

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON MONDAY 15TH OF JULY AT 11.00 AM

In the chair: Cllr John Brennann

Present: Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy

In attendance: Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, Nancy Byrne, Municipal District Staff Officer, Kevin Hanley, Head of IT, Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer and Michael Delahunty, Meetings Administrator, Martin Rafter, KLP, Mags Hennessy, KLP

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:-

(a) Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

Cllr Fitzpatrick requested that his objection raised to meetings proceeding on a trial bi-monthly basis for a period of one year be recorded in the minutes.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

(b) June meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

Cllr Fitzpatrick requested that his objection to Cllr Cavanagh's proposal that sponsorship be sought for the provision of a Chain of Office be recorded in the minutes.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Road Works Programme Update

Mr Beubry circulated an update on the 2019 Road Works Programme. Mr Beubry confirmed that restoration improvement works are approximately 70% complete, restoration maintenance works are approximately 65% complete and signage and drainage works are ongoing. Mr Beubry outlined details of ongoing works under the 2019 Local Improvement Scheme, which, he advised is well on target and confirmed that he is hopeful of receipt of a second tranche of funding in 2019. An update on 3 offers made under 2019 Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme was also provided. Mr Beubry confirmed that confirmation was received last week from TII that all the schemes applied for under the B.1.2. Programme had been approved and circulated details of works included under the Programme. Members asked that their thanks be recorded to Mr Beubry and staff for the volume and excellent quality of work completed.

(b) Footpath at Kellymount, Paulstown

Mr Beubry confirmed that there may be an issue around the location of 3 lights at the site of the proposed footpath and that a topographic survey will determine costs. Mr Beubry confirmed that he is aware of the sensitivity and importance of the provision of a footpath at this location and will endeavour to include this work in the 2020 Road Works Programme even if on a phased basis. Cllr Hynes stated that the relevant landowners are open to discussion.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council for transaction at such meeting.

None

4. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.

(a) Castlecomer Destination Branding

Martin Rafter and Mags Hennessy from Kilkenny LEADER Partnership(KLP) provided a detailed presentation titled ' Castlecomer – Our New Brand'.

The presentation provided details of :

- Why do we need a logo?
- What makes an effective logo?
- Details of research completed.
- Work to introduce the brand.

Ms Hennessy spoke of Kilkenny Leader partnership's, mission to lead and facilitate the creation of an integrated local development strategy to improve the economic, social and cultural quality of life of the people, community and enterprises of Castlecomer. Ms Hennessey confirmed that KLP will work closely with the Local Enterprise Office, the Community Section of Kilkenny County Council and the Synergy Network on this project. Ms Hennessy outlined details of works underway for the provision of history boards within Castlecomer.

Martin Rafter confirmed that this is a Town and Village Renewal funded project. Mr Rafter highlighted the significance of the people of Castlecomer having ownership of the project and the need to identify and utilise what is available in the town. He advised that this brand will be used in marketing and promoting Castlecomer and provided details of the establishment of an interactive website. Mr Rafter outlined details of a proposed loop walk.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members acknowledged the excellent work being undertaken and expressed their approval of the logo produced.
- Cllr Fitzpatrick highlighted the need for greater inclusion.
- Cllr Cavanagh acknowledged the exceptional facility which Castlecomer Discovery Park is and highlighted the need for greater promotion of this facility.
- Cllr Brennan suggested expansion of the loop walk as outlined by Mr Rafter to include a bus service and tourist trail and include amenities including Clogh Heritage and Jenkinstown Park

Mr Rafter and Ms Hennessy were thanked for their presentation provided and withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

Seamus Kavanagh circulated layout details of the proposed Castlecomer pedestrian bridge. Mr Kavanagh confirmed that TII have come on board and will fund this project. Mr Kavanagh confirmed that the project is at SAC Stage, which involves the screening process for planning. He advised that the application is expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala in 3 weeks with a decision due in 3 months. He highlighted that certain river works are not permissible towards the end of the year which leads to an expected commencement date of Summer 2020.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr Fitzpatrick commended what was proposed and expressed his appreciation to the landowner who is providing the necessary land for the project free of charge.
- Cllr Brennan asked that the underneath of the bridge be completed in a sympathetic manner with its surroundings.

Seamus Kavanagh was thanked for his presentation provided and withdrew from the meeting.

