

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 AT 11.00 AM**

**In the chair:** Cllr Michael McCarthy

**Present:** Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, Patrick Millea and Maurice Shortall

**In attendance:** Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Delahunty, Meetings Administrator, Nancy Byrne, Municipal District Staff Officer and Mary Mulholland, Director of Services

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

**(a) January meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:**

**(a) Provision of Broadband**

Members expressed their frustration and disappointment that Castlecomer was not included in Eir's announcement made on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February of a further €5.5 billion investment in its fixed broadband network. Members discussed the serious negative impact of continued limited broadband in Castlecomer on the various sectors including businesses, students and the gaming sector. Mary Mulholland confirmed that she will liaise with Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer and The Synergy Network Group Castlecomer in advance of the March meeting to establish the up to date situation on broadband provision in Castlecomer. The Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) Programme was discussed. It was agreed that Mary Mulholland would investigate whether this programme was present in the Kilkenny towns recently selected by Eir for investment. It was agreed that Eir would be invited to a meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District to discuss their selection criteria and Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer would also be invited. Cllr Millea suggested that Minister of State, John Paul Phelan would also be invited to attend.

**(b) Urlingford delegation - Composite report on issues raised by the delegation at the January Municipal meeting**

Mary Mulholland advised that following the very valid points raised by the Urlingford delegation received at the January meeting, the relevant sections were contacted and a composite report prepared. Mary Mulholland went through the details contained in the report under the various headings which consisted of Tourism, Parks and Environment, Town and Village Renewal (2016), Grants Booklets, Vacant Houses, Road Works, Public Lighting, Street Cleaning, Public Car Park and Village Health Check. Mary Mulholland highlighted the frequency and scheduling of emptying of bins and street cleaning as possible issues to be examined. It was agreed that the Grants Booklet would be made available to the Urlingford delegation. Mary Mulholland outlined the role of the Vacant Homes Officer and advised that delivery of the final phase of Tougher Way will bring the Council close to meeting its housing need in the area. Mary Mulholland acknowledged the significant investment and work completed under the Road Works Programme. She highlighted the commitment to the reconstruction of the footpaths on Main Street, Urlingford in particular in the vicinity of the Bank of Ireland subject to the availability of discretionary funding. Mary Mulholland acknowledged Kilkenny County Council's retrofit public lighting programme which, she advised is ahead of many counties. In relation to the delegations request for the provision of a car park, Mary Mulholland advised that potential sites need to be investigated and this issue will take time. Mary Mulholland updated members regarding 8 Health Checks commenced in 2018 and advised that a conclusion of these 8 is needed before a Health Check for Urlingford is rolled out. Mary

Mulholland highlighted the need to identify the various groups established in Urlingford, establish open lines of communication and one voice.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members acknowledged works completed in Urlingford as outlined in the report circulated and thanked officials for the report provided.
- Members suggested that a similar report would be prepared for all towns / villages scheduled for a Health Check going forward.
- The success of public lighting retrofit programme in Urlingford was acknowledged.
- News of the agreement obtained to install a Recycling Bring Centre in Urlingford was welcomed.
- The impact of vacant and derelict properties on towns and villages was discussed and the need for continued attention to these issues irrespective of meeting a housing need was agreed.
- The size of Urlingford parish beyond Urlingford town was highlighted.
- The excellent work completed by Evelyn Graham , Vacant Homes Officer to date was acknowledged.
- The need to establish an overarching group was highlighted.

Mary Mulholland outlined details of new joined up approach to deal with derelict sites.

- Cllr Maurice Shortall recommended that capital assistance be sought from the Department to tackle Derelict Sites which he highlighted are a blight on every town and village.

**(c) CLÁR Programme 2019**

Philippe Beubry circulated a list of proposed works for inclusion under the 2019 CLÁR Programme.

The proposals were discussed and the following contributions were received from the members:

- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick complimented the works completed in Muckalee and welcomed the ambitious proposals circulated.
- Cllr Maurice Shortall requested that speed variable signs be incorporated and Philippe Beubry confirmed that it is Council policy to provide these on regional roads. Cllr Shortall confirmed that he will revert to Philippe with one additional proposal.
- Cllr John Brennan raised the issue of the terms of the CLÁR Scheme. Cllr Brennan proposed that a letter be sent to Minister Ring requesting that the terms of the scheme be amended to include disadvantaged areas. Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh seconded Cllr Brennan's proposal that a letter be sent but that the letter would only thank the Minister for the funding provided under this programme.

Mary Mulholland clarified that the terms of the scheme cover areas of population decline.

Following discussion, members agreed that a letter would be sent to Minister Ring solely thanking him for the funding provided under the CLÁR programme.

