

Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting

held on Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 4.00 pm

in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag

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

In attendance: Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure
Mr Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD,
Mr Kieran Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise.
Mr Michael Brennan, Director of Services, Housing, Community
Mr Brian O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Mr Pat Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms Louise Osborne, Creative Places Co-Ordinator
Mr Conor Moriarty, Senior Executive Architect, Transportation
Ms Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 8 March 2023

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 held on 8 March 2023 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.
All agreed

Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions

2. Casual Trading Byelaws – Economic Development

Mr K Comerford presented the Casual Trading Bye-laws 2023 for the Municipal District of Muinebheag to the members with the intention to allow Muinebheag MD to consider on an ongoing basis the issuing of licences to trade at several designated public outdoor areas listed to the providers of mobile units for the sale of take away hot or cold beverages such as teas/coffees, juices, soft drinks, light refreshments, confectionery, ice creams or other items permitted under the issued licence. Mr K Comerford addressed all questions raised including clarifying that the licence will be on display in the unit and is individual to the trader, and advised that a litter management plan is part of the application process to address concerns raised regarding potential litter.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr M Doran, seconded by Cllr W Quinn, following a show of hands, that the Casual Trading Bye-laws 2023 for the Municipal District of Muinebheag be approved as presented.

All agreed.

3. Lands at Gleann Na Bearú – Housing Department

Mr M Brennan presented a map showing an area outlined near the Family Resource Centre, at Gleann Na Bearú, Bagenalstown, requesting the members for permission to consider a proposal to lease this land, confirming that these lands do not interfere with lands required to progress Active travel proposals.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr A Gladney, seconded by Cllr M Doran, following a show of hands, that the lands outlined on map circulated be leased by Carlow County Council to Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre

All agreed.

4. Draft Environmental Grant Scheme 2023 – Community Department

Mr M Brennan presented the draft environmental grant scheme 2023 on behalf of the community department informing the members that notice of the scheme was advertised in the local press and eligible applications were received. Members will be aware of the very valuable work carried out by the community and voluntary groups throughout the County with the assistance of Carlow County Councils Environmental Grant Scheme. The scheme has played a major role in transforming the appearance of the Municipal Districts. The money invested by this Council is greatly supplemented by the communities and Tidy Towns Groups through their voluntary efforts and fund-raising activities and many areas/ communities also receive separate funding through success in Council Initiatives such as Carlow's Pride of Place Competition.

This year a total of 42 applications were received from Tidy Towns Groups and Residents Associations in the Municipal District of Muinebheag. The total grant amounts being awarded are as follows:

Environmental Grant Scheme 2023 - €10,000

Tidy Towns Grant Scheme 2023 - €11,000.

I recommend the schedule of grants, as per attached, for consideration and approval. Members can if they wish give consideration to increasing the grants by providing extra funding from their discretionary fund.

The members spoke in support of the scheme and thanked the community section for their ongoing work and support in administering the grants.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr W Quinn, seconded by Cllr M Doran, following a show of hands, that draft environmental grant scheme 2023 be agreed as presented.

All agreed.

Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

5. Creative Places Bagenalstown

Mr P Delaney introduced Ms Louise Osborne to the members noting that €450k is a significant investment for Carlow under the Creative Places Project. Ms L Osborne outlined the criteria for the funding being:

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- to identify a town/place that had historically low levels of local arts investment/engagement,
- to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to build a ground-up approach model,
- To have a proven track record of working long-term with communities.

(Creative Places Bagenalstown was modelled on the success of Take A Part Carlow – an initiative of Carlow Arts Office in the Tullow Road area of Carlow)

In late 2021 Bagenalstown was awarded the full grant of €450k over 3 years to be managed through the Carlow County Council Arts Office with a condition to appoint a full-time Creative Places (Bagenalstown) Co-ordinator, adding that her appointment started in May 2022. Since this appointment Ms L Osborne outlined that the engagement with groups and individuals has evolved and is an on-going process with an aim to gather information to create an evolving picture of life in Bagenalstown before embarking on an inclusive ground up approach arts programme, events and projects (which will commence in 2023) in order that it is rooted in what the community have said.

