

Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting
held on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025 at 4.00 p.m.
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag

Members Present: Cllr. Tommy Kinsella - *Cathaoirleach*
Cllr. Daniel Pender - *Leas-Cathaoirleach*
Cllr. Michael Doran
Cllr. Willie Quinn
Cllr. Andy Gladney

In Attendance: Mr. Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure
Mr. Liam Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, Environment
Ms. Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD
Mr. Barry Knowles, Senior Executive Officer, Community
Ms. Tommie Hickson, Meeting Administrator, Environment Department

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tommy Kinsella welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag bi-Monthly Meeting 5th February 2025

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr. A. Gladney and seconded by Cllr. D. Pender, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag bi-Monthly Meeting held on the 5th February 2025 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 Approval of Environment Grants 2025

Barry Knowles gave a presentation. He highlighted the valuable work which is carried out by community and voluntary groups throughout the county, with the assistance of Carlow County Council’s Environmental Grant Scheme. He advised that a total of 41 applications were received in the Municipal District of Muinebheag, and the grant amounts being awarded are as follows:-

Environmental Grant Scheme 2025 -	€10,000
Tidy Towns Grant Scheme 2025 -	€11,000

Municipal District Muinebheag

Residents' Association / Community Group	Recommended Grant €
Ashgrove	€400.00
Bagenalstown Area Community Development Group (BACDG)	€430.00
Bagenalstown Community Garden Group (BCG)	€400.00
Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre	€230.00
Ballinabranna N.S.	€230.00
Ballinkillen Lorum Community	€300.00
Ballinkillen N.S.	€230.00
Ballinkillen Village Group	€450.00
Ballyellen Development Association	€430.00
Barrowlough Residents' Association	€400.00
Borris Community Development Ltd.	€230.00
Borris Town Hall Committee	€200.00
Bushfield Estate Residents' Association	€270.00
Coláiste Áindriú, Bagenalstown	€230.00
Drummond Residents' Association	€430.00
Fr. Cummins Park Residents' Association	€430.00
Glynn & Bahana Residents' Association	€230.00
Gort na Gréine	€230.00
Kilcumney Residents' Association	€300.00
Killedmond Parish Select Vestry	€200.00
Lodge Court Community Group	€230.00
Maple Drive Residents' Association	€430.00
Newtown Dunleckney N.S.	€230.00
Newtown Residents' Association	€400.00
Oaktree Court Residents' Association	€300.00
Pound Lane Residents' Association	€400.00
Queen of the Universe N.S.	€230.00
Railway Avenue Residents' Association	€400.00
Scorteen Residents' Association	€300.00
St. Brigid's N.S.	€230.00
Station Road Residents' Association	€300.00
Tinnahinch Development Group	€300.00
Total	€10,000.00
Tidy Towns Groups	
Bagenalstown Improvement Group	€2,800.00
Ballinbranna/Milford/Raheendoran Dev. Group	€ 900.00
Ballymurphy Tidy Towns (via Ballymurphy Hall)	€1,000.00
Borris Tidy Towns	€1,500.00
Fenagh Improvement Group	€ 900.00
Leighlinbridge Improvement Group	€2,200.00
Railway Avenue Residents' Association	DNQ
Rathanna Community Group	€1,100.00
St. Mullins Amenity & Recreational Tourism Ltd.	€ 600.00
Total	€11,000.00

Resolved On the proposal of Cllr. W. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. M. Doran, following a show of hands that the Environmental Grants 2025 as circulated above proceed.

All agreed

Pádraig O’Gorman took the opportunity to wish Bagenalstown every success in this year’s Tidy Towns competition as they are nominated in the ‘Best Small Towns’