

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting
held on Wednesday 4 September 2024 at 4.00 pm
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag**

Members present: Cllr Tommy Kinsella (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr Michael Doran
Cllr Andy Gladney
Cllr Daniel Pender
Cllr Willie Quinn

In attendance: Mr Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure
Mr Brian O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Ms Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD
Ms Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer, Planning
Mr Kieran Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Ms Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes for Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 10 July 2024

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr W Quinn, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting held on 10 July 2024 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

All agreed

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

3. Finance Department - Setting date for Draft Budgetary Plan 2025

Mr P O’Gorman referred to the circulated request from Mr PJ Leonard, A/Head of Finance proposing that the Draft Budgetary Plan for Muinebheag Municipal District 2025 meeting take place on Wednesday 23 October at 3.30pm. All members agreed, adding that the October monthly meeting would take place at 4.00pm on same date 23 October 2024.

4. Planning Department - Town Centre First Plan

Ms N Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer gave an overview of the entire 14-month long process for the Town Centre First Plan for Muinebheag giving detail under each step:

1. Formation of a Town Team, who will have a continuous role alongside public consultation,
2. Understanding the place, identifying and understanding the town and the sense of community with a ‘health check survey’ and ‘walkability

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audit' to take place in conjunction with South East Technological University,

3. Defining the place, by setting building blocks regarding economy and tourism between month 6 and 11,
4. Enabling, putting projects on paper between months 11 and 14.

Ms N Lawler added that a workshop took place on 14th October where strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified, and that regular contact will be maintained to keep the members updated and informed.

Cllr A Gladney congratulated Ms Lawler on her work to date and looked forward to Bagenalstown becoming an even better place. Cllr M Doran welcomed the initiative, noting that the joined-up thinking working from community up as a good approach. Cllr W Quinn asked about where the by-pass would fit in and if works will be carried out in-house, to which Ms Lawler replied under the Local Area Plan and initial works would be in-house with specialised drawings likely towards the end of the project. Cllr D Pender supported the initiative and welcomed the 'walkability audit'. Ms Lawler confirmed that this is not a statutory plan, and that the Town Team will finalise the plan, keeping the members informed as it progresses. Mr P O'Gorman noted the importance of anything that might be needed in the town to be referenced in the plan as this will be a blueprint for development of the town and will be referenced when applying for grants in the future.

5. Economic Development - A Festival Family Experience for 2024

Mr K Comerford gave a presentation on County Carlow 'A Festive Family Experience' promoting Shoplocalshopcarlow outlining Lightfest and associated events, with submissions to be made by October 15th for community and business events and activities for marketing as part of County Carlow 'A Festive Family Experience' 2024 with the marketing launch to start in November 2024.

In respect of Muinebheag MD, the following are the programme highlights for 2024 which will be rolled out following a co-ordinated county launch which will have full details of events on 1st week in November 2024:

Shop Local Shop Carlow Competition with Santa Post Box will run in schools, online and in retail outlets from 4th November 2024 to mid-December 2024 with €1,500 worth of prizes in each MD.

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| 8 th November 2024 | KCLR Business Promotion Day |
| 16 th November 2024 | Beat FM Family Day 2024 |

In respect of each MD a programme of activities will be run by the Council and in respect of Muinebheag MD:

- Bagenalstown Christmas Carnival will be hosted over a 3 day period.
- Library & Arts Programme

In tandem with this programme each MD will be provided with:

- Road Signage for Shop Local Campaign

- Digital Content Day & Marketing

In tandem with the above local stakeholders will also provide activities and a call for same is open until Mid-October 2024. Upon completion of the programme the scheme will be reviewed and feedback taken on board for 2025.

In respect of Christmas Light supports a call is currently open and a recommendation will be presented to the members at the next meeting.

Cllr A Gladney expressed concern regarding the shortfall for funding Christmas lights in 2023. Cllr W Quinn expressed disappointment that the Borris fireworks on New Year's Eve will not go ahead now that an event management plan is required. Mr K Comerford confirmed that this plan is required for the health and safety of all and that the volunteering and running of events has changed over time. Cllr A Gladney enquired what plan was in place for the Borris Fair which was up for discussion later. Cllr W Quinn expressed his dissatisfaction that businesses were suffering and had to close on the fair day. Mr P O'Gorman advised that this was a longstanding event that takes place and confirmed that the council spend money on cleanup after the event.

6. Housing Department

a. Housing MD Report

Mr B O'Donovan presented the report for noting by the members and addressed any questions raised by the members, including:

- Clarification regarding upcoming re-assessment of housing applications this year, noting that no engagement from the applicant will result in being removed from the housing list.
- Confirmation that housing workshop date will be confirmed to take place around 26th September and encouraged all to attend.
- Discussion regarding Priority 1, 2 & 3 grants.
- Tenancy rights, noting that we pay for legal advice through Focus Ireland.

b. Question in the name of Cllr D Pender: Can you give an update on Ballyknockan Housing Estate, Leighlinbridge?

Mr B O'Donovan advised that this is a contract which is subject to renegotiation.

7. Roads Department

a. Introduction of Ms Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms Lilly Slye in her new role and wished her all the best. Cllr W Quinn added that Ms Slye's late father would be a very proud man to see Ms Slye in the role.

Ms L Slye thanked the members for the welcome and informed them that she will take note of and follow up on the matters raised.

- b. Question in the name of Cllr W Quinn – Can a yellowbox be considered outside St Lazerian’s Nursing Home please?**
Ms L Slye noted for follow up.
- c. Question in the name of Cllr W Quinn – Can you give an update on the carpark at Ballyellen?**
Mr P O’Gorman noted that land searches had taken place and hoped to make more progress in the coming month.
- d. Question in the name of Cllr W Quinn – Discussion regarding Borris Fair Day 15th August**
Cllr W Quinn asked that carparking be looked at in advance of the fair next year to which Mr P O’Gorman replied he will meet with the members to discuss options available.
- e. Question in the name of Cllr D Pender – Can you give an update on relining of the carpark at Milford?**
Mr P O’Gorman advised that this will be undertaken in Q4 2024.
- f. Muinebheag Public Realm Project Update**
Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that the Chief Executive Order is ready for signing and that works should finish mid-December, adding that he will keep the members informed of progress.
- g. Queen of the Universe SRTS Update**
Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that the public consultation will close tonight, and a report will follow, following assessment of all submissions.
- h. Section 38 Goresbridge**
Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that the report is being finalised in consultation with Kilkenny County Council.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence to note.

9. Any Other Business

Ms L Slye took note of items raised by the members and advised that she will have a written report for the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.