

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

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

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

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

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Absent/Apologies: Gerry O'Connor

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Services: Fiona Fallon

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 05th February 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th February 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Fionnan Blake**.

2.0 Matters arising from minutes

Cllr Maria Murphy noticed that the attendance of **Cllr Brian Fitzgerald** was marked as absent when in fact he was present at the February MD meeting. February minutes will be amended accordingly.

3.0 Expressions of sympathy were extended to the families of:

- Bernard Coldrick, Batterstown
- Sean Kelleher, retired outdoor worker Meath County Council

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

The Executive Engineer, Active Travel presented to the members a list of proposed bus infrastructure works for the Ratoath Municipal District. It was explained that this was just for noting and informing the members. The proposed works are in conjunction with 'Connecting Ireland rural mobility plan' issued by the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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 that were answered by the Executive Engineer included:

- Why do we need a consultant? *It is more economic for Meath County Council to outsource such work as these are big projects with lots of moving parts. All costs are covered by the NTA.*
- Can you ensure that the Dunboyne Pedestrian scheme interacts with the proposed bus stop scheme? *Yes, we will see how they interact with one another to ensure no future modifications are needed.*
- Do you know where the bus stop will be placed in Ratoath? Details to be confirmed after the meeting.
- Can you please consult with members on the proposal of the Arkle bus stop modifications nearer the time as there is wheelchair users are availing of it? *Yes, please feel free to email directly to me on this.*
- On the Lagore Road, will the bus stop have a lay bye designed where the bus can pull in? If not, it will create traffic issue when it stops. *It is agreed this bus stop is extremely busy and not well placed currently. It is challenging as there is very limited space. It is currently under review.*
- What is the cost of the bus shelter? *This varies considerably and very dependent on what services are needed or infrastructural changes. We always strive to get best value for money. In the future we are hopeful that bus stops will be more self-efficient with the use of solar panels.*
- Will the bus stop at Dunboyne be removed? Will it be getting a shelter? *This stop will be replaced. If there is space to do a bus shelter, we will support this.*
- We were told that the bus stop on the R125 at Marshall Yards which serves circa 500 houses in the area was to be relocated but never was. *This bus stop will be returned close to its original place.*

Cllr Everard also informed members that Deputy Gillian Toole TD is arranging a meeting with Bus Eireann Business Manager on 18th March 2025, and will let members know of the time and location in due course.

4.1.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath Municipal District.

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

- Can road sweeping be extended further on down the Fairy house road?
- Can we have an update on the R156 Mullagh Cross Specific Improvement Grant scheme.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Heavy good vehicles are an issue for Batterstown is there any update for the proposed traffic calming measures?
- Can a bin be installed next to the bench opposite Apache pizza?
- Illegal dumping at the bottle bank in Dunboyne is becoming an issue. Can we check with the Environment section to ask if any extra resources can be used to combat this issue?

Responses were provided by the area engineer accordingly. The meeting administrator will follow up on points 2 and 5.

Members also discussed and are of the opinion that CIS and the LIS schemes designed for cul-de-sac improvement simply isn't working and that members of the public are waiting in some cases a number of years. It was suggested that a motion for full council should be presented to reverse the decision of CIS/LIS schemes and the Chief Executive could lobby this nationally.

4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

4.2.1 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 Nick Killian

"Can Meath County Council outline where public electric charging points for Electric Cars will be located in Ratoath Village?"

Response:

EV chargers here-to-fore have been delivered by private operators such as service station forecourts, hotels etc. However, Meath County Council have been actively conditioning new planning applications to provide EV charging facilities for residences without their own private driveways. Furthermore, new commercial, industrial and institutional developments are being conditioned to provide EV chargers for employees / destination users.

Meath County Council are part of the North East regional group including Louth Co Co, Kildare Co Co and Wicklow Co Co, who are developing a regional and county specific Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy. This strategy has assessed the population, EV fleet, existing and planned chargers, planned developments, demographics etc in each urban area within our administrative area. The Strategy will provide direction on the number, type, size, location, ESB grid capacity etc. to deliver a plan led roll out of EV chargers into the future. This will ensure the correct charger, in the correct location for the correct purpose. This strategy is in development with drafts to be prepared tentatively by the end of March 2025.

With regards information on the location of EV charge points in Co Meath, there is no Local Authority web page with comprehensive information on all charger locations. However, it is

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

generally accepted that the majority of publicly accessible EV Chargers are mapped on the websites

- [PlugShare - EV Charging Station Map - Find a place to charge your car!](#)
- <https://chargemap.com/map>

In your case the most accessible chargers in Ratoath are available at Spar/Maxol on the Fairy House Road.

This was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Fionnan Blake

"To ask Meath County Council for an update on the new traffic lights at Dun Rioga, Dunshaughlin and the streetlights on the Bog Road, Dunshaughlin being made live?"

Dun Rioga

"The junction at Dun Rioga has not been taken in charge by MCC as the Contractor, Castlethorn, still has outstanding works to be completed. MCC are continuously requesting updates from the Contractor to move this along. The latest correspondence was received on the 10th February 2025 which stated that their Electrical Contractor had submitted the electrical certs to the ESB, 2 weeks prior to this date, and that they are still waiting on the ESB to energise the supply for the public lighting. Once the public lighting is operating, MCC will be in a position to complete the Site Acceptance Test and switch on the junction"

Bog Road

"There has been a complication with the legacy ESB infrastructure that was meant to service the lights and an alternative ESB connection has had to be sourced. While the alternative solution has been agreed. It will be another 4 to 6 weeks before the works can be completed."

This was noted.

6.0 Notice of Motions

There were none.

7.0 Correspondence

Correspondence from An Garda Síochána regarding letter issued from the September 2024 Ratoath MD Meeting (included).

This was noted. It was also recommended by members that this be sent directly to our Transport Section so they can liaise with the Garda on such matters.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8.0 Any Other Business

- Members asked that consultants and staff from 'Active Travel' working on the Dunboyne Road & Cycle scheme present to members at the April MD to give an update. Members are concerned that members of the public are being asked to surrender parts of their gardens to facilitate the scheme. Members understood that a further presentation was to be given by the Consultants prior to commencing the part VIII process.
- Whilst Kilbreena water shortages were raised, it was noted that such issues are a concern for Uisce Éireann. Members will write directly to the Minister as they are not satisfied with responses from Uisce Éireann.
- A discussion took part regarding Congress Park Dunboyne and how this was not taken in charge. The particular concern is in regard to a site within Congress Park that doesn't have planning permission. Fiona Fallon, Director advised the members on the options available.

Others issues raised included:

- When will Aylesbury tenants be able to move in and will the playground be opened at the same time?
- College lands Forge – Members queried the status of the building and is it being used for IPAS?

Fiona Fallon confirmed that the Aylesbury Manor and the playground will be ready for April. Other issues raised will be followed up via the meeting administrator.

The meeting concluded at 11.30pm

Signed:

Cathaoirleach