

Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting
held on Wednesday 15 June 2022 at 4.00 pm
in the Meeting Room & MS Teams, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag

Members present : Cllr Arthur McDonald (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr Michael Doran
Cllr Andy Gladney
Cllr Tommy Kinsella
Cllr Willie Quinn

In attendance: Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure
Seamus Loughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Conor Moriarty, Senior Executive Architect, Roads
Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer.

In attendance Virtually: Brian O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing

Apologies: Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 6 April 2022

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Quinn seconded by Cllr Gladney, following a show of hands that the minutes for the meeting of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 6 April 2022 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

All agreed

Business Prescribed by Statute

2. Local Improvement Scheme 2022 (LIS)

The Councillors highlighted the importance of the local improvement scheme and thanked the roads team for the efficient delivery of the scheme for the large rural area of Muinebheag.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Kinsella seconded by Cllr Doran that the LIS list as circulated by the Director on behalf of the Engineer for the following Townlands: Fonthill, Rathanna, Upper Tomard, Ballymartin, Curraghcruit, Closutton, Ballymurphy Borris, Tomduff & Kilcumney for a total of 20 beneficiaries be accepted and agreed. Following a show of hands the members agreed to accept this list as circulated.

All agreed.

3. Section 38 – Borris Village to Ballyteigelea Bridge

The members welcomed this report acknowledging that it would be great to get the work started as this is a very dangerous section of the road. The report as circulated by the Director on behalf of the Engineer for the proposed Traffic Safety Improvement Works from Borris Village to Ballteiglea Bridge on R705 for resolution under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended by the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46) was noted. No submissions were received by the

deadline of Wednesday 27th April 2022 following the public display from Wednesday 30th March 2022 to Wednesday 20th April 2022 of the proposed safety works.

Therefore, the recommendation was put to the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Muinebheag that the proposed works contained within the project titled “the proposed Traffic Safety Improvement Works from Borris Village to Ballyteiglea Bridge on R705”.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Kinsella, seconded by Cllr Quinn that the works contained within the project titled “the proposed Traffic Safety Improvement Works from Borris Village to Ballyteiglea Bridge on R705” proceed. Following a show of hands the members agreed to accept this proposal.

All agreed.

Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

4. Housing Report

Mr O’Donovan presented the Housing Report and addressed a number of questions including:

- An update regarding unit at Ballymurphy
- Details of teams working and the turnaround timeframe for vacant units
- The number of units coming available for Leighlinbridge
- An update on Woodlawn Park
- An update regarding Derelict Sites
- For consideration of increased grants due to the increased cost of materials
- The Housing Assessment
- The Rent Review
- The number of applications received for the Self Help Grant

The members thanked Mr O’Donovan for the updates and for the works underway for units in the district acknowledging that the demand for housing was not static.

5. South County Carlow Bus Service

Mr O’Gorman informed the members that he had received notice from the NTA to confirm that the proposed route between Carlow and New Ross has been prioritised for delivery in Quarter 3 2022. The members welcomed this news and asked that consideration be given to a permanent bus stop in Leighlinbridge and asked if the bus service could coincide with the train timetable.

6. Streetscape Improvement Scheme

Mr O’Gorman informed the members that €100k was available in 2022 to improve shopfronts in Bagenalstown with grants being available up to 80% for signage/painting on commercial or derelict units. Full details will be advertised in the coming weeks for works to be complete by yearend. The members welcomed this news.

7. Safe Routes to School

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Seamus Loughlin to the meeting. Mr Loughlin presented a report outlining the delivery plan for the Queen of the Universe National School, Long Range, Muinebheag, R21 T280 and St Brigid's National School, Stationhouse Road, Muinebheag, R21 PR62.

The SRTS Programme has the potential to create safer walking and cycling routes within communities, alleviate congestion at the school gates and increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school by providing walking and cycling facilities, which has positive impacts far beyond transportation.

