**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN COMMITTEE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 16th MAY 2016 AT 11.00AM**

**Chair: Cllr P Millea**

**Cllrs: Cllrs J Brennan, M H Cavanagh, P Fitzpatrick, M McCarthy and M Shortall.**

**Officials: P Beubry, M Delahunty, M Mulholland, N Byrne & D Murphy**

**Vote of Sympathy**

**A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:**

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick on the death of his father in law, Michael Doyle.

1. **Speed Limit Review**

**DMurphy circulated:**

* Principle requirements determining changes to speed limits taken from guidelines.
* Timelines associated with making of bye-laws for speed limit review.
* Schedule of proposed amendments and submissions received for the Castlecomer Municipal Area during the pre consultation period, October 2015 – April 2016.

DMurphy advised that Sgt C O’Gorman, Sgt over the Traffic Core was due to be in attendance at today’s meeting, however, had been called to the District Court. Some members expressed disappointment that the gardai would not be in attendance. DMurphy clarified that Sgt C O’Gorman was the gardai with the relevant expertise and a substitute garda would not suffice. He advised that any comments or issues raised by the members would be forwarded to Sgt C O’Gorman. DMurphy also clarified that Sgt O’Gorman was in attendance for the Kilkenny area speed limit meeting, but not in attendance for the Piltown Municipal Meeting and it proceeded without any difficulty. DMurphy advised that what was needed today was approval / non approval together with any comments from members in respect of proposed changes circulated in order to progress speed limit review to the next stage.

Members raised the issue of the need for both an increased garda presence and the provision of speed vans at appropriate locations to reinforce and help compliance with speed limits. Location of speed vans as a safety measure and not for the provision of cash was also raised.

A new submittal was made in respect of stretch of roadway on the R693 at the Kilkenny side of Freshford. Members advised of two locations along an approximate 3km stretch of roadway where it is safe to overtake, however, the presence of a speed van on a regular basis makes it impossible to overtake without incurring penalty points and a fine. Members enquired whether it would be feasible to increase speed limit for a distance of approximately 3km. DMurphy advised of a 3km rule and also advised that there are exceptions to this 3km rule. He advised that any new submittal will be looked at and members can make a bye law for review of speed limit on any stretch of local road at any time, permission would have to be sought from the TII on changes to speed limits on National roads, however, draft revision A bye laws for submittals received to date is tied down for June 2016.

**5a, 5b & 5c – N78**

DMurphy advised that speed limit on N78 is in general being reduced to 80km/h. He advised that from Damerstown West to GAA Pitch speed limit will remain at 100 km/h for 1.5km. Members enquired would a consistent 80km/h be a safer option. PBeubry to discuss with RPS. DMurphy advised that at Discovery Park, the 60km/h will be pushed out more from 50km/h consistent with guidelines, Castlecomer to Railyard Cross will reduce to 80km/h and from Railyard Cross to Laois border will remain at 100km/h.

Members confirmed their agreement with revised speed limits with the exception of speed limit suggested for 1.5km from Damerstown West to GAA Pitch.

**5d – R426 Crosshill Cemetery towards Castlecomer**

Cllr M Shortall looking to extend 60km/h 50/60m to roughly where rubber strips are located.

PBeubry to measure and submittal to be reconsidered.

**5e – Aughamuckey from Fitzgerald’s to Coogan’s Cross, Castlecomer**

DMurphy advised that the location falls way below threshold under regulations of 40 houses to qualify for reduction in speed limit. He also advised that gardai weren’t inclined to reduce speed limit at this location.

PBeuby to examine for engineering measures and consider for possible inclusion in Low Cost Safety measures.

**5f – Drumgoole, Castlecomer**

DMurphy advised that location doesn’t meet criteria for speed limit reduction with only 15 houses.

PBeubry to investigate for engineering measures.

**11a Moate, Kilkenny Road, Freshford (R693)**

DMurphy advised that area at B&B not built up enough to meet criteria for reduction to 50km/h.

Agreed new speed limit of 60km/h would be more appropriate.

**11b Goresbridge to Duninga L2626 at Barracore**

DMurphy advised that this roadway falls under rural roads. PBeuby confirmed that road markings and signs were provided last year to assist residents.

It was agreed to leave speed limit unchanged.

