

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

10.00a.m, 04th September 2024, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Caroline O'Reilly, Gillian Toole, Fionnan Blake, Gerry O'Connor

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillor Maria Murphy

Absent/Apologies: Councillor Brian Fitzgerald

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Services: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

Martin Murray Director, Transportation Section.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 10th July 2024, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline O'Reilly**.

2.0 Matters arising from minutes

CLr O'Reilly, read out correspondence she had received from the Department regarding Mullagh cross.

CLr O'Connor referred to the Taking in Charge of the Arches, Dunshaughlin at the July meeting which he is not in agreement with.

CLr Toole asked for the balance remaining from the RRDF funding for Dunshaughlin and if this can be allocated to the junction on the main street to Supervalu.

CLr Toole referred to Ratoath public realm works and requested that it commence in the village first. She asked about the reinstatement works carried out by Uisce Eireann in Ratoath and the relocation of a bus stop which will cause traffic congestion. She sought an update on the school warden for Rathbeggan N.S.

CLr Murphy asked for an update on Padinstown road.

3.0 Expressions of sympathy and congratulations

Sympathy was extended to the family of the late Catherine McHale, Derrockstown, Dunshaughlin.

Congratulations were extended to Cian O'Connor and Kerrie Leonard on their performance at the Olympics and Paralympic games respectively in Paris.

4.0 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.200Ha of land by Section 183 at Roestown,

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Dunshaughlin. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

On the proposal by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Fionnan Blake** the members agreed in principle to the disposal of land.

- 4.2** Agreement in principle to disposal of lands by Section 183 Notice for Land Rectification to boundary at Cooksland, Dunshaughlin Co. Meath. The total Land area is 0.4786Ha in plot number 122i.202 and 122i.203 as outlined in Red on the attached drawing. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

On the proposal by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline O'Reilly** the members agreed in principle to the disposal of land.

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1** To Receive an update on the L6210 Newtownmoyaghy Safety Improvement scheme.

Paul Phelan, SEE Transportation, gave an update on the scheme and advised that they are now preparing planning documents for submission of an application to An Bord Pleanála in Q4 2024 and then to seek approval from the funding authority to proceed to phase 4.

The members welcomed the scheme and enquired on the timeframe to complete the works and will traffic be disrupted.

Responses were provided by the engineer.

- 5.1.2** To Receive an update on the R156 Mullagh Cross Specific Improvement Grant scheme.

Paul Phelan, SEE Transportation, gave an update on the scheme and advised that the Emerging Preferred Option has been identified with ongoing consultation with the landowners. He said that they are now preparing planning documents for a Part 8 application for Q4 2024 and to seek approval from the funding authority to proceed to the next phase.

The members welcomed the scheme and asked for a timeline when works might commence. The engineer advised it could take 12 months before works would commence which would depend on the Part 8 application and funding approval.

- 5.1.3** To receive an update on the Default Speed Limit for Rural Local Roads.

Stephen Shortall, Engineer, Transportation presented an update on the implementation of the

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new Rural Local Roads Default Speed Limit as per legislation enacted in April 2024. He said that variations to the Default Speed Limits will be permitted by way of byelaws and the creation of Special Speed Limits in accordance with the guidelines. He advised that existing Special Speed Limits will remain in place.

The members were advised that a phased rollout will commence with the new 60km/h default speed signage installed by the end of November 2024 and the review of the speed limit byelaws will commence in 2025 and be finalized in 2026.

The members welcomed the reduction to the speed limits. They enquired if the council will be doing a campaign locally on the new speed limits and garda enforcement.

Responses were provided by the engineer who stated that the gardai are the authority to monitor and enforce the speed limits. He said that a national and a local campaign will be in operation.

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

The report circulated in advance and the following noted:

- The members thanked Philip and the outdoor crew for all the work being done.
- Asked that road lining be upgraded at Rathbeggan.
- Referred to the poor road surface on the R147 from Rathbeggan to Navan and if this road can be included for works.
- Enquired when the four outdoor staff will commence work.
- Thanked crew for works done to open the outer relief road and suggested trees be planted to deter unauthorized parking.
- Referred to Ratoath public realm scheme where works should commence in the centre first following the Age Friendly walkability audit.
- Concerns raised regarding the reinstatement works done by Uisce Eireann on the R155 Curragha road.

Responses were provided by the area engineer accordingly.

