

## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **Ordinary Meeting**

#### **Navan Municipal District**

**10.00 am, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024, Navan Civic Offices**

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

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Francis Deane, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Linda Nelson Murray, Yemi Adenuga

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** Councillors Emer Tóibín, Alan Lawes

**Absent/apologies:**

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Martin Murray

**Executive Engineer:** Shane Durcan

**Graduate Engineer:** Vanessa Lima

**Meetings Administrator:** Elaine Daly

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Stephen Carey

**Clerical Officer:** Kathryn Fox

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September July 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

#### **2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

**Expressions of Sympathy were extended to:**

The family and friends of Ann Bray, Claremount, Navan

The family and friends of Jack Fagan, former Irish Times Property Editor

**Expressions of Congratulations were extended to:**

Navan O'Mahony's Hurling Team following their success at the final of the JM Foods Intermediate Hurling Championship.

#### **4.0 Statutory Business**

##### **4.1 Transportation**

##### **4.1.1** To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Fitzherbert Court Estate in the Navan Municipal District

Ms. Gillian Mangan, Executive Engineer, Transportation provided an outlined of the proposed traffic calming measures at Fitzherbert Court Estate in Navan. She further noted that the proposal would be brought

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back before the Elected Members following the non-statutory public consultation period.

There were queries and interventions of support from **Councillors Eddie Fennessy, Yemi Adenuga, Linda Nelson-Murray, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Francis Deane** and **Emer Tóibín**.

Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Martin Murray and Ms. Gillian Mangan.

### **4.1.2** To receive the proposed housing estates for inclusion in the 30km/h housing state special Bye Laws

Ms. Gillian Mangan, Executive Engineer, provided details of the housing estates proposed for inclusion in the 30 km/h Housing Estate Special Bye-Law, which will go on public display in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Acts, 2004.

The measures were welcomed by the Elected Members.

### **4.1.3** To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

Mr. Shane Durcan, Executive Engineer, outlined the salient details of the Navan District Report on Operations.

There were queries from **Councillors Linda Nelson-Murray, Yemi Adenuga, Francis Deane, Alan Lawes, Emer Tóibín** and **Eddie Fennessy**. Queries raised included:

- Cleaning of footpaths at Trimgate Street
- Schedule of grass cutting
- Schedule of works for tree arborist
- Clearing drainage and gulleys

Mr. Martin Murray and Mr. Shane Durcan responded to queries raised. It was agreed that the Transport Section would revert to the members with a detailed costing of proposed works following the review of the tree arborist, which could be considered as part of the general municipal allocation in Budget 2025.

### **4.1.4** To receive an update on the proposal for the Andy Brennan Park

Mr. Martin Murray noted that a proposal and business case for URDF funding had been submitted in relation to the redevelopment of Andy Brennan Park.

## **4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

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

Noted by the members

## **5.0 Notice of Questions**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy**

*"To ask the Executive how many applicants are on the 1, 2, 3 & 4 bed housing lists in Navan, and*

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*what is the average wait time on each list."*

**Response:**

Bed size	Navan Applicants	Navan Average waiting time on MCC housing list to date
1 bed	503	4.6
2 bed	369	3.2
3 bed	90	2.2
4 bed	51	3.5
<b>Total</b>	1013	

**Councillor Eddie Fennessy** noted that he required clarification in respect of the details provided which he would submit directly to the Housing Section.

The response was noted by the Elected Members.

### 5.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

*"I wish to ask if Meath Co Council would consider extending the paint scheme to Flowerhill, as a goodwill gesture, taking into consideration the effect on local businesses as the regeneration plan is rolled out."*

**Response:**

Funding has been provided via the Urban Regeneration Development Fund to improve the building frontage along the length of Flower Hill, commencing at Pollboy Bridge and ending at the Round O roundabout. Meath County Council have appointed an urban design consultant to prepare an itinerary of improvement works to the building frontage. When the consultants complete this work, the property owners/management companies etc., will be invited to participate in scheme.

The Council will provide an update to the Navan MD Members closer to the time of the contacting the property owners which is expected to be the end of Q4 2024 or early Q1 2025.

**Councillor Francis Deane** acknowledged the response and it was noted that there would be ongoing consultation with residents.

The response was noted by the Elected Members.

### 5.3 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

*"To ask the Council, in light of the NTA's new Bus Stop Enhancement Programme, with an allocation of €500,000 to each local authority, what is the Council's proposed programme for 2024 and 2025 to facilitate the enhancement / upgrade of existing bus stops across Navan and its environs, including the provision of much needed bus shelters in appropriate locations."*

**Response:**

Meath County Council, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, has developed and is

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currently finalising a list of bus stop infrastructure upgrade works in County Meath. This includes works to provide new bus stops, and upgrade of existing bus stops, including the provision of bus shelters. In the interim, a procurement process for the provision of several bus stops in Navan, and associated works on the Navan Town bus services routes (N1 & N2), is currently being completed, and these works are currently anticipated to commence by the end of October/beginning of November 2024.

**Councillor Emer Tóibín** sought clarification in relation to the number of bus stops in Navan that would be included in the scheme. Mr. Martin Murray agreed to revert with further details.

The response was noted by the Elected Members.

