

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON
MONDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 11AM**

In the chair: Cllr Michael Delaney
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Denis Hynes.
In attendance: Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Nancy Byrne and on behalf of Place + Urbanism, Mr Martin Peters, Mr Cathal O'Meara and Mr Kenneth Hennessy.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) January meeting held on 15th January 2024

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Johnstown Public Realm Plan

Place & Urbanism were appointed by Kilkenny County Council to prepare the Johnstown Public Realm Plan

Mr Martin Peters outlined zones throughout Johnstown that have been highlighted for proposed alteration. These zones are located in important areas throughout the Village in order to promote the visual and material aspects and comprise Gateways to the Village, in front of both existing Churches, the main Village Green / Centre, the National School, and the junction between the R435 Rathdowney Road and the R502 Canal Road. A detailed account of proposed alterations was provided.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Consultants were thanked for the ambitious plan presented and proposals contained therein welcomed.
- Introduction of both a boulevard and gateways were welcomed.
- Clarification sought on the type of paving proposed.
- Measures to reduce speed and improve safety were welcomed
- Possible root damage associated with additional planting was raised and the need for adequate support to deal with falling leaves highlighted.
- The need to ensure businesses and the Health Centre are adequately supported with appropriate parking facilities.
- Proposals to incorporate aspects of the history of the Village welcomed.
- Clarification sought on the timeframe for the delivery of the Plan and funding streams.
- The need for ongoing communication with both the Community and the Johnstown Town Team was highlighted.
- Clarification sought on category of public lighting proposed.
- Clarification sought on category of pedestrian crossings proposed.
- Proposed start location for works.

Consultants and Ms Katherine Peacock responded to queries raised.

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**

(a) **1(24) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

“That the area behind numbers 9, 10, 11 and 12 Assumption Place, Urlingford, where illegal dumping has taken place, be cleaned up by the County Council and a camera installed by the County Council as a deterrent to prevent further dumping”.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke on the Notice of Motion

(b) **2(24) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

“That raised platforms be installed at the following locations:

- Togher Road, Urlingford
- Castlewarren Village
- Road by school in Clara

I had asked for ramps for these locations in the past but raised platforms would be a great help to slow down traffic”.

Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, Michael Delaney and John Brennan spoke on the Notice of Motion.

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from Minutes**

(a) **Ouncel Bar, Johnstown**

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that discussions are ongoing between the developer and Kilkenny County Council’s Housing Team.

(b) **Freshford Flood Relief Scheme**

Members spoke of frustration at the lack of progress with the Freshford Flood Relief Scheme. They spoke of funding announcement more than 5 years ago and subsequent announcement in 2023 for the Freshford and Piltown Pilot Flood Relief Schemes. Cllr Michael McCarthy spoke of residents’ fear and frustration who have no option but to constantly keep sandbags at their door and a prominent builder having to re-locate.

Mr Martin Prendiville acknowledged the frustration of the members.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke of property owners who are unable to obtain cover for flood damage following a claim against their insurance policy and requested that a letter be sent to the appropriate Minister requesting this anomaly be removed.

8. **Any other business**

(a) **Community Involvement Scheme – request for additional funding**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh queried whether a response had been received from the Minister of Transport on foot of request sent from Kilkenny County Council for additional funding.

(b) Bye Laws – Chatsworth Street, Castlecomer

Cllrs John Brennan and Pat Fitzpatrick asked that bye-laws for Chatsworth Street, Castlecomer be examined in light of new commercial and residential development at the Old Creamery site, Castlecomer.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Michael Delaney

Date: 25/3/24

