

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY  
19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 11.00AM**

**In the chair:** Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh  
**Present:** Cllrs Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy  
**Apologies:** Cllr John Brennan  
**In attendance:** Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Steve Coverdale, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Seamus Foley and Mr Chris Fay, Project Manager & Senior Engineer Transport Planning, Atkins

Cllr Cavanagh opened the meeting by welcome all back after the summer recess.

***Vote of Sympathy:***

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:-

Family of the late Mr Eugene Power (brother in law of Cllr John Brennan)

The Hughes family Grangefertagh on the death of Ms Peg Hughes

The Gannon family Ballyragget on the death of Mr Michael Gannon

***Congratulations***

Cllr Cavanagh extended congratulations and best wishes to Ms Maura Dowling, Gathabawn on reaching her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of:**

(a) July Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:**

(a) **Broadband**

Mr Steve Coverdale updated members as follows:

- NBP surveys for the Castlecomer Area are complete, details of which are due to be submitted by NBI.
- Cellnex have identified a potential site in Castlecomer.
- Details of a potential resolution for the Bank of Ireland Urlingford Business Centre were provided.

**(b) Section 38 Traffic Calming Scheme, Castlecomer – Update – Mr Seamus Foley**

Mr Seamus Foley referred to concerns expressed by Cllr Brennan and Cllr Fitzpatrick with regard to proposals contained in the Section 38 Traffic Calming Scheme for the public realm at the Church of the Immaculate Conception and subsequent public engagement. Mr Foley advised that the proposal for the public realm at the Church will continue to be monitored and sought members approval to proceed with the 5 other proposals contained in the Scheme. The recommendation as outlined by Mr Foley was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

The public engagement completed by Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Seamus Foley and Mr Harry Shine was acknowledged.

**(c) Draft Castlecomer Mobility Management Plan (2021 – 2026) – Atkins**

Mr Chris Fay, Project Manager, Atkins presented the Castlecomer Mobility Management Plan 2021-2026 under the following headings and sub headings:

- **Project Overview**

- **Study Area – Site Visit – Baseline Assessment**
- **Mobility Challenges**
- **Context – Policy Context – Policy Review – Castlecomer Local Area Plan (2018-0224)**
- **Overarching Strategy – Transport Choice 1 Business as Usual – Transport Choice 2 Town Centre First Approach**
- **Transport Proposals – Proposed Projects – Junction Upgrade – Permeability Links – Pedestrian Crossings – Parking – Dedicated Cycle Paths – Gateways – Age Friendly Initiative – Safe School Routes – Bus Stop Upgrades**

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Mr Fay was thanked for the presentation provided.
- Clarity sought regarding safety improvement works at Ballyhemmin.
- Alterations proposed to the junction between The Square, Chatsworth Street and R694/Barrack Street were welcomed.
- The impact of development proposed at the Glanbia site and the need for a decision from An Bord Pleanála in a timely manner were highlighted.
- Cllr Cavanagh requested that a hard copy of the plan be issued to Cllr Brennan.
- Members acknowledged the volume of information contained in the plan and it was agreed that the plan would be included for discussion on the agenda of the next MD meeting to be held in person.

**(d) Local Improvement Scheme – Update – Mr Philippe Beubry**

Mr Philippe Beubry advised members that the first tranche of funding was received from the Department in May and provided details of the 2 lanes included under this tranche of funding. Mr Beubry advised of a second tranche of funding received mid-August and provided details of lanes included under this tranche of funding.

**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 deferred from the July MD meeting:**

**Items submitted by members:**

**- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

**i Repair of roadside – policy**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh acknowledged the high standard of roads in the Municipal District but also highlighted deterioration at the roadside. Mr Philippe Beubry outlined the Council's policy with regard to the provision of passing bays and advised that the localised edge repairs are carried out using the Discretionary Funds.

**ii Assumption Place and Community Creche, Urlingford**

Mr Philippe Beubry advised that he had completed a preliminary investigation of this site with Mr Harry Shine, Road Design Section and their findings concluded there was insufficient room for vehicular access. Mr Martin Prendiville advised that an expression of interest had been received in respect of the old Fire Station.

**- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick**

**i Assumption Place and Community Creche, Urlingford**

Dealt with under item ii above.

- **Cllr Denis Hynes**

i **Steps needed to slow down traffic in our Communities**

Cllr Denis Hynes highlighted speeding problems at Main Street, Gowran. Mr Philippe Beubry outlined the various traffic calming measures introduced at the location comprising driver feedback signs, additional road marking and narrowing of a section of the road and recommended that this was now an issue to be dealt with through enforcement.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh recommended that the matter be raised with the Joint Policing Committee.

**5. Notices of Motion**

None

**6. Correspondence**

None

**7. Matters arising from minutes**

None

**8. Any other business**

**(a) Ministers Cross – Improved Safety**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh raised the need for improved safety measures at Ministers Cross.

**(b) Clomantagh Church**

Cllr Cavanagh acknowledged the excellent work completed at Clomantagh Church and thanked all involved.

**(c) Link from Roundabout to footpath at The Paddocks, Gowran**

Mr Philippe Beubry updated members and advised that it is expected contractors will be appointed in early November.

**(d) October meeting of the Castlecomer MD**

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that an upgrade of the Council Chamber is planned for the coming weeks. Members agreed that the October meeting would proceed via MS Teams and the November meeting would take place in person.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Date: 17.10.22.

