

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK HELD IN ÁRAS MAINCHÍN SEOIGHE, MILLMOUNT, KILMALLOCK, CO. LIMERICK, ON THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2017, AT 3.30 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor E. Ryan, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Donegan, Gleeson, Mitchell, O'Donnell, Teefy.

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Sheehy.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

A/Director, Support Services - Finance, Corporate, HR and ICT, (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Senior Engineer, Physical Development (Mr. V. Murray), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Senior Staff Officer (Mr. W. Ryan), Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. B. Murphy), Executive Engineer (Mr. J. Moloney), Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. C. Hegarty), Graduate Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. R. Kennedy), A/Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development and Strategic Planning (Ms. K. Burke), Assistant Staff Officer, Property Services (Mr. J. Cregan).

Also in Attendance: Mr. Paul Bergin, Kilgallen and Partners, Consulting Engineers.

It was agreed at the outset to take Item No. 2 on the agenda as the first item.

2. Update on Policing in the District

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Superintendent Billy Duane, Bruff District, to the Meeting and, along with the other Members, wished him well in his new role in the District.

Superintendent Duane acknowledged the extent of the area he was responsible for and the limited resources at his disposal. He outlined his plans to use resources from other areas such as community policing and the Traffic Corps to supplement his resources and pointed out that, as crime statistics for the area were reducing, it was unlikely that additional fulltime resources would be allocated. He reviewed crime statistics for the area and noted that a number of firearms issues had been successfully detected.

Members thanked Superintendent Duane for his presentation and made the following points in relation to this item.

- Limerick was under-resourced in terms of Garda numbers, compared to national averages, and every effort should be made to increase Garda numbers in the District.
- The ongoing use of 'text alert' was critical for the area and the use of CCTV was being looked at by the Council, in conjunction with the Gardaí.
- Garda visibility was important and gave particular assurance to the elderly, many of whom were moving into nursing homes rather than remain at home alone.
- Ongoing complaints were being received regarding speeding in estates and Garda assistance was required to enforce the new 30 km/h speed limit being piloted in a number of estates.
- Efforts should be made to bring more cases to the Courthouse in Kilmallock which was underutilised.
- Every effort should be made to develop any available Garda accommodation to encourage Gardaí to live within their District.

In response to issues raised by Members, the Superintendent made the following points:

- Community Alert was being extended to Ballylanders.
- Any positive drink-driving tests were automatically screened for drugs.
- The Garda Station at Hospital would be manned 3 days per week, with an ad-hoc arrangement at Oola that would be advertised locally.
- The Traffic Corps would be availed of to tackle speeding issues in the District and every effort would be made to detect incidents of drug-driving.
- Garda accommodation in Cappamore was being renovated and accommodation was in place in Murroe.
- The opening of the new Courthouse in Limerick may result in more cases being heard there.
- The Council should engage first with the local Garda Sergeant in relation to any area of concern.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Superintendent Duane for attending and looked forward to meeting him again in the next quarter. Superintendent Duane then withdrew from the Meeting.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock held on 16th February, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Mitchell;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Donnell;
 And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

The Director, Support Services, updated the Members in relation to the County Limerick Youth Theatre. Members stressed the importance of supporting the Youth Theatre. It was agreed that the Arts Officer would be invited to the April or May District Meeting to give an overview of the Arts Programme for the year.

3. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Property Services, dated 13th March, 2017, setting out background to the proposed disposal of land at Bohergar, Boher, Co. Limerick. It was intended to include this disposal on the agenda for the May Meeting of the Council.

The Members noted the report, as circulated.

4. General Municipal Allocation

Circulated, report setting out Proposed General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for 2017 (Amended as per 03/02/17) showing proposals for the expenditure of €220,000 of the District's GMA allocation.

Members discussed the need to repair footpaths at Bruree and noted that €1 million had been allocated in the Council's budget to the repair of footpaths and enquired as to how much of this amount would be allocated to the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock. The Director, Support Services, undertook to clarify same and revert to the Members.

Proposed by Councillor Donegan;
 Seconded by Councillor Mitchell;
 And Resolved:

“That, the General Municipal Allocations 2017 for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, as circulated, in the amount of €220,000, are agreed, in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

5. Social Development Directorate

Community Initiative Scheme 2017

Circulated, report of the Meetings Administrator, dated 15th March, 2017, setting out proposed allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2017 to a total of €11,900. The report noted that the available budget for the scheme was €10,000 and the remaining balance of €1,900 would have to be sourced elsewhere.

