

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag
held on Friday 6 March 2020 at 4.00 pm
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Memorial Hall, Muinebheag**

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

In Attendance: Pdraig O’Gorman, Director of Services,
Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer,
Kieran Comerford, Head of Enterprise, LEO,
Josephine Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer,
Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer.

- 1. Councillor McDonald chaired the meeting until Cllr Kinsella arrived.**
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag on 5 February 2020.**
Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Quinn seconded by Cllr Gladney that the Minutes for the meeting of the Municipal District of Muinebheag on 5 February 2020 be confirmed and taken as read.
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Roads Plan 2020 for Municipal District of Muinebheag 13 February 2020**
Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Gladney seconded by Cllr Quinn that the Minutes for the Roads Plan 2020 for Municipal District of Muinebheag 13 February 2020 be confirmed and taken as read.
- 4. Matters Arising**
There were no matters raised.
- 5. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**
 - (a) Mr Crowley circulated the Engineers Roads Service Plan Report for the area. The report was noted by all members.

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

- To have a look at Augharoo Road, after Sheeran’s.
- That the Engineer will meet with Cllr Doran to discuss works at the bridge at the Kilkenny border

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- That Tommy Hickey discuss options regarding a Traffic Management Plan to clean and paint the wall at the Swimming Pool with the District Engineer
- That any re-instatement works regarding recent Broadband road openings be inspected prior to repayment of bond
- To see if the verge can be widened on the road at Trevor's Place as cars mirrors being damaged when two cars meet
- To establish if any works can be done in Tomard where the road narrows on a bend near Milford where vehicles have to stop to let another meeting vehicle pass
- An update regarding a ramp at Cllr McDonald's office
- To assess best solution with Irish Water at Tinnahinch

(b) Ms Kavanagh circulated the Housing Report for noting by the members

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

- An update regarding the houses at Myshall
- Clarification regarding the process regarding the Pre Part VIII at Ardattin and Rural at Spahill, Borris
- A request to bring a report to the next meeting outlining a 3 year housing plan for the Muinebheag MD area
- Clarification regarding Department Scheme regarding the purchase & allocation of houses
- The number of Tenant Purchase Scheme Applications for the Muinebheag MD area
- The number of Vacant Units in the Muinebheag MD area
- The turnaround time regarding re-letting a housing unit
- Clarification regarding the interview process for housing applicants
- The amount of Rent arrears for Carlow – this will be available on the Appendix 7 of the AFS when complete for 2019
- An update regarding Manor House

Cllr Kinsella extended his gratitude to the housing staff involved in the applications for housing aid for the elderly

6. Borris Viaduct

Mr O'Gorman, District Manager informed the members that the Borris Viaduct Project was progressing well and that contracts were almost ready for signing.

7. Rural Recreation Development Fund (RRDF) Application – Muinebheag

Mr O'Gorman highlighted the importance of having projects ready to bring through Part VIII planning process and complimented Mr Comerford and Mr Crowley on their good teamwork in getting the application submitted, adding that a County Architect was now appointed to work on Special Projects going forward.

Mr Comerford presented a report & answered any questions raised by the members on applications under Category 2 for the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund,

where Carlow County Council submitted two applications in the *Muinebheag Municipal District Area*.

The purpose of the fund is to bring projects from concept stage to planning stage and support pre-development costs. Developed projects can then be presented to the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Category 1 for future calls which will cover the cost of delivery of the projects.

The two projects presented for consideration are:

Project 1: Barrow Valley Tourism & Outdoor Experience Cluster in partnership with Waterways Ireland

This proposal will prepare design documents and bring to shovel ready stage a cluster of tourism and amenity projects that will be of economic benefit to the River Barrow area including St. Mullins / Clashganny / Ballyellen / Ballytiglea and surrounding hubs.

