

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Navan Municipal District

10.00 am, 21st May 2025, Navan Civic Offices

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

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

Councillors Present via Zoom: Yemi Adenuga

Absent/apologies:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Senior Engineer John McGrath deputised for Director of Service Martin Murray.

Executive Engineer: Vanessa Lima deputised for Executive Engineer Shane Durcan

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Staff Officer: Kate Lomza

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 16th April 2025

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th April 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathies were extended to:

- To the Maguire family on the passing of Declan Maguire
- To the Kavanagh family on the passing of Christy Kavanagh.
- To the Loughran family on the passing of Tom Loughran
- To the Foley family on the passing of Brendan Foley.
- To the Mulhall family on the passing of Patricia Mulhall.
- To the family of Ronan & Gerry Carey on the passing of their mother Margaret Carey.
- To the Connor family on the passing of Frankie Connor
- To the MacDonncha family on the passing of Seán MacDonncha

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4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Rural Regeneration

4.1.1 To receive an update on the Old Johnstown Village Public Realm & Regeneration Plan

The Senior Executive Planner updated members on the Old Johnstown Village Public Realm & Regeneration Plan.

Interventions from Members included:

- The project was predominantly welcomed by Members.
- What will happen to the old special needs school in Johnstown?
- Will the suggested Age friendly homes be low or high in density?
- Parking spaces opposite the funeral home. Are these additional or current spaces?
- Will there be additional tree planting?
- When will the project go to Part VIII?
- Will the Community building be part of the original Ms. Butterly lands?
- Has the Planning department factored in possible push back. What are the timelines for the start and finished date of the project?
- Can negotiations start with the parish priest as the Old School would be in ownership of the Parish.

The Senior Executive Planner noted the comments raised and responded accordingly and thanked the Member for advice on the last point. The consultation process will continue and funding streams that can fund the various aspects of the project will be identified.

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4.1.2 To receive a presentation on the proposed Dunville Community facilities

The Senior Executive Engineer, Rural & Town Centre Regeneration, presented the proposed Community facilities to members. Comments included:

- The football pitch needs to be visible to the public to deter possible vandalism or anti-social behavior.
- Are there enough parking spaces?
- Can more picnic benches and seating be introduced?
- Can there be more of a playground area with plenty of playground apparatus?
- Can there be low maintenance, anti-vandal gym equipment placed sporadically across the park?
- Can a bike parking space/shed be placed in the park?
- How will the park be managed i.e. a booking system to use facilities such as the pitch.
- Can water taps be placed around the park?
- All members were in favour of a community building being placed in the park. Also suggested that parts 11 & 12 would be a favorable place to position it. Can this suggestion be reviewed?

The Senior Executive Engineer responded accordingly and noted the comments raised. The consultation process will continue and then proceed to Part VIII.

4.2 Transportation

4.2.1 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:

- To congratulate the team on the great work done at Black castle Park, Ratholdran walkway, and Boreen Keel Park.
- There was an agreement that pesticide spraying was not to be used in Johnstown. It appears that some organisation might be spraying it. Can this be investigated?
- Can benches be placed either side of Fitzsimons bridge?
- When will the L5050 be opened?
- Can signage be placed at Blackwater Park stating that no electric bikes are to be used?
- Can deep cleaning of the granite pavements take place as they are becoming badly stained?
- Can anything be done regarding hoarding that obstructs the public from using the paths?

John McGrath & Vanessa Lima responded accordingly and will revert with any outstanding issues raised to members in due course.

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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 Edward Fennessy

"To ask the Executive to publish in Tabular Format, per category, the number of people on the housing list and on HAP in the Navan area."

Response:

<i>BEDS APPROVED</i>	<i>APPROVED APPLICANTS ON HOUSING LIST</i>	<i>APPROVED APPLICANTS ON HAP</i>
<i>1 bed</i>	<i>682</i>	<i>205</i>
<i>2bed</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>221</i>
<i>3bed</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>4bed</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>5bed</i>	<i>1</i>	
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>1302</i>	<i>487</i>

Whilst the answer was noted, **an Meára, Councillor Edward Fennessy**, asked for further clarification. Does the HAP figure include the figure given in the approved applicants on the housing list column, i.e. is the one bed need 682, or $682 + 205 = 887$?

