

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 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 Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Steve Coverdale, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Josephine Coyne and Ms Aoidín Curran, RoadPlan

Vote of Sympathy:

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh extended a vote of sympathy to the Mackey Family, Gathabawn on the death of Lena Mackey. Cllrs Michael McCarthy and Michael Delaney were associated with this vote of sympathy.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) September Meeting held on 19th September 2022

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Steve Coverdale provided an update to members as follows:

- Cellnex are awaiting a contract, their next step will be submission of planning application.
- NBI have agreed a site at the former Garda Barracks, Castlecomer and documents are due to be submitted to Mr Martin Prendiville for a legal contract.
- Waiting of ESB connection for Urlingford mobile mast. It will be a further 6-8 weeks before operational after connection.
- Looking at alternatives to OpenEir for former Bank of Ireland building in Urlingford.

(b) *Freshford Mobility Management Plan – Road Plan*

Ms Aoidín Curran, RoadPlan presented the Freshford Mobility Management Plan 2024 to members under the following headings:

- Introduction
- Characteristics of the Study Area
- Policies and Plans
- Assessment and Recommendations – Overview
- Implementation and Phasing
- Proposed Projects / Initiatives
- Timelines

Members acknowledged the very aspirational plan presented and it was agreed that this item would be included on the agenda of the November MD meeting for discussion with Ms Aideen Curran in attendance.

Contributions were received from Cllr Michael McCarthy as follows:-

Provision of pedestrian crossings welcomed; parking facilities necessary at Bridge Street Pharmacy; requirement for parking to accommodate Sunday mass; wheelchair access at picnic area required; option to obtain parcel of ground at the end of Old Bridge Street; proposals for bus stop welcomed.

(c) *Kilkenny Library Service – Ms Josephine Coyne*

Ms Josephine Coyne presented details of a new 5-year National Library Strategy under the following headings:

- Strategy Consultation
- Broad Consultation findings
- People, Places & Connections
- Underpinning the Design
- Looking forward to 2028
- Update provided on new library at Mayfair and Thomastown
- The public library offer
- Value for Money

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The excellent service provided for all ages was acknowledge.
- The significance of this service, particularly during Covid.
- Members acknowledged a smaller book fund available for Kilkenny Library Services compared to some neighbouring authorities.

(d) Winter Maintenance – P3 Route – Mr Philippe Beubry

Mr Philippe Beubry circulated a copy of the P3 route to members. He advised members as follows:

- There are no changes to the P3 route from previous years
- The 17th of October marks the start of the Winter Maintenance season for the P1 and P2 routes. The Winter Maintenance Plan is to be presented and discussed at the full Council meeting.
- The P3 route is different from the P1 and P2 routes in that we don't have an on-call crew and is operated on a good will basis and members were reminded of Health and Safety requirements.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members acknowledged both the excellent work done in the past and the significance of the IFA's involvement during severe weather.

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

(a) Castlecomer Mobility Management Plan

Members agreed that this item would be deferred to the November MD meeting. Mr Philippe Beubry asked members that if there were any items they wished to raise to forward to Mr Dermot Maher who in turn would pass to WS Atkins Ireland Limited.

8. Any other business

(a) MD Budget meeting

Members agreed that the MD budget meeting would proceed at 10.30am on the 4th of November followed by the MD Ordinary meeting at 11am.

(b) Digital HUB, Urlingford

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke of the digital hub in the former Bank of Ireland building in Urlingford and requested that a letter be sent to Minister Heather Humphreys seeking additional financial support for this and other stand-alone hubs.

(c) Fire Station, Urlingford

Mr Martin Prendiville provided details of a communication received from the HSE outlining their interest in the Old Fire Station, Urlingford premises as a deployment centre for the ambulance service.

Following discussion, it was agreed:

- An update should be provided to local residents when Mr Philippe Beubry and Mr Harry Shine finalise their assessment and report on the site.
- Mr Martin Prendiville to request representative of the HSE to attend MD meeting.

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed the completion date for the new fire station is expected to be mid-2023.

(d) Deputation

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested members approval to bring a deputation from the Johnstown Town Team to the December MD meeting.

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr Michael Delaney took the Chair.

(e) AILG

Members congratulated Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick on his elevation to the position of president of AILG

(f) Recent bereavement

Cllr John Brennan thanked his fellow councillors for their support during his recent bereavement on the sad and untimely death of his brother in law Mr Eugene Power.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Date: 4th November 2022

