

**DRAFT Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 4.00 p.m.  
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag**

---

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

**In Attendance:** Mr. Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure  
Mr. Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing  
Ms. Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD  
Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Engineer, Transportation  
Ms. Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer, Town Centre First  
Mr. Barry Knowles, Senior Executive Officer, Community  
Mr. Séamus Loughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation  
Mr. Kieran Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise  
Ms. Linda Culleton, Economic Development Officer, LEO  
Ms. Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer  
Ms. Tommie Hickson, Staff Officer, Environment Department

---

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tommy Kinsella welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome back to Cllr. Andy Gladney.

- 1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr. D. Pender and seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.  
**All agreed**

## **2. Business Prescribed by Statue, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for Transaction at such meeting**

### **2.1 Tinnahinch/Graiguenamanagh – Proposed Category 2 RRDF Application**

Nicola Lawler gave a full presentation with detailed handouts, and confirmed that Kilkenny County Council will be the lead authority. A detailed Master Plan to identify projects is required. Kilkenny County Council will require written support from the Muinebheag MD members in order to submit an application to secure funding for same. These projects are indicative only and the closing date for applications is the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Members raised the following queries:

- A pedestrian bridge in Graiguenamanagh
- A bridge providing easy access for locals
- Possibility of a hangar
- Extra car parking on the Carlow side

All queries were answered.

Nicola Lawler confirmed that as these plans were indicative only, it was better to include both options now. She highlighted No.16 on the map handout showing the possibility of a one-way system and parking. She also confirmed that as this is a flood area, no permanent structure would be built on it.

Cllr. Michael Doran requested to see a hard copy of any new proposals.

***Proposed:*** Cllr. Willie Quinn

***Seconded:*** Cllr. Daniel Pender

***And agreed following a show of hands***

### **2.2 Annual Service Delivery Plan**

#### **(i) Economic Development Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 Muinebheag**

Kieran Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise gave a presentation in relation to economic development activities in respect of the following;

|                              |                    |                |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <u>Christmas Programme</u> - | Christmas Lights - | €15,000        |
|                              | Shop Local -       | <u>€ 7,000</u> |
|                              | Total =            | €22,000        |

An application scheme was introduced in 2024 to support Christmas Lights initiatives led by community and business groups. It is proposed to continue this scheme in 2025.

Kieran highlighted the Shop Local, Shop Carlow promotional campaign which is delivered in partnership with County Carlow Chamber and other stakeholders. Activities within Muinebheag MD will include radio shows, road signage, digital advertising, and competitions. In addition, a County Carlow – A Festival Family Experience programme will be facilitated in 2025, funded through the Festival & Event Fund.

**Streetscape Enhancement Scheme** - €15,000

The Streetscape Enhancement Scheme supports and facilitates the enhancement of the streetscapes and the presentation of the public realms of the Towns and Villages in Muinebheag Municipal District. In order to achieve the greatest impact, Kieran requested the rotation of towns for even distribution of funds. He advised that the greatest impact can be achieved when focused on a more concentrated area.

The proposed three year period from 2025 – 2027 is as follows:-

Borris, Bagenalstown, and, Ballinkillen & Tinnahinch. The proposed closing date for applications is 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and successful applications will have until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 to conclude all works.

Cllr. Michael Doran queried what happens after this rotation Period?

Cllr. Tommy Kinsella requested that €2,000 be ringfenced for Christmas lighting.

Kieran Comerford advised that these schemes are organised in conjunction with Town Regeneration and that the rotation can be changed to suit requirements. He requested support for the main towns today, and confirmed that he will prepare a scheme for the smaller areas.

**Maintenance & Management of Industrial Estates** - €4,000

Proposed supply, manufacture and installation of new signage at entrance to Muinebheag Industrial Estate/Business Park.

Kieran Comerford concluded his presentation and requested approval from the members.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Willie Quinn

**Seconded:** Cllr. Michael Doran

*And agreed following a show of hands*

(ii) **Community Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 Muinebheag**

Barry Knowles gave a presentation in relation to the Community Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2025. He confirmed that Muinebheag now has a dedicated Community Development Officer, Laura Kelly, who will play a vital role, and we must look strategically at distributing grants in conjunction with her.

