

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10.00am, 04th February 2025, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor **Amanda Smith** presided.

Councillors Present: Suzanne Jamal, Helen Meyer, Joe Bonner and Conor Tormey

Apologies/ Absent:

Councillors Present via Zoom: Alan Tobin

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 14th January 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th of January 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Conor Tormey**

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

It was confirmed to Cllr Meyer that a letter had been sent to Uisce Éireann. There were mixed views on the preliminary design for the car park space at Corks Junction. Other ideas included a yellow box or review the existing taxi rank. Members will discuss further.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathies were extended to the families of:

Michael Bird, Fairview, Dublin

Congratulations were extended to:

All Meath County Council outdoor staff, Civil Defense and all Emergency Services on the response to Storm Eowyn.

On the election of Linda Nelson Murray and re-election of Senator Sharon Keogan to the Seanad

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4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To receive an update on the proposed Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws Statutory Process

Gillian Mangan EE, Transportation updated members on the proposed Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws Statutory Process. Further to the Ashbourne Municipal District Meeting on the 14th of January 2025 and with regards to the Item 4.1.1 on the Agenda, Gillian confirmed that:

1. Typographical errors highlighted at the meeting have been corrected.
2. Crickstown Manor Estate– ‘Manor’ removed from the estate name – ‘Crickstown’ is a Housing Estate in the Townland of Crickstown, (HE156 / Sugar Ref:3400) which was taken in charge by Meath County Council in September 1998. The Transportation Section propose to include this housing estate in the next review of the Special Speed Limits for Housing Estates By-Law

Following on from the above clarifications it is now intended to submit the final version of the draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limit) (Housing Estate) County of Meath Bye-Laws 2024 to the March full council meeting for formal ratification.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

4.1.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

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

- With storms and bad weather becoming more frequent, can a ‘public safety awareness’ campaign be explored to promote the safety of outdoor workers and emergency crews who are working in such treacherous conditions.
- Member suggested and agreed that trees are the biggest issue to deal with after a storm and this should be discussed at a full council meeting.

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4.1.3 To consider and adopt the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Transport

Caroline Corrigan, Executive Engineer for Transport gave a presentation on the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works Ashbourne, for Transport.

There were interventions from all members that included:

- Welcoming the introduction of the Average Speed Camera's that will soon be operational on the N2.
- Will warning signs accompany the average speed cameras' warning drivers?
- Great to see 15% of funding being used for cul-de-sac under 'Community Involvement Scheme' (C.I.S)?
- Can members be given a report or list of the amount of individual or estates that are currently under review of CIS?
- At Junction 7 on the R132 to the M1 can a ramp be explored at Gormanstown to slow traffic flow? Also, the lights in this area poorly maintained. Are 'Transport Infrastructure Ireland' (TII) responsible or is Meath County Council?

The Executive Engineer responded accordingly saying warning signs will be provided with the average speed cameras. It was confirmed that CIS is a work in progress and completed by priority and need rather than time. Caroline will pursue an answer regarding Junction 7.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

4.2 Housing

4.2.1 To consider and adopt the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Housing

Corrina Elder, Executive Engineer for Housing gave a presentation on the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Housing and answered questions from **Councillor Joe Bonner** and **Councillor Amanda Smith** as detailed below.

- With regards to the maintenance programme will it be tenant led? or council led? – *The programme will be council led. It is hoped 1000 houses will be surveyed every year for the next four years.*
- Do we have our own staff or is all work contracted out? *All maintenance is contracted out to competent contractors. All works are overseen by Meath County Council Clerks of Works and Engineers.*
- The 314 houses for our MD, does this include the 70 houses in Millrace? *This does not include the 70 houses for Millrace.*

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- Why are such a small amount of Local Authority & Adaptation Works (LAAW's) completed in this MD – *Applications for LAAW's are client led, must be eligible for the scheme and pass occupational therapist recommendations. Applications will vary between the Municipal Districts.*

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**

4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 4.3.1** To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District

This was noted.

5.0 Notice of Question

There were none.

6.0 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"I request that, prior to conducting a road safety audit on the recently completed R135 active travel project in Ashbourne, the residents be consulted through an online survey. This survey should seek both positive and negative feedback regarding safety concerns and any other aspects of the project."

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

Road Safety Audit (RSA) involves the evaluation of road schemes to identify potential hazards to all road users. During RSA the audit team looks at the scheme from the point of view of all road users, with particular attention being paid to the needs of vulnerable road users. The RSA audit team identifies potential safety problems within the scheme and makes recommendations to the designer to minimise future collision occurrence and severity. The RSA audit team must complete the RSA in accordance with TII publications which set out the requirements for the RSA audit team. The RSA audit team is independent of the road design team and shall consist of a team leader and at least one additional team member. The RSA process does not seek public opinion, through surveys or otherwise. An online survey will therefore not be undertaken as part of the RSA process for this scheme.

However, MCC intend to commission a sentiment survey as part of the close and review process for the scheme. Public opinion will be sought on the scheme through an online survey. Further details on the proposed survey will be circulated to the elected members in due course.

The motion and response were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"I propose that Meath County Council publish a quarterly schedule for pressure washing the High Street and Frederick Street in Ashbourne."

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

Ashbourne Municipal District have carried out power-washing of Frederick Street and the Arkle Monument open space. This work requires a very significant input in terms of resources and is not something we plan to carry out on a quarterly basis. We do however, intend to power-wash Frederick Street sometime in May of this year. It should be noted that over-frequent power-washing of sand or grout jointing can result in jointing material loss which in turn can lead to movement in the paving slabs or cobbles. This is expensive to repair and it can expose Meath County Council to Public Liability claims and the associated costs in dealing with PL claims.

The motion and response were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

7.0 Correspondence

There were none.

8.0 Any Other Business

The following items were raised:

A discussion took place regarding the proposed housing estate of 79 units in Ashewood. Members believed that they were not completely kept informed regarding the Part VIII planning process and would like to know if the development will be of mixed of both affordable and social. Barry Lynch, Director advised that the scheme had previously been put before the members in anticipation of the S179A process. Planning permission is required regardless of the mix of social and affordable in the development. The fact that the scheme was proceeding under Part VIII rather than S179A was first brought to the attention of members on the 18/12/2024 by the Director of Housing. Barry also highlighted to the members that the plans of the development are available for inspection at both Buvinda House and the Ashbourne MD office from the 28/01/2025 to the 26/02/2025 as part of the legal process in relation to the Part VIII. The Members statutory role is to consider the Chief Executive's report on the Part VIII which will be prepared after the period for submissions has expired.

- Can an update be requested from the OPW asking for the flood remediation report.
- Can we be careful not to cut the daffodils.
- Can the arborist report be issued to members?

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- Can we ask the Community Garda to give a presentation to members on the community work they are doing in the area.
- Bollards on Batchelor's Walk are in need of repair.
- Can we have a list of where all the bins are situated?
- In the Briars Estate on the R135 can pedestrian crossing be explored?
- Can we be given an update and the plans for the Skate Park?

Responses to queries were provided by the meetings administrator, director and area engineer.

The meeting concluded at 11.32

Signed:

Cathaoirleach