

Miontuairiscí/ Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Navan Municipal District

10:00am, 17th April 2024, Navan Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Councillors Francis Deane, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Tommy Reilly, Emer Tóibín, Yemi Adenuga, Alan Lawes

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Absent/apologies:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Executive Engineer: Shane Durcan

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th March 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th of March 2024 were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There was none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Francis Deane on the death of his cousin, Eugene Deane, Farganstown
- The family of the late Martin Homan, Balreask Village
- The family of the late Agnes McGovern, Old Windtown.
- The family of the late Michael Burke, Tailteann Close.

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- The family of the late Christy Rafferty, St Brigid's Villas
- The family of the late Jackie Byrne, Emmet Terrace
- The family of the late Barney O'Dowd, formerly Kilcarn.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

There was none.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District

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

- Thanked the outdoor crew on the works completed to date.
- Enquired on how to address the issue of graffiti. – advised that the new CCTV will deter this.
- Referred to drain blocked in Blackcastle lodge- noted by engineer.
- Enquired if there is an increase/decrease in dumping – advised that there is more litter picking due to the longer evenings.
- Asked that weeds be sprayed at the garage on Cannon Row- advised that town spraying due to commence soon and will include.
- Referred to yellow boxes that need updating at pitch n putt, and Beechmount on the Trim Road – noted by engineer.
- Referred to a pothole at the ramp on the Dan shaw road- on the list.
- Advised that hoarding on Flowerhill is causing access issues for pedestrians – advised that works are near completion and hoarding to be removed then.
- Referred to a broken mirror on Boreen Kiel which needs to be replaced – advised replacements are ordered.

5.1.2 To receive an update on Navan 2030.

Cormac Ross SEE, Transportation gave an update on progress to Navan 2030. He advised that contract 3 is now completed which saw the reversal of traffic.



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He said that the next phase will include the Fairgreen and Old Cornmarket, in 2024 and Bakery Lane, Bedford Place and Preston Place in 2025. He said that works will include upgrading of services, public lighting, new surfaces and review of parking spaces. He said that the works are due to be tendered out shortly and information on the work programme will be circulated once it's finalised.

The members welcomed the update and had the following questions:

- Enquired to the type of works on Bakery Lane.
- Asked if there will be temporary traffic management in place.
- Complimented the planting on Connolly Avenue.
- Referred to the congestion of traffic in the Fairgreen on Fridays.
- Referred to the gridlock of traffic at times to Watergate Street.
- Enquired if the steps from circular road to Finian's terrace will remain.
- Asked why Pairc Tailteann carpark is closed.
- Enquired when the Trim Road will become two ways.

The officials responded and advised that the Fairgreen parking will be reconfigured with the surface upgraded. Watergate Street traffic is being monitored and the traffic lights sequence adjusted accordingly. Traffic management will be communicated to everyone when works commence. Works on the Trim Road are near completion, with the road opening to two-way traffic then. To follow up on the closure of Pairc Tailteann.

5.2 Community

To receive details of the proposed grant allocations under the Community Amenity Project Scheme 2024.

Brian Hora SEO, Community gave a presentation on the scheme and advised accordingly on the applications received and the criteria used to allocate the funds to the projects.

The members agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane** to the proposals as presented.

5.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 5.3.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan Municipal District

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The allocations report was noted.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

To ask the Executive to confirm a footpath replacement programme on the Woodview Estate this year and a start date for those works.

RESPONSE:

Meath County Council confirm Woodview estate, Navan is included in the 2024 footpath repair programme for the Navan MD. Currently the extent of repairs is being finalised and then a contractor will be procured to carry out the work, so it is not possible to give a precise start date, but it is likely to be late 2024.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

Can Meath County Council provide additional drains in Abbeylands Crescent to help alleviate long lying water and continuous drainage problems which are a major hindrance to residents.

RESPONSE:

The existing surface drainage will be surveyed and assessed for any remedial works required if funding available. Planned new housing development adjoining the Abbeylands Crescent Estate may also be an option for upgrading a section of the estate drainage.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

Can Meath County Council provide an update from the Department of Education on the provision of a secondary school in North Navan.

RESPONSE:

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Meath County Council has had some initial engagement with the Department of Education on the provision of a secondary school in North Navan and discussions are ongoing in relation to potential locations and their suitability.

The response was noted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Emer Toibin

Can Meath County Council provide a detailed report on how the changing of traffic direction has impacted on congestion and travel times in Navan over the last 2 months, to include in that report, measures and strategies to facilitate improved and speedier navigation of emergency services vehicles through gridlock and to optimize overall traffic flow.

RESPONSE:

We note that provision exists within the Roads Act with respect to exemption for emergency service vehicles, where such use does not endanger the safety of road users, from certain requirements, restrictions and prohibitions relating to the driving and use of vehicles. We are unaware of any formal reports from the Emergency Services to Meath County Council of negative issues associated with the recent changes in traffic direction, or the associated works in Navan.

In relation to the recent changes to the direction of traffic Navan, it is noted that a period of adjustment is needed for individual private car users to alter pre-existing travel patterns to the revised traffic layout, which aims to improve access to public transport and also to improve accessibility for pedestrians in Navan through the introduction of new signalised pedestrian crossings.