Members noted that the Bloomsday Weekend Group was seeking financial assistance and it was suggested that they should contact the Arts Officer in this regard.

On the proposal of Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Donegan, the allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2017 for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, as circulated, were agreed.

6. Economic Development Directorate

Heritage Plan 2017-2030

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Karen Burke, A/Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development and Strategic Planning, to the Meeting.

Circulated, copy of Draft Plan entitled '*Limerick's Proposed Heritage Plan 2017-2030 – February 2017.*'

The A/Senior Executive Planner informed the Members that the proposed Heritage Plan 2017-2030 was on public display up to 10th April, 2017, and submissions were invited up to that date. She noted that the Plan was non-statutory and non-operational and was intended to put forward policy to support future projects and assist in the sourcing of funding for same. She noted that €69,000 funding had already been received from the Heritage Council and this had supported projects on Limerick Lace, Golden Mile, Schools' Art Competition, Digital Atlas, works at Bouchier's Castle and a Shannon Estuary Bird Survey.

Members noted that while the definition of heritage was broad, available funding was small, and discussed the need to support Kilmallock Town Walls' restoration, Golden Mile and the Abbey in Hospital.

The A/Senior Executive Planner noted that considerable consultation had taken place with the Heritage Council in relation to the Plan, all submissions would be considered and the Plan would be brought back to the Members at that point.

It was agreed that the Notices of Motion on the Agenda - Items Nos. 11 to 13 - would be taken at this point in the Meeting.

Notices of Motion

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L.M. Sheehy

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council direct the dog wardens to focus on areas that have a high level of dog fouling and that it will (a) erect extra signage; (b) provide extra dog dirt bags; (c) penalise offenders with fines.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Mitchell, in the absence of Councillor Sheehy, and seconded by Councillor O'Donnell.

REPLY: The Council's Environmental Inspectors monitor and patrol environmental issues, including dog fouling, on a daily basis. The problem of dog fouling is an ongoing issue throughout the city and county. While there has been a significant increase in the number of dog owners cleaning up after their dogs, there are still quite a number of owners who do not. The Litter Team has erected a large amount of *No Dog Fouling* signage in areas where there are problems with dog fouling and in response to requests from members of the public.

A Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign was carried out over 12 months ago in conjunction with the Gardaí. Staff from the Environment Department and Environmental Inspectors, together with Gardaí, were out and about meeting with dog owners to raise awareness about the need to carry a bag and pick up after their dog. Dog litter bags were issued to dog owners as part of the campaign. The Council also circulated press release and highlighted the issue on local radio interviews as part of the campaign.

The main feature of the campaign was to increase the level of awareness amongst the dog owning public to be responsible dog owners and clean up dog litter. The '*Any Bag Any Bin*' campaign means that bagged dog litter can be disposed of in any Council bin.

The Environmental Inspectors have issued a small number of fines for dog fouling offences and will continue to issue fines for offences in accordance with the legislation.

Members acknowledged the work that had been carried out by the Council in this area and enquired as to whether third parties could make complaints in relation to dog fouling.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor W. O'Donnell

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council identify a permanent solution to the recurring road damage on the R514 adjacent to Cahercorney Graveyard and also adjacent to the Council Compound.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donnell and seconded by Councillor Teefy.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donnell noted that the road in question degraded within hours of rain.

Members supported the Motion and the Executive Engineer noted that drainage on the road in question needed to be addressed.

REPLY: Road condition surveys are scheduled to be carried out along all regional roads in 2017. These surveys will determine where permanent reinstatement works should take place. The R514 is included in the planned road condition survey.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor G. Mitchell

I will move at the next Meeting that Hospital Waste Water Treatment Plant be immediately upgraded, as a matter of urgency, to make it fit for purpose to comply with present regulations.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Teefy.

REPLY: The Notice of Motion, as submitted by Councillor Mitchell, has been referred to Irish Water for response. The Notice of Motion has been sent directly to localresupport@water.ie

7. Regional Services Directorate

Part VIII Procedures

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Messrs. T. Fitzgerald, C. Hegarty and R. Kennedy of the Mid West National Road Design Office, and Mr. P. Bergin of Kilgallen and Partners, Consulting Engineers, to the Meeting.

(a) N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

Mr. Bergin presented details of the emerging Preferred Options, dated 23rd March, 2017, for N20 O'Rourke's Cross which included need for the scheme, scheme objectives, general layout and comparison with scheme objectives.

