

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 11.30 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

In the chair: Cllr Michael Delaney
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick and Michael McCarthy
In attendance: Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Michael Leahy, Mr John Prendergast and Ms Aideen Curran, Road Plan

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of:
September meeting held on 18th September**

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Draft Freshford Mobility Management Plan (MMP) – Ms Aideen Curran, RoadPlan

Ms Aideen Curran, RoadPlan provided an overview on the draft Freshford Mobility Management Plan as follows:-

The objective:- To improve the quality of the existing network in the village to increase permeability and connectivity in order to enable access, including pedestrian, cycle and vehicular to key land uses such as, community facilities including schools and sports clubs, new and existing development lands along the core Village Centre focusing on relieving traffic congestion and providing a safer and more attractive environment for walking and cycling.

The Plan comprises a review of the transportation network in and around the settlement and an assessment of the associated travel demands and suggests actions that could be taken to secure the optimal and sustainable movement of people, goods and vehicles. It further provides a set of mobility management objectives.

An update on actions since the previous presentation (17th October 2022 and 4th November 2022) was provided.

Details of changes following consultations were provided as follows:-

New proposals added:

- Provide traffic calming along R693 western approach
- Provide traffic calming along R693 eastern approach
- Double yellow lines to be provided along the N693 (Kilkenny Street) to prohibit parking
- Improvements to be implemented at the existing zebra crossings at Prague House and the Health Centre eg, new poles/beacons/LED's, road markings etc. Signalised crossings may be considered if issues with pedestrian crossing still occur.

Existing proposals amended:

- Footpath improvements extended to include existing footpath between Clinstown Road and the petrol stations
- Proposal relating to provision of EV charging stations modified to specify high-speed charging units

Suggestions added:

- Consideration should also be given to the provision of cycle connectivity offline between Woodview and the Square. As much of the lands in this area are zone, this may involve incorporation of a cycle route within developments
- Consideration should be given to the development of a footpath link between the village centre and the Freshford Loop

The adoption of the draft Plan as presented was proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed subject to the following amendment received from Cllr McCarthy :-

Cllr McCarthy advised “having consulted with the Local Gardai, Clubs, organisations, and Prague House the change of traffic flow on L5003 and L5002 is not appropriate in the short term. In particular, I wish to highlight that problems at school times and during GAA matches would pose a danger and actually be an impediment to mobility”.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Mr John Prendergast, the Team at RoadPlan, Mr Philippe Beubry and all who made submissions were thanked for their contribution to the MMP.
- The provision of a pedestrian crossings at the Johnstown Road, the Chemist, Boherglass and the vicinity of the Square in the short term were welcomed as were proposals for the provision of a total of 13 pedestrian crossings during the lifetime of the plan.
- The widening of the footpath on the Johnstown road was welcomed and its potential to facilitate safe walking and healthy exercise acknowledged.
- Recommendation that the cycle route from Woodview to the Square be extended to both St Lachtains GAA Club, Freshford Playground and walking track and St Lachtains Church.
- Clarification sought on improved safety measures at Freshford graveyard.
- Clarification sought on timeline for implementation of the MMP.

Ms Aideen Curran responded to members queries and confirmed a revised MMP will be circulated to members with the agreed amendment.

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

Items submitted by members

(a) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Repair of footpath in High Street, Johnstown especially on opposite side of Catholic Church. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed he will inspect the location and include for works in 2024 as necessary.

(b) Cllrs Pat Fitzpatrick and John Brennan

That the footpath on the right-hand side from the main road at Carrolls, The Railyard down to the Glen, Moneenroe be cleaned up and repaired where necessary in the interests of public safety.

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed he will investigate the location and, if necessary, include for repairs in the 2024 Road Works Programme.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) 5(23) Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy and John Brennan

“That funding be sought as a matter of urgency to install ‘raised platforms’ on all roads leading into Johnstown in the interest of safety. This has been a unanimous request at a well-attended public meeting in Johnstown”.

Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Pat Fitzpatrick spoke on the Notice of Motion. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed consultants are preparing a public realm plan for the Village which will include a traffic calming element and recommended awaiting the outcome of the Plan.

(b) 6(23) Cllr Michael Delaney

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Delaney, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed:-

“That this Municipal District would begin a process of installing columbarium walls in all of the cemeteries in North Kilkenny and that a costed, possibly phased proposal would come back before the elected members to be included in our 2024 budget”.

Cllrs Michael Delaney, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, John Brennan and Michael McCarthy spoke on the Notice of Motion. Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed he will speak to the Environment Team with regard to feasibility and costing.

6. Correspondence
None

7. Matters arising from Minutes

(a) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke regarding revoking a previously submitted Notice of Motion.

8. Any other business

(a) Fix date for MD Budget Meeting

Members agreed the MD Budget meeting would be held on the 27th of October at 2.00pm via MS Teams.

(b) P3 Winter Maintenance Route

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed an arrangement had been put in place with Kilkenny MD which will allow the inclusion of Kilmanagh Hill under the P3 Winter Maintenance route. Mr Beubry also confirmed revised maps will be prepared and circulated to members.

(c) Mr Pat Hurley, General Services Supervisor

Members acknowledged the tremendous contribution made by Mr Pat Hurley during his 50 years with Kilkenny County Council working in both the Machinery Yard and General Services Supervisor in the Castlecomer Municipal District. Mr Hurley was wished good health and happiness for his retirement.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Michael Delaney

Date: 18/12/2023

