

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 11.30 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

In the chair: Cllr Michael Delaney
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy
In attendance: Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Steve Coverdale, Ms Rita McGarvey, Ms Arlene O'Connor, Ms Annette Fitzpatrick, Mr Nicolas Louw and Mr Leon Murray, Turley Ireland Consultants

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh opened the meeting by extending huge congratulations to Ms Katie Bergin, Galmoy on her many successes in national athletics. Cllr Cavanagh also extended birthday wishes to former councillor, Mr Tom Maher.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) July meeting held on 17th July 2023

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) **Update on the proposed Active Travel Scheme at Kilkenny / Carlow boundary, R702, Goresbridge – Mr Seamus O'Loughlin, Carlow County Council**

Mr Seamus O'Loughlin, Carlow County Council attended in the absence of Mr John Prendergast, Kilkenny County Council who is currently on annual leave. Mr O'Loughlin confirmed that funding had been received by Carlow / Kilkenny County Council for the provision of an Active Travel Scheme to deal with safety concerns at Goresbridge bridge. Mr Loughlin outlined details of 3 options looked at and provided details of the scheme which will proceed comprising a pedestrian crossing either side of the bridge with sensor traffic lights. Mr Loughlin confirmed works will begin to roll out soon; temporary trial measures are to be installed by the end of September and the major plan is to go ahead by the end of October.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Details of the Active Travel Scheme outlined and the imminent commencement date was welcomed by all.
- The positive impact of these works for facilities, residents and businesses in Goresbridge was acknowledged.
- The work of the various engineers to achieve this scheme including Mr Dermot Maher, Mr Seamus O'Loughlin, Mr John Prendergast and Mr Philippe Beubry was acknowledged.

(b) Broadband update

Mr Steve Coverdale provided a broadband update to members as follows:

- All exchanges are now live.
- Rollout status per Kilkenny Deployment Area – 18,831 total premises in NBP – 9,510 (51%) total premises passed in Kilkenny – 2,916 active connections (31%).
- NBI work ongoing – approximately 7,300 premises at 'available to order / pre-order' stage and approximately 3,800 premises at 'network build in progress' stage.
- Details of update data available on NBI website.
- Details of blue areas and light blue areas within the NBP.

- Cellnex have walked away from location identified for proposed mast location in Castlecomer as site owners were asking more than was financially viable.
- Bank of Ireland project proceeding in Urlingford with wireless broadband to be installed.
- Confirmation that Ms Rita McGarvey is commencing in the Broadband Office.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Progress achieved to date was acknowledged and disappointment with status of wireless broadband provision for Castlecomer.

(c) Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan

Ms Arlene O'Connor presented a report to members on submissions received to the draft Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan as follows:

- Ms O'Connor reminded members this is not a statutory plan, therefore not a statutory process.
- The Plan will provide a framework for identification of projects and for funding.
- Subservient to Statutory Plans – City and County Plan.
- Seeking adoption by members at today's meeting.
- Total submissions received were 9 – 3 from public bodies comprising Inland Fisheries, Department of Environment, Local Government and Heritage and ESB and 6 from local residents / local groups. A summary of all submissions received was provided and Ms O'Connor confirmed there were very few changes to the draft Plan as a result of submissions received.

Ms O'Connor outlined the Senior Planner's recommendations on foot of submissions received.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh highlighted shortcomings with the plan in that solutions were not provided for problems identified and the plan lacked economic focus.
- Provision would be made for a Business Development Officer at the Bank of Ireland hub.
- Engagement of the Town Team in the process was acknowledged.
- Work completed by the Planning team, Ms Annette Fitzpatrick and Turley Ireland Consultants was acknowledged.

Adoption of the non-statutory Town Centre Masterplan with amendments recommended by the Senior Planner was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Denis Hynes and agreed.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District for transaction at such Meeting

None

4. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting

(a) Items submitted by members:

- **Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

i Boundary change - North West Kilkenny

The addition of areas from North-West Kilkenny into the newly established Tipperary North constituency were labelled ludicrous and baffling by the members. Members criticised the failure to name 'Kilkenny' in the constituency title, questioned the logic of the inclusion of North-West Kilkenny with not alone another county but also another province, spoke of constituents devastation with the decision and also constituents democratic rite taken from them and members fears people in the affected areas simply won't bother to vote in the next General Election or votes will be spoiled with statements such as 'Up Kilkenny' as a form of protest.

