

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

#### ***Navan Municipal District***

***10.00 am, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Navan Civic Offices***

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

**Councillors Present:** Francis Deane, Alan Lawes, Emer Tóibín, Padraig Fitzsimons,

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** Yemi Adenuga

**Absent/apologies:**

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Senior Engineer Caroline Corrigan deputised for Director of Service Martin Murray.

**Executive Engineer:** Shane Durcan

**Meetings Administrator:** Francis Regan

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Stephen Carey

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 12th February 2025**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 were proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**

#### **2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were none.

#### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- Family of the late Brendan Cummins, Navan
- Family of the late Carmel Conaty, Navan
- Family of the late Pat Donnelly, Navan

Congratulations were extended to:

Kevin McGrath as the 800-meter indoor Irish Champion.

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### **4.0 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Transportation**

##### **4.1.1 To receive a list of proposed bus infrastructure works for the Navan Municipal District**

The Executive Engineer, Active Travel, presented to the Members a list of proposed bus infrastructure works for the Navan Municipal District. It was explained that this was just for noting and informing the Members. The proposed works are in conjunction with the 'Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan' issued by the National Transport Authority (NTA). It was also explained to Members how Meath County Council act as an agent for the NTA and the list of bus stops discussed here today is a priority list given by the NTA for Meath County Council to implement.

Interventions raised by Members were answered by the Executive Engineer and noted.

##### **4.1.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.**

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Matters raised by the members and answered by the Executive Engineer included:

- Is it possible to source water from the River Boyne for the watering of plants on the bridge?
- Why were trees cut in Millbrook & Spire View?
- Road seems to be sinking at the Wild Rose. Can this be investigated?
- Can the entrance to O'Growney terrace be improved to be more aesthetically pleasing?
- The Wall at the Fair Green needs repair.
- Congratulated the standard of work on the footpaths in Woodview.
- Can No Dumping signs be placed in Boyerstown Cemetery.

#### **4.2 Active Travel**

##### **4.2.1 To receive an update on the 'Proposed Trimgate Street Scheme Part 8'**

##### **4.2.2 To receive an update on the 'Proposed R161 Navan to Trim Pathfinder**

##### **4.2.3 To receive an update on the 'Proposed Flowerhill Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme**

##### **4.2.4 To receive an update on the 'Proposed Martha's Bridge to Circular Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme'**

##### **4.2.5 To receive an update on the 'Proposed Convent Road to Metges Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme'**

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- 4.2.6** To receive an update on the 'Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) – Contract 5 Works'
- 4.2.7** To receive an update on the 'Proposed Beechmount to Balreask Manor Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme'
- 4.2.8** To receive an update on the 'Navan Town Bus Services and bus stop works in Navan'

Senior and Executive Engineers from Active travel presented to members 4.2.1 to 4.2.8 above. Matters raised by members and answered by the Engineers included:

- What departments are involved in the funding of these projects?
- Will a cycle lane be included on the Flowerhill development?
- It is disappointing that the funding isn't there for the Navan to Trim Pathfinder project.
- How long will it take to complete the works at Balreask cross? When will the works be completed on the Fair Green?
- It is believed that Traders are opposed to the Pedestrianisation of the Trimgate scheme as footfall will decline. Why pedestrianise only half of Trimgate Street? What is the justification for spending on a proposal that might be rejected?
- Will the footpaths also be upgraded in part 2A of Sheep Market?
- How long will the traffic plan at Bridge Street take?
- The speed cushion ramp is impressive. It would be great if we could have these everywhere.
- Will there be a dedicated bicycle bridge in the proposed Flowerhill cycle and pedestrian scheme?

### **4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

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

**This was noted.**

## **5.0 Notice of Questions**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*"May I please ask for the current status of the proposed development at Nangle Court, Ratholdron Road, Navan?"*

#### **Response:**

The proposed development at Nangle Court has been significantly delayed due to design issues. A complete redesign of this development is required and will be carried out in due course.

**This was noted.**

### **5.2 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy**

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*“To ask the Executive for a commencement and completion date for the ‘Windows and Doors Replacement Scheme’ on the second half of the Claremont Estate in Navan.”*

**Response:**

Meath County Council intends to tender for the remaining window and door replacement works in Claremont Estate, Navan, later this year (2025). We will provide an update on the commencement of the tender process and appointment of contractor in the relevant Chief Executives Reports later this year.

**This was noted.**

#### **5.3 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

*“To ask how many public car-park spaces have been removed from Navan Town centre for each of the last 5 years, including the number to be removed this year, and to ask how many disabled car park spaces have been added across the town over the last 5 years?”*

**Response:**

A member of the Active Travel Team will give an update at the Navan MD meeting regarding same.

**This was noted.**

#### **5.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes**

*“To ask if the Balreask Arms B&B, on the Trim Road in Navan, has a Fire Certificate allowing them to use the portacabins in their back car park as emergency accommodation?”*

**Response:**

The Council has no record of an application for a Fire Safety Certificate for portacabin structures at the Balreask Arms Bed and Breakfast, Trim Road, Navan, Co. Meath. It is noted that these structures have now been removed from the site.