Martin Murray, Director, Transportation Section, updated the members on the Active Travel projects. He advised that the council annually have received an allocation of €14m however this has now been significantly reduced by the Department and the NTA resulting in a shortfall to the council of €10m. He said that the executive has met with the NTA and the Department and have been asked to look at the main schemes which includes the Ratoath public realm project, among others with a view to reconfiguring or stalling some schemes until such a time that sufficient funding becomes available. He advised that a meeting is scheduled for next week with the NTA and will report back accordingly.

The members expressed their concerns with the news and a discussion ensued regarding funding that is required for road safety works in a number of locations including the Lagore junction onto R147 main street, Dunshaughlin whereby cyclists and children going to school are crossing at this junction. The members also requested that funds be sought to upgrade the junction on the main street and the Knocks Road to Supervalu, Dunshaughlin.

There was a discussion about the process of making the road at the Knocks a public road. Dara McGowan, Director explained that works to the footpath and public lighting have been completed by the council as per a condition to making the road a public road and the road will now be included on the road schedule.

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5.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

5.2.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District

The Allocations were noted.

The members requested an extension of time to 12.30pm on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

6.0 Notice of Questions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Fionnan Blake

"To ask the Executive if there are plans to provide 2 no. Bus Shelters on the R147, at the top of the Kileen Road (L22061), one shelter on each side of the road?"

Response:

The responsibility for the provision of bus stop infrastructure is a matter for the relevant bus operators and the National Transport Authority (the Authority) in the first instance.

Meath County Council provides assistance to the National Transport Authority in respect of the delivery of the sustainable infrastructure, such as the project management of the construction works relating to bus stops and those necessary to facilitate the erection of the bus shelters by the Authority's bus shelter installation contractor. The request for shelters on the R147 at the top of the

Kileen Road. (L22061) is noted. However, whilst Meath County Council periodically discusses representations received in relation to new stops and services with the NTA, we recommend that these matters such as the provision of bus shelters are raised directly with them given their statutory role in this regard.

All requests for new bus stop at locations in County Meath should therefore be directed to the National Transport Authority. Public representatives can send queries via email to

Alternatively, written communications can be made to:

National Transport Authority

Dún Scéine

Harcourt Lane

Dublin 2

D02 WT20

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

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"Following my Notice Of Question at the March Monthly Meeting, regarding the Castle Stream in Dunboyne, please advise if a date has been agreed for the maintenance works to commence."

Response:

A commencement date has not yet been set, but the intention is to do some clearing works in September.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Caroline O'Reilly

"Please provide an update on the Public Realm for Ratoath"

Response:

A member of the Transport Team will attend the next Ratoath MD meeting to provide an update.

The response was noted.

7.0 Notice of Motions

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Fionnan Blake

"To call on Meath County Council to make the road bollards at the bottom of the Collage Park housing estate Dunshaughlin, and the entrance to the public park in the same area, Wheelchair Accessible."

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

Accessibility at these locations will be investigated to determine what works are required.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Fionnan Blake** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

The motion was introduced by Cllr Blake where he said that a wheelchair user in this area struggles to cross the road safely due to a blind entrance, hedges and e-scooters.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Fionnan Blake

"To call on Meath County Council to install a Pedestrian Crossing on the road leading to "The Knocks", Dunshaughlin, at the entrance to the public park, adjacent to Supple Park housing estate"

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

Meath County Council has an approved schedule of works with an approved budget for 2024, and a pedestrian crossing on the road leading to "The Knocks", Dunshaughlin does not form part of the

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approved schedule of works for this year. The request will be added to a list of new works requests and will be considered for inclusion in future work programmes, based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Fionnan Blake** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

The motion was introduced by Cllr Blake where he said that there are 150 houses in the area where children from the estates cross the road to the park going to school. He referred to cars speeding after driving through the chicanes and that there has been near misses with traffic and pedestrians.

8.0 Correspondence

Correspondence from Cian O'Connor was circulated inviting the members to visit Karlswood stables. The members asked that a letter issue accepting his invite and to arrange a suitable date.

9.0 Any Other Business

- Councillor Caroline O'Reilly requested a letter issue to Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland, and to the NTA to outline the concerns of the current transport proposal regarding Thornton Hall residents using the existing Bus Eireann 103 bus service. She said that a more obvious solution is a shuttle bus to Finglas which has transport links to other areas and services.
- Councillor Toole referred to the opening of the outer relief road in Ratoath where a yellow box is required at the junction of the Ballybin road at the Jamestown roundabout.
- Cathaoirleach Councillor Killian thanked Director Dara McGowan for all his work in this area and his assistance over the years and wished him luck in his new directorate.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach