

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

10.00a.m, 9th April 2025, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

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

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

Councillors Present via Zoom: Yvonne Everard

Absent/Apologies:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Services: Fiona Fallon

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Staff Officer: Kate Lomza

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

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

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**

2.0 Matters arising from minutes

Cllr Caroline O'Reilly sought confirmation on when the works at Mullagh Cross will be approved for funding.

There is insufficient public lighting on the Drumree Road, as part of the Dun Ríoga housing development. Can the ESB be contacted on this issue?

3.0 Expressions of sympathy and congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Pat Shore and family on the passing of his father Robert.
- John V Farrelly and family on the passing of his daughter Emma.
- The family of Cillian Thornton, Clonee.

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4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

4.1.1 Taking in Charge

To consider the taking in charge of, **The Rectory, Dunshaughlin** and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2023.

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

To consider the taking in charge of **Cooksland Manor, Dunshaughlin** and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2023.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** seconded by **Councillor Fionnan Blake**.

To consider the taking in charge of, **Kilmessan Village** and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2023.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

4.2

4.3 Transportation

4.3.1 To receive an Active Travel update on the Dunboyne Road & Cycle scheme

The Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel, presented an update to the members on the Dunboyne Road & Cycle scheme. The Engineer reminded members that the NTA fund the scheme and wish to fund the Primary route only. Funding for the other routes will be sought from alternative funding schemes. It is envisaged that construction will start in 2026. Interventions raised by the members include:

- If negotiations are not agreed, will CPO be considered as it may cause anxiety for those affected?
- Challenge around delivery of the scheme given the limited funding allocated to the county to help deliver this and the scheme in Ratoath.
- Concerns around the consultation to date, with routes going straight through estates, green areas and football pitches.
- The bridge at the train station will need to be reviewed as it is a pinch point at the moment.
- Some routes will have high value, where other routes will not. Starting at the bridge to Clonee would be preferable.
- Some constituents are weary of the tone that the consultants are using i.e. that the project is happening regardless. Positive engagement is key to getting the project approved,



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- A wall at Kellys Court may need to be removed to facilitate a route. Removing the wall can then create other issues, i.e. opening of estates that let people take short cuts, losing their sense of security. Expressed concerns regarding the excessive permeability of estates.
- Clonee needs the routes to go to the train station.
- Can it be arranged for members to have a “walk around” of the proposed routes as reading maps can be difficult.
- The project does not look enticing for tourists as parking will still be limited.
- Whilst there have been 292 objections it is felt this figure would be higher considering many resident associations also objected. 292 does not take account of all the people involved.
- Residents of Willow Park feel huge stress surrounding the project.
- Maps presented today should take account of current and future planned infrastructure, i.e Eastern distributor road.
- Can an analysis of the Ashbourne scheme be undertaken? The results of the which could inform this proposal particularly around the use of the cycle lanes and the effectiveness of the chicane systems
- There should be more concentration on restoring or introducing vital paths rather than cycle lanes? It is believed Schoolchildren don't see it as cool to use the bike for school.

The interventions raised were taken on board. It was reiterated that such schemes are 'National Policy' and Active Travel are complying with this. Local schools will be visited to consult with teachers and pupils regarding the routes. It was acknowledged that a holistic approach will consider the present and future needs of Dunboyne. A walk of the routes for members will be organized shortly.

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

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

- Rate payers would like the “parklets” removed.
- Potholes near the Lidl car park are increasing in size. Whilst it is acknowledged works are ongoing here, can something be done in the interim?
- Paths are lifting in The Meadows and Millfarm. Can this be addressed? Branches cut at Chestnut Grove have not been removed.
- Wheelchair users and the elderly cannot use footpaths from Tara Mews to Arkle. Can this be investigated?
- Can an engineering solution be sought for the residents at Arches Apartments? Residents are waiting long periods to turn right. Buying the derelict building opposite could help find a solution to this.
- Can the double yellow lines be added to the entrance of Moatlands estate?



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- Can we have a time frame when the bus stop at Supervalu will be resurfaced?
- Could a two lane system be introduced at the Arch, as it may help with traffic?

The queries raised were answered by the Executive Engineer.

4.4 Rural Regeneration

- 4.4.1** To receive a presentation on the proposed Sensory Garden for Dunshaughlin Park.

