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Ordinary Meeting

Navan Municipal District

10:00am, 15th November 2023, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Councillors Francis Deane, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Tommy Reilly, Emer Tóibín and Yemi Adenuga

Councillors Present via Zoom: Alan Lawes

Absent/apologies:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Executive Engineer: Shane Durcan

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Ann Monaghan

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th October 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th of October 2023, were proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There was none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

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- The family of the late Ivan Reilly, brother of Ken Reilly, IT section
- The family of the late Sharon Maher
- The family of the late Joan Smith
- The family of the late Brian Murphy
- The family of the late Jimmy Faulkner

Congratulations were extended to Walterstown women's team on reaching the final.

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 .006Ha of land at Woodlands, Navan. The lands come within the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

On the proposal of **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**, the members agreed in principle to the disposal.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

5.1.1 To Receive an update on the Digital Strategy and National Broadband Plan Progress Report

Simon McCabe, Head of IT and Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer gave an update on progress of the current Meath Digital Strategy. They advised overall that good progress has been made despite encountering several challenges which included the pandemic thus switching to remote working and moving to digital services, staff changes and a small number of actions which could not be progressed. They said that the next steps are to review and update the strategy accordingly.

The following issues were raised:

- Enquired how the speed of Wi-Fi in the IDA park compares to others around the country- advised that the speed is the same but to confirm this.
- Referred to the wooden poles in place and what are they for- advised that the network is installed onto them.
- Enquired what the licences are for – advised that these are road opening licences issued to the operators.

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- Referred to some operators not removing their equipment following the completion of works – advised that operators are conditioned in their licence to clean up after their works.
- Enquired how to get fibre into your property - advised that the operators provide various packages to the public to access fibre.
- Enquired about the percentage of the public who have fibre in Meath – advised will revert with the numbers.
- Is the rollout on schedule as the take up in Navan is slow – advised that the impact regionally will not slow down other areas as delivery is done in blocks.

5.2 Planning

5.2.1 To receive an update on County Meath Heritage Strategy 2023-2030

Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer, gave an update on the new proposed Strategy and the seven themes agreed. She advised that the next steps are to carry out an Environmental Assessment and finalise the plan to present to the Full Council for approval.

The members raised the following:

- Commended all the works taking place.
- Welcomed the appointment of Ben Malone as the Biodiversity officer.
- Enquired if any update for the Tara plan – advised that council met with OPW to advance some actions.
- Referred to Dowth Hall and what involvement the Council will have- the council will work with the OPW and the state accordingly.
- Requested a list of Heritage grant schemes available to groups- advised that when grant schemes open, these will be circulated to the members and groups.
- Enquired if there are many projects awaiting commencement – advised that projects are ongoing at different stages and are dependent on funding and /or resources to progress.
- Referred to the Aqua-duct bridge and if this could be lit up.
- Referred to old graveyards and if council could work with groups to maintain these – advised that there's a grant scheme in place for these, and the council will assist a group with their proposed works proposal.

5.3 Transport

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

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

- Commended the works that have been done.
- Enquired when Millbrook, Spire-view and Priory will be taken in charge- advised that Millbrook is taken in charge but do not TIC apartments, planning are doing works on the other estates prior to taking in charge.
- Enquired when the remaining works will be completed in St Brigid's Villas – advised that a contractor is due to complete these works.
- Referred to 2 trees in Boyneview in danger of falling- advised that an arborist is doing a full report on all trees for tendering, with a contractor to start in December.

5.3.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Canterbrook Estate in the Navan Municipal District

Paul Phelan SEE updated the members on the proposed traffic calming measures for Canterbrook estate.

On the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**, the members agreed to the measures.

5.3.3 Parking Update for Christmas

Martin Murray gave an update on the proposed free parking over the Christmas period at the N51 Park n Ride at Moathill. He said that a shuttle bus will be available to bring commuters into town. A launch date is to be finalised and will be advertised through the chamber and other media channels.

5.3.4 To receive an update on the final design for the preparation of a Part 8 Planning Application for the Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation Scheme.

Cormac Ross, SEE, Transportation gave an update on the preliminary design for Trimgate Street and presented before and after pictures of the street. He advised that when completed, funding will be sought then to progress the scheme. He said that engagement has taken place with schools, businesses and the public with positive feedback.

Members raised the following:

- Commended the work done on the scheme.

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- Enquired how the barrier will work – advised it maybe automated to allow traffic into the private carparks.
- Referred to St Marys who will have access only onto Railway street- council has engaged with St Marys complex regarding their access.
- Concerns with anti-social behaviour on the street – advised that CCTV will be installed along the street.

Martin Murray advised that this is an update only and that there will be more consultation when a final design is completed. He said that other projects have to be completed first in order to link into this phase, such as the opening of the new link road, walking and cycling routes, all of which need to be monitored to review traffic movements to ensure they are working accordingly.

- 5.3.5 To receive a progress update on the Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle/Pedestrian Scheme, and Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor.

Paul O'Brien EE, Transportation gave an update on progress of the next phase from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor. He said that this phase is 850 meters long and will extend from the current phase under construction from the Solstice centre. He advised that consultants have completed the concept design and option development phase and now have selected an Emerging Preferred Route which is on display from November 13th to 8th December for submissions. It is proposed that a preliminary design will commence Spring 2024 and a Part 8 application due for submission in Summer 2024.

The members welcomed the progress and commended the works done so far.

5.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 5.4.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan Municipal District

The allocations circulated in advance were noted.

6 Notice of Question

- 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

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To ask the Executive for an update on the provision of an off the leash dog walking facility in Navan.