Members spoke of the lack of forward thinking and the need for provision of a 6 seater constituency to accommodate a growing population. It was agreed a letter would be sent to the Minister requesting that the name 'Kilkenny' be enshrined in the new constituency title in an effort to encourage affected constituents to vote. It was also requested that Green Party junior Minister, Malcolm Noonan would be included in future correspondence.

ii Traffic calming and signage needed at Clara National School in the interest of safety.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke of her fears for children's safety at Clara National School. Mr Philippe Beubry outlined details of traffic calming measures already in place at this location comprising road markings and temporary speed limits at school times and advised of the costs associated with the provision of ramps which would also require the provision of public lighting.

iii New access needed to the creche in Urlingford. Untenable for cars taking approximately 60 children to the creche to have to drive through the Assumption Place Housing Estate.

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed he looked at this issue with Mr Harry Shine, Road Design Section and advised there is not physically sufficient space to provide an alternative access to the creche.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) 2(23) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

"That ramps would be installed on Togher Road, Urlingford in the interest of safety".

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that this matter has been visited twice under Low Cost Safety Schemes and is now down to the enforcement of speed limits. Mr Beubry advised that if members wish to proceed with the provision of ramps a change of Council policy is required which must be agreed by the SPC.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke on this Notice of Motion.

(b) 3(23) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed that:

"That Transport Infrastructure Ireland be requested to upgrade the R693 to National Road status. There has been a huge increase in the volume of traffic on this road since the M8 motorway opened".

Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick and Michael Delany spoke on this Notice of Motion. Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh confirmed she had the same Notice of Motion included on the agenda of this afternoon's Plenary meeting.

(c) 4(23) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

"That Kilkenny County Council would provide a pedestrian crossing at Main Street Goresbridge".

Cllrs Pat Fitzpatrick and Denis Hynes spoke on this Notice of Motion.

Mr Philippe Beubry advised there are a lot of locations competing for inclusion under the Low Cost Accident Scheme.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from Minutes

(a) The Ouncel, Johnstown

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh enquired whether there was any update available in respect of the Ouncel, Johnstown.

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed he had spoken to Director of Services, Ms Mary Mulholland. Mr Prendiville advised the property is in private ownership and asked that Cllr Cavanagh bear with them. Cllr Cavanagh requested that the item be included on the MD agenda for 3 months' time.

8. Any other business

(a) Reception of deputation from Ballyragget Development Association – Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that the members receive a deputation from the Ballyragget Development Association at the October MD meeting. It was agreed the deputation would be received at the start of the October MD meeting.

(b) Visit from Newcastle West Municipal District

Members agreed to receive a visit from Newcastle West Municipal District. The inclusion of a visit to Ballykeefe Amphitheatre as well as the Discovery Part was suggested.

(c) 2023 Road Works Programme Update

Mr Philippe Beubry circulated an update to members on the 2023 Road Works Programme. The update included details of :

- Second tranche of funding received under the Local Improvement Scheme
- Restorations Improvement Schemes complete
- Restoration Maintenance Schemes complete
- Community Involvement in Roadworks Schemes complete
- Local Improvement Schemes complete
- Drainage
- Safety Improvement Schemes
- National Roads

Mr Philippe Beubry also circulated proposals under the discretionary funding as follows:

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| • Extension of public lighting scheme on Clinstown Road, Freshford (agreed in 2022) | €15,000 |
| • Provision of 1 light at the location of proposed speed ramp, Gathabawn NS | € 8,000 |
| • Repainting of 24 columns of ornamental public lights, The Square, Johnstown | €11,000 |
| • Provision of 1 light at junction of the R435 & R502, Johnstown | € 1,500 |
| • Provision of 1 light on Church Road, Paulstown | € 2,000 |
| • Overspend on CLÁR project, Muckalee | € 2,420 |
| • Provision of a metered ESB connection at Castlewarren car park | €10,000 |

The proposals as circulated were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Michael Delaney

Date: 13/10/23.