

## ***Municipal District of Ardee – September 2015***

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Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting held in Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee, Co. Louth, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 at 5.30 pm.

### **In attendance:**

- Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. C. Markey
- Members:** Councillors: T. Cunningham, J. Tenanty, P. McGeough,  
L. Reilly D. Minogue
- Officials:** J. McGuinness, Director of Services  
G. Kelly, Senior Engineer  
M. Murtagh, Senior Executive Officer  
F. Downes, Administrative Officer
- Apologies:** P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

### **Minute No. 72/15**

To confirm the minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

- Proposed by:** Cllr. J. Tenanty,  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. T. Cunningham

### **Minute No. 73/15**

#### **Matters arising**

Cllr. McGeough sought clarification about the progress on the Traffic Management plan for Ardee. Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer, advised that he hoped to get something done over the Winter months.

Cllr. Minogue requested that a letter of support be forwarded to Youthreach.

Cllr. Reilly advised that Ardee Tidy Towns are short €10,000 and enquired about funding. Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, advised that the previous Ardee Town Council allocation will continue for 2015 and that next years budget was a matter for the members.

### **Minute No. 74/15**

#### **Housing and Communities Progress Report**

Mr. McGuinness presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 which had been circulated with the agenda, and he addressed the members' queries in regard to same.

Mr. McGuinness presented drawings for the Oaklee development in Tierney Street where there will be an infill of two houses for six persons with intellectual disabilities for St. John of Gods. It is estimated to go to Part 8 in September and it will be brought back to the Municipal District meeting for approval circa the November meeting. Mr. McGuinness clarified that the 20 units for Fr. Finn Park are approximately 2 years away as the design process, part 8 and tendering, appointing contractors all take time to complete. There are six units in Woodlands at design stage. There are approximately 40 vacant houses of which 22/23 are being worked on at present. The refusal rate is 1/3. As the Council is not getting many casual vacancies there is limited uptake on choice based lettings.

### **Minute No. 75/15**

#### **Operations**

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer, presented the Operations, Infrastructure and Marine Progress Report as circulated with the agenda. Mr. Kelly addressed a number of queries from the members.

In regard to requests for traffic calming measures for Louth Village, Mr. Kelly advised the members that he will examine the proposal submitted from Louth Village Committee and have a response back before the next month's meeting.

He advised that 26 estates put their names forward for 30kph signs and outlined that speed measurement would have to be carried out before the erection of signage and then carried out again to see if there is a need for further traffic calming measures. He also outlined that the majority of residents have to be in agreement for works to be carried out, and that they would be willing to accept submissions from estates that have missed the deadline. He noted that housing estates must be taken in charge to carry out works.

A number of members raised the issue of the pedestrian crossing across from the Bank of Ireland and the possibility of relocating due to pedestrians being very nervous using it with the high volume of traffic and the location of same. Mr. Kelly advised that he would look at signage but that moving a crossing is difficult and would involve substantial costs.

Mr. Kelly advised that there were no proposals to extinguish the parking along Sean O'Carroll Street. He also advised that he would look at Verdonstown Road regarding the condition of same.

**Minute No. 76/15**

**MOTION: L. Reilly**

"As safety measures were agreed as part of our MD budget, I wish to pursue safety measures for Louth Village playground if possible."

**REPLY:**

**Additional funding has been provided by the Department for Restoration Improvement Schemes and one of the schemes submitted for approval is for resurfacing works in Feran Drive in Louth Village and includes for a low cost safety scheme in the village. The proposal from the Residents Association is at hand and Louth County Council is carrying out a review of this proposal in order to finalize a scheme based on the funding available. When this is available it will be circulated to the Members. Funding has to be spent and drawn down by the end of November 2015.**

This matter had been addressed by the Senior Engineer through the Operations Update and a further response will issue before next months' meeting.

**Minute No. 77/15**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Tenanty**

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McGeough**

"That this council call on the NRA to make safe the junction on the N33 known as the Castleguard/slip road, as it has become very dangerous for all who use it. A large number of accidents have occurred here, and 1 fatality. Cars turning right are sitting ducks, scared for their safety."

**REPLY:**

**A number of improvements have been carried out at this junction in the last number of years, including the addition of a right turning lane and the provision of public lighting, in order to improve the safety of the junction. Louth County Council will discuss the situation with the NRA to see if further improvements can be carried out at this junction.**

**Minute No. 78/15**

**Notice of Question**

The following Notice of Question was recorded:

**Cllr. D. Minoque**

"What is the plan for Ardee Castle and are we near an opening date?"

**REPLY:**

The re-development of Ardee Castle and the associated former Judge's Chambers, are currently subject to a significant re-design. As the members are aware Fingal County Council were appointed to undertake this design. An opening date is not yet available until design is confirmed, costings and budgets secured and construction contract awarded.

Mr. McGuinness advised that the Council is not going to incur liabilities by opening to the public at present. It is still available for events subject to conditions.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. D. Minogue  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Tom Cunningham

That Fingal County Council be invited to the next Municipal meeting to discuss current progress

**Minute No. 79/15**

**Notice of Question**

The following Notice of Question was recorded:

"Can I have an update about ramps in Louth Village?"

**REPLY:**

Additional funding has been provided by the Department for Restoration Improvement Schemes and one of the schemes submitted for approval is for resurfacing works in Feran Drive in Louth Village and includes for a low cost safety scheme in the village. The proposal from the Residents Association is at hand and Louth County Council is carrying out a review of this proposal in order to finalize a scheme based on the funding available. When this is available it will be circulated to the Members. Funding has to be spent and drawn down by the end of November 2015.

**Minute No. 80/15**

The members requested that Superintendent Andrew Watters be invited to the October meeting to outline measures in place for Halloween. It was agreed that the Joint Policing Committee meeting was the best forum to discuss same if the JPC meeting is scheduled to happen before the October Municipal Meeting.

The members requested that Ann Clarke from Louth Leader Partnership be invited to discuss provision of traffic wardens for Collon / Ardee.

In regard to illegal travellers encampments in old M1 service site beside the dog pound, Mr. McGuinness advised that the prohibition order that they had was only for the public road and it didn't include the site. The Council has to make a complaint to the Guards re the encampment.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of Council held on:-

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_