comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council
Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh, Contae na Mí. C15 Y291
Buvinda House, Dublin Rd., Navan, Co.Meath, C15 Y291

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

10.00 a.m., 8th October 2026, Duleek Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Maria White** presided.

Councillors Present: Sharon Tolan, Carol Lennon, Wayne Harding, Paddy Meade, Stephen McKee and Geraldine Keogan.

Councillors Present via Zoom: None

Apologies/Absent: None

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Gareth McMahon

Executive Engineer: Paul Tumelty

Meetings Administrator: Alison Condra

Staff Officer: Kate Lomza

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th September 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2026 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Carol Lennon and seconded by Councillor Wayne Harding.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

The Members wished to send notes of congratulations to the following:

- Duleek Bellewstown Football Team and the U16 Girls' teams on reaching their upcoming finals;
- Slane Community Centre Committee on the opening of its new facility;
- All students who received their Junior Certificate results this week;
- Meath Sports Partnership and Mary Murphy on the organisation of the Women in Sport Conference;
- Meath Age Friendly Team on its event at the CityNorth Hotel; and
- Meath East Coast Men's Shed and the Women's East Coast Shed on their vibrant events throughout the year.

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4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The report was circulated in advance, and the Members highlighted the following matters for the engineer's consideration:

Footpaths: Ponding was reported on footpaths in Laytown. Commuter parking at Laytown Playground was preventing some users from accessing the facilities, and consideration of a barrier was requested.

Traffic Calming: Further traffic-calming works were requested in Donore village and on the approaches to Duleek village.

Playgrounds: A query was raised as to when works on the zipline in Lobinstown village would commence.

Roads: A review of the junction in Bettystown village was requested, as drivers were unclear about the "No Entry" restriction and right of way.

4.2 Planning

4.2.1 To receive an update on Slane Community Fund Committee and Administration

On the proposal of Councillor Wayne Harding, seconded by Councillor Paddy Meade, the matter was deferred to the October meeting. All Members agreed.

4.2.2 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 2001-2026, on the proposed development which will consist of: Mosney Road Footpath Scheme in the townlands of Briarleas & Keenoge, Julianstown, Co. Meath. Planning Reference (PT8MH390).

On the proposal of Councillor Sharon Tolan, seconded by Councillor Carol Lennon, all Members agreed.

4.3 Corporate Services

To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

The allocations were noted.

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"What progress has been made in relation to extending the opening hours and delivering the My Open Library Service at the East Meath Civic Centre and Bettystown Library?"

Response:

The *My Open Library* project at East Meath Civic Centre and Bettystown Library is progressing; however, Meath County Council is not yet in a position to introduce the service safely to the public.

All *My Open Library* hardware, software and self-service kiosks have been installed and tested. While significant progress has been made, essential building works remain ongoing and must be completed before the service can commence. In addition, the East Meath Civic Centre remains within the building defects liability period, and a number of outstanding issues must be resolved as part of that process before extended access can be introduced.

In the meantime, staffed opening hours at Bettystown Library have already been maximised to the greatest extent possible within the existing staffing resources and operational budget.

The position will continue to be kept under review, and a further update will be provided when the project is in a position to proceed safely to the next phase of implementation.

Councillor Tolan expressed dissatisfaction with the response. Gareth McMahon, Director of Service, agreed to obtain an update on the status of the building and a proposed date for the launch of the My Open Library service.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Maria White

"What is the proposed timeline for delivery of the Laytown Bettystown park and community centre now funding for same has been announced?"

Response:

The Council welcomes the announcement of funding for the Laytown-Bettystown Park & Community Centre by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne, T.D. The Council will engage with the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage over the coming weeks

to finalise the details of the grant allocation. The Council is currently compiling tender documents to procure a suitably qualified design team to complete the detailed design and tender documentation required to appoint a construction contractor for the project. It is envisaged that construction could commence in Q3 2027.

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Carol Lennon

"That Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District calls upon the Chief Executive to immediately prepare a comprehensive strategy and implement a restricted Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) ban across Julianstown Village, specifically the R132/R150 for vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes, mirroring successful urban access models, in order to safeguard vulnerable road users, reduce chronic traffic congestion, and protect local residential infrastructure from structural damage."

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

The Council fully acknowledges the longstanding concerns of residents regarding traffic conditions in Julianstown, including the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, congestion, noise, emissions, and the effect of heavy vehicles on the village environment. These concerns are legitimate and are among the matters being considered through the Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme. The current scheme includes consideration of traffic-calming measures and HGV restrictions as part of an overall package, rather than as an isolated intervention.

The implementation of HGV restrictions on the R132 and R150 in Julianstown is not currently feasible in the absence of a suitable, non-tolled alternative route for HGV traffic. There is a significant risk that, in the absence of a suitable alternative route, HGV traffic would divert onto smaller local and regional roads not designed to accommodate substantial freight volumes. This could simply transfer road safety concerns, environmental impacts and infrastructure wear to neighbouring communities while creating additional enforcement challenges for An Garda Síochána.

Accordingly, it is considered that a restriction on HGVs exceeding 7.5 tonnes through Julianstown cannot be supported at this time unless and until an appropriate non-tolled alternative route is provided that can safely and efficiently accommodate displaced freight traffic while maintaining access for local businesses and services.

The motion, together with supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor Carol Lennon** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keoghan.**

Following debate, Councillors Tolan, Meade and McKee indicated that they could not support the motion, as they considered that an HGV ban would divert traffic onto smaller local roads at Moorechurch and other side roads, and that a ban could not be supported until a suitable alternative route was in place.

