**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 19th OCTOBER 2015 AT 10.30AM**

**Chair: Cllr P Millea**

**Present: Cllrs J Brennan, MH Cavanagh, P Fitzpatrick, M McCarthy, and M**

 **Shortall.**

**In attendance: P Beubry, Castlecomer Area Engineer**

 **M Delahunty, Meetings Administrator**

**M Mulholland, Director of Services**

**N Byrne, Area Staff Officer**

**A M Walsh, Planning Department**

**B Moloney, Environmental Services**

**B Sheehan, Environmental Services**

**Vote of Sympathy**

Members paid tribute to the late Dixie Doyle, former Councillor with Kilkenny County Council and extended a vote of sympathy to his family. As a mark of respect, the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes. It was acknowledged that there would be further tributes paid to the former Councillor at the Council meeting in the afternoon.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of: -**

Castlecomer Municipal District held on 21st September 2015. The minutes were proposed by Cllr P Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr J Brennan and agreed.

1. **Tidy Town Results & other matters-Presentation by Bernadette Moloney**

B Moloney gave a detailed and informative presentation which included an overview of tidy towns awards and achievements county wide and within Castlecomer Municipal District. Details of the various Council assistance provided were outlined and discussed. BMoloney confirmed no further walks with Pat Nolan will take place and highlighted the importance of the Tidy Towns Forum as the way forward. Details of Anti Litter / Anti Graffiti Grant which are due for payment in the next two weeks were outlined. BMoloney also provided details of new waste prevention initiatives and activities including ‘Repair Directory’ and ‘Funk Up a Jumper’ Christmas Competition for secondary school students. Details of funding provided under Local Agenda 21 were also outlined.

Members raised the issue of both damaged bins and illegal dumping in bins. The high cost of replacement bins was acknowledged and both PBeubry and BMoloney advised that there was no funding available in their current budgets to cover replacement cost of bins. MMulholland confirmed that she would liaise with the various Roads Offices with a view to achieving uniformity going forward and investigate price variation.

BMoloney advised that Enforcement staff can investigate bins prone to illegal dumping and a camera could be made available if necessary. She asked members to liaise with theEnforcement Section and notify them of street bins which are causing problems in their areas so further investigation can take place.

Members thanked B Moloney for her presentation and acknowledged all that was being achieved by B Moloney and staff of the Environmental Services Section.

1. **Significant Water Management Issues- Public Consultation**

B Sheahan provided a detailed presentation to members in respect of public consultation on Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) for Ireland to be addressed in the second round of River Basin Management Plan. He advised details of EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Ireland. Details of the South Eastern River Basin District Management Scheme of which Kilkenny and Tipperary County Council are joint leading authorities were outlined. Timelines for second River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) were outlined. A summary of the 14 main issues identified by the Department were outlined and discussed. M Mulholland outlined how the public consultation process will work and reiterated the importance of the active involvement of all interested parties during this consultation process to ensure that issues are identified early in the process and addressed during the preparation of the second round of the River Basin Management Plan.

M Delahunty provided general details of staff recruitment in respect of the National Water Framework Directive Office currently underway.

Issue of flooding and flooding blackspots were also discussed.

Update was provided in respect of septic tank inspections.

Irish Waters involvement in the preparation of RBMP was clarified.

BSheehan was thanked for an informative presentation and members advised that they would work with him to the best of their ability.

1. **Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting**

 **Items submitted by members:-**

**Cllr J Brennan**

 **- Review of Traffic Management in Castlecomer Town**

Cllr J Brennan acknowledged the improvements that had been achieved, however, felt that a review of the plan was now warranted. He raised issues in relation to cars backing into oncoming heavy traffic and also the distance people have to carry their shopping. PBeubry acknowledged that cars reversing into traffic wasn’t ideal but advised there is little scope to address the problem

* **Update on hedge cutting on rural roads**

Cllr Brennan raised the problem of some farmers not complying with their duty to cut hedges on their land. PBeubry advised that adverts are ran in the KPeople and on KCLR in advance of and during the Hedge Cutting season reminding landowners of their duty. He advised that Hedge Cutting Notices are issued to farmers who don’t comply; however, there is good compliance in the Castlecomer Municipal District. Problems being experienced at The New Line, Castlecomer were discussed. PBeubry asked the members to contact the Castlecomer Area Office with any non-compliance issues.

* **Existing signs in local villages be replaced with new heritage signs.**

Cllr Brennan enquired whether it would be feasible to replace existing name signs in towns and villages with new heritage signs to enhance their appearance. It was agreed that this was an issue which warranted consideration by the full Council and that MMulholland would investigate further.

**Cllr M Shortall**

**- Safety at Ballyragget Playground**

Cllr Shortall raised concerns in relation to traffic on roads alongside Ballyragget Playground. PBeubry advised that 30km speed limit signs will be erected at this location in the coming weeks in line with revised speed limit regulations for housing estates.

* **New Access Junction to Old Part of Ballinaslee Road**

Cllr M Shortall advised details of a young man by the name of Brendan Stone who was killed in a road traffic accident at this location in the year 2000. Cllr M Shortall enquired whether it would be feasible for the junction to be named after the deceased. M Mulholland advised that she was concerned that a precedent might be set. It was agreed M Mulholland would be allowed time to investigate this request.

* **Update on Taking in Charge Applications**

AM Walsh circulated report outlining current status of taking in charge of estates in the Castlecomer Municipal District and dealt with members queries.

* **Public Lighting Policy**

Cllr M Shortall enquired whether it would be feasible for the Council to develop a policy to provide a solar light at the entrance to each cul de sac. PBeubry advised that he had discussed this issue with Joe Daly, Technician who had advised that

1. Solar light as suggested wouldn’t work as wouldn’t have the capacity
2. Provision of a light at the entrance to cul de sacs would not feasible because of the number of cul de sacs in Kilkenny.

1. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

**Traffic congestion at the bottom of Barrick Street**

In relation to the issue of bottle neck at the bottom of Barrick Street which had been discussed at previous meeting, Cllr M Shortall advised that a key feature to allow traffic lights to work effectively at the location would be the provision of a slip road onto Chatsworth Street.

**Broadband Availability**

Implications of non availability of broadband in Castlecomer Town and the implications for business start up were again raised. It was agreed a letter would be issued to the Minister for Jobs & Enterprise requesting timeframe for the provision of broadband in rural towns and villages in North Kilkenny and highlighting how jobs are being lost to the area as a result of non availability of broadband and asking what is being done by his Department to remedy the problem.

1. **Any Other Business**

**Dowling’s Cross Coon**

**Recent accident at Dowling’s Cross, Coon was raised.** PBeubry advised that there were works completed at the location 2/3 years ago under a Low Cost Scheme and was unsure what else could be done to improve safety at the location. Cllr J Brennan is to investigate the circumstances of the accident and to revert to Philippe.

**Replacement of damaged signs in Clogh**

Cllr Brennan requested that damaged signs in Clogh be replaced

**Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District would take place on the 9th of November at 11am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

 Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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