

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Navan Municipal District

10.00 am, 11th September 2024, Navan Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Councillors Francis Deane, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Linda Nelson Murray, 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

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of July 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to the families of:

- Amelia Maciejk, Navan & pupil of Loreto secondary school.
- Aidan Carberry, Navan
- Christopher Rattigan, Navan
- Rosie McCabe, Navan
- Kevin Ball, Navan
- Michael Quinn McDonagh, Navan
- Michael Joyce, Navan
- David Boland, Navan
- David Guerin, Navan
- Paddy Bellew, Navan

Congratulations to Navan Tennis Club in competing in the recent competitions.

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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4.1.1 To receive an update on the proposed Traffic Calming at Athlumney Village, Navan.

Paul Phelan SEE, Transportation updated on the proposed Traffic Calming measures at Athlumney Village, Navan. He advised that several submissions were received from residents who were not in favour of the measures and therefore the council is not proceeding with the installation of the Build Out traffic calming proposal. Members noted the decision.

4.1.2 To receive an update on the Default Speed Limit for Rural Local Roads.

Stephen Shortall, Transportation presented an update on the implementation of the 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 said 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 to speed limits outside schools and if the surrounding roads into Navan will be reduced to 30kmph, public awareness of the speed limit reductions and if previous speed limit review submissions will be accounted for.

Responses were provided by the engineer who stated that speed limits outside rural schools will remain the same, awaiting guidance on speed limits for built up areas, national and local campaigns will be held, all previous submissions will be reviewed under phase 2.

4.1.3 To receive an update on the Pathfinder project, R161 Navan to Trim.

Paul O'Brien, Engineer, Active Travel, updated on the scheme which will provide a two-way 9km segregated cycle track, shared active travel facility and traffic calming measures on the R161. He advised that the closing date for submissions on the scheme is the 27th of September. He stated that NTA approval is required to progress to detailed design and construction.

The members welcomed the scheme and had a few queries including timeframe for construction of works, any CPO of land, how was the route chosen, any issues with property owners and access to their entrances and an update on the other phase of work into Navan.

The engineer advised that landowners have been notified along the route. This route was selected due to the wide carriageway and verges, and that no land acquisition is required. This scheme will be a rapid build with a timeframe of 12 months to complete.

Mr O'Brien updated on the other phases which are ongoing from Beechmount to Balreask Manor and then to Balreask crossroads, with this junction being upgraded.

4.1.4 To receive a presentation on the modification of the R162 Proudstown Road and Aisling Place traffic signal junction.

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Bernard Cooney, Engineer, Transportation, gave an update on the proposed upgrades to the junction. He said that the layout will have several improvements, including 2 additional controlled pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, safer pedestrian movements, improved path surfaces, public lighting and traffic management into the filling station. He advised that the tender process is due to commence at the end of September and works completed by year end.

The members welcomed the upgrades and had a few queries regarding the pedestrian crossing and if too close to the junction, can the wall be moved back as pupils congregate at the Beaufort place junction, can the exit/entry to the filling station be reversed.

The engineer responded and advised on the minimum requirement for a pedestrian crossing, the proposed entrance/exit to the filling station allows for the traffic exiting to see the lights at the pedestrian crossings. He noted the issue with the wall where pupils congregate and said that the path here will be improved.

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

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

- Commended works being undertaken.
- Johnstown Tidy Towns have several workers under the CE scheme and willing to work with other groups in the area.
- Referred to Balreask Village junction where the traffic lights have no sound.
- Enquired if the road from Balreask junction to Navan will be resurfaced.

Responses were provided by the engineer and director.

4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

The allocations were noted.

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"With reference to the €100,000 allocation from the Community Monument Fund for Ardmulchan Graveyard I'd like to ask if a contractor has been appointed and what is the proposed date of completion?"

Response:

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Meath County Council have appointed a Conservation Team (Conservation Engineer, Project Archaeologist and Bat Ecologist) who have undertaken necessary surveys to inform detailed design of proposed conservation works. Tender documentation (detailed drawings and specifications) has been prepared and are currently at tender stage to appoint a conservation contractor (deadline August 30th, 2024). Works are due to start on site by mid-September, subject to approval of S14 Ministerial Consent from Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. The recoupment claim for 2024 Community Monument Fund must be submitted by the Local Authority to the Department by the 15 November 2024.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

"To ask Meath County Council to outline what obligations, if any, it has to Old Athlumney Cemetery, Navan in terms of maintenance, heritage preservation and safety standards for visitors, considering the cemetery is vested in its care."