A number of schools in County Carlow applied for inclusion in the Safe Routes to School Scheme. The scheme is administered through the NTA with coordination through An Taisce and the Green Schools Programme. Two schools in Bagenalstown were successful in the competition and were brought forward for inclusion in the 2021/2022 assessment. These were, St Brigid's NS and The Queen Of the Universe NS.

Over the last year the Green-Schools SRTS officers have been liaising with the schools principals, the wider school communities and the Active Travel Team from Carlow Co Co. They have collected baseline information including maps of school travel patterns, surveys of parent attitudes and concerns, front of school audits and walkability audits. This baseline information provides both an evidence base and a local mandate for potential active travel interventions. The SRTS officers have discussed and agreed potential improvements in the local walking and cycling infrastructure with both the school and the local authority personnel. These interventions are compiled in an Outline Delivery Plan.

The Outline Delivery Plans have issued and copies are attached for information. The Active Travel Team are now reviewing the proposed works within the Delivery Plans. We understand that significant funding is available under this scheme and the Active Travel Team will now engage with the stakeholders to prepare submissions for funding and try and maximise the benefit to Bagenalstown. We will prioritise the interventions that can be implemented quickly and will maximise the safety benefit to children, such as front of school treatments. Many of the proposed interventions will require further work including more detailed design, and input from stakeholders, the MD Members, our MD Staff, landowners, parents, teachers and the local community. Some interventions will require a planning process to be followed be it through a Part 8 under Planning and Development Act or a Section 38 under the Road Traffic Act.

It is recognised that not all interventions may progress at the same time and that some elements of the delivery plans may not be feasible to deliver due to other constraints.

It is worth emphasising that this is a community led initiative and as such it is expected that the proposed interventions will be self regulating and self policing with buy in from the parents. Further engagement is proposed in this regard.

The MD Members will be updated on progress of implementing the Outline Delivery Plans over the next few months.

Mr Loughlin addressed questions raised by the members regarding improved pedestrian crossings, bicycle parking at schools, local access routes, adding that the funding available now is to carry out assessments/feasibility studies. The members asked that Mr Loughlin check out the footpath listed as complete at the Stump, Bagenalstown as this was not the case. All suggestions or ideas are welcome for future funding application opportunities which meet the definition of Active Travel, ie. “travelling with a purpose using your own energy” and can be emailed to activetravel@carlowcoco.ie. Mr Loughlin agreed to keep the members informed of progress under the scheme.

8. Outdoor Dining Infrastructure

Mr O’Gorman informed the members that funding was received and the materials are ordered for installation next month.

9. ORIS Application Bagenalstown to Dunleckney Walk

Mr O’Gorman informed the members that it is hopeful to develop a walk at Dunleckney and an application for €220k funding is submitted, confirming that there is a pedestrian crossing as part of the application.

10. Roads Service Plan Report

Roads Service Plan Report

Mr O’Gorman circulated the Roads report on behalf of the Engineer.

The Councillors raised a number of items to be addressed, including:

- To provide an update regarding the traffic/safety plan at Royal Oak Road
- A request to contact Borris School regarding the new bus parking before the school year resumes in August/September.
- To see if ‘stand ins’ can be arranged on the Dunleckney Road for the safety of pedestrians
- Repair works at the Leighlin Road following works
- Improvement works for a wall at Newtown Cemetery.
- A timeline for the plan for St Mullin’s Heritage & Tourism Plan.

11. Question submitted

Cllr McDonald noted that the submitted question was addressed.

12. Correspondence

Ms Ahearne informed the members that she had received a call from Breda McDonald to extend her thanks to the members for being nominated for the Cathaoirleach Awards. Other members said they had received very positive feedback from other nominees following the evening and they were thankful of the

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work put into the preparation for the evening and thanked Ms Ahearne for her attention to detail.

13. Any Other Business

There was no further business to note.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 18 July.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator