

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 15TH MARCH 2021 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, Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Anne Maria Walsh, Ms Bernadette Moloney and Ms Nancy Byrne

Vote of Sympathy: proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh to the family of the late Mr Martin Fitzpatrick who served 20 years as a Councillor in the Castlecomer Area. Associated with the vote of sympathy were Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Michael Delaney, Cllr Denis Hynes and Ms Anne Maria Walsh.

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) February Meeting held on 15th February 2021

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband Update

Mr Martin Prendiville advised as follows:

- Mr Steve Coverdale has been in contact with Cellnex who confirmed that they are seeking a new location for the provision of infrastructure in Castlecomer.
- Following presentation provided by NBI at February's Plenary Meeting Mr Steve Coverdale and Mr Kevin Hanley will attend the April Municipal District Meeting to provide a short presentation to members on the provision of additional Broadband Connection Points.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- The work completed by Mr Steve Coverdale and Mr Martin Prendiville to progress this issue was acknowledged.
- The presentation scheduled for the April Municipal District Meeting was welcomed.
- Queries received regarding National Broadband rollout and the significance of reliable broadband for rural Ireland was highlighted.
- Success of Broadband Connection Points delivered to date were acknowledged.

(b) Draft Litter Management Plan 2021 -2023

The Draft Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023 was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Ms Bernadette Moloney provided a presentation to members on the Draft Plan under the following 10 headings: -

- Introduction, Statutory Obligations & Consultation process.
- Litter
- Highlights of previous plan

- Services and Facilities provided by Kilkenny County Council
- Community Partnership in Protecting the Environment
- Challenges and Future Solutions
- Budgets
- Litter Management Plan Objectives
- Performance Indicators and Measures
- Conclusion

Issues included under Section 6 of the Draft Plan, Challenges and Future Solutions were detailed as follows:

- **Unauthorised Temporary Signage** – Ms Moloney confirmed that the Temporary Signage Policy is being reviewed to determine if the procedure can be streamlined. Once reviewed, it will be presented to each Municipal District and will undergo a public consultation phase prior to being presented to SPC 4.
- **Illegal Dumping** – Ms Moloney confirmed that an anti-dumping campaign produced by the Southern WERLA is due to be rolled out to Kilkenny County Council in 2021.
- **Bring Banks** – Ms Moloney outlined details of considerable improvements to bring banks including maintenance by a cleaning contract; improved CCTV capability; aesthetically look better and confirmed that Kilkenny County Council continues to seek new sites to increase capacity across the county.
- **Litter Bins** – Ms Moloney confirmed that Appendix B contains guidance on the placement of litter bins and dog fouling bag dispensers.
- **Scattered Litter** – Ms Moloney provided details of annual awareness campaigns run by the Council to remind the public of the issues litter poses. Ms Moloney also provided details of a deposit/return scheme for plastic drink bottles and drink cans included under the Government's National Waste Policy 2020-2025.
- **Dog fouling** – Ms Moloney provided details of education and awareness campaign being launched this month by Kilkenny County Council in collaboration with Carlow, Wexford and Waterford Local Authorities.

Ms Moloney invited feedback from members on the draft Litter Management Plan as presented.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Ms Bernadette Moloney was thanked for the comprehensive presentation provided.
- The excellent work completed by the Environment Team and the increase in their work load during the pandemic was acknowledged as a result of issues including increased dog fouling and illegal dumping and a 50% increase in tonnage and usage of bottle banks.
- Disillusionment with the large volume of scattered litter was raised.
- Determine if naming and shaming could be used as a deterrent.
- Determine if scattered litter could be linked by its bar code at point of purchase.
- Need for additional bins in villages.
- Increased use of social media to; promote successes; promote facilities; educate against litter and publish details of authorised collectors.
- Clarity needed on CCTV legal challenge.
- Increased resources required with currently only 2 Enforcement Officers covering the county.
- Need for additional enforcement on the ground to tackle dog fouling; dog owners when out walking should be asked to provide evidence of how they intend cleaning up after their dog.
- Health implications associated with dog fouling raised.

- Support be provided to Enforcement Officers with review of CCTV footage.
- Improvements to Bring Banks acknowledged.

Ms Bernadette Moloney responded to issues raised by members and confirmed as follows:

- She will relay back members positive comments to the Environment team.
- Changes to the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Waste Management Act 1996 are being worked on by the Department to ensure enforcement practices comprising CCTV and drone mobilisation can continue.
- There has been a strong Spring Clean response this year.
- Name and shame and link to consumer suggestions will be considered.
- Suggestions raised for increased use of social media acknowledged
- Greater powers provided to the Enforcement team under the 2019 Waste Management Bye Laws to deal with household waste management highlighted.
- Ripple effect of additional people on the ground to tackle dog fouling acknowledged.
- Primary school education pack to be launched in the next academic year.

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that the necessary changes to legislation in respect of enforcement practices are expected from the Department in the second half of this year and the need for increased resources will be examined during preparation of the 2022 budget.

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) Draft Road Works Programme 2021

The Draft Road Works Programme 2021 as presented at Workshop held on 3rd March 2021 was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

(a) Dog Fouling Report

It was agreed that the item would be marked as read and members acknowledged the inclusion of this item in the presentation provided by Ms Bernadette Moloney.

8. Any other business

(a) Workshop to deal with the 2021 Draft Road Works Programme

Cllr Michael McCarthy acknowledged Mr Philippe Beubry's initiative to request a Workshop to deal with the 2021 Draft Road Works Programme prior to the March Ordinary Meeting and also expressed disappointment that an item dealt with at the Workshop had been shared on social media.

(b) Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC)

Mr Martin Prendiville provided members with details of the Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) launched last week and administered by the Council's Finance Department. Mr

Prendiville confirmed that successful applicants will receive a payment of €4,000 with an additional payment of €4,000 from May 2021 to applicants continuing to meet the scheme eligibility criteria. Mr Prendiville advised that information on the Scheme is included on the Council's website and encouraged members to make businesses which they are in contact with aware of the Scheme.

(c) Government Compensation Package - 2020

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that the Department had now confirmed the Covid 19 compensation package for 2020 for Kilkenny at €2.29m. This meant that the Discretionary Municipal District budget of €62,500 could now be spent.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Richard P. Cuddy

Date:

19th April 2021