

**MINUTES OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT 11.45AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY**

**In the chair:** Cllr Michael McCarthy  
**Present:** Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick and Maurice Shortall  
**In attendance:** Mr Paraic Butler, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Eimear Cody & Mr Colm O’Murchu

**Vote of Sympathy**

Cllrs extended a vote of sympathy to:

- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick on the death of his uncle Mr John Gorey
- The family of the late Mr Paddy Sweeney, Spa Hill, Gathabawn, Co Kilkenny

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of:**

**(a) Ordinary meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2026**

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

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

**(a) Housing Capital update**

Ms Eimear Cody provided details as follows:

- Social housing units delivered in the MD during 2025:-

Ogenty, Gowran – Turnkey and Part V – 17 Units

4 St Enda’s Terrace, Gowran – renewal – 1 unit

Ardreagh, Lumper Lane, Urlingford – Turnkey and Part V – 18 Units

Main Street, Gowran – renewal – 1 unit

- 34 social housing units anticipated for delivery in the MD for 2026:-

Red Barn, Ballyragget – Q1 2026 – 11 units

8/9 Kilkenny Street, Castlecomer – February 2026 – 3 units

An Tobar, Freshford – Estimated June 2026 – 20 units

62 Barrack Street, Castlecomer – Phase 1 – 1 unit

- other projects in the pipeline:-

Barrack Street, Goresbridge – 2027 delivery – 12 unit - turnkey

Canal Road, Johnstown – expect to go on site shortly – 11 units

Barrack lands, Castlecomer – expected project will coincide with availability of mains water connection

62 Barrack Street, Castlecomer – Mr Colm O’Murchu provided details of Part 8 Housing Development comprising 2 phases, phase 1 refurbishment of former butcher’s shop and delivery of 1no. 2 bed unit and phase 2 construction of 4no. 1 bed apartments with phase 1

expected to commence in 2026 and phase 2 dependent on availability of new water connections in Castlecomer.

Ms Cody spoke regarding various constraints including rising costs and lack of adequate water and waste water capacity and advised going forward the Council may have to look at options including water drilling and treatment of waste water on site.

Castlecomer, Moonenroe and Clogh	-	No mains water capacity
Ballyragget WWTP	-	No mains wastewater connections Possible
Clogh-Moonenroe WWTP	-	No mains wastewater connections Possible
Paulstown WWTP	-	No mains wastewater connections Possible

A breakdown of the 169 applicants on the Council's housing list for the MD were provided. Ms Cody confirmed to the meeting that the council were not aware of any incidences of rough sleeping on the city's streets.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members acknowledged the excellent work completed by Ms Eimear Coady and her team in meeting targets for social housing delivery in the MD acknowledging how favourably it compared with the 55 units delivered in the City area.
- Cllrs Brennan, Fitzpatrick and Shortall called for urgent action by Uisce Éireann to address mains water capacity ISSUES in Castlecomer and its surrounds.
- Cllr Fitzpatrick acknowledge excellent engagement by Ms Coady and her team with the public and made particular reference to presentation provided by the Housing Team last week in relation to Part 8 Housing Development at 62 Barrack Street.
- Cllr Cavanagh raised a number of queries including: - availability of Affordable Housing in Urlingford, increased availability of housing units for the elderly, sought a definition of homeless and an update on development at Canal Road and the Ouncel, Johnstown.
- Cllr Fitzpatrick welcomed completion of development at Ogenty and refurbishment in Gowran.
- Cllr Brennan requested that suitability of lands at Chatsworth and possibly Moneenroe be assessed with a view to inclusion in the Council's land bank.
- Cllr Delaney requested that suitability of a site at Tullaroan be assessed for possible inclusion in the Council's land bank.
- Cllr McCarthy sought clarification on the design and build of houses in Freshford.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh confirmed that Mr John Dempsey, Uisce Éireann and his team are due to attend the April Plenary meeting. Mr Martin Prendiville requested that members be specific in items they want covered at the meeting to ensure relevant personnel from UÉ are in attendance and details should be forwarded to Ms Nancy Byrne.