(c) Broadband

Minister John Paul Phelan attended the Municipal District Meeting following an invitation issued by Michael Delahunty on behalf of the members. Cllr Brennan welcomed Minister Phelan and thanked him for his attendance at today's meeting. Minister Phelan congratulated

the 6 members on their recent election success. Minister Phelan outlined that Castlecomer Town is a shining example of a town which has transformed itself in recent years. Minister Phelan advised that he is acutely aware of the issues around the delivery of high-speed broadband in the town. The Minister advised that the issue is waiting for OpenEir to produce their infrastructure upgrade plan for Castlecomer and if Open Eir doesn't deliver, to ensure that the NBP delivers. Minister Phelan also confirmed that he has liaised with Minister Bruton on a number of occasions on this issue. He confirmed that within the NBP definition, 62% of Kilkenny is within the blue area, however, for those business not able to get those speeds, there is provision contained in the NDP to extend to areas where high-speed broadband is not available. Mr Phelan confirmed that he has had little success nailing down Open Eir for their plan but his office will continue to pursue them for their report.

Contributions were received from the members as follows: -

- Members thanked Minister Phelan for his attendance at today's meeting.
- Minister Phelan was congratulated on his recent marriage
- Cllr Fitzpatrick highlighted the importance of Minister Phelan's attendance at today's meeting which afforded the elected members the opportunity to raise their concerns about Castlecomer's development.
- Members outlined their concerns at the implications of the lack of high-speed broadband for the future of Castlecomer.
- Cllr Cavanagh sought clarification regarding the service delivered by providers such as Imagine / Aptus as opposed to what will be delivered under the NBP to which Mr Hanley responded.
- Cllr Cavanagh also raised the issue of poor phone service and enquired what redress is available to the consumer to which Minister Phelan outlined details of Comreg.
- Cllr Hynes enquired whether Minister Phelan was in a position to intervene and ensure OpenEir delivered the necessary infrastructure in Castlecomer by the end of the year.
- Cllr Delaney outlined details of black fibre provision works being undertaken by Arora and enquired whether the Government have had any interaction with this contractor to which Minister Phelan advised that the Government's focus has been on NBP delivery.
- Members acknowledged the clarity which Minister Phelan's attendance at today's meeting had provided.

Kevin Hanley advised that Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer is currently on leave and that he was attending today's meeting at Martin Prendiville's request. Mr Hanley advised that Mr Coverdale had contacted Open Eir once again last week for their infrastructure upgrade plan but had received no response. Mr Hanley confirmed that Open Eir have a monopoly as they are the only wholesale operation with a wired backhaul link out of the area.

Michael Delahunty concluded by thanking Minister Phelan on behalf of the Executive for his attendance at today's meeting. Mr Delahunty confirmed that Castlecomer is one of the counties 4 district towns, he outlined details of recent progress achieved in the town including success under the Town and Village Renewal Programme, an application submitted to Minister Ring for funding towards a Town Health Check completed and also the progress of the proposed pedestrian bridge. He asked that Minister Phelan take the concerns raised by the elected members back to Minister Bruton's office.

Minister Phelan and Kevin Hanley withdrew from the meeting.

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

None

8. **Any other business**

Councillor Denis Hynes

(a) **Drinking water in Clogh and Moneenroe.**

Cllr Brennan provided details of ice pigging works completed by Irish Water to deal with manganese on the water network and advised that the appearance of the water has vastly improved since these works were completed. Cllr Brennan advised that the majority of the pipes have been cleaned and the remainder are due to be addressed by Irish Water. Cllr Brennan also advised that recent discolouration in the water was as a result of a leak on the network. Cllr Fitzpatrick highlighted Irish Water's failure to attend a meeting of the Municipal District and discuss this and other matters.

(b) **Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge and Barrack Street overlay.**

Philippe Beubry circulated a draft design prepared by Road Design Section and confirmed works are due to be completed September / October 2019.

Councillor M.H. Cavanagh

(a) **Church at Grangefertagh**

Cllr Cavanagh outlined details of the deteriorating condition of the Church at Grangefertagh and asked the Mr Delahunty contact the relevant agency to ensure works are completed to stabilise this structure.

(b) **Danger at Old Bridge Street, Freshford.**

Following discussion, it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged involving local residents to examine improved safety at this location.

(c) **Mechanical Sweeper for Johnstown and Urlingford on a weekly basis.**

Mr Beubry confirmed that the rota for the mechanical sweeper is prepared by the Machinery Yard and that both Johnstown and Urlingford receive the same sweeping service as the other towns in the county.

(d) **Provision of signage in Chapelfield Estate, Urlingford advising residents and dog walkers to pick up after their dogs.**

Cllr Michael McCarthy confirmed that the relevant signage was delivered to Chapelfield Estate two weeks ago.

(e) **Status of the Old Tullaroan Road**

Mr Beubry confirmed that the Old Tullaroan Road on which Mary O'Brien is a resident is a private roadway. Cllr Cavanagh requested that Nancy Byrne issue her a letter with confirmation of same.

(f) **Provision in the estimates for additional public lighting.**

Cllr Brennan proposed that provision be made in the estimates for the establishment of a 5-year public lighting programme.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach: _____

Date: _____