

**Minutes of Meeting of Carlow Municipal District
Held on Thursday, 31st May 2018 at 4.30pm.**

Present: **Councillor J. Deane, Mayor**
 Councillor F. Browne
 Councillor A. Dalton
 Councillor W. Lacey
 Councillor B. O Donoghue
 Councillor J. Pender
 Councillor F. Phelan
 Councillor K. Murnane
 Councillor J. Cassin

In Attendance: **Mr. P Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer**
 Mr. E. Brophy, A/Director of Service
 Ms. J. Kavanagh, A/Director of Service
 Mr. R. Wickham, A/Senior Engineer
 Ms. L. Slye, Senior Executive Engineer
 Ms. Avril Oakes, A/Senior Executive Officer

Apologies: **Councillor W. Paton**

Mayor Jim Deane welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on the 26th April 2018 was

Proposed by Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue
Seconded by Cllr. Walter Lacey

and Resolved following a show of hands

“That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26th April 2018 are hereby approved.”

The Mayor requested with the consent of the Members to deal with Item 4 on the Agenda – Housing – first. This was agreed.

Housing

Part VIII – 58 houses at Shillelagh Road, Tullow

J Kavanagh circulated a report to the Members detailing the proposal for a combination of 2 and 3 bed dwellings, advised that the plans had been circulated to all departments for comment and referred to the recommendations prepared as a result. E Brophy advised that a decision in relation to this Part VIII must be made on or before 11th June 2018 in accordance with statutory provisions. E Brophy further advised that it was proposed to consolidate Cllr Paton's recommendations into the executive's recommendations and that a report would be prepared and presented on 11th June 2018. Cllr J. Pender requested that detailed plans be sent to the Members.

Naming of Estate – 21 houses at Dublin Road, Tullow

Cllr W Lacey suggested the name "Raidhairc an Caislean"/Castlevew with the Irish version first on the sign. Some discussion took place in relation to possible names and some further names were proposed. No agreement was reached and it was decided to defer this item to the next meeting with the Members emailing E Brophy with suggestions in relation to the name.

It was

Proposed by Cllr J Deane and

Seconded by Cllr J Cassin

"that this item be deferred to the next council meeting with suggested names to be submitted to E Brophy".

Cllr F Browne queried the up to date position in relation to the development at Maryborough Street and the 4 house development at Lime Grove. J Kavanagh advised that the delay at Maryborough Street is as a result of waiting for Bord Gais to arrange connections. J Kavanagh advised position in relation to Lime Grove remains the same and she would follow up for the next meeting.

Cllr J Cassin queried why there were less houses planned to the Part VIII proposals circulated in relation to Dereen Heights and referred to the withdrawal of the Part VIII at Grave Lane, Carlow. J Kavanagh advised that the planners report in relation to Dereen Heights recommended the reduction in houses from 4 to 2 and the use of the resulting area as green space. E Brophy explained that the Part VIII for 5 houses at Grave Lane was withdrawn as the area is zoned recreational and amenity. E Brophy further advised that it is open to the Members to contravene the Development Plan in this case if they so wish. E Brophy advised that there is a significant process involved and that the zoning would have to be changed before the Part VIII process could proceed.

It was

Proposed by Cllr K Murnane and

Seconded by Cllr J Cassin

and Resolved following a show of hands

"That the statutory process in relation to the change of zoning at Grave Lane be commenced".

E Brophy advised that a Part VIII process/procedure is currently being finalised which when complete, will be circulated to all Members.

Transportation

Presentation to the members by the National Transport Authority on the Carlow Town Bus Service

Mayor Deane welcomed Ms. Marian Wilson and Mr. Edward Rhys Thomas from the National Transport Authority and invited them to make their presentation. Ms Wilson explained that nationally it is proposed to expand the public transport network and get more people to use same. As a result of this, investigations on gaps have taken place and the findings are that a number of large towns have a sizeable demand but do not have a regular bus service. Carlow is one of those towns and Ms Wilson advised that a lot of work had gone on in relation to the proposed bus service and she welcomed the opportunity to start dialogue with the Members regarding the NTA's proposal. A presentation was made by Mr. Rhys Thomas detailing the proposed routes of the service.

The following queries were raised by the Members:

Cllr Deane questioned why it was not possible to have a bus stop at Carlow Train Station, if the 2 routes planned could be extended, the number of passengers that could be facilitated, the fare prices and if all buses were wheelchair accessible.

Cllr F Phelan welcomed the proposals but advised that the lack of bus stop at the station was an issue. Cllr Phelan referred also to wheelchair accessibility, pricing structure, app on phone, the fact that there was no bus stop/link to Netwatch Dr. Cullen Park and that some areas of Carlow are still a fair distance from a bus stop.