**(d) Community Update – Michael Delahunty**

Michael Delahunty provided an update on the following items and dealt with members queries:

- Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme (CCFCS)
- Events Grant Scheme
- Commercial Premises Paint Scheme
- Estate Management Grants
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019
- CLAR Scheme 2019

- Community Grants Information Booklet
- Thomastown Age Friendly Town
- Town Regeneration Project for Thomastown.

It was agreed that a copy of the Community Grants Information Booklet would be posted to the members as soon as it's available.

**3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council for transaction at such meeting.**

None

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

**Items submitted by the members**

**(a) Cllr John Brennan**

**(i) Developments at New Housing Estate, Moneenroe.**

Cllr John Brennan raised two issues regarding a new housing development at Moneen View, Moneenroe:

- The public lighting for the new development has not been turned on and
- A green area has not been provided within the estate.

Cllr Maurice Shortall and Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick re-iterated the concerns raised by Cllr Brennan.

Mary Mulholland confirmed that the provision of open space within a housing development is a requirement under planning conditions. She confirmed that she will examine the planning conditions for this development, engage with Oaklee Housing and provide an update to members.

**(ii) Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme.**

Cllr John Brennan clarified that this item should read 'Local Improvement Scheme'.

Cllr Brennan referred to recent announcement from the Department outlining details of €288,000 funding allocation for Kilkenny County Council and also the introduction of a cap on the local contribution paid. It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed that a letter be sent to Minister Ross seeking additional funding to tackle the disproportionate number of lanes in the Castlecomer Municipal District.

Philippe Beubry and Mary Mulholland confirmed that they had not yet seen sight of the circular referred to by Cllr Brennan.

**(iii) Public Lighting Programme.**

Cllr John Brennan sought clarification on the date for completion of the public lighting retrofit programme.

**(b) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

**(i) Winter Maintenance Programme.**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh referred to complaints received that the R435 leading to Johnstown National School had not been salted on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Philippe Beubry confirmed that this road is part of the P3 route, he advised that he was the Duty Engineer responsible for the Winter Maintenance Programme on this date, however, the forecast provided by Met Eireann was incorrect and lead to difficulties with some roads not being salted.

**(ii) Parking and Safety at Freshford Graveyard.**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that the provision of a narrow footpath leading from the Bring Centre Site to the Freshford Graveyard be explored.

**(iii) Need for Public Lighting at the bend on the Canal Road, Johnstown between Currans and Whit fords.**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that consideration be given to the provision of a public light and an infill light on the Canal Road, Johnstown between Currans and Whitfords.

**(iv) Need for all public roads in the Whiteswall, Rathpatrick and Baunballinlough areas to be numbered.**

Philippe Beubry clarified that it is only on local roads off a regional roads that road numbers are provided. Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh identified a number of roads on which road numbers are missing, Philippe Beubry to investigate. It was also agreed that a map of the Municipal District would be provided to the members.

**(c) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick**

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick conscious of the time and anxious to attend a clinic with Irish Water, requested that the items listed below be deferred to the March meeting.

**(i) Castlecomer Footpaths Improvement Plan.**

**(ii) Update on Clashwilliam bridge.**

**(d) Cllr Maurice Shortall**

Cllr Maurice Shortall conscious of the time and anxious to attend a clinic with Irish Water, requested that the items listed below be deferred to the March meeting.

**(i) Update on Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge and Dowling's Cross, Coon.**

**(ii) Kilcollan to Lisnafunchin Road.**

**5. Notices of Motion**

**(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019**

"That the footpaths in Johnstown and Urlingford would be swept and cleaned on a regular basis".

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh referred to the report dealt with under item 2 (b) above and also requested that Kilkenny County liaise with Colaiste Mhuire to arrange a cleanup. Philippe Beubry clarified that this is an issue for Environment Section.

**(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019**

"That a dangerous junction sign be erected back from the 'Stop' sign outside the Hall in Freshford in the interest of safety".

Following discussion, it was agreed that Philippe Beubry would investigate the requirement to provide a 'Prepare to Stop' sign at the location identified.

**6. Correspondence**

**(a) Local Authority Waters Programme Field Work**

Agreed – marked as read.

**7. Matters arising from minutes**

**8. Any other business**

**(a) PPN Development Officer**

Michael Delahunty advised that Mags Whelan, PPN Development Officer had requested to attend the March meeting to which members agreed. However, it was also agreed that this item would be deferred if Eir were available to attend the March meeting.

**(b) Driver Feedback Signs**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that consideration be given to the provision of driver feedback signs on the R435 near Johnstown National School. Philippe Beubry confirmed that there is no funding currently available for this work, however, he will consider it for inclusion in the 2019 Road Works Scheme.

**(c) Lights at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Castlecomer**

Cllr Maurice Shortall identified an issue with water in the bulbs in the lights provided at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Castlecomer. Philippe Beubry to investigate.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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