### **5.4 Submitted by Councillor Linda Nelson Murray**

*"Can a temporary management of the Fair Green Trader stalls can be implemented while the works are happening at the Fair Green, to ensure that not more car park spaces than necessary are being taken up during this phase of roadwork?"*

**Response:**

The Council notes that car parking is restricted in the Fairgreen car park on Fridays in order to facilitate the regular Friday market trading activity, and the safe entry/exit of the traders' vehicles (some being Heavy Goods Vehicles requiring space for egress during the day) in addition to the installation of temporary market stalls. Vehicle movements in the area are restricted during the day in this area on safety grounds, as pedestrian activity in this area is increased during the market activity in the Fairgreen.

The Council will continue to keep the size of the restricted area under review, with a view to minimising the area to correspond with the number of traders on a given Market day. It is envisaged that, as the winter months approach, the level of market trading activity in the Fairgreen will naturally decline, and opportunity will arise to increase the area available for paid parking. The Council is continuing to liaise with the Contractor, the Fairgreen Market Traders, and the Irish Organisation for Market and Street Traders (IMOST) in relation to this matter.

The response was noted by the Elected Members.

## **6.0 Notice of Motions**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy**

*"To ask the Executive to authorize the installation of Public Lighting and an Emergency Services Vehicle Entrance on the newly constructed pathways around the OMP Soccer grounds at Blackcastle in Navan."*

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

There is a long-term aspiration to provide lighting to this facility, this will be considered if and when resources become available.

**Councillor Eddie Fennessy** introduced the motion and noted the dependence on further funding.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane** was agreed.

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### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy**

*"To ask the Executive to include the following estates on the 2025 road repair programme: Beechmount Avenue, Ferndale, McDermott Villas & the Blackcastle Estate (remaining section)."*

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

The estate roads referred to can be added to the list of Housing Estate Schemes for Navan, progression of the schemes in 2025 is subject to funding being available.

**Councillor Eddie Fennessy** introduced the motion and noted the response provided.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Linda Nelson-Murray** was agreed.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*"I call on Meath County Council to work with stakeholders in an effort to rebuild the wall on the weir fish pass on the Blackwater River, Navan"*

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

The Blackwater River falls under the remit of the OPW regarding maintenance, drainage and repairs of weirs. Meath County Council will notify the OPW regarding same.

**Councillor Francis Deane** introduced the motion and noted the response.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** was agreed. It was further agreed to refer the motion to the OPW.

### **6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*"I call on Meath Co Council ensure that the two-hour parking rule is properly policed, in particular, on Ludlow Street where business owners are witness to several people who feed the parking meters for a full day."*

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

Meath parking services will arrange for the traffic wardens to increase observations on cars with valid pay and display over two hours on Ludlow Street and all town centre locations.

**Councillor Francis Deane** introduced the motion and noted the difficulties faced by traders on Ludlow Street. There were interventions from **Councillors Linda Nelson-Murray, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Alan Lawes** and **Eddie Fennessy**. Mr. Martin Murray noted that the bye-laws were due to be reviewed and that the matters raised would be included as part of that review.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** was agreed

### **6.5 Submitted by Councillor Linda Nelson Murray**

*"I call on Meath County Council to provide temporary traffic control assistance, i.e. a rapid response unit, when major roadworks are being undertaken at peak times such as at the Athlumney / Kentstown / Dublin RD."*

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

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Traffic management at road works is the responsibility of the individual contractor/PSCS for works requiring temporary traffic management which are subject to the specific requirements of the contract or Road Opening License (RoL). Meath Co Co could not under the terms of a contract or RoL provide separate temporary traffic control for works not under their direct control. The temporary traffic control measure required are considered at the pre contract and the RoL application stages with appropriate requirements/conditions being applied to the contract/ RoL.

**Councillor Linda Nelson-Murray** introduced the motion and noted the response.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Linda Nelson-Murray** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** was agreed.

### **6.6 Submitted by Councillor Linda Nelson Murray**

*"I call on Meath County Council to provide temporary Rates discounts to businesses adversely affected by major roadworks and lack of car park spaces, such as the businesses at L89697 and on Trimgate Street."*

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

The levying and collection of commercial rates by Local Authorities is legislated for under the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended by the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provision Act 2023. Meath County Council is obliged by law to levy and collect Commercial Rates. There is no provision to provide a commercial rates waiver for businesses affected by roadworks projects.

**Councillor Linda Nelson-Murray** introduced the motion and noted the current financial difficulties being experienced by traders. There were interventions from **Councillors Pdraig Fitzsimons, Yemi Adenuga, Alan Lawes** and **Emer Tóibín**.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Linda Nelson-Murray** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** was agreed. **Councillors Alan Lawes** and **Emer Tóibín** dissented from the motion.

### **7.0 Correspondence**

- Correspondence from Minister Helen McEntee's Office

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.0 Any Other Business**

There were interventions from **Councillors Pdraig Fitzsimons, Alan Lawes, Emer Toibin, Eddie Fennessy** and **Francis Deane**. Matters raised included:

- Reduction in VAT Rate for the hospitality sector
- Taking in charge Priory Estate
- Johnstown Community Facility
- Naming of roundabout
- Changing Rooms Blackwater Park
- Dunville Road link road
- Signage on Reask Lanes
- Traffic light signals at Brews Hill and Blackwater Park
- Stop sign at Abbeygrove

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- Gulley clearing at Blackcastle Lodge

On the proposal of **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** it was agreed to write to the Minister for Enterprise to seek a reduction in the VAT Rate for the hospitality sector.

The meeting concluded at 11.10am

Signed:

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An Meára