

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 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, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy
In attendance: Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Michael Leahy, Mr John Prendergast and Mr Chris Fay, Atkins

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) October meeting held on 16th October

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

(b) Budget meeting held on 27th October

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Draft Castlecomer Mobility Management Plan

Mr Chris Fay attended on behalf of Atkins and provided details of:

- The project overview and purpose.
- Consultation history
- Project inputs
- Policy review – key findings
- Walking / cycling connectivity review
- Traffic count review
- Committed projects
- Proposed projects

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The preparation of the draft plan and proposals contained therein were welcomed.
- Proposed age friendly initiatives were welcomed
- The need for consultation at all stages of the Plan highlighted
- Construction stage of the Aldi site will be hugely significant
- Consideration be given to revision of location proposed for EV charging points
- Development of school safety routes welcomed
- A review of parking at the Square needed
- Speed limit review will have implications for the plan
- As well as proposed walk way down to the GAA pitch extension of public lighting also requested
- Calls for extension of the Greenway

Mr Chris Fay addressed queries raised.

The draft Castlecomer Mobility Management Plan 2021 – 2026 was proposed by Cllr John Brennan, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed.

(b) Litter Management Plan 2024- 2026

Ms Margaret Whelan provided details as follows:

- Kilkenny County Council's obligation under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended to review, make and implement a Litter Management Plan every 3 years
- Details of composition of Litter pollution for the years 2020, 2021 and 2023 were circulated which, when compared revealed an overall increase in litter free areas
- Details of objectives contained in the 2021 – 2023 Litter Management Plan were outlined and amendments proposed for the 2024 – 2027 Plan detailed.
- Timeline and process for the preparation of the draft Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2027 were outlined comprising: Stage 1 – Drafting the Plan – November / December 2023; Stage 2 – Statutory Consultation Phase – December / January 2023 / 2024; Stage 3 – Review and Publish the Plan Q1 2024.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Enforcement and prosecution key to tackle the blight of illegal dumping
- Need for additional resources in the Environment team
- Clarification sought on status of use of CCTV cameras by local authorities
- Cost implications for the local authority to deal with litter acknowledged
- Trojan work completed by Tidy Towns Groups and Communities acknowledged
- Body of work required with chippers and single use cups
- Need for additional litter bins in towns and villages
- Attention needed to tackle dog fouling and illegal disposal of vapes

Ms Margaret Whelan responded to members queries and advised:

- The issue of use of CCTV cameras is with the Data Commissioner
- Provision of litter bins in towns and villages can act as both a deterrent and accelerator – the situation is being assessed
- Kilkenny continues to hold the title of cleanest city with Irish Business Against Litter
- Dog fouling will be tackled under the Leave No Trace Programme
- More work is required with businesses including chippers
- Body of work required to tackle single use cups and ban in Killarney acknowledged

(c) Local Improvement Scheme

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed 19 LIS applications were completed in the past 3 years and that there are currently 9 valid LIS applications to resurface lanes within the Castlecomer MD. Mr Beubry also confirmed details of new applications received this year to date but all applications submitted are incomplete and asked members to pass this information on to applicants that without the required information an application cannot be processed.

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

i Tonereke Lane

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh asked that works be completed in the short term to improve the condition of Tonereke Lane.

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that following consultation with an adjoining landowner overgrown hedges on the approach from the R435 had been cut and muck from the centre of the road had been cleaned by the GSS and crew. Mr Beubry also confirmed that 1.6km of Tonereke Lane is included under the 2024 Restoration Improvement Programme.

(b) Cllr Denis Hynes

i Rockfield Gowran, Community Park

Can funding be allocated for the road frontage and parking facilities. Is 2024 Discretionary funding an option?

Mr Philippe Beubry advised a costing will be prepared and the appropriate stream of funding identified.

ii Paulstown Ring Road

Can a plan be put together to complete the footpath, even in phases and preferably by Council staff. This is for Health & Safety of all users.

Mr Philippe Beubry advised that this proposal is one of many projects to be considered when applying for funding for Active Travel schemes. He stated that projects for the Castlecoemr MD along with projects for the rest of the County needs to be prioritised.

iii Update on works outside Paulstown Primary School

Mr John Prendergast outlined details of an extensive proposal contained in presentation provided by the National Transport Authority at their last quarterly meeting. Mr Prendergast recommended that An Taisce would take the lead on the project which he advised would provide better buy in.

iv Footpath replacement needed exiting Goresbridge towards the soccer pitch and graveyard

Mr Philippe Beubry advised that this proposal is one of many projects to be considered when applying for funding for Active Travel schemes. He stated that projects for the Castlecoemr MD along with projects for the rest of the County needs to be prioritised.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) 7(23) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

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

“That Uisce Eireann be requested to prioritise the upgrading of the Johnstown Water Scheme in order to increase water pressure in the Lios na Slí Housing Estate and the general Dublin Road area of Johnstown and also on the Kilkenny Road from the Parochial House to Donaghmore Cross and in the meantime to install booster pumps to improve pressure in the two areas”.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick spoke on the Notice of Motion.

6. Correspondence

(a) Boundary Change – North West Kilkenny

Mr Michael Leahy provided details of response received from Minister Malcolm Noonan’s office following Notice of Motion from Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh at the September 2023 MD meeting that the name ‘Kilkenny’ would be enshrined in the name of the new North Tipperary constituency. Members requested that a further letter would be sent to Minister Noonan’s office again requesting that the name ‘Kilkenny’ would be enshrined in the name of the new North Tipperary constituency.

7. Matters arising from Minutes

(a) Columbarium walls

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed it would not be financially feasible for the local authority to provide columbarium walls in each cemetery as raised by Cllr Michael Delaney in Notice of Motion at the October 2023 MD meeting.

8. Any other business

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Michael Delaney

Date: 18/12/2023