Response:

While Athlumney Old Burial Ground is vested in the charge of Meath County Council under the Irish Church Act 1869, the Council has no direct involvement in the general maintenance or burials that may take place. There is a local voluntary committee involved in the upkeep of the burial ground and the Council provides funding under the Burial Grounds Grant Scheme, Members Discretionary Fund, and Community Grants.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy

"I ask the Executive if planning permission is a requirement for the installation of Murals or paintings on Service Boxes in public spaces in Navan. And if that is the case, to provide an explanation of the process involved."

Response:

All proposed development should be assessed to determine if it is considered to be exempt development or requires planning permission. Further information is available on our website <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building/planning-permission/do-you-need-planning-permission>

The process to determine if development is exempt or requires planning permission is known as a Section 5 declaration under the Planning and Development Act 2000-2022. A section 5 declaration can be submitted to the Planning Authority and Technical Planning staff shall form an opinion on the proposal and the applicant is notified accordingly. Each proposal is considered on its merits and based on the information made available to the Planning Authority e.g. location, scale, type, colours etc. It is therefore recommended that all details of the proposed development are forwarded to the Planning Authority in this format. Alternatively, if the proposal is an own local authority development, all

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information should be forwarded and discussed with the Planning Authority who shall assist and guide members or promoting sections based on the information provided.

The response was noted.

5.4 Submitted by Councillor Linda Nelson Murray

"Given the great news of the €7m grant funding for the old St Patrick's Classical school I would like to ask Meath County Council if they have an update on when works will begin and when they envisage a project completion date?"

Response:

The Council are currently in the process of completing the formal agreement with the Funding authority. In parallel, work on detailed design, specifications and tender documents for the procurement of a suitably qualified contractor for the proposed works, is under way. The completion of the procurement process will require at a minimum 6 months; it is expected construction works will commence in Q1/2 - 2025 with substantial completion in late 2026.

The response was noted.

6.0 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

"I call on the Council to clean out all debris, overgrowth and litter in the two back alleys in Reask Green which are unpassable and unusable for local residents."

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

Transportation Section will assess the scale of works required and also the costings, which could be significant. Please note that these are gated alleys.

The response and motion were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and **Councillor Eddie Fennessy**.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"A new footpath has been installed at St Francis Park and Windtown Estate on the L3409 and I propose that Meath County Council would extend this footpath as far as Blackwater Park, where residents and pedestrians have concerns in relation to the inadequate width of the existing footpath."

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

As part of the construction of LDR4, a new shared surface for pedestrians and cyclists is to be constructed on the southwest side of the Ratholdren Road between the junction of the Clonmaggaden Road and the entrance to Blackwater Park.

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The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Meath County Council to carry out a traffic speed audit on the Ferndale Housing Estate. Residents are reporting that they are witnessing speeding traffic outside their homes and are requesting that traffic calming measures be put in place.

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

The Transportation Department confirms that a vehicle speed survey will be undertaken within the Ferndale Estate in an effort to establish the level of compliance with the 'designated/'posted' speed limit. Following review of the speed survey data, consideration will be given to the potential implementation of traffic calming measures in the estate (if necessary).

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and **Councillor Linda Nelson Murray**.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy

"I call on the Executive to provide public transport access to communities in the Navan Municipal District Area by lobbying the NTA for the provision of bus stops with Park and Ride facilities, if necessary, at the following locations:

- *N51 (Slane Road): Either side of the road at 1. The Round Tower, Dunmoe. 2. The Fitzherbert Court estate.*
- *N51 (Athboy Road): With Park and Ride facilities where the Old Athboy Road merges with the N51.*
- *R147 (Kells Road): Either side of the Road alongside the Irish Wheelchair Association Centre near the Newgate Junction"*

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

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. While Meath County Council periodically discusses representations received in relation to new stops and services with the NTA, we recommend that these matters are raised with the NTA directly as they manage all contracts for public transport services, operate the licence regime for commercial bus operators; have responsibility for Rural transport services that are provided through a network of Local Link businesses; and, plan new and enhanced services including "Connecting Ireland". Given their statutory responsibilities in relation to public transport they are best placed to assess demand for

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enhanced and new bus services

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

oireachtaslaiison@nationaltransport.ie

Alternatively, written communications can be made to:

National Transport Authority, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane Dublin2 D02 WT20

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and **Councillor Alan Lawes**.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy

"I call on the Executive to assess the following estates for inclusion on the footpath repair Programme 2025:

- *Balreask Village ● Ferndale*
- *McDermott Villas ● Parnell Park"*

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

These locations will be inspected and considered for inclusion in future footpath repair Programme. Locations for inclusion are decided with regard to footpath condition, achieving efficiencies, and available funding for each MD.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and **Councillor Linda Nelson Murray**.