Cllr F Browne welcomed the proposal but had concerns in relation to the lack of a bus stop at the station but advised that proposed works at the station may allow development at the rear of the Youth Theatre. This in turn could lead to a route up to the Youth Centre from Green Lane. Cllr Browne also queried the timetable of the proposed service.

Cllr W Lacey welcomed the proposed bus service but also had an issue re lack of bus stop at station. Cllr Lacey highlighted that an attempt had been made before to provide a bus service but that this had failed due to the irregularity of the service. Cllr Lacey further added that the commencement of the route at the Dome in Graiguecullen was not considering a lot of residents in the Graiguecullen area. Cllr Lacey questioned if social welfare passes would be accepted on buses and commented on the lack of service in the Athy Road area.

Cllr K Murnane advised that there were over 7,500 people in Graiguecullen and that a service from the Dome to Graiguecullen would not be acceptable.

Cllr J Cassin welcomed the proposal but queried how long before the NTA would decide if the service was working or not and what subvention would be given. Cllr Cassin further advised that Carlow College was not considered on either route.

Cllr B O'Donoghue welcomed the proposal, suggested a RTI at the start and end of routes and queried if the local authority would receive any revenue from the service. Cllr O'Donoghue questioned if there would be extra services on special days – matches etc.

Cllr A Dalton welcomed the proposal advising that the previous service failed due to it being too long and wieldy. Cllr Dalton queried if there would be child fares and when the NTA

expect to have the service up and running. Cllr Dalton also queried if there was any possibility of hybrid buses.

Cllr J Pender noted that the NTA were guaranteeing the service for 5 years whether it was self financing or not, whether new lay byes were to be provided and if the NTA were responsible for the Rural Transport Night Time Service and whether any routes were planned in Carlow under this service.

Cllr F Phelan supported Cllr Pender in relation to the Rural Transport Night Time Service and requested that the NTA not forget Carlow in this scheme. Cllr Phelan advised that the Oakpark, Graiguecullen and Athy Road areas need further consideration in relation to the proposed routes. Cllr Phelan stated that the proposed 2 buses per hour should not run together and that the start time of the service in the morning should be considered in respect of the train timetables.

Cllr K Murnane questioned if there had been trial runs on the proposed routes and again stated that less than 1.2kms of the route servicing the Graiguecullen area is not acceptable. Cllr J Deane queried the number of buses per route and if consideration had been given to the knock on effect to the taxi service in the town.

Ms. Wilson confirmed that all buses would be wheelchair accessible and the fare for the bus was approximated €1.90 per journey with a 30% reduction for LEAP card users. Ms. Wilson explained about the difficulty with access and parking around Carlow Station. Ms. Wilson confirmed that this is Phase 1 of the proposal and that a possible extension of routes would be considered if there was a good uptake on the service. Ms. Wilson advised that the proposed operation times for the service were 7am to 11pm seven days per week with a possible later start time on Saturdays and Sundays. Ms. Wilson stated that Social Welfare passes would be accepted on the buses and that there would be child and school child fares. Ms. Wilson advised that the service had been procured under a supply contract for 5 years and that the NTA would get any revenue generated. Ms. Wilson stated that the NTA was looking at the possibility of hybrid buses. Ms. Wilson confirmed that there would be 2 buses per line per hour and that it was expected that the service would be in place in 2019.

Programme Status Report

The report was circulated by P Harrington who advised that the Discretionary Improvements works have been delayed because of the weather and that the Discretionary Drainage works would not take place until the autumn. The surface dressing details were also circulated.

LIS Status

P Harrington updated on the current status of works.

Carlow Town Park CCTV Update

P Harrington advised that preparatory works had been completed but works couldn't be seen as sod replaced and that the foundations for the poles were in. P Harrington advised that delivery of poles was expected next week.

Surface Improvements Tullow Street Lower

P Harrington advised that he had sourced funding and will replace the running surface with imprinted asphalt and declutter street furniture. P Harrington reiterated that traffic control

would be increased and that a zero tolerance approach would be taken. These works would be carried out after 6.30pm so as not to impact on businesses etc.

E Brophy advised of the newspaper notice in relation to gradual closure of Tullow Street for the Irish Water works and added that the Council may look at reviewing charges in Plas na Saoirse for the duration of the works.

Cllr Cassin stated in relation to the works that anything that could be done to get the works completed should be done. Cllr Cassin also queried the timeframe for the implementation of the CCTV in the Town Park. E Brophy explained his reluctance to give a definitive date for commencement as some factors are outside the control of the Council. E Brophy also referred to the recent negative publicity generated about Carlow Town Park.