2023 Artistic Programme at a Glance:

- March – Ongoing - Continuation of Community-wide engagement led with Anne O’Gorman,
- Ongoing - People & Places photography project with Thom McDermott
- March - Creative Places Seed funding proposal – call out for community groups & artists,
- April - Completion of visual branding & website for Creative Places Bagenalstown,
- Easter Holidays April – Pop up creative workshops around the town,
- May - Artist residency call out – A 6 month residency engaging with themes of biodiversity, horticulture and the natural world. Opportunity to engage directly with the groups that work on or with the river – Bad Keppel & Barrow Swimmers. Direct contact with the Bagenalstown Gardening Group & Sustainable Energy group has also been made,
- May – Awarding of grants,
- May - Creative Schools week who will work with Muine Bheag Arts & 3 local primary schools supported by Creative Places Bagenalstown,
- June 10th Crinniú na nÓg - National Day of Creativity for children and young people will take place in Bagenalstown showcasing the work of the 3 local primary schools,
- June - Awarding of Residency,
- July - Series of pop-up music performances around the town – music in unexpected places - Fairgreen, Bad Keppel, community garden, Coco’s, back of the library,
- July/August Working with Carlow Regional Youth Services – youth programme development,
- August - Engagement with Grass Roots festival & Muine Bheag Arts TBC,
- September - Culture Night,
- September-December - Music - song writing programme with Music Generation,
- Autumn - Working with Create School project- secondary schools & older persons intergenerational story telling project,

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms L Osborne for her very detailed and promising presentation adding that there is a wealth of knowledge in the community to be reached out and expanded on.

6. Bagenalstown Public Realm

Mr P O’Gorman asked for this item to be deferred to the next meeting when more information would be made available to the members for their consideration.

7. Roads MD Report

Mr J Crowley referred to circulated roads report, addressing any questions raised by the members including;

- Replacement of damaged charging equipment at the electric vehicle charging point set up in Borris
- To assess the cobblestone footpath for loose stones in Leighlinbridge near the barbers
- To confirm as to what is the speed limit at the Royal Oak
- To establish if road markings can be updated at Railway House roundabout junction
- To investigate the low lowering of speed limit at Conicare housing estate in Leighlinbridge
- To follow up on the reinstatement of roads after the planned Irish Water works in Muinebheag are completed,
- To assess the location of bins along the quays in St Mullin’s.

8. Housing MD Report

Mr B O’Donovan referred to the circulated housing report, addressing any questions raised by the members including:

- An update on new initiatives in the housing department and applications regarding tenant in situ cases,
- An update on the application for grants, to which Mr B O’Donovan confirmed that new staff were undergoing training currently,
- Confirmation that the Derelict Houses, Croí Conaithe programme is ongoing under the Town Centre First Team in the Planning Department,
- Concern regarding the low number of units available in Borris and the lack of zoned lands for development in the area,
- An update regarding Manor House,
- For the Council to consider self-building for affordability and future needs,
- Enforcement of anti-social behaviour policy under tenancy agreements to which Mr B O’Donovan informed the members that an additional Tenant Liaison Officer is appointed, and the setup of a new legal team is being investigated.

9. Correspondence

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Mr P O’Gorman updated the members regarding correspondence received from Mr J Meally, TFI Local Link, Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow in relation to the New Ross to Carlow local link route 887. The service has been tendered and the most ‘Economically Advantageous Tender’ is now identified with the contract still to be awarded. It is hopeful that the start date will be early June 2023. The bus stop locations are to be approved by Carlow County Council in advance of the launch of the service.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr A Gladney asked if there was an update regarding Ballymoon Castle to which the Director Mr M Brennan replied that the Office of Public Works (OPW) had confirmed that no works are listed in the 2023 programme and has submitted a request for inclusion in their 2024 business plan.

Cllr A Gladney asked that the blocking of a right of way near Kilree railway bridge. Mr P O’Gorman advised that this is a matter being dealt with by the Planning Department.

Cllr T Kinsella expressed concern regarding ongoing issues with dogs and the risk to sheep on Mount Leinster and asked that signage be reinstated. Ms M Ahearne asked that reports of concerns be sent to environment@carlowcoco.ie for follow up and investigation as dog control was now under the environment directorate.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14 June 2023.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator