skatepark.

The site is currently used as a temporary compound for the OPW drainage works (Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme).

On the proposal of Cllr Tobin and seconded by Cllr Bonner the motion was noted.

The members were advised that could look at including this when reviewing the Capital works programme.

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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To request the Transport/Planning Departments to carry out a review of parking, footpaths, common areas and general road safety and present a design that would improve the overall appearance and function of Brindley Park in Ashbourne.”

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

Ashbourne MD will consider any works of a minor nature that are requested by the Residents’ Committee, subject to feasibility, available funding and resources. The estate was constructed in accordance with Planning Permission and was taken in charge in 2017. Any significant redesign of the estate roads, footpaths and open spaces would require a Part 8 procedure and would have to align with the objectives of the County Development Plan. There is no provision in the budget for works of this nature.

On the proposal of Cllr Tobin and seconded by Cllr Jamal, the motion was noted.

Cllr Tobin said that the parking spaces are not large enough for cars to park in. The estate needs to be resurfaced and the layout and sightlines reviewed.

7 Strategic Policy Committee, Corporate Policy Group & Protocol Reports – For Information Purposes

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 5th May 2023.

The minutes were noted.

7.2 To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 31st March 2023.

The minutes were noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.



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9 Any Other Business

- The community section was commended on securing funding under the Community Recreation Scheme.
- The members were updated on the twinning trip to Spain with the proposed dates -21st July to 24th July.

The meeting concluded at 11.40am.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach