

MINUTES OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 19TH MAY AT 11.45 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

In the Chair: Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, Michael Delaney and Maurice Shortall
In attendance: Mr Paraic Butler, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Catriona Corr, Ms Bernadette Moloney, Ms Catherine Cunningham, Mr David Corrigan and Mr Michael Arthurs

1. Reception of Deputation

(a) Deenside Wheelers Cycling Club

Mr Martin Delaney & Mr Peter Ring attended on behalf of Deenside Wheelers. They thanked the members for affording them this opportunity and spoke of the many dangers cyclists encounter as a result of lack of cycling infrastructure and investment, traffic volumes, appropriate signage, driver behaviour and the need for increased enforcement and education.

Ms Catriona Corr, Sustainable Mobility Officer with Kilkenny County Council attended. Ms Corr updated members on funding streams utilised and recommended the establishment of a Steering Group to look at both available funding streams and individual cycling routes.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The many benefits to be gained from cycling and the importance of encouraging safe cycling.
- The Schools Programme as a possible base to educate and raise awareness.
- Challenges with cyclists sharing our roads with large machinery.
- The need to look at cycling facilities in Castlecomer Town where Deenside Wheelers have no cycle lanes to access their base at the Old Fire Station.

Members agreed a letter would issue from the Castlecomer MD to the Transportation Policy / Mobility Management & Infrastructure SPC asking that they consult with Ms Catriona Corr, look at the issues raised by the deputation and report back to the Plenary meeting.

It was also agreed Garda Paul Donoghue, a member of the Waterford, Kilkenny and Carlow Divisional Roads Policing Unit of An Garda Síochána would be invited to attend a meeting of the Castlecomer MD.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) Ordinary meeting held 28th April 2025

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

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Development of County Kilkenny's Biodiversity Action Plan

Ms Bernadette Moloney updated members on the development of County Kilkenny's Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030.

Ms Moloney provided details of the legislation context including: - National legislation – The Wildlife Acts, Flora (Protection) Order 2022, the Planning & Development Act, 2000, EU Directives, Regulation on Invasive Alien Species & EU Nature Restoration Regulation.

Ms Moloney provided details on the development process:

- Discussion Paper June 2024
- Public Consultation Events
- Review of Comments & Observations
- Draft Plan Developed
- Screening for AA & SEA
- Presentation to SPC5
- Draft Biodiversity Action Plan Public Consultation Nov – Dec 2024
- Review submission & Amend Draft Plan
- Revise Screening for AA & SEA
- Present to Municipal District Meetings, May 2025
- Present to May Plenary meeting for adoption

Details of the various in person events held were provided. Ms Moloney also provided details together with examples of the 6 objectives contained in the Action Plan.

Ms Moloney was thanked for the presentation provided, members acknowledged her engagement with communities, her commitment and enthusiasm.

(b) Environment update

Ms Catherine Cunningham updated members on complaints received to the Environment Department in 2024 as follows:

- 756 complaints received
- 43 carried over from 2023
- 786 closed
- 598 related to illegal dumping
- Complaints received are split between two enforcement officers for the County
- 30 complaints received in respect of the Old Ballyragget Road
- 70 enforcement cases in 2024, 20 so far in 2025
- Expenditure:- illegal dumping €31,000, City lanes €24,000 and clean up at bring banks €50,000

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The excellent work completed by the Environment Team was acknowledged by all.
- The need to portray a positive message to the media of the Council's determination to tackle illegal dumping.
- Amendments to relevant environmental legislation to ensure enforcement practices can continue will be welcomed by all.

4. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District for transaction at such meeting

None

5. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting

(a) Items submitted by members

i Cllr Maurice Shortall

To issue a letter to An Garda Siochana to see if extra presence is a possibility in Ballyragget due to increased antisocial behaviour.

Mr Martin Prendiville recommended members raise this issue directly with An Garda Siochana.

6. Notices of Motion

(a) 5(25) Cllrs John Brennan, Pat Fitzpatrick and Maurice Shortall

That Kilkenny County Council Environment Section and Castlecomer Area Office continues to engage with Ballyraggett Development Association to find a suitable site for the Bottle Banks

Cllrs Brennan, Fitzpatrick and Shortall spoke on the Notice of Motion and urged the Area Office Staff and Environment Staff to work together to assist the Development Association to find a solution.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Matters arising from minutes

None

9. Any other business

Cllr Cavanagh confirmed the MD's Annual meeting will take place on the morning of the Plenary's Annual meeting, the 27th of June and the June Ordinary meeting on the third Monday of the month.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Maurice Shortall

Date:

16/6/25