Members raised concerns in relation to the safety of pedestrians crossing the N20 at the proposed bus stop. Members noted the proposed right-hand turn from the N20 into the adjacent petrol station and raised concerns that traffic at this point might back up to the roundabout. Members noted that a large amount of heavy traffic used the petrol station and discussed the possibility of a fifth entrance on to the roundabout being provided, giving direct access to the petrol station. Members pointed out that roundabouts with five exits seemed to work well elsewhere and noted that such an exit was to be provided to Northern Trust's development on the edge of the city.

Mr. Bergin noted that a refuge would be provided in the middle of the road opposite the bus stop which would facilitate pedestrians. In relation to access to the petrol station, they pointed out that it was estimated that a roundabout with a fifth exit at this location would have a 50% greater accident record and, while this option was considered as part of the design, it was not recommended. The Road Design Team stressed that traffic volumes had to be taken into consideration when comparing the safety of roundabouts and that the option being put forward was considered the safest. It was noted that if Part VIII approval was granted and Transport Infrastructure Ireland funding allocated, the project would move the Compulsory Purchase Order phase, which was preferred by some landowners and helped to clear title.

(b) N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

Mr. Bergin presented details of the emerging Preferred Options, dated 23rd March, 2017, for N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme which included need for the scheme, scheme objectives, general layout and comparison with scheme objectives.

It was noted that, as this project proposed works in both the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock and the Metropolitan District of Limerick, the related Part VIII would be brought to the Full Council for approval.

Members welcomed the proposed works and highlighted the future potential of the N24 in terms of Brexit and requested that this be taken into consideration in relation to any land-take to facilitate future requirements. Members stressed the importance of engaging with the public and adjacent landowners as part of the Part VIII process and emphasised the need for the cul-de-sac that would be created by the proposed works to remain a public road to ensure its continued maintenance.

The Road Design Team pointed out that any land-take would be confined to the requirements of the Part VIII and noted that the cul-de-sac referred to would continue to have a public right-of-way over it and therefore would continue to be a public road.

8. Physical Development Directorate

Amendment to County Development Plan

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Messrs. K. Lehane, Director, and V. Murray, Senior Engineer, to the Meeting.

Circulated, Limerick Northern Distributor Road Public Information Leaflet, Variation No. 5 to Limerick County Development Plan 2011-2016 (Extended), dated February, 2017.

Mr. Murray gave a PowerPoint presentation dated 23rd March, 2017, which gave details of the proposed Limerick Northern Distributor Road, including the location of, and need for, the proposed road, its benefits and what it would deliver and the steps needed to make planning provision for the road, with related timescales. It was noted that the proposal to amend the 'County Development Plan' would be considered for approval by the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council in May 2017.

Members raised concerns as to the uncertainty and timelag involved in protecting corridors of land and how this impacted on the landowners in question, and queried how the proposed road would impact on receipts at the Shannon Tunnel toll.

The Senior Engineer noted that the proposed variation of the County Development Plan represented a vote of confidence by the Council to protect the corridors in question, something that was required by the Department of Transport before funding for detailed design would be released. In relation to tolling, it was noted that shadow tolls were being looked at nationally and it could not be predicted where tolling would stand in ten years' time.

The Director stressed the importance of getting feedback from the Members and the public in relation to the project and noted that there was no absolute requirement to take any dwellings where the proposed road would pass through the two corridors being protected.

Questions

9. Question submitted by Councillor W. O'Donnell

I will ask the next Meeting if Limerick City and County Council can carry out an investigation into sightlines at the junction of the L-1547 and L-8609 at Fortyacres, Bruree.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will carry out a detailed investigation at the L1547 / L8609 junction with a view to improving sight lines.

10. Question submitted by Councillor W. O'Donnell

I will ask at the next Meeting if Limerick City and County Council can arrange for the removal of the Limerick County Council Group Water Supply Hoardings on the R512 at Lower Grange as these Hoardings are obsolete and unsightly.

REPLY: Arrangement will be made with the Kilmallock Roads Engineer to have these hoardings removed.

Other Matters Raised

- **CareBright, Bruff**

At the conclusion of the agenda, and with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Teefy, seconded by Councillor Gleeson, that a representative of CareBright, Bruff, would attend at the April Meeting of the District.

- **Votes of Congratulations**

Congratulations from the District were extended to Betty McHolme on reaching her 100th birthday, to Paudi Quish from Hospital who made it to the Final of the Italian Open Handball Tournament, one of the pro stops on the European Tour, and to John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, on being crowned All-Ireland Post-Primary School Senior B Hurling Champions in Semple Stadium.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____