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga

"I call on Meath County council to introduce traffic calming measures along Swan Lane, as well as the installation of footpaths, streetlights and cycle lane for the safety of cyclists and school children who use the road on a regular basis."

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

Meath County Council has recently undertaken upgrade works on Swan Lane, including pavement resurfacing works and road lining renewal works, in addition to the provision of traffic calming road markings. We note that as part of the planned R147 Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme, traffic calming measures are proposed on part of Swan Lane, including the narrowing of the Swan Lane/R147 junction, and introduction of a raised table (ramp) pedestrian crossing. There are currently no plans to undertake a wider upgrade scheme on Swan Lane to incorporate footpaths, streetlights and cycle lanes.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and **Councillor Francis Deane**.

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Clr Adenuga introduced the motion and asked that traffic calming measures be explored due to the road being used as a short cut to the R147 and schools and that pedestrians do not feel safe using it.

Martin Murray, Director advised that "Swan Lane" is a lane and therefore not a high priority. He said that the proposed works would involve CPO's and costly due to the number of properties and their proximity located here.

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga

"I call on Meath County council to address the arbitrary parking and abandonment of Tier Nextbike rental Bikes on footpaths and random places around Navan to avoid impending accidents to cyclists and lane users and prevent vandalism of the Tier Nextbike rental Bikes."

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

Meath County Council can confirm that it has engaged with Tier Nextbike rental bikes (TIER Mobility Ireland Limited) to provide a bike hire scheme in Navan on a trial basis. As part of the model applied in Navan, Tier have established a flexi-zone system, where parking outside of the zone incurs penalties for bike users. The bike hire 'terms of use' also prohibits certain parking behaviours, such as blocking footpaths or obstructing entrances. Any complaints or issues relating to the parking or use of TIER bikes can be reported directly to Tier by post to TIER Mobility Ireland Limited, Riverside Two, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2, D02KV60 or by phone to Tier on +353 61 540 019 or by email to info@nextbike.ie.

Meath County Council has brought the matters raised in the Motion to the attention of Tier, and they have committed to providing further attention to the parking of Tier rental bikes in Navan.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and **Councillor Alan Lawes**.

Martin Murray, Director said that the scheme is very successful and will be extended. He said that he will bring back the members suggestions to the company.

6.8 Submitted by Councillor Linda Nelson Murray

"I call on Meath County Council to complete a survey at the Andy Connolly Roundabout with a view to pedestrian safety and traffic coming from Mullaghboy Industrial Estate, Moatlands and St Patrick's Park to Navan Retail Park, with particular emphasis on the service users of the National Learning Network."

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

Meath County Council will investigate pedestrian survey options at the Andy Connolly roundabout including liaison with the National Learning Network.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Linda Nelson Murray** and **Councillor Francis Deane**.

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6.9 Submitted by Councillor Linda Nelson Murray

"I call on Meath County Council to request a condition survey be done on Priory Park, Navan and Cost Estimate for work to be done which will form the basis for this council to resolve to take the estate in charge."

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

Meath County Council has completed surveying work on Priory Park, Navan in July and produced an estimate for the works to be completed to bring it up to Taking in Charge standard. There are no funds held by MCC Planning to complete these improvements, which means they must be factored into the ongoing programme of works to be funded from the revenue allocation. While they do not form part of the current programme, we will work on identifying potential funding, and confirm to the Members when this is has been secured and the works scheduled.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Linda Nelson Murray** and **Councillor Alan Lawes**.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

The following were raised:

- Enquired if the gullies in Housing estates can be jetted early.
- Update on the Tree Arborist report.
- Referred to the Andy Brennan Park and start date for works.
- Asked when the Dunville Road will open to the public.

The following responses were provided by the Director and engineer, that the arborist is due in shortly, gully cleaning has commenced, will give an update on the Andy Brennan Park at the next meeting and to carry out a number of audits on the Dunville Road before it can open to the public.

The meeting concluded at 12pm.

Signed:

An Meára