

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 11.00AM.

In the chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick and Denis Hynes

In attendance: Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Anne Maria Walsh, Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Nancy Byrne and Mr Seamus Kavanagh

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) October Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville updated members as follows:

- NBI surveys are ongoing .
- Broadband Connection Points (BCP) have been installed in Galmoy, Ballyousskill, Muckalee and Graine Community Halls.
- There has been no significant progress with Cellnex since the October Municipal District meeting.

Members raised the following queries / questions / observations.

- Acknowledged what has been achieved and thanked Mr Steve Coverdale and Mr Martin Prendiville.
- Requested that this item remain as a standing item on the agenda.
- NBI surveys welcomed.
- Installation of BCPs in Community Halls welcomed.

(b) N77 - Ardaloo Junction to Georges Tree Safety Assessment

Mr Seamus Kavanagh presented report on N77 - Ardaloo Junction to Georges Tree Safety Assessment as circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr Kavanagh advised that progression of the N77 National Road Route Improvements ceased when priority was given to the interurbans (M9/8 motorways) in the mid to late 90's. Mr Kavanagh outlined details of 4 Safety Improvement Options provided by TII for implementation of Safety Improvement Schemes. He confirmed that a high-level survey for Type D option will be undertaken in early 2021.

Members raised the following queries / questions / observations:

- The number of accidents, fatalities and near misses.
- Review of road safety on this section of the N77 urgently required.
- Data from all relevant agencies to be included in feasibility report to TII.

- Flooding issues highlighted.

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) ***Road from Eirke to Johnstown / Rathdowney road***

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that the road from Eirke to the Johnstown / Rathdowney Road be considered for inclusion in the next 3 Year Roads Programme. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that this road will be considered for inclusion.

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

None

8. **Any other business**

(a) ***Winter Maintenance – P3***

A map outlining the P3 route was circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that there are 4 crews involved in the salting of the P3 routes and all routes are at capacity. Mr Seamus Kavanagh advised that salting of the P3 is funded from Discretionary funding. Mr Kavanagh advised of a good working relationship with the IFA and confirmed that a review of the P3 route can be dealt with at Municipal District level. Ms Anne Maria Walsh advised that Mr Tim Butler, Director of Services made a commitment at the October Plenary Meeting that going forward, the Winter Services Maintenance Plan will be brought to the Municipal District in advance of the Plenary.

Members raised the following queries /questions / observations:

- Need for additional resources
- Liaise with the IFA to extend the treatment of roads
- Areas of North Kilkenny prone to more severe weather than elsewhere in the County

Members agreed that a:

- Review of the Winter Maintenance Programme will be included as an item on the agenda of the September Municipal District meetings.
- Review of the P3 route to be included on the agenda of the December Municipal District meeting.

(b) ReStart & ReStart Plus Grants & Commercial Rates

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that €9m had been paid out to date and €2.9m is due to be paid out in the coming weeks arising from a 30% top up on the ReStart Plus Grant and appeals under the ReStart Grant.

Mr Prendiville also confirmed that an update on Waiver of Commercial Rates will issue to Rate Payers in the next week.

Members raised the following queries / questions / observations

- The efficiency and compassionate manner with which applications were processed was acknowledged.

(c) Goresbridge – Social Housing

Cllr Denis Hynes sought an update on the provision of 9 social housing units in Goresbridge. Following discussion, it was agreed that an update would be provided at the December Municipal District Meeting.

(d) Seven Cross Roads to Kilmacar

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick requested that the road from the Seven Cross Roads to Kilmacar be considered for inclusion in the next 3 Year Roads Programme and in the meantime potholes be brought to the attention of the GSS.

(e) Recent Flooding

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick acknowledged the work completed by Mr Philippe Beubry and outdoor crews during recent flooding.

(f) Local Businesses & Shop Kilkenny

Members acknowledged the success and achievements of many local businesses including Rosemarie Durr and Paddy Cox and encouraged all to shop local and support local businesses.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____