

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY,
25TH MARCH 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, Ms Bernadette Moloney, Ms Arlene O'Connor, Ms Rita McGarvey and Ms Catherine Norris, Turley.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) February meeting held on 19th February

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) County Biodiversity Action Plan

Ms Bernadette Moloney presented Kilkenny's Biodiversity Action Plan under the following headings:

- Biodiversity Officer's role
- Recent Developments
- Biodiversity Action Plan Timeline 2024
- Discussion Paper
- Funding Mechanisms 2024
- Research and Data Collection
- Policy Development and Internal Operations
- Projects, Training and Education

Members thanked Ms Moloney for the ambitious plan presented, wished her every success in her new role and acknowledged the importance of education and awareness.

(b) Draft Ballyragget Masterplan

Ms Arlene O'Connor and Ms Catherine Norris presented the draft Ballyragget Masterplan. Members were advised the vision for the Plan across 6 sections:- Introduction, The Town, Analysis, Engagements, Masterplan and Implementation. Details of twenty proposed interventions were also outlined.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members welcomed the draft Plan and acknowledged the significance of the Plan as a mechanism to source funding.
- Clarification sought on location for proposed car park and removal of on street parking.
- Need for regeneration of derelict hotel
- Proposal to provide town loop walk welcomed
- Clarification sought on status of pedestrian crossing on N77
- Commencement of works at The Red Barn welcomed

Ms Arlene O'Connor and Ms Catherine Norris responded to queries raised by members.

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Delaney, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed by all that the draft plan would go on public display for a period of one month commencing 5th April.

(c) Draft Paulstown Masterplan

Ms Arlene O'Connor and Ms Catherine Norris presented the draft Paulstown Masterplan. Details of the vision for the Plan across 6 sections:- Introduction, The Town, Analysis, Engagements, Masterplan and Implementation were outlined.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The draft Plan was welcomed by all and its timing acknowledged as crucial to re-establish life in the centre of Paulstown
- The potential impact of the draft Plan together with funding received from Irish Water acknowledged.
- Clarification sought on proposed location of Community Centre
- Possibility of using the Plan as a mechanism to source funding for completion of 350m stretch of footpath.

Ms Arlene O'Connor and Ms Catherine Norris responded to queries raised by members.

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Delaney, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed by all that the draft plan would go on public display for a period of one month commencing 5th April.

(d) Broadband Update

It was agreed that the Broadband update would be provided at the April MD meeting

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:-

(i) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

• **Public Water Supply in Johnstown**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested and it was agreed by all that a letter would be sent from the Municipal District to Úisce Eireann requesting the provision of booster pumps in a minimum of three areas in Johnstown:- Donaghmore, Lios Na Slí and Chapel Street

ii) Cllr Denis Hynes

• **Provision of rubber bollards at Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge**

Cllr Denis Hynes requested the provision of bollards at Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed he had discussed this issue with Road Design Section who were of the view that the provision of bollards at this location may impact turning traffic. Mr Beubry confirmed he will complete a further investigation of the location.

• **Funding for parking facilities at Gowran Community Hub**

Cllr Denis Hynes enquired what funding can be made available for the completion of parking facilities at Gowran Community Hub. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed there is no funding available under the 2024 Road Works Scheme and Mr Martin Prendiville advised safety aspects can be investigated to see can anything be done in the interim.

• **Provision of ramps at Oaklawns, Paulstown**

Mr Philippe Beubry stated that the layout of the road in the Oaklawn housing estate is not conducive to speed and that a “Slow zone” sign is already in place and therefore the provision of speed ramps at this location was not justified.

- **Provision of ramp at Whitehall, Paulstown**

Mr Philippe Beubry stated that the layout of the road in the Whitehall housing estate is not conducive and that the provision of speed ramps at this location was not justified.

He said he would arrange for the erection of a “Slow zone” sign at the entrance to the estate as it has recently been taken in charge.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) 3(24) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

“That work would be undertaken outside the Church in Gathabawn to prevent the entire width of the road being covered with ice at any time there is frost. It appears that the road is permanently wet”.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke on the Notice of Motion.

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed he will complete a further investigation of the location.

(b) 4(24) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

“That raised platforms be installed on all approach roads to Johnstown to slow down traffic in the interests of safety”. Residents on all roads are greatly concerned about the speed of traffic through the town and approaching the town. Despite the speed limits, traffic is still going too fast. I have witnessed it myself over and over again.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke on the Notice of Motion.

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed the works detailed will be considered for inclusion in the 2025 Road Works Scheme.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from Minutes

None

8. Any other business

(a) 2024 Road Works Programme

The 2024 Road Works Programme was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed.

(b) Community Involvement Scheme – Additional Resources

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh enquired whether a response to Kilkenny County Council’s request for additional resources for the Community Involvement Scheme had been received and asked that if not, a further letter be sent to the Department.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Michael Dolan

Date:

15th April 2024