Following a show of hands, the motion fell;

For: 2; Against: 3; Absent: 1, Abstain :1

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"That Meath County Council, through its Transportation Section, undertake the design and delivery of a pedestrian and road safety scheme at Laytown Train Station, including the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing and any associated footpath, public lighting, traffic-calming and accessibility measures required to ensure the safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists accessing the station."

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

The Elected representatives of the Laytown Bettystown Municipal District will be aware of a number of high-level initiatives such as the Laytown Public Realm Plan and Laytown and Bettystown Walking and Cycling Study that seek to improve facilities and safety generally in the environs of Laytown train station which the Council are endeavouring to progress. The Transportation Section will investigate the options to improve the existing pedestrian crossing at Laytown train station however the existing urban form and limited land availability present a number of constraints to implementing a scheme. In addition, the Council understands that the National Transport Authority (NTA), through its Park and Ride Development Office, is currently considering future parking provision at the Laytown Station, as part of a post DART+ capacity assessment.

The motion, together with supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan and** seconded by **Councillor Carol Lennon.**

All Members indicated that visibility was very poor and that the footpath at this location was narrow. Gareth McMahon agreed to revert to the Members with a proposal for improving pedestrian safety at the location.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Maria White

"To call on Meath County Council to write to the NTA and Irish Rail requesting they either collaborate with Meath County Council to facilitate the delivery of a park and ride facility or

identify sites for and deliver additional parking for commuters to access Laytown train station."

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

Meath County Council acknowledges the motion with regard to the delivery of a park and ride facility and its alignment with the County Development Plan policy, specifically MOV POL 13 (*To promote and support the provision of Park-and-Ride facilities which improve public transport accessibility without exacerbating road congestion at appropriate locations within the County. NTA funded Park & Ride Schemes will be carried in accordance with the recommendations of the Park & Ride Development Office of the NTA*.)

The NTA established the Park and Ride Development Office in February 2020, which had been included as an action in the Climate Action Plan 2019 (refer to Action 89). The function of the Office is to enable the delivery of park and ride sites by the NTA in collaboration with operators such as Iarnród Éireann.

It is noted that following the grant of planning permission for DART+ Coastal North Scheme, which was approved by An Coimisiún Pleanála on August 19, 2025, the Council understands that the National Transport Authority (NTA), through its Park and Ride Development Office, is currently considering future parking provision at the Laytown Station, as part of a post DART+ capacity assessment. It is understood that initial discussions between the NTA PRDO and Iarnród Éireann have commenced in relation to a park and ride facility at Laytown Station. It is noteworthy that the NTA previously funded Meath County Council to provide a new site for the recycling facilities adjacent to Laytown Station (previously located within the car park) and to significantly upgrade the existing car park, with those works completed in 2021.

Notwithstanding the above, should the motion be adopted, the Council will write to the National Transport Authority seeking an update on the provision of a park-and-ride facility and will offer any assistance it can provide to facilitate the progression of a scheme at this location. It is noted, however, that any consideration of additional parking at this location, including the potential use of CPO powers for land acquisition, if required, would be subject to a detailed feasibility assessment, alignment with national transport policies and strategies, environmental evaluation, completion of the planning process and the availability of funding.

The motion, together with the supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor Maria White** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan.** All Members agreed.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Maria White

"To call on Meath County Council to implement without delay the traffic calming measures in Julianstown for which there are already existing detailed plans and to write to TII to request a planned toll holiday to analyse the impact of same on traffic through Julianstown village."

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

The Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme is currently at Phase 2 Option Selection.

It is currently expected that a non-statutory consultation on an emerging preferred option, which will include active travel/public transport and traffic calming upgrades within Julianstown Village, will take place later this year.

Once the emerging preferred option, and the associated traffic calming upgrades, have been finalised a phased delivery of the recommended measures will be considered, subject to any required statutory consents and completion of the currently planned Uisce Éireann works in the area.

In relation to the request to seek a toll holiday on the M1 motorway, the Council notes that tolling arrangements are a matter for TII and the toll concessionaire. A temporary suspension of toll charges may not necessarily provide a robust basis for assessing long-term traffic patterns, as drivers' behaviour during a temporary trial period may not reflect permanent traffic conditions. Any assessment of the impact of tolling on traffic movements would also need to consider wider effects on the national and regional road network.

Notwithstanding the above, the Transportation Section proposes to discuss a potential toll holiday with the Department of Transport and its transport consultants to determine whether such a study would be of value before considering writing formally to TII.

Councillor Sharon Tolan suggested an amendment to the wording of the motion to include "following the delivery of Uisce Éireann works" the motion reads :

"To call on Meath County Council to implement without delay the traffic calming measures in Julianstown following the delivery of Uisce Éireann works for which there are already existing detailed plans and to write to TII to request a planned toll holiday to analyse the impact of same on traffic through Julianstown village."

The motion, together with the supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor Maria White** and seconded by **Councillor Carol Lennon.** All members were in agreement.

Gareth McMahon advised that the commencement of the Uisce Éireann work was imminent and the traffic-calming project would follow directly. Paul Tumelty, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, confirmed that the road-opening licence for Phase 1 of the Uisce Éireann works, from Piltown Road to Julianstown, had been approved and that he would keep the Members updated or developments.

7.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8.0 Any Other Business

Following contributions from Councillors Meade, Tolan and McKee, the following matters were raised: the recent boil-water notice in Lobinstown and residents' dissatisfaction with the matter; and a request for the Laytown Park plans to be resubmitted for funding opportunities.

The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach