

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10.00am, 13th May 2025, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Alan Tobin presided.

Councillors Present: Helen Meyer, Joe Bonner, Amanda Smith, Conor Tormey and Suzanne Jamal

Apologies/ Absent:

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Staff Officer: Kate Lomza

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 8th April 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th April 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

- Cllr Helen Myer asked can the approved CIS list be sent members?
- Cllr Amanda Smith asked for a correction under AOB regarding an update on the existing Silverbanks pedestrian crossing, rather than to install one.
- Although members understood the answer regarding the update on N2 extension, members would like someone from Transport or Aecom to attend the next MD meeting. Landowners in the area need to know what is happening.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathies were extended to:

The family of Garda Kevin Flatley.

The family Emmanuel Famiola and Matt Sibanda.

To Ronan Carey and family on the passing of his mother, Margaret Carey.

Congratulations:

To Simon Wilson on the winning of the Irish Poker Open.

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4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Environment

4.1.1 To receive an update on Stamullen Playground & Burial Ground Project

The Senior Engineer from Environment presented an update to the members on the Stamullen Playground & Burial Ground Project. It was explained that there will be approximately a 6-month delay in the project as archaeological and excavation teams confirmed two medieval enclosures had been identified. As a result, the two options will be either to preserve the archaeology and redesign to work around the features, or rescue excavate and clear the site then proceed with the development as planned.

Interventions from members included:

- Can we continue to engage with the community so they can see and understand what is happening with regards to the archaeological and excavations findings. This could help in understanding the delays in delivering the project.
- It is disappointing that such archaeological findings were not detected in the construction of the M1 given its proximity.
- Do we know how much a plot would be?
- It is urgent that the playground progresses. Is it possible to find an alternative site for the graveyard?
- Who has the final say on the decision to work around the features or rescue excavation?

The Senior Engineer responded accordingly to all the above interventions. In the coming days a meeting with the archaeologist and 'DID Consultants' will take place to evaluate and confirm the most feasible option. Members will be kept informed.

4.2 Transportation

4.2.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

The report was circulated in advance. Interventions included:

- Congratulated the outdoor team for the work completed in Tudor Grove and the new flashing lights in Cushintown.
- Signs on the left-hand side at L-1004/L-1615 Cromwell's junction are gone. Can red stop signs be installed?
- Manhole lids on recently completed R135 Cycle Scheme (Dunnes stores to Pillo) and R135 Frederick Street are still causing a sound disturbance. Can Fox Contracts Ltd be contacted to fix the Cycle Scheme issue and can the Municipal District fix the lids on Frederick Street?

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- The R135 cycle scheme – has a safety audit been completed yet? Trucks are hitting cars by accident when turning right and traffic boxes (for right-turning vehicles) cannot be seen at nighttime.
- The SMART system used at the Pedestrian crossing seems to be wrong or out of sequence and appears to be stopping traffic even though there is no pedestrian activating the push-buttons.
- Hoarding at the land next to Aldi seems to be coming down. Is there any other planning application on it?
- Signs on the L556 have fallen into the ditch. Can they be reinstalled?
- Can a traffic calming island be considered on the R153 between Navan and Laganara?
- Skryne Road - signs beside the school need tidying.
- Can we get the result from the Road Safety officer on the recent audit of Kilbride school

4.3 Housing

- 4.3.1** To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2023 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2025, on the proposed development which will consist of: Development of Lands to the North of Ashewood Green and Ashewood Glen in the townland of Dunreagh, Ashbourne, Co. Meath. Planning Reference (PT8MH194).

The Senior Engineer presented to members Planning Reference (PT8MH194) which will consist of 79 residential units. Members are of the opinion that the availability of 'affordable units' isn't answered. Members agreed that a decision would be deferred until the next MD meeting 10/06/2025.

4.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 4.4.1** To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District

This was noted.

