

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting at Carlow Municipal District
held in the Town Hall Chamber on
Thursday 15th September 2022

Present: Councillor F. Phelan, Mayor (Remote)
Councillor F. Browne (Remote)
Councillor J. Cassin (Remote)
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor T. O' Neill
Councillor A. Wallace

In Attendance: Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs, Planning, HR, Economic Development, Health and Safety.
Mr. P. O' Gorman, Director of Services, Transportation, Environment, Water Services, Building Control & Emergency Services.
Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer, Special Project Teams, Transportation.
Mr. B Knowles, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation.
Mr. S. Loughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation.
Mr. B. O' Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing.
Mr. N. Dillon, Executive Engineer, Transportation.
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Office, Corporate Affairs.
Ms. L. O' Callaghan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs.
Ms. S. Byrne, Assistant Staff Officer (Acting), Corporate Affairs.

Mayor Fintan Phelan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the September Meeting of Carlow Municipal District.

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1.1 The Minutes of Carlow Municipal District Meeting held on Thursday 28th of July 2022 at 4.00p.m. were: -

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

And agreed following a show of hands

2.0 Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

2.1 Fix Date for Carlow Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan – General Municipal District Allocation 2023 Meeting (Suggested date – Thursday 27th October 2022 at 3.30p.m.)

Proposed by Councillor: F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor: T. O’Neill

And agreed following a show of hands

That the General Municipal District Allocation 2023 Meeting will take place on Thursday 27th October 2022 at 3.30p.m. The members requested an in-committee budget meeting at 3.00 p.m. on the same date and an ordinary Meeting at 4.00pm This was proposed by Councillor F. Phelan, seconded by Councillor T. O’Neill, and agreed following a show of hands.

3.0 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

3.1 URDF Project Carlow Update

Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer, Transportation, gave a comprehensive report on Urban Regional Development Fund projects, funding and timescales. A discussion took place in relation to the Southern Relief Road and Barrack Street and the options therein.

P. O’ Gorman advised that Carlow was at the forefront of expediting the URDF project with Carlow being the first county to submit a business case in compliance with the public spending code.

A discussion took place in relation to match funding with P. O’ Gorman confirming match funding was in place. K. Cullinane advised members that they are looking at other potential sources under active travel but was clear that the definition of active travel must be upheld in order to secure funding.

Members expressed their compliments to K. Cullinane and his team for their hard work in managing this vital project for Carlow Town.

3.2 Carlow Town Bus Service Update

Mr. P. O’ Gorman, gave an updated report on Carlow Town Bus Service. He advised that progress was on track with a view to it being operational in Q1, 2023. He answered all members queries on the following items.

- Cost of Bus Service – To be determined by National Transport Authority.
- Payment - Advanced booking system.
- Overhead shelter for passengers waiting for buses. – P O Gorman to look at funding options
- Technological assistance for bus timetable - National App available.
- St Joseph's Road Junction

3.3 Housing Report

Mr. B. O' Donovan gave a full report and answered queries on the following items:

- Tanner Hall
- Brownshill
- Staplestown Road – Court Case in December.
- Limegrove
- Burrin Street
- Repair and Lease Scheme
- Mount Leinster Park, Cllr. F. Browne welcomed commencement of works.
- Shamrock Plaza – ongoing engagement on the site.
- Approved Housing Bodies – Housing have contacted the Department about a living alone allowance, awaiting response.
- Ukrainian Support Required – M. Rainey advised the members that this service was led by Director F. O' Neill and would be available to present at the request of the members.
- **Vacant Homes and Compulsory Purchase Orders:**

M. Rainey, Director of Services advised that the position of vacant homes officer has been filled within the planning section and would attend the Town Centre First meetings for updates. He advised members that they may request a presentation scheduled for a Carlow Municipal District Meeting.

In relation to maximising the use of existing housing stock and to addressing vacancies, Mr. M. Rainey advised that the planning section were currently reviewing documentation on a new programme for Compulsory Purchase Orders for vacant properties to ensure their use for residential purposes and believed that this was an effective model and there was no doubt that challenges lay ahead for Local Authorities.

Members thanked Mr. B. O' Donovan and his team in the Housing Department for effective delivery to date.

3.4 Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended by the Public Transportation Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46) – Slip Road Junction, Kilkenny Road, Carlow – Public Consultation.

Mr. N. Dillon advised the members that no submissions had been received during the consultation process. The Council will now proceed in finalising the design with a view to commencing construction in January 2023.

4.0 Any Other Business.

Racheal Diyaolu

Cllr. A. Wallace called on Carlow Municipal District to issue a letter to Minister Simon Harris to deliver on a promise made to medical student Racheal Diyaolu who was forced to flee Ukraine. Mayor Fintan Phelan undertook to write to Minister Harris.

Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation, answered queries in relation to the following:

- Barrow Track – Websters Lock,
- Barrow Track Project, looking to link with Shaw Park. Mr. B. Knowles
- outlined plans for shaw park permeability linkages with Barrow Track supporting public realm and active travel.
- Roundabouts – Discussions with Environmental Section.
- Cycle Lanes – Cleaning High Visibility Areas.
- Local Improvement Scheme – cannot be used for Housing Estates.
- Ballybar Bridge – Scheduled to be completed after current bridge project.
- Outdoor Dining – Contracts in place with outdoor dining operators.

This concluded the business of the meeting.