Ms Eimear Cody and Mr Michael Leahy responded to queries raised by members.

News of the commencement of development at the Ouncel, Johnstown was warmly welcomed by Cllr Cavanagh.

**(b) Solar & Wind Farm Cable Routes Road Works update – Paraic Butler**

Mr Paraic Butler circulated two maps to members providing an overview on current two working fronts:

**- Tullaroan Working Front**

MPC Civil Engineering Ltd currently in possession of 5 roads and map circulated providing details of overlaid roads and sections of road which are the current workforce of the project and will be paved as the work face progresses.

**- Lisdowney Working Front**

MPC Civil Engineering Ltd currently in possession of 2 roads and map circulated detailing overlaid roads and sections of road scheduled for overlaying during February mid-term break.

Mr Butler acknowledged MPC Civil Engineering Ltd have encountered several issues during works including the presence of rock and confirmed the estimated completion date for the grid connection is mid to end of 2026.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh acknowledged the works completed by both Mr Paraic Butler and Mr Martin O'Shea to achieve improvements by MPC Civil Engineering Ltd and Cllr Michael Delaney acknowledged restoration of roads in the area which otherwise may not have received attention for a number of years

**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 submitted by members:**

**- Cllr Maurice Shortall**

**| Clarification whether local councillors can make representations for roads to be added to the P3 route.**

Mr Paraic Butler advised the current P3 route was prepared by his predecessors based on usage and availability of resources. He confirmed any representation will be examined from an analytical point of view with traffic counts arranged and a workshop in September but reminded members in order to add an additional road and existing road must be removed.

Cllr Cavanagh confirmed she was inundated with complaints of icy roads during recent frost, sought clarification on arrangements in place with the IFA and requested that

additional resources be made available in the estimates to provide salt at designated locations.

**II Update from TII on the Bus Shelter for Clogh Village and Castlecomer (Avalon side)**  
Cllrs Brennan and Fitzpatrick requested that the above issue would not be dealt with in the public forum.

Mr Paraic Butler provided an update on Bus Shelter proposed for Castlecomer (Avalon side). He advised €500,000 funding had been made available through Active Travel who had engaged consultants to examine bus shelters in the MD.

**III Update on the provision of CCTV cameras for illegal dumping**  
Cllr Shortall acknowledge receipt of update received directly from Environment Section and welcomed the return of CCTV cameras. Mr Michael Leahy clarified CCTV cameras are due to be in place for second week in February.

**IV Update on private rental inspections carried out on behalf of Kilkenny County Council during the last few months**

Mr Leahy confirmed a company from Cork were engaged to carry out inspections on private properties registered with the RTB. He acknowledged there is a danger of people becoming homeless as a result of these inspections but advised Kilkenny County Council have a duty to ensure people do not live in substandard housing. He advised the Council will work with private landlords to resolve any issues where possible.

**5. Notices of Motion**

**(a) 1(26) Cllr Maurice Shortall**

**“To ask Uisce Éireann to fast track water capacity in the Castlecomer Area”**

Confirmed by Cllr Cavanagh that Uisce Éireann are due to attend the April Plenary meeting (item 2a above).

**6. Correspondence**

None

**7. Matters arising from minutes**

None

**8. Any other business**

**(a) Overgrown hedges**

Cllr Fitzpatrick requested that appropriate action be taken to tackle overgrown hedges in the MD. Mr Butler reminded members there is a narrow window remaining in the season and asked members to submit details of any overgrown hedges to the Area Office.

**(b) Footpath, Tullavolty**

Cllr Cavanagh requested cleaning of the footpath located at Tullavolty, Johnstown to remove moss.

**(c) Upkeep/maintenance on side/private road built for land access at Urlingford during construction of M8 motorway**

CLlr Cavanagh sought clarification in relation to responsibility for upkeep/maintenance on side/private road built for land access at Urlingford during construction of M8 motorway.

**(d) Amendment to hour / date of the March and April MD meetings**

It was agreed the March meeting would be put back one week to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and the hour of the April meeting would be rescheduled to 11.15am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

  


