

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting**

**held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 4.00 pm**

**in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag**

---

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

**In attendance:** Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure  
Mr Brian O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing  
Mr Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD,  
Ms Mary Butler, Meeting Administrator, Clerical Officer  
Mr Shane Casey, Environmental Awareness Officer  
Mr Seamus Loughlin, Active Travel

---

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Annual General Meeting 5 July 2023**

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr A McDonald seconded by A Gladney, following a show of hands that the minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag monthly meeting held on 5 July 2023 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

**All agreed.**

**Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

**2. Environment Department  
Biodiversity Update**

**(i) Mr Shane Casey circulated a Presentation on Powerstown River Restoration**

- The project (funded under Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) 2023) aims to restore the fisheries potential and ecological condition of the stream and was completed in the last week with direction from Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- The project will be used as a test case for restoration of similar sites across the River Barrow catchment.
- If successful, there will be significant benefits for local tourism, and potential for private landowners to contribute, but in the interim, a wait-and-see approach recommended.

The members welcomed the update and thanked Mr S Casey.

**2.2 Finance Department**

**Budgetary Plan 2024** Padraig O’Gorman suggested the October monthly meeting take place on Wednesday 25 October 2023 to align with the Budget Meeting. Draft

## Municipal District of Muinebheag

Budget Plan meeting to take place at 3.30pm followed by Muinebheag Monthly Meeting at 4.00pm.

**All agreed** for meetings to take place on 25 October 2023.

### 2.3 Housing MD Report

Mr B O'Donovan circulated the Housing Progress Report and addressed any issues raised by the members including;

- Confirmation that we could be on site at the 'Green Drake' by end of October, with completion date towards middle/end of next summer.
- Need for 1 Bed units in Bagenalstown – noting that at least 70 units vacant in Bagenalstown centre.
- Confirmation on Derelict Grant Scheme and how is it progressing. New Team in Place lead by Nicola Lawler, Senior Executive Officer based in the Planning Department.
- Gleann Na Bearú Bagenalstown completed and allocated.
- Ballyknockan, Leighlinbridge, with houses coming on stream next summer.

### 2.4 Roads Department

**Active Travel 2023 Update** – Mr Seamus Loughlin provided the members with an update on the proposed Safe Routes to School (SRTS) scheme at St. Bridgid's National School, Muinebheag and the proposed pedestrian improvement scheme at Goresbridge including;

- A drawing of the SRTS scheme at St. Brigid's NS was provided for each member which detailed the proposed works to be carried out along Stationhouse Road in the vicinity of the school.
- It was noted that the proposed scheme, when complete, will improve safety and access at the school gate. The proposed School Zone on Stationhouse Road will provide students with a safe space to access the school and includes traffic calming measures and colourful elements highlighting the presence of children to all other road users.
- The proposed measures will also have the benefit of improving attractiveness of walking & cycling as a means of purposeful journeys encouraging a modal shift to Active Travel.
- Mr. Loughlin noted that the proposed scheme will result in the removal of 19 parking spaces from Stationhouse Road, which are currently predominately used by train commuters. A Car Parking Survey conducted in March 2023 showed that the majority of vehicles parked on this section of Stationhouse Road were belonging to train commuters. The survey showed that the majority of vehicles were parked in the same spot for the entire working day, while the car park in the train station had at least 30 free parking spaces.
- It was noted that there may be a need for parking restrictions along Railway Road to prevent commuters parking along this road.
- The possible need for parking bye laws was also discussed to discourage commuters from blocking other parking spaces along Stationhouse Road and the town centre.

## Municipal District of Muinebheag

- It is hoped to commence the works in October and complete by the end of November this year. Access to the school and adjoining properties will be maintained throughout the works.
- Mr. Loughlin also presented details, including a detailed drawing, of the proposed pedestrian improvement scheme at Gore's Bridge which links Ballyellen, Co. Carlow to the village of Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny.
- The proposed works, which will be carried out in conjunction with Kilkenny Co. Co., include the provision of a new footpath on the bridge, the reduction of the existing two lanes of traffic to one lane and the introduction of a traffic light controlled shuttle system.
- It was noted that the proposals will greatly improve pedestrian safety on the bridge and was welcomed by all.
- It is proposed to carry out a trial of the proposed scheme over the coming weeks, following which it is intended to commence construction and complete the works by the end of November.
- Cllr A Gladney asked if we can re-visit the previous proposals to install traffic lights, footpaths and a shuttle system on the railway bridges in Bagenalstown, possibly trialling the proposals first for a period of time. It was noted that these proposals were discussed at the December 2022 meeting and the decision was taken not to proceed with a trial at that time.

On the proposal of Cllr Andy Gladney and seconded by Cllr Willie Quinn, this item will be included on the agenda of the next Municipal District meeting. Cllr Tommy Kinsella proposed to leave the item for another month. All members agreed that it can list on the December agenda being the next meeting after the October meeting.

**All agreed**

### **Mr J Crowley circulated the roads report, addressing any questions raised by the members including:**

- Carlow County Council in process of obtaining lands at Clashganny for provision of Car Park and Toilet facilities.
- Manhole at Station Road – old Tanco Building needs repair.
- Junction markings at Royal Oak and Royal Oak junction in poor state
- Mr J Crowley noted scheme to be in place for Royal Oak in 2024 – may have to do some work on markings until funding comes through next year.
- Meeting discussed methods for filling potholes –  
Mr J Crowley noted large volume of potholes with poor weather and 700 kms of roads to attend to – Optimal solution is to get more funding to resurface the roads that are in poor condition.
- Relocation of Driver Feedback sign at Newtown School – Residents looking for a footpath into Newtown.
- Hedges on every road overgrown, dangerous junctions – Mr J Crowley noted the very wet summer has led to the problem – also the late harvest means contractors haven't got a chance to cut hedges, reminding the members that it is landowners responsibility.

**3. Correspondence**

- Pádraig O’Gorman reported on new bus route from New Ross to Carlow Town with 18 stops, running 3 times per day. Members noted that the new bus route was very welcome.
- Clowater Cross Stop to be added to timetable – In Borris, Tinnahinch and Glynn can markings be installed for Bus stop.
- The members noted that there are no signs or timetables for the public, enquiring when these would be in place. Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that there is a scheme in place and will be followed up by the roads team with an application to be submitted to a separate section within the National Transport Authority (NTA).

**4. Any Other Business**

- Compliments to Jerry Crowley for cleaning up the Fairgreen Bagenalstown area.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**