Cllr O'Donoghue thanked P Harrington for his comprehensive report and queried if someone who had lanes surfaced previously could now get potholes repaired. P Harrington advised that the Council repair potholes only in the first year after the works were done.

Cllr F Phelan congratulated P Harrington and his team for works and in particular in relation to the flowers planted around the town, that the town looks well and people are delighted. Cllr Phelan stated that it was ridiculous the length of time it has taken in relation to the CCTV in the Town Park and queried if An Garda Siochana or the Department of Justice were providing any funding in relation to the project. E Brophy advised he would send a letter to the Minister for Justice requesting funding in this regard.

Cllr F Browne advised of an upcoming music festival at the Rugby Club and queried if some works could be carried out prior to the festival. E Brophy to check.

Cllr J Pender requested an update on the Tullow Bridge project. P Harrington advised that the Part 8 process was ongoing with a report being prepared for the Chief Executive. P Harrington stated that if the Part 8 is agreed, TII are confident that the project can be delivered and will not interfere with the Christmas trade, works would be carried out at night and the resurfacing works proposed will compliment the project.

Paid Parking in Tullow

The proposal to implement paid parking in Tullow town was discussed and it was agreed to commence same on a trial basis of €1 per day.

It was

Proposed by Cllr W Lacey and

Seconded by Cllr B O'Donoghue

“that the introduction of paid parking on a trial basis of €1 per day be commenced”.

Cllr Dalton commended P Harrington for his work at the Liberty Tree which has made the area more user friendly and accessible. Cllr Dalton raised the issue of non-electric vehicles using the recharging bays as parking spaces and blocking electric vehicles from topping up. Cllr Dalton also raised the issue of parking on St. Joseph's Road and queried if Iarnroid Eireann proposed to create additional parking spaces. Cllr Murnane advised that all works

for Carlow Railway Station had been approved, that they were awaiting funding and that additional spaces should be provided in the re-development.

Update on advertised Traffic Management and parking in Graiguecullen

P Harrington advised that 1 submission had been received in this regard and a report will be prepared for the June or July meeting.

Carparking at St. Patrick's Park, Tullow

P Harrington advised that the Housing Department and the Municipal District Area Office would work together to provide 6 car parking spaces for the existing residents.

Corporate

Carlow Town Prohibition of Begging Bye Laws 2018

E Brophy explained the process in relation to the implementation of the bye law and advised that if passed, begging is an offence and it is hoped that this would prevent the aggressive begging and intimidation. E Brophy stated that the proposed bye laws would be put on public display, there would be a formal consultation period and then a report would be prepared for the Municipal District Meeting and the Members could agree or reject the proposal. E Brophy advised that a decision was needed from the Members as to whether to proceed and place the proposed bye laws on public display.

Cllr Lacey welcomed the proposed bye laws and wished to formally propose the bye laws as he felt that professional beggars were making money in Carlow. Cllr Phelan agreed with Cllr Lacey and seconded the motion advising the number of people engaging in aggressive begging and he had reports of people being intimidated at ATM machines. Cllr O'Donoghue also agreed with the bye laws. Cllr Cassin supported the bye laws and requested that the homeless and addiction service providers be advised of the proposed bye laws.

It was

Proposed by Cllr W Lacey and

Seconded by Cllr F Phelan

and Resolved following a show of hands

“That the public consultation process in relation to the proposed Prohibition of Begging Bye Laws 2018 be commenced”.

Agree date of Annual General Meeting

Mayor Deane suggested that the Annual General Meeting of the Carlow Municipal District be held on Friday, 15th June 2018 at 4.30pm in Tinryland Hall.

It was

Proposed by Cllr J Pender and

Seconded by Cllr W Lacey

“that the Annual General Meeting of the Carlow Municipal District would take place in Tinryland Hall on Friday, 15th June 2018 at 4.30pm”.

Any Other Business

Cllr B O'Donoghue referred to bye laws passed in 2017 in relation to speed limits. An issue that has arisen in outskirts of Rathvilly where the speed limit has been increased from 50kms to 60kms and he requested that some traffic calming measures be installed. P Harrington advised he would have a look at same. Cllr W Lacey advised of issue at Halfway Ford where cars are ending up in the field. P Harrington confirmed that this is a speed issue and that signs would be erected.

Cllr B O'Donoghue advised that he had attended the previous Municipal District Meeting and that the Minutes did not reflect this. A Oakes to have minutes amended to reflect this.

Cllr F Browne requested that a joint meeting be held with the Luggacurran Members to raise/discuss issues in relation to the Graiguecullen area.

The Members extended their congratulations to Michael Tracey, Carlow Nationalist, on his recent marriage.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Next Meeting and Annual General Meeting: Friday, 15th June 2018