RESPONSE:

Meath County Council has carried out some research on dog off-lead areas in parks, to investigate possible steps required to determine the demand, feasibility and implications of the provision of a dog park. Initial findings are as follows:

Surveys with equal numbers of dog owners and non-dog owners/broader consultation with the public would be required to establish demand.

Members of the public would expect consultation with an animal behavioural expert to identify any issues associated with fenced-off areas (large/small dogs, restricted areas leading to aggression in dogs, etc).

The physical amenity would include the provision of secure fencing, double gates, water taps, bins, signage, benches, safe method of weed control.

Identification of a suitable location, with consideration for access and parking.

Amendment of the Parks Byelaws, including implications for areas outside the off-lead areas (strictly on-lead in other parts of the park and in other parks/specific times for off-lead?).

Inspection and enforcement of dog park rules.

The Community and Transportation Departments, when resources allow, will carry out further research and give consideration to the items above, to determine the suitability and feasibility of a dog park.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

In relation to the new link road, from L5050 to Dunville Estate, due to open soon, has Meath County Council plans in place to install a pedestrian footpath and cycle lane leading to Old Johnstown Village

RESPONSE:

This pedestrian footpath and cycle lane is a medium/long term aim based on Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan 2022 and in anticipation of the preparation of an updated Local Transport Plan for Navan as per NAV OBJ 18 in the County Development Plan. Whilst

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the Transportation Department are currently developing and delivering extensive improvements to the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in Navan, we are not working on a footpath/cycle lane between Dunville and Old Johnstown Village along the L5050 at present.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

As a landlord with responsibility for the maintenance of 1,400 local authority houses in Navan, I ask the Executive of Navan Municipal District Council to ring-fence funding to cover plumbing costs this winter, particularly during the Christmas period. The fund would only be used if the Council's own plumbing services have been overwhelmed. The fund would allow a tenant to hire the services of a plumbing contractor to repair heating systems.

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

Meath County Council as owner of the property has a duty of care to tenants and a legal responsibility as both Landlord and Client to appoint appropriately qualified, certified, competent & insured contractors to carry out plumbing services in our properties. All contractors are appointed following a public procurement process and a formal contract is signed between Meath Council and the Contractor. We do not permit third parties to carry out works on our behalf for a number of reasons, including health & safety compliance, our legal responsibility, warranty compliance, and public procurement rules.

We need to assess the required repairs and record all maintenance carried out at the property. All of our contractors are required to comply with public procurement rules, have appropriate tax compliance and carry out works in accordance with relevant specifications. All contractors that carry out work on our properties must be approved by our Health & Safety Section to ensure that they are competent to carry out works on behalf of the Council in accordance with Safety, Health & Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013.

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We have two additional Contractors appointed for plumbing maintenance this year and we hope that this will alleviate most of the plumbing issues experienced in recent times.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

I call on Meath County Council to engage with the OPW with a view to giving public access to the Athlumney Castle Site

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

The Council will contact the OPW and request that an assessment be considered to the implications on giving the public access to the Castle.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

A sizeable number of students from St Patrick's Classical School walk to the Apple-green campus during the school lunch break and, for health and safety reasons, I propose that Meath County Council would install a pedestrian link/crossing at Bohermeen Road L7418 off the Andy Connolly Roundabout

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

Since this issue last arose in January 2021, the Council have constructed a Park and Ride and amended the footpath and cycling infrastructure. As part of the Bailey Hill (Kingscroft) development, the N51/R161 Junction will be signalised with controlled crossing facilities for pedestrians. The footpath on the northwest side of the N51 will also be extended down to the Andy Connolly Roundabout leading to the Bohermeen Road. This will facilitate pedestrians from St. Patrick's Classical School who want to walk to the Retail Park, however, as previously advised, locating controlled pedestrian crossings on

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pedestrian desire lines in the vicinity of the Andy Connolly Roundabout is problematic due to vehicle speeds and the multi lane entries on to the roundabout.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy**.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

I call on Meath County Council to erect 'stop and go' signage and reflectors at Scoil Naomh Eoin, Clonmagadden, on the side entrance to Tailteann Housing Estate.

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

The traffic calming installation at the pedestrian entrance to Scoil Noamh Eoin will be inspected and any remedial works required will be carried out.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy**.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

I'm calling on Meath County Council to erect public lighting between Nos. 59 and 60 in the alleyway at St. Mary's Park.

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

In response to your request for public lighting at St Marys Park, Navan, the scheme has been added to the list of potential capital public lighting schemes. Unfortunately, the request for new lighting far outstrips the resources to deliver them. This demand on resources is exacerbated as currently Meath County Council are engaged in a regional programme (with 8 other counties) to upgrade all existing street lighting to LED. This contract commenced in 2022 and is a 36-month programme for the Region. This will ensure all 19,000 streetlights in the county of Meath are LED, including the existing lighting at St Marys Park.

Nevertheless, your proposed scheme will be put forward as a potential scheme in future work programmes, when resources become available.

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As **Councillor Tommy Reilly** was absent and had not authorised another member to propose it on his behalf, the motion was dropped as per Navan MD Standing Order 24.

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

- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 29th September 2023

The minutes were noted.

- 8.2 To note the Protocol Committee Minutes of 1st September 2023

The minutes were noted.

- 8.3 To note the Draft Minutes from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC 20th October 2023

The draft minutes were noted.

- 8.4 To note the Draft Minutes of the Transportation SPC 28th September 2023

The draft minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was none.

10 Any Other Business

There was none.

The meeting concluded at 12pm.

Signed:



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An Meára