The Executive Engineer, Rural Regeneration, presented an update to the members on the proposed Sensory Garden for Dunshaughlin Park. Interventions from the members included:

- Whilst it is fully supported and a great idea, can hedges be cut out to increase visibility, in the hope this will deter any potential Anti-Social Behaviour? Can more lighting be introduced to assist with this?
- Can a dog run be considered within this proposal?
- Any type of hedging will need to be maintained, and outdoor staff may need training in the area and take account of biodiversity.

The interventions raised were taken on board by the Executive Engineer.

Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 4.4.2** To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District

This was noted.

On the proposal of Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Nick Killian**, and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** a 15-minute extension to the meeting was agreed.

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5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Fionnan Blake

“To ask Meath County Council, can we please get an update on the long awaited works at the Tara News junction on Main Street, Dunshaughlin?”

Response:

The current status of the project is that it's shovel ready awaiting the appropriate funding call (most probably RRDF Cat I) for the delivery of same. There has been no indication from the Department of when this funding call announcement will happen.

Additionally, a decision may have to be made whether both elements of the scheme (Court House & Public Realm) are included in the one funding application or separated out, which may mean looking to alternative funding sources for each element.

This was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Cllr Caroline O'Reilly

“In the interest of the safety of school children at Rathregan National School and residents I am asking for a clear answer of when the approved (2023) Traffic Management project will begin for Batterstown on the R154? What are the stages and the timeline from beginning to completion of this project?”

Response:

In December 2021, the Council installed two speed control ramps on the approaches to Rathregan School. In September 2023, the Part VIII Planning process was commenced for a proposal to provide a Traffic Calming Scheme including the provision of kerbing, footpaths, raised pedestrian crossings, parking, bus stops, traffic islands, lighting, drainage and other ancillary works. On the 27th of May 2024, an Order was made confirming the decision, pursuant to the Chief Executive's report submitted to the Municipal District Members, that the proposed development could proceed subject to one condition, namely, the provision of an additional speed control ramp on the Dublin side of the school within the development boundary.

The Council have been in discussion with the Department of Transport to source grant funding for the proposed works under the Specific Improvement Grant funding. While funding was allocated this year for two schemes in the Ratoath MD (R156 Mullagh Cross and Newtownmoyaghy Safety improvement schemes), no allocation was notified for the current year for the proposed Batterstown Traffic Calming Scheme. The Council will continue to liaise with the Department of Transport in this regard.

The scheme is now at the detailed design stage, and subject to funding approval, the scheme could be advanced to tender and procurement of a contractor for the construction works.

Whilst the response was understood, **Cllr O'Reilly** expressed disappointment that the funding is not in place and believes there should be more urgency and priority in such schemes,

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especially when there is such resistance to i.e. cycle schemes. Fiona Fallon, Director, reminded members that the number of schemes that need traffic calming measures does not match the funding available.

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"Given recent accidents, I call on Meath County Council to immediately implement traffic calming measures outside the Eurospar in Dunboyne."

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

Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 states a local authority may, in the interest of safety and convenience of road users, provide such traffic calming measures as they consider desirable in respect of public roads in their charge. The Traffic Management Guidelines sets out criteria and recommendations for selection of traffic calming measures. It should be noted this document also outlines the potential draw-backs of traffic calming measures such as impediment of emergency vehicles and increased noise and vehicle emissions. The Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) complements the recommendations given in the Traffic Management Guidelines, promoting a holistic, sustainable approach to multi-modal travel.

The decision on whether traffic calming is required or not is informed by data such as collision data and speed surveys and traffic calming schemes are delivered on an ongoing basis, subject to available funding. The Transport Section of Meath County Council will carry out speed surveys and review available collision data on the Main Street in Dunboyne (L-2228) to assess if this location should be prioritised for traffic calming at this time.

It is also noted that a Pedestrian Crossing is currently proposed across the Main Street just east of Eurospar as part of the Lidl planning permission in the town.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** was agreed.

It is understood that it would be counter productive to install a pedestrian crossing whilst works are ongoing, but could a temporary ramp be explored in the interim?

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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Fionnan Blake

"I call on Meath County Council to establish a fenced, Dog Off – Leash area in Dunshaughlin Public Park"

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 Bye-Laws, 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 motion proposed by **Councillor Fionnan Blake** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** was agreed.

It was also noted that St Annes and St Catherines Parks are good examples of how such schemes can work in practice.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

- Batterstown public lighting is still not operational. Can contact be made with the ESB?
- Moynalvy football pitch, what are the traffic calming measures identified?

The meeting concluded at 12.15

Signed:

Cathaoirleach