

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 19TH JULY 2021 AT 11.00AM.

In the chair: Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

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

In attendance: Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Anne Maria Walsh, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr David O'Brien and Mr Paddy Crotty

Cllr Fitzpatrick opened the meeting by welcoming all present and congratulating both the Kilkenny Senior Hurlers on their victory in the Leinster Hurling Championship and the Urlingford Community as their new CCTV system is launched.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) Annual Meeting held on 21st June 2021

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

(b) June Ordinary Meeting held on 21st June 2021

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that Mr Steve Coverdale and Mr Kevin Hanley are currently on annual leave and an update will be provided at the September Municipal District Meeting.

(b) Speed Limit Review

Mr Philippe Beubry advised that a speed limit review for non-national roads had commenced by Kilkenny County Council and that Mr Michael Murphy, Senior Engineer is leading the review. Mr Beubry asked members to forward their submissions for his attention in the first instance and confirmed that submissions will be assessed in line with National Guidelines.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- The speed limit review was welcomed by all.
- The problem of speeding through towns and villages.
- Kilkenny County Council take the lead and reduce the speed limit on cul de sacs to 50kms per hour.
- Road improvement works sometimes initiates speeding problems.
- Clarification sought on relevant dates associated with the review.
- Need for installation of 2 speed ramps in Galmoy Village.
- Clarification sought as to whether CCTV cameras can be used for speeding purposes.

Ms Anne Maria Walsh and Mr Philippe Beubry responded to members queries as follows:

Ms Anne Maria Walsh advised that the Speed Limit Review is listed on the agenda of this afternoon's Plenary Meeting. Ms Walsh provided details from Mr Tim Butler's report circulated with the agenda for the July Plenary Meeting as follows; the review will commence in September 2021; the process will be considered by the SPC at this stage and members will be advised thereafter of relevant timelines. Ms Walsh also advised that the purpose of CCTV cameras is not to monitor speed. Mr Philippe Beubry clarified that the 80km per hour speed limit is a default speed, not a target.

(c) HD 15 Safety Scheme

Mr David O'Brien provided a presentation to members on works proposed under the HD 15 Safety Scheme at the N78, Kilkenny Road, Castlecomer. Mr O'Brien's presentation provided details as follows:

- Background to the HD 15 Safety Scheme.
- Precise location and details of measures at 6 locations identified comprising; signalised crossings near Garda Station; improved junction definition near the Health Centre and at Maryville Road North; planters and benches along the wide footpath near the Church; controlled pedestrian crossing at the school; improved uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at the Community Hall.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- The benefit for Castlecomer of these works in conjunction with the pedestrian bridge at the Discovery Park was acknowledged.
- Public consultation needed in respect of works proposed at the Church.
- As assessment of the junction at Glanbia is required.

Mr David O'Brien responded to members queries and confirmed that a submission had been put forward to TII with regard to the junction at Glanbia and is currently being investigated to see what measures can be implemented to improve this junction.

(d) Housing Capital Programme

Mr Paddy Crotty conveyed apologies to the meeting on behalf of Ms Eimear Cody. Mr Crotty provided a presentation to members on Housing Delivery under the following headings:

- Social Housing Need – 1st preferences for the Castlecomer Municipal District Area
- 2020 delivery – Buy and Renew at Barrack Street, Castlecomer, 1 unit.
- 2021 delivery - Glebeside Castlecomer, 33 units which have been allocated and Station Avenue, Ballyragget, 22 units which will be allocated in the coming weeks as soon as service connections are completed.
- 2022 delivery – Shanganagh, Jenkinstown, 2 units, delivery of which was impacted by lockdowns.
- 2022 / 2023 delivery – Canal Road and Rathdowney Road, Johnstown, 20-unit phased development
- CPOs commenced on 10 properties in the County in 2020. Currently preparing next batch of CPOs for 2021 and members representations invited on potential derelict / vacant properties for CPO or buy and renew.

- 2022 delivery – Capital Assistance Scheme
Members were updated on development at The Red Barn, Ballyragget, potential Turnkey and Part V housing.
- Details of barriers to delivery were outlined comprising limited land bank and no current capacity for water connections in Castlecomer.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Housing delivery as detailed was welcomed.
- The need for Irish Water to solve both the problems of water capacity and the condition of the network in Castlecomer.
- Clarification sought on Council's policy with regard to a social housing applicant refusing an offer of housing.
- Existence of land bank at Chatsworth and a number of families in need of social housing in the area.
- Safety issues at Glebeside, Castlecomer.
- Mr Crotty was requested to attend the November Municipal District Meeting to provide a further update on Housing Delivery.
- CPO and tackling dereliction welcomed.
- Timeline for development at the Ouncel, Johnstown.
- Welcomed social housing at Goresbridge.
- Need for consultation with local residents in advance of development at Canal Road and Rathdowney Road, Johnstown.
- Details of expenditure in respect of Glebeside, Castlecomer.

Mr Paddy Crotty and Ms Anne Maria Walsh responded to members queries as follows:

- Ms Anne Maira Walsh confirmed that the Scheme of Letting Priorities approved by members in 2020 provides that if a social housing applicant refuses 2 offers of housing within a period of 12 months their application for social housing is suspended for 12 months.
- Mr Paddy Crotty confirmed that regular contact takes place with Irish Water in advance of any development; Kilkenny County Council are looking at a number of options for development in the County; queries raised in respect of development at the Ouncel and the Canal Road and Rathdowney Road will be passed to Ms Evelyn Graham who is overseeing these works; final expenditure figures would not be available until approximately 9 months after the completion of a development.

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**

None

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

(a) Road Works Scheme – Update

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that the Road Works Scheme is progressing on target. Mr Beubry also confirmed that he had received no official confirmation of a second tranche of funding under the Local Improvement Scheme but hoped flexibility similar to that provided in previous years would be allowed for completion of works. It was agreed that members would be provided with details of additional works included under the 2021 Local Improvement Scheme once confirmed at the next meeting of the Municipal District on the 20th September 2021.

(b) Control of Ragwort

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh asked that appropriate action be taken to control ragwort along roadsides. Mr Philippe Beubry requested Cllr Cavanagh to forward details of locations of the plant.

In the absence of Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick whose system had lost connection, Cllr Cavanagh concluded the business of the meeting by thanking all present for their help and support and wished everyone a lovely summer break.

Chairperson:

Pat Fitzpatrick

Date:

20/9/2021