

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 11.00AM.

In the chair: Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy

In attendance: Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Michael Leahy, Mr Michael Murphy and Mr Steve Coverdale

In the absence of Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick whose system had lost connection it was agreed that Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Leas Cathaoirleach would chair the meeting.

Cllr Cavanagh opened the meeting by sympathising with St Lachtain's intermediate hurling team on their loss against Glenmore over the weekend.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :

(a) October Meeting held on 18th October 2021

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville clarified that no member of the public shall be permitted to address the meeting but could submit questions in relation to the presentation after the meeting finished.

Mr Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer provided a presentation to members. The presentation provided an overview on Broadband and included details of:

- Definitions
- Classification and details on the 3 areas – blue, light blue and amber
- Kilkenny County Council facilitator of the NBI rollout plan for the County
- An update on NBP for Castlecomer and Urlingford
- Rolling out the NBI Network and Regional and Local exchanges
- Deployment Areas
- Current status of premises can be found at <http://www.nbi.ie>
- No constant / uniform service within the Blue area – needs to be addressed with OpenEir/DECC not NBI
- Important that premises in the Blue area not being provided with the minimum HSB speeds email their Eircode to bradband@decc.gov.ie to register
- Direct queries / issues through the Broadband Officer

Members thanked Mr Steve Coverdale for the presentation provided.

Mr Steve Coverdale confirmed that he would make contact with representatives from the Urlingford Town Team who had joined the meeting on-line after the meeting.

(b) Speed Limit Review

Mr Michael Murphy, Acting Senior Engineer presented the schedule of proposed Speed Limit amendments received. Amended speed limits were requested at the following locations:

- N77 Clinstown

- L2639 Barracore, Goresbridge
- L2626 Duninga, Goresbridge
- L5896 Prince's Grounds, Castlecomer
- R435 Rathdowney Road, Johnstown
- L2617 Castlewarren
- L5005 Moat Road, Freshford
- L2625 Kellymount Road, Paulstown
- R448 Gowran Road, Paulstown
- R912 Link Road, Paulstown
- R448 Gowran Village
- R702 Gowran Road, Goresbridge
- R695 Ballycallan Village
- L5859 Foulksrath to Connahy

Mr Michael Murphy went through his recommendations for each location. Mr Murphy also clarified the principles of setting revised speed limits as follows, his recommendations are based on the "Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland"; the introduction of Speed Limits should not be the immediate response to a road safety issue – engineering measures should be considered firstly; the need for consistency; changes to speed limit bye-laws are a reserved function of the Council; and lastly, speed limits imposed should not be dependent on an unreasonable level of enforcement. Details of the 2021 Speed Limit Review Provisional Timeframe were also provided.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Recommendation for N77 Clinstown and L5896 Prince's Grounds, Castlecomer be re-examined.
- Recommendation for L2617 Castlewarren welcomed.
- Need for appropriate signage at L5859 Foulksrath to Connahy to remind motorist speed limits are a maximum, not a target.
- Recommendation for R435 Rathdowney Road, Johnstown welcomed.
- Recommendation for R702 Gowran Road, Goresbridge welcomed.
- Disappointment with recommendation for L2639 Barracore, Goresbridge.
- Signage at R695 Ballycallan is misleading.

Mr Michael Murphy responded to members queries / observations as follows:

- A further reduction to 60kph is not appropriate on this National Secondary Road. Erection of additional 80kph signs to remind drivers that the National Secondary road default speed limit of 100kph does not apply are recommended. In the event of a speed limit change to this road TII approval would be required (as it is a National route).
- Reduction to 30kph on access road to Prince's Grounds, Castlecomer is not considered appropriate as this is not a residential / housing estate road. Engineering measures should be considered as an alternative. Mr Murphy did concede to reviewing this recommendation.
- Reduction to 60kph for straight stretch of 400m at L2639 Barracore, Goresbridge is not appropriate within the Guidelines and may compel drivers to break the law unnecessarily. Mr Murphy recommended that the introduction of a one-way route to and from Goresbridge for HGV's be investigated as an alternative.
- Mr Murphy confirmed that this item will be back on the agenda of the May 2022 Municipal District meeting to allow members to further consider proposed changes, including speed limit review submissions from the public.

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

Cllr Michael McCarthy thanked Cllr Cavanagh for her good wishes for St Lachtain's Intermediate Hurling team and acknowledged that the best team on the day had won.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Pat Fufitoh

Date: 19/12/2021