As the recent traffic changes in the town centre are part of government policy to increase active and sustainable transport choice over private car use, it is not intended to undertake a specific study on traffic levels in Navan at this time. The Transport Department will however continue to make observations on the levels of traffic at key junctions in Navan and, where appropriate, to make adjustments to traffic signals to optimise traffic signal operations for all road users.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

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To place double yellow lines on Commons Lane towards the junction with the Commons Road and outside Gort Fionnbarra in an effort to provide safe and clear passage for vehicular traffic. Also, to investigate the need for double yellow lines at Gort Fionnbarra/Commons Road along the cycle path to prevent parking on the cycle lanes which is a recurring problem.

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

Transportation will liaise with Housing Section and assess the locality as a whole for parking issues and the requirement for yellow lines.

Cllr Fitzsimons welcomed the response and on the proposal of **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, the motion was agreed.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

To request the installation of a bicycle lift on the steps from Circular Road to St. Finian's Terrace.

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

The Transportation Department is currently reviewing options to provide a bicycle wheel channel/track facility on the existing steps from Circular Road to St Finian's Terrace and can confirm the installation works are to be completed by the Navan Municipal District later this year.

The motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

To seek funding for the provision of consultants to draw up a plan and design for the building of a bridge from the Boyne Road to the Slane Road in an effort to draw traffic away from the town centre and provide safer passage for motorists crossing from one side of town to the other.

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

Meath County Council are currently finalising the appointment of consultants to carry out an Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) for Navan. This study forms part of the development of a new Local Area Plan for Navan and will include an assessment of transport demand and its associated impacts along with identification of requirements, primarily in relation to movement and accessibility. The primary objective of an ABTA is to make sure that movement and accessibility of all forms, across all modes of transport, are considered as a key component in the development of areas at a local level.

A possible future bridge crossing and distributor road link connecting the Slane Road to the Boyne Road will be assessed at a high level as part of this study and, subject to the findings of this initial high level assessment, it is our intention to then apply for funding to appoint consultants to examine the feasibility of the future requirements that emerge from the ABTA including the potential case for a bridge crossing and distributor road link connecting the Slane Road to the Boyne Road.

Cllr Fitzsimons said that now is the time to assess with all the change happening in the town. On the proposal of **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, the motion was agreed.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

That Navan MD write to TFI to request the Navan Town Bus service be extended to include Balgill, Bective, Ardsallagh, Cannistown and the Borallion.

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

The Council on behalf of Navan MD can write to TFI asking that they consider extending the Navan Town Bus service to Balgill, Bective, Ardsallagh, Cannistown and the Borallion.

The motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

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To call on Meath County Council to acquire approximately 30 acres of open space at Farganstown, Navan for the creation of a Sporting, Recreational and Wellbeing Campus to facilitate existing residents both young and old before any more residential development commences.

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

Meath County Council will explore all options to ensure that the social and community infrastructure in Farganstown is delivered in a timely and structured manner.

Councillor Tommy Reilly welcomed the response and said that facilities are needed in the area with so many young people now living here.

The motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

To ask the Executive to create a Rainbow coloured bench on the Blackwater Park, to be launched as part of the Navan Pride Festival 8th to 13th of July.

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

Subject to the motion being approved, the Community Department will consider the provision of a Rainbow coloured bench on the Blackwater Park.

The motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1st March 2024

The minutes were noted.

8.2 To note the Protocol Committee Meeting Minutes of 1st March 2024

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The minutes were noted.

- 8.3 To note the Special Protocol Committee Meeting Minutes of 2nd April 2024

The minutes were noted.

- 8.4 To note the Draft Housing Community & Cultural Development SPC Meeting Minutes of 20th March 2024

The draft minutes were noted.

- 8.5 To note the Draft Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of 21st March 2024

The draft minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was none.

10 Any Other Business

The following were raised by the members:

- Councillor Tommy Reilly proposed on behalf of Navan MD that a merit award be given to Francis Duffy to honour 60 years of service with the Navan Silver Band. - advised will refer to the events section.
- Councillor Alan Lawes sought an update to his motion on the naming of the road from the roundabout in Johnstown beside Smiths Supervalu to the school campus "Johnstown Wood Avenue" as gaeilge, "Ascaill Coill Bhaile Eoin"- advised will seek update.
- Councillor Eddie Fennessy sought an update on his motion to the naming of the proposed road to the Trim Road via Limekiln after local IRA Volunteer Thomas Murray from nearby Kilcarn, who was executed during the Irish Civil War. - advised will seek an update.
- Referred to a gully damaged in Old Johnstown village. - noted by the engineer.
- Asked that trees and hedges be pruned in Kilcarn Heights and Metges road, Johnstown – noted by the engineer.
- Enquired if any update when residents might move back into Academy Square- advised that no update currently.



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- Enquired if any update on the new manager overseeing the Navan Rail line- not confirmed yet.
- Asked that benches be installed along the greenway for older persons – advised that these works will form part of enhancing the greenway.
- Enquired if a shuttle bus could be provided to Pace train station – advised that buses already service the station.
- Asked for an update when phase 2 of the windows and doors scheme will commence.
- Referred to cars driving down Flowerhill from the Round O, and if a sign could be erected advising it's a one-way system.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am

Signed:

An Meára