

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 10th February, 2015 at 5.00 pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. D. Breathnach
Members:	Councillors: M Butler, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, K. Meenan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, M. Yore
Officials:	Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator
Apologies:	Councillors: E. Corrigan, J. McGahon

Minute No. 21/15

Minutes

The meeting was convened in accordance with Standing Order No. 4 at the request of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Declan Breathnach to discuss the matter of the proposed twinning with the Municipal District of Dundalk and the City of Pikeville, Kentucky, U.S.A.

The Cathaoirleach set out that a request had been received from the City of Pikeville, Kentucky, U.S.A. to twin with the Municipal District of Dundalk. Following the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District, the Meetings Administrator had furnished the members with additional information and details, together with references to web and online information sources about the City of Pikeville.

The Cathaoirleach invited the members to contribute to the discussion which continued, and dealt with numerous queries the members had in regard to the twinning process. These included:

- Recognising that a similar application for a twinning with Louisville, Kentucky had been presented to Dundalk Town Council in 2009 but this had not been progressed;
- Clarification about other twinning opportunities;
- What obvious industrial gain there may be for Dundalk;
- Clarity in regard to the twinning being with the City of Pikeville and not with an organisation as detailed in the agreement i.e. Alltech;
- The role for a Twinning Committee as a sub-committee of the Municipal District for future such applications;
- The reference to Alltech in the twinning agreement;
- The reference to honour and respect in regard to single individuals, i.e Dr. Lyons and Alltech, and its impact on Planning and Enforcement issues;
- The issue of the cost of such a twinning;
- The option of terminating such a twinning agreement at a future date;

- Reference to other twinning proposals, such as Dundalk / Maryland;
- The opportunities such a twinning might present in the association with Dr. Lyons, who is a native of Dundalk has already established a plant in Pikeville and has a plant in Ireland. If there were opportunities that might derive from the twinning it should be welcomed. Any costs associated would be minimum compared with the opportunities that such a twinning could present.
- Comment that the unknown advantages would outweigh the unknown disadvantages.

The Meetings Administrator clarified a number of issues, confirming that there had been minimum correspondence with the City Manager, Mr. Donovan Blackburn, only to agree the initial draft of the agreement which was before the members this evening. The Meetings Administrator also confirmed that there would be costs involved in the twinning arrangement, as there was a cost involved in every action that was undertaken by the Council. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that he was not in a position to confirm what those costs would be, and that there was a commitment in the agreement that a delegation from the Municipal District would visit Pikeville at some stage, and that would be determined in due course should the members confirm the twinning arrangement.

It was also confirmed to the members that there was an option to opt out, should at some stage in the future the members feel that there was no benefit being derived from such a twinning. The reference to an individual and/or company did not put any onus on the Municipal District. The Meetings Administrator outlined that this matter was a Reserved Function, being exercised under Section 75 of the Local Government Act, which did not impinge on any future decisions in relation to Planning or Enforcement that the Council might take in regard to any individual or company.

Minute No. 22/15

Proposed by: Cllr. Declan Breathnach
Seconded by: Cllr. Conor Keelan
And Resolved.

That the Municipal District of Dundalk, in exercising its Reserved Function as provided for in Section 75 of the Local Government Act, so agree to twin with the City of Pikeville, Kentucky, U.S.A.

There followed a roll call vote in this matter as follows;

For: Cllrs. D. Breathnach, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, K. Meenan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, M. Yore **10 (ten)**
Against: Cllr. M. Butler **1 (one)**
Absent: Cllrs. E. Corrigan, J. McGahon **2 (two)**

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members for the discussion on the matter and indeed confirmed the twinning arrangement, and looked forward to a fruitful engagement and association with the City of Pikeville in the years to come.

Minute No. 23/15

Twining Committee

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

That the matter of the establishment of a Twining Committee be listed on the agenda for a future meeting of the Municipal District.

There being no further business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____