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"With reference to the 2030 plan regeneration works at Fairgreen, Navan, may I ask when Meath County Council plans to allow the market traders to operate their stalls on Friday market days?"

Response:

As part of the current upgrade works at Fairgreen, Meath County Council has continued to liaise with the market traders and the Irish Organisation for Market and Street Traders (IOMST – a membership organisation for traders) in relation to the works at this location.

Following completion of the project, any subsequent plans to regulate the existing Fairgreen market and the layout for trading pitches e.g. in the form of byelaws, can include an engagement process with traders and the public on how it should operate into the future.

Meath County Council is appreciative of the cooperation and forbearance of the traders and the public during these important upgrade works to the Fairgreen.

This was noted

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6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To call on the Executive to install a pedestrian crossing on the Claremount Stadium side of Watters Lane on the Commons Road."

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

Meath County Council Transport Department currently have no plans to install a new crossing at the Claremount Stadium side of Watters Lane on the Commons Road, however the request is acknowledged and will be added to a list of new works requests and will be considered for inclusion in future works programmes. This works programme is subject to funding and resources and is based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment and any required approvals or consents.

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

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To call on the Executive to install a Skate Park & Off the Leash dog walking facility on the Blackwater Park as previously requested."

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

There are currently no proposals to create a Skate Park & "Off the Leash" dog walking facility in Blackwater Park.

The relevant sections within the Council, however, will work with the Elected Members and other stakeholders to identify a need and suitable location for a Skate Park in Blackwater Park. Applications for funding can then be made to deliver the project.

Regarding an "Off the Leash" dog walking facility, similar requests have been received in other parts of the County. A report on the issue of dog parks will be prepared, which will consider all the pertinent issues in terms of establishing, operating, and maintaining them. This report will be a necessary precursor to deciding whether dog parks are provided.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** was agreed.

Members also questioned what is the masterplan for a Blackwater Park and would this include a section for the "Off the leash" dog walking facility?

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6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Meath County Council to carry out a traffic audit at Robinstown Village, in the interest of the safety of residents and schoolchildren."

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

Meath County Council Transport Department will undertake a traffic and speed audit on Robinstown Village in the coming weeks.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** was agreed. Whilst members accepted the above, they also suggested that an alternative solution be sought for traffic calming measures.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Meath County Council to carry out a feasibility study on the green areas of 'taken in charge' estates in the Navan Municipal District with a view to providing more parking spaces for estate residents."

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

There are very few representations presently from local residents requesting additional car parking in estates taken in charge in the Navan Municipal District to warrant a feasibility study for the proposal subject of this Motion. Following further discussion on the motion it was noted that there may be matters arising regarding planning policy, road safety and the legal interests in the lands forming the green space, depending on the circumstances of the individual case. It was considered to examine a case on a pilot basis.

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

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6.5 Submitted by Councillor John Duffy

"I call on Meath County Council to considers the implementation of TEXT ALERT SCHEME in Navan as an aid to prevent illegal parking and misuse of disabled parking bays."

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

In recent times, the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI) is advocating for a text alert system for improving the enforcement of misuse of disabled bays.

Meath County Council Parking Services introduced and monitored a text alert system on all disabled bays in Navan from 2017 to 2020. This text alert system was discontinued in 2020 in Navan because it was not successful and did not improve the enforcement of misuse of disabled bays.

Meath County Council's Parking Section has contracted the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI) to confirm this and offered to discuss the inadequacies of a text alert monitoring.

The motion proposed by **Councillor John Duffy** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane** was agreed.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

- There has been an increase in illegal dumping on Church Hill and seems to be cleared daily. Can temporary CCTV be installed to act as a deterrent?

The meeting concluded at 11.40am

Signed:

An Méara