**This was noted.**

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### **6.0 Notice of Motions**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

*"I call on Meath County Council to approve the naming of the LDR4 as Bóthar Seán Boylan"*

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

If agreed, this motion will be referred to the Commemorative Committee for consideration.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** was agreed.

#### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

*"I call on Meath County Council, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, to trial red-light camera enforcement technology at the junction of the Dublin and Metges roads, Johnstown."*

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

The provision of red light monitoring CCTV cameras is being run as a pilot scheme by the NTA with TII, Dublin City Council, and An Garda Síochána. It is our understanding that these pilots are intended to inform a national strategy for the introduction of red light and bus lane cameras that the TII have been tasked with developing. The provision of the cameras are by the NTA and enforcement is by An Garda Síochána.

Currently, there is not any legislative basis for Meath County Council to install, operate this technology nor to enforce the associated infractions. Meath County Council have requested information regarding the legal mechanisms and processes around the implementation of red light cameras from Dublin City Council and the NTA and are awaiting information back.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes** was agreed.

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### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*"I call on Meath County Council to carry out a survey to ascertain the number of infill sites located in the Navan area which could be used for further housing development."*

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

The contribution that infill lands can make to delivering housing and achieving the compact and sustainable growth of towns is well recognised. Objective 3c of the National Planning Framework is to deliver at least 30% of all new homes in settlements such as Navan within the existing built up footprint of the town. This requirement is reiterated in Objective RPO 3.3 of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region and Objective CS OBJ 5 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. In support of this, Objective CS OBJ 4 of the Meath County Development Plan sets out the objective to achieve more compact growth by promoting the development of infill and brownfield/ regeneration sites and the redevelopment of underutilised land within and close to the existing built-up footprint of existing settlements in preference to edge of centre locations.

In addition, the national 'Town Centre First' policy document acknowledges and seeks to support the social, cultural and economic role of town centres. It recognises that successful town centres provide a mix of housing typologies and have a strong sense of place characterised by an attractive public realm and that infill development opportunities can play a contribution in delivering both of these.

The Residential Zoned Land Tax has been established as a land activation tax in order to encourage the release of serviced residential and mixed-use zoned lands, including infill sites. It applies an annual tax of 3% of the market value of the land to such sites. Maps informing this tax measures were completed by Meath County Council and include all infill sites that will be subject to this annual tax.

These maps can be accessed at the following link:

<https://meathcoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=af0240bcf91549f4938e3b52d1ac499d>.

It should be noted that while the map identifies existing housing developments, all lands that are highlighted but not yet developed are subject to the tax. The annual tax will be deducted by Revenue

and the maps will be updated annually by the Local Authority to include lands that become serviceable in the intervening year. This taxation measure came into effect this February 2025 and it is expected that the effects of this tax should lead to activating infill sites that have remained inactive for a considerable period of time.

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Consideration will also be given to the capacity of infill sites to deliver housing development as part of the review of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027, due to commence later this year.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** was agreed.

### **6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*"I call on Meath County Council install a pedestrian footpath from the new signal Clonmagadden Road junction onto the Proudstown Road, to continue as far as Mileage Tyres."*

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

The elected member will be aware of the existing footpath on the Proudstown Road from its junction with Clonmagaddon Road to Mileage Tyres and beyond. The Council will inspect the condition of this section of footpath in consideration of necessary repairs as part of the footpath repairs programme in the Navan Municipal District.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes** was agreed.

### **6.5 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy**

*"I call on Meath County Council to carry out a feasibility study of the disused Rail Line behind the 'Woodlands Creation on Public Lands' site at Liscartan, with a view to developing it as a walking trail that can be integrated into the Woodlands site as it grows over the coming years."*

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

Both the NTA's Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan 2023 and the Department of Transport's National Cycle Network Plan Report 2023 indicate proposals for cycle routes between Navan and Kells. The NTA Cycle Network Plan shows a line of a greenway following the old GNRI Navan – Oldcastle rail line as it heads north-west from Navan. While there is no fixed date to deliver this greenway, it could serve as an access to the new Woodlands at Liscartan if the site is designated a public amenity at some point in the future.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane** was agreed.

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### **6.6 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy**

*"To ask the Executive to convene a local group to discuss a new placement for the Tara Mines commemorative statue "On the Great Wide Open".*

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

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which went on public display and was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in July 2020 as part of the formal planning consent process, indicated the existing "On the Great Wide Open" statue being relocated as part of the LDR4 scheme to a landscaped area just east of the new proposed signalised junction on the Kells Road. Contact has been made with the original artist who created the statue and informal discussions have taken place with Tara Mines.

Discussions are also ongoing with MCC's Arts Officer and her team in relation to proposals for the details around the new statue location. It is our intention to update the Navan MD Members at a later date once these details are available.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane** was agreed.

### **7.0 Correspondence**

There was none.

### **8.0 Any Other Business**

Issues raised by members were:

- Requested a presentation on Johnstown Community Centre.
- Requested copy of the Systra Report.
- Raised queries on the addition of pedestrian crossing on Metges Road.

The meeting concluded at 11.15am

Signed:

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An Méara