The vision for this project is the development of a series of complementary projects suitable for a collective Category 1 Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Application which will enhance access to the Barrow Valley in South County Carlow by working in partnership with Waterways Ireland & Local Stakeholders to deliver:

- (1) The redevelopment of a former lock house into a commercial enterprise space in Clashganny
- (2) The redevelopment of a visitor experience point at Clashganny telling the story of the River Barrow in line with Ireland's Ancient East including the installation of enhanced public amenity spaces and facilities for recreation use.
- (3) The development of public facilities at Clashganny to include for waste water services expansion to allow for increased usage and planned expansion.
- (4) Enhanced parking facilities at Clashganny to provide for increased usage.
- (5) Access points along the River Barrow to include parking, picnic areas and tourism information points at Ballytiglea, Clashganny & St. Mullins.
- (6) A visitor experience in St. Mullins to include parking, river facilities and private enterprise development.

These collective projects will act as a Catalyst for economic development and in line with the principles of REDZ support the towns of Graiguenamanagh / Tinnahinch / Borris & Gorsebridge.

This proposed Category 2 project will support:

- The Technical Development of the above projects (including screening and environmental reports).
- The purchase of lands for required development in 2 locations
- The planning process for all projects

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- The preparation of tender documents for the procurement of the projects
- The development of an interpretation plan

Project Two: Urban Plan & Key Projects and Development of Tourism & Enterprise Hub for Muine Bheag

The proposed Muinebheag Category 1 will include (1) delivery of Public Realm Plan Elements and outlined below (2) Development of Tourism & Enterprise Hub.

This Public Realm Plan proposed seeks to provide a strategic framework by which the town can maximise the benefits of its many assets, without losing those special qualities that give it character and charm. The Public Realm (the publicly accessible network of streets and spaces) links together and provides the setting for all the town's attractions. It therefore plays a critical role in defining the character of the town and its coordinated improvement could have considerable impact. Such improvements will not only be of value to visitors, but also to local people, who stand to benefit from improved public spaces and amenity, as well as the economic opportunities associated with an enhanced tourism based economy.

This non-statutory plan is designed to act as guidance for all those involved with development of Muinebheag, including Carlow County Council, private developers and other interested parties. It will map out the strategic direction of public realm improvements needed in the town, setting the context for further consultation, detailed design and formal approvals as necessary. Key projects will be brought to Part 8 level as part of this process. The varied nature of each project means that some have potential to be delivered over the short term, whilst others that are more complex and even aspirational in nature, will take longer to come to fruition.

However, as will be demonstrated by the plan, Muinebheag has immense potential economically, socially and culturally to be greatly enhanced through investment in its public realm and the proposed hub outlined in this proposal.

The category 2 application will:

- (1) Develop a Public Realm Plan for Muinebheag and bring 4 projects to Part 8 Level.
- (2) Purchase a property and develop to Part 8 Drawings and Costings for the development of a Tourism & Enterprise Hub.

The public realm plan will focus on the settlement and focus on solutions for the identified challenges.

Queries in respect of the proposals can be addressed to Helen Ryan , Economic Development Officer on hryan@carlowcoco.ie / 059-9129783

8. Revised Charging arrangement for Automated Public Conveniences(APC) in Muinebheag

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Mr O’Gorman noted the memo circulated adding that the APC was in a good location, was well maintained and asked the Engineer to organise some signage whilst informing the members that the charge was due to increase from €0.30 to a new rate of €0.50 from April 1 2020.

9. Correspondence

Mr O’Gorman advised the members that there was a planning workshop scheduled for the members on Monday next and invited any planning related queries to be submitted by the members. The members welcomed this workshop to address ongoing concerns regarding the number of applications requesting further information adding that it was critical that applications progress in a timely manner for the District.

10. Cathaoirleach Awards

A tentative date was set for Friday April 17 2020, subject to the Community Hall and nominated persons being available. Further details will be circulated when confirmed.

The Cathaoirleach and members extended their congratulations to Darren Hassett, Carlow Live on his upcoming marriage celebration.

The next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6 May 2020 at 4.00pm and the Annual General Meeting was set for Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 4.00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____