

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

10.00a.m, 5th February 2025, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Nick Killian**, presided.

Councillors Present: Caroline O'Reilly, Fionnan Blake, Brian Fitzgerald, Gerry O'Connor, Maria Murphy & Yvonne Everard

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Absent/Apologies:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Services: Fiona Fallon

Executive Engineer: Apologies, Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 15th January 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th of January 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**

2.0 Matters arising from minutes

There were none.

3.0 Expressions of sympathy were extended to:

John Conneely, Dunshaughlin

Sean McManus, President of Saint Peters GAA

Expressions of congratulations were extended to:

On the election of Linda Nelson Murray and re-election of Senator Sharon Keogan to the Seanad

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4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To present the Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Transport, in Ratoath MD

Caroline Corrigan, Senior Engineer for Transport gave a presentation on the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works Ratoath, for Transport.

Schedule of works and level of investment were warmly welcomed. Members were encouraged that:

- Meath County Council transport section is taking Climate action seriously and welcomed that Meath is ahead of other counties on the warm mix ratio for roads.
- Welcomed that Meath County Council transport section is competing well Nationally being in the top 7 out of 10
- Noted and welcomed the investment made in the Community Investment Scheme (C.I.S) to address Cul-de-sacs works.
- Congratulated the great work done on the R147
- Would like the outdoor staff to be congratulated on their work

Caroline Corrigan also answered the following interventions from all members that included:

- All major road projects & repairs are carried out by contractors that are in turn overseen by our Engineers. All contractors used are keeping abreast of the new technologies and materials being used on our roads. For smaller repair works, these are carried out by our own outdoor staff.
- The Council is always trying to keep ahead of repairs and where the road is particularly bad the velocity patching machine has proven very beneficial and will be used when necessary.
- Members to be contacted directly on the CIS scheme particular the Primatestown to Skyrne area.
- L62183 Cul-de-sac will be investigated and assessed as part of the CIS
- In relation to the CIS, unfortunately funding hasn't been sufficient to address the number of applications received, however the additional 15% will make an impact. Each MD is getting its fair share of funding based on its need. CIS is a work in progress and completed by priority and need rather than time.

There will also be follow up for the members regarding:

- There seems to be an increase in heavy goods vehicles that are destroying our roads. Has the weight limit increased?
- Some members believe there should be a three-year plan for CIS.
- Can we get a break down of the proposed cycle network from where it starts and finishes?
- Lands for the purpose of community use in Ratoath. When will we get an

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architect for the design?

- No foot path between Aldi and Lagore. Can this be explored? Also, same junction needs to be reviewed for traffic calming as present option is not practical.

The above was noted and will be sent to the relevant departments.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

4.2 Housing

4.2.1 To present the Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Housing, in Ratoath MD

Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer for Housing gave a presentation on the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Housing and answered questions from all members present as detailed below.

- It was noted that during the storm the dependence on electrical power in new homes and confirmation sought whether this would continue. CE confirmed that it is Government policy and must continue.
- *All maintenance is contracted out to competent contractors. All works are overseen by Meath County Council Clerks of Works and Engineers. There is a full complement of maintenance team available to address repairs.*
- *The Housing Section aim to carry out a survey of stock of approximately 1000 units per year and hope that this cycle will be finished in four years. This survey would include Part V as they are local authority units. However AHB's will manage their own maintenance programmes.*
- *All local authority housing sold under the tenant purchase scheme are subject to current market value however in the first instance the tenant must qualify under the criteria of the scheme.*
- Regular maintenance checks are carried out however *larger maintenance issues are brought to attention when the house comes back into stock. Our annual stock survey will help identify maintenance issues earlier.*
- Details of the types of units in each MD to be circulated.
- It is considered more cost efficient to have a contractor rather than an in-house team manage maintenance of boilers.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

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4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

4.3.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District

This was noted.

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline O'Reilly

“Can the Planning Section of Meath County Council provide an observation with regards the provision of water for the many planning applications in place for Dunboyne?”