The following grants are proposed for 2025:

| <b>Grant Type</b>                            | <b>Recommended Funding in 2025</b> |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Environmental/Amenity Grant                  | €10,000                            |
| Tidy Towns Grants                            | €11,000                            |
| Building Community Leadership Support Scheme | €12,500                            |
| St. Patrick's Day Parade                     | € 1,500                            |
| <i>Sub-Total</i>                             | <i>€35,000</i>                     |
| Discretionary Grants                         | €40,000                            |
| <b>Overall Total</b>                         | <b>€75,000</b>                     |

The following queries were raised:

- St. Patrick's Day fund
- Environmental commitments

All queries were answered.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Michael Doran

**Seconded:** Cllr. Daniel Pender

*And agreed following a show of hands*

(iii) **Housing Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 Muinebheag**

Tadhg Madden gave a presentation on the Housing Annual Service Plan 2025.

The following queries were raised:-

- Ballyknockan estate
- Mobility grant
- Energy efficiency in homes
- Houses in Bilboa
- Grants for oil burners
- Air-to-water heating systems

All queries were answered.

Councillors took the opportunity to welcome Tadhg as the new Senior Executive Officer in Housing.

Suspend Standing Orders for recess – 4.55 p.m.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Andy Gladney

**Seconded:** Cllr. Daniel Pender

Resume Standing Orders after recess – 5.05 p.m.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Daniel Pender

**Seconded:** Cllr. Willie Quinn

The following queries were raised:-

- Window grant for 2025
- Residential Zone Tax
- Approved grants
- Identification of additional housing sites

**Proposed:** Cllr. Willie Quinn

**Seconded:** Cllr. Daniel Pender

*And agreed following a show of hands*

**(iv) Roads Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 Muinebheag**

Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer gave a presentation and brief overview. She confirmed that the roads projects were subject to funding which will be confirmed end of February.

The following queries were raised:-

- ‘Stop’ signs in the South of County
- Durability of some surfaces
- Plan for forestries
- New speed limit signage
- Pillars at junctions
- Hedge cutting offences

All queries were answered.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Daniel Pender

**Seconded:** Cllr. Michael Doran

*And agreed following a show of hands*

### 3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

#### 3.1 Active Travel Update

Séamus Loughlin gave a brief overview and answered all questions. He confirmed that Carlow County Council has received €3 million in funding. He also advised that any funding approved cannot be used for leisure programmes.

Agreement to proceed with publication of Part VIII following changes to pedestrian crossing location

**Proposed:** Cllr. Willie Quinn

**Seconded:** Cllr. Andy Gladney

*And agreed following a show of hands*

#### 3.2 Bus Stop Enhancement 2025

Orla Barrett gave a presentation and circulated handouts which showed the locations and full audit which has been completed. She answered queries in relation to a proposed stop in Leighlinbridge and a bus shelter.

Agreement by all members to proceed with report as presented, and to follow up on representations to address concerns regarding the Leighlinbridge bus stop location.

#### 3.3 Muinebheag Town Centre Public Realm Scheme Update

Pádraig O’Gorman gave a brief overview and confirmed that this project was progressing very well. It was on track for completion in April this year.

#### 3.4 Bagenalstown Cemetery Update

Pádraig O’Gorman gave this update. He confirmed that tests have now been completed and the land is suitable. The Municipal District office are preparing design layouts which include a Columbarium Wall, Interment Plots and car parking. The process requires approval by Management Team, approval by MD members, public consultation and finally completion.

#### 3.5 Ballyellen Car Park Update

Pádraig O’Gorman gave this update. He confirmed that work will start on this project in March with expected completion date for Easter.

Councillor Willie Quinn requested that when this car park is complete, there would be no more parking on the road.

Lilly Slye advised that the pull in bays along the road approaching Ballyellen will be removed as soon as carpark is complete. This should prevent any parking on the approach road.

**4. Correspondence**

None.

**5. Any Other Business**

Councillor Tommy Kinsella (Cathaoirleach), on behalf of all the members, wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate Maria Ahearne on her recent promotion to the role of Procurement Officer in the Finance department. He thanked her for always being so helpful and professional whilst working as Administrator for the Muinebheag MD meetings.

Pádraig O’Gorman also congratulated Maria on her promotion and wished her every success in her new role. He thanked her for the excellent work that she has done throughout her time as meetings administrator.

*This concluded the business of the meeting*