**15a – R448 Gowran Village**

DMurphy advised that there isn’t sufficient development under the guidelines to meet the criteria for a 50km/h speed limit reduction. He also confirmed that Church is located within 50km/h speed limit.

It was agreed to leave speed limit unchanged.

**15b – L6731 Gowran Village**

DMurphy advised that there is no merit under guidelines to reduce speed limit at this location to 50km/h.

It was agreed to leave speed limit unchanged.

**15c – R448**

DMurphy advised that there is no merit under guidelines to reduce speed limit at this location to 50km/h.

It was agreed to leave speed limit unchanged.

**15d – R448/L6731**

DMurphy advised that there is no merit under guidelines to reduce speed limit at this location to 60km/h.

It was agreed to leave speed limit unchanged.

**19 - N78 Moneenroe**

Dealt with in earlier submissions.

**20 – N77**

DMurphy advised of a number of speed limit revisions along the N77. Hennerby’s Cross to Clinstown to be reduced to 80km/h, at Clinstown School RPS are currently carrying out a traffic/speed count and will advise accordingly the new speed limit. 80 km/h at George’s Tree to where road widens at Oldtown, there will be a 100km section for 1km before it changes to 80 km/h at Brookfield and then 60km/h and 50km/h into village and remaining at 100km/h at Ballynaslee side of Village. PBeubry advised that plates and flashing 30km/h signs are provided at Jenkinstown School. Members raised an issue as to what else can be done to assist schools on National Roads to increase awareness. It was agreed that the driver feedback signs are very effective.

**22 – Scoil Bhride Primary School, Paulstown**

Members enquired whether it was feasible for them to make a policy that all schools located on National Roads in the Castlecomer Municipal Area would be provided with driver feedback signs. PBeubry confirmed that this was feasible subject to availability of funding and would also have to consult with TII in respect of works on National Roads. DMurphy advised bye laws were not needed for driver feedback signs but are needed for 30km/h flashing lights. Members were in unanimous agreement to implement revised policy in respect of schools located on National Roads, subject to funding.

It was agreed speed limit would be reduced to 30km/h.

**24 - R702 at new roundabout Gowran**

Members agreed that the 50km/h be pushed out to the existing 60km/h limit and that the 60km/h be pushed out around the bad bend coming into Gowran from the Kilkenny side. The area between the church and the junction will also become a 60km/h limit.

**27- N78**

Dealt with in earlier submissions.

**28 – Dean Celtic LS 5896**

Members agreed speed limit reduction to 50km/h.

**32 – Housing Estates**

Members discussed national revision of speed limit in Housing Estates. Cllr M H Cavanagh raised issues in respect of signage provided in St Kieran’s Place and also request for ramp in Tougher Way. PBeubry confirmed that ramp will be provided in Tougher Way this year. The provision of ramps in housing estates to reduce speed was raised by members.

**34 – Ballyragget Road, Frehsford**

It was agreed that existing 50km/h be extended to take in houses and factory.

**37A – N78**

Dealt with in earlier submissions.

**37B – N77**

Dealt with in earlier submissions.

**38 – R693**

Possibility of extending 60km/h to incorporate graveyard was discussed by members. Following discussion members agreed that it would be more prudent to progress new car park at graveyard. PBeubry advised that the plan with the new car park is to eliminate parking at the roadside. He advised that access will be provided from the new car park into the graveyard. Cllr M McCarthy advised that negotiations are ongoing with landowner and hopefully close to a solution. . DMurphy advised members that they can make a separate bye law if necessary at a later stage.

Members agreed to defer changing speed limit at this time

1. **To Note - The Annual General Meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District is being held on Friday 3rd of June which will be immediately followed by the Ordinary Meeting for June.**

Cllr M H Cavanagh advised that there is a meeting of the LCDC on the morning of 3rd of June and the Council’s Annual General meeting is scheduled for 4 o’clock on 3rd of June. Members agreed to hold Annual General meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District at 2pm immediately followed by the Ordinary Meeting for June.

Cllr P Millea advised that as this is his last meeting as Cathoirleach for Castlecomer Municipal District he wished to thank the members and staff for all their help and courtesy over the past year and that he hoped he had shown them the same courtesy and assistance in return. He advised that it had been an honour to hold the position of Cathoirleach for the year. Cllr P Millea was reminded that it would be his duty to open the Municipal District’s Annual meeting on 3rd of June.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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