Response:

The Planning Department recently consulted with Uisce Éireann for updates on any upcoming upgrades to the water supply serving Dunboyne and other settlements within the county. At present, Dunboyne and other settlements in Meath are served by the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Water Supply, which suffers from occasional constraints.

Recent consultation with Uisce Éireann has advised of water network constraints in Dunboyne but has outlined that the Capital Investment Plan project presently underway (at design stage) will improve levels of service and capacity. Uisce Éireann is also finalising a water network plan and have advised that upgrades will be required, which will comprise a mix of both Uisce Éireann and developer-led upgrades.

While the Planning Department relies on its own engagement with Uisce Éireann, an applicant, in most cases, will engage with Uisce Éireann via a pre-connection inquiry prior to the lodgment of a residential development application. Uisce Éireann will confirm with the applicant whether water / wastewater connections are feasible. Notwithstanding this, the application, when received by the Planning Department, will always be referred to Uisce Éireann for comment. They review the plans and particulars of the development and will respond with any observations or recommendations that the Council shall take into consideration when making a decision.

Whilst the above was noted by members they are still of the opinion that perhaps a new reservoir is needed, and zoning should increase by at least 25% if the future target of 4000 new units for the MD is to be realized.

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6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline O'Reilly

"Independent of any planning applications, I call on Meath County Council Transport Section to review the best option for the dangerous Ballybin Road Junction at Ratoath and include in the review the 7 roads involved at this location including the Kilbride Road, the existing traffic lights at the school junction, and the 3 roads at the adjacent roundabout. This review must include the impact of the removal of the bus pull-in plans for the Ballybin LRD."

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

A decision to grant planning permission (Planning Ref 24/60487) was notified to the applicant on the 18th of December last, for a residential development on lands located between Fox Lodge Manor and the Ballybin Road. The proposed development includes the realignment of the Ballybin Rd to create a new signalised junction incorporating active travel crossing facilities. The existing roundabout junction would be removed as well as the bus pull-in at this location. A new bus stop would be provided on the town side of the new signalised junction. The following conditions were included in the grant of permission and are relevant to the Notice of Motion:

Condition 18:

The applicant shall submit for agreement the detailed design of the works required along the Ballybin Road, L-5018, including the road realignment, road widening, footpaths, grass verges, the greenway, cycleways, street lighting, drainage, line markings, signage, boundary treatment and traffic control measures, prior to commencement of the development. The agreed works shall be completed prior to occupation of any residential units within the development, unless otherwise agreed.

AND

Condition 19:

The Applicant shall assess the impacts of the proposed development on the signal-controlled junction between the Ratoath Outer Relief Road, Main Street R125 and Moulden Bridge. The Applicant shall, unless otherwise agreed, link and synchronise this junction to the proposed new R-125/Ballybin Rd signalised junction to ensure the efficient movement of traffic.

In addition, a proposal to improve the junction between the R125 regional road and the Kilbride Road was the subject of a Part VIII planning process. Meath County have made an application for grant funding to the Department of Transport for 2025 to progress the improvement of this junction.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**. However, Members asked that the Motion is only be noted for the time being until a more satisfactory response is given.

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7.0 Correspondence

There was none

8.0 Any Other Business

- Update on when a caretaker will be appointed at Rooske cemetery and when will the gates be operational
- List of dates of LCDC and associated sub-group meetings as there are clashes with the MD meeting
- More use of Ratoath MD building by community groups after office hours
- Provision of a disability car parking space at Dunboyne Industrial Estate
- Lights in Dun Rioga, when will these be operational?
- Update for the Gallops
- Glebe Hill, Kilmessan and Cloneen, Kilcloon are on the list but when will they be taken in charge?
- Update on derelict building sites opposite Bank of Ireland in Dunshaughlin?
- Update on the lands at Drumree?
- When will the footpaths at Grange end and Grange Park be completed?
- The inspection of Septic tanks. Can we have an update on how the inspection system works?

The meeting concluded at 12.00pm

Signed:

Cathaoirleach