

Municipal District of Ardee – February 2016

Minutes of Municipal District of Ardee meeting held in the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee on Thursday, 4th February, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. Colm Markey
Members:	Councillors: T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, J. Tenanty
Officials:	J. McGuinness, Director of Services G. Kelly, Senior Engineer Frank Magee, Senior Executive Engineer M. Murtagh, Meetings Administrator
Apologies:	Cllr. L. Reilly

Minute No. 10/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th January, 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Tom Cunningham and seconded by Cllr. Jim Tenanty.

Minute No. 11/16

Matters Arising

- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer confirmed that the hedge at St. Oliver's Park, Kilsaran was on the hedge cutting list and would be cut during the hedge cutting season.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer confirmed that the tree over the River Glyde in Castlebellingham had been examined and that the remedial works would consist of trimming instead of felling.
- It was agreed that J. McGuinness, Director of Service would bring proposals in relation to the Business Plan for Ardee Castle to the next meeting of the Municipal District.
- In relation to Sustainable Communities Guidelines for Social Housing the Director of Services confirmed that if any project submission is contrary to the Guidelines it does not receive approval from the Department.

Minute No. 12/16

Municipal Budget Allocation

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, advised members that a Budget of €65,000 applies this year and that members will have to decide how the Budget will be spent

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within the Municipal District Area. The Director advised that all projects initiatives agreed in 2015 had been satisfactorily undertaken. It was agreed that members would have initial discussions “ in Committee” following the March Municipal District Meeting and that each Councillor would submit proposals to the Director of Services in advance of that meeting.

Minute No. 13/16

Draft Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

Aibhlin McCrann and Cliona Ryan from Communique International joined the meeting to deal with issues related to the Draft Plan which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. At the outset the members were advised that the requirement of the Municipal District is to consider the Draft Plan with regard to its consistency with the County Development Plan and any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, Regional Guidelines as well as the respective Community and Economic Goals being consistent with each other. It was confirmed to Members that the Draft Plan is consistent with the County Development Plan, the Drogheda and Environs Plan, the Dundalk and Environs Plan, the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines.

Members expressed the view that the Plan was only a starting point and that implementation will be key.

On the Proposal of Cllr. J Tenanty seconded by Cllr. D Minogue the Economic Plan was approved by Members.

On the Proposal of Cllr D. Minogue seconded by Cllr. J. Tenanty the Community Plan was approved by Members.

Minute No. 14/16

Update on N2 Upgrade Blakestown Cross

Mr. Frank Magee, Senior Executive Engineer advised members that the proposed safety works consisted of a vertical realignment to improve visibility at the location. The project involves approximately 500m stretch of roadway that will require a Road Closure and take approximately three months to complete which will result in inconvenience to road users. Members welcomed the proposed works but requested that local consultation take place with residents and businesses and it was agreed that as much advance works as possible should be undertaken to minimise road closure to when the Contractor is on site. Members were advised that tender documents are currently being prepared which will take a month to complete with a timeframe of a further two months for receipt and assessment of tenders.

Minute No. 15/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

During discussion on the report included with the Agenda the following matters were addressed.

- Twenty Unit extension to Fr. Finn Park now included in the report.

- Work progressing on four houses at Woodlands with the next phase of two houses being units for people with disability.
- No further update available on the Dunleer lands.
- The Director of Services agreed to try to quantify the number of acquisitions in the Ardee/ Mid Louth area and update members at the next meeting.
- The Director of Services clarified for Members that it is National Policy to reduce Rent Supplement in favour of HAP and confirmed that it was the Department of Social Protection and not the Local Authority that is communicating with Tenants in this regard.
- Tenant Purchase Section signed into law in December 2015 with a National Application Form and Booklet currently being prepared. The Director of Services confirmed that when these documents are available the Local Authority will start contacting tenants and it is proposed to do a presentation to Councillors at either the Municipal District or full Council Level. Any income as a result of sales will be ringfenced for Housing Maintenance.
- Sub Standard Private Rental Accommodation- landlords have a responsibility in law to provide accommodation that meets certain standards with the PRTB noted as a very simple cost effective way for tenants to address issues.
- Vacancy rate in Louth recorded as 12% in last census but is possibly higher – these properties need to be released to the market to address housing need.

Minute No. 16/16

Infrastructure, Operations and Marina Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated with the Agenda and the following matters were addressed:

- Noted that no submissions had been received from members on the multi- annual programme.
- Lack of resources to deal with flooding/ drainage issues causing significant problems.
- Traffic Management in Ardee an on-going issue with huge tailbacks having a detrimental impact on local business. G. Kelly Senior Engineer advised that no one reason has been identified for the problem but a combination of volume of traffic and on street parking are contributing to the problem. The Senior Engineer advised that there is no real solution until the By Pass is provided. Members agreed that it was necessary but put on pressure nationally to advance the By- Pass and that the matter should be listed as an Agenda item for the March Meeting for discussion including a possible joint approach with Meath County Council on the Slane/Collon/Ardee requirements.

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- Members stressed that footpath provision was badly needed throughout the district including St. Brigids Terrace, Dunleer, from the shop to the Bridge in Annagassan, from Slip Road to Business Park in Ardee, Commons Road in Dromiskin and from St. Peters Nursing Home to Castlebellingham Village. G. Kelly advised that there was no specific budget for footpaths with budget priorities being maintenance of Road Surfaces.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on:-

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____