5.0 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"To ask the Executive to provide the following information:

- *The total number of Social Housing applicants in the Ashbourne MD.*
- *The number of applicants per category on the 1,2,3 & 4 bed lists and on the medical list.*

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- *The average wait period per category.*
- *The year-to-date number of allocations per category.*
- *The number of properties per category the council plan to deliver over the next two years in the Ashbourne MD."*

Response:

There are 544 approved Social Housing applicants in the Ashbourne MD

- There are 280 applicants on the 1 bed list.
- There are 148 applicants on the 2 bed list.
- There are 85 applicants on the 3 bed list.
- There are 29 applicants on the 4 bed list.
- There are 2 applicants on the 5 bed list.

The current waiting list in the Ashbourne MD is as follows:

- 1 bed: those longest on the list are approved since 2011
- 2 bed: those longest on the list are approved since 2016
- 3 bed: those longest on the list are approved since 2016
- 4 bed: those longest on the list are approved since 2016
- 5 bed: those longest on the list are approved since 2022

A total of 46 properties have been allocated in Ashbourne MD year to date. The year-to-date number of allocations per category is as follows:

- 1 bed: 1 unit
- 2 bed: 44 units
- 3 bed: 1 unit

Of the 46 properties allocated one 1-bed was allocated in the disability category. Thirteen 2-beds were allocated in the exceptional medical & disability categories, and one 3-bed fell into the disability category.

There are 126 properties planned for delivery in the Ashbourne MD by the end of 2027. These break down into the following categories:

- 1 bed: 36 units
- 2 bed: 68 units
- 3 bed: 22 units

There are 13 one bed universal design units included in the 126 properties.

This was noted.

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5.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"Has the Ashbourne Municipal District building been assessed for solar panels and other retrofit projects?"

Response:

Meath County Council has undertaken an Energy Audit of its larger buildings, which included Ashbourne Civic Offices and Library. These Energy Audits identified various retrofit works to improve the energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the SEAI Pathfinder project, the Council is progressing works on the largest energy consuming buildings which account for approx. 80% of the Council's building related energy. Ashbourne Civic Offices and Library has been upgraded in recent years and due to the works undertaken to date, it is not within the cohort of large buildings that fall within the 80% of consumption. However as works progress through the first tranche of large buildings, Ashbourne Civic Offices and Library will fall within the scope for future works.

This was noted.

6.0 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin & Councillor Helen Meyer

"To call on the Transport Department to purchase a mini sweeper to enable the council to maintain cycle lanes, footpaths and other outdoor areas similar to those used in other municipal districts."

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

Ashbourne Municipal District is in the process of tendering for the hire of a mini-sweeper unit in 2025. It should be noted that the initial hire period will be for 3 months and our outdoor staff will need to be trained to operate the unit. A cost benefit and operational review will be carried out at the end of the hire period. It should also be noted that costs associated with the hire/operation of this unit will come from the existing MD budget as there is no specific budget allocation for mini-sweepers.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin & Cllr Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** was agreed.

Members also mentioned that the Frederick Street needs to be power hosed.

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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

“That Meath County Council pilot a scheme in Ashbourne to install water bottle filling stations to encourage people to refill, thereby reducing plastic waste.”

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

Meath County Council installed a water refill station at the Ashbourne House Hotel. A number of water refill stations are available for installation across County Meath, we are currently in the process of identifying appropriate locations for these stations within each decarbonising zone. Please note that the locations need to be close to an Uisce Éireann water line to ensure feasibility.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** was agreed.

Members also asked for a timeline on installation and asked if Milltown Pitch, Community centre and School campus be considered as possible locations.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To call on the Transport Department to provide a footpath on Hickey’s Lane, Ashbourne (L50193).”

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

Meath County Council Transport Department currently have no plans to install a new footway along the L-50193 Hickey’s Lane, 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 Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** was agreed.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none

8.0 Any Other Business

On the proposal by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Helen Meyer** it was agreed that

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the annual meeting to be held on the 10/06/2025 will be offered in Hybrid format.

- Can the statistics and rationale be sent to members on how the community grants are allocated, as it is believed it should be more equitable?
- Cllr Bonner discussed the idea of placing a motion for self-cleaning toilet to be installed in Ashbourne.
- Can we get an update on the flood risk for Priors Boundary and Coach.

The meeting concluded at 11.15am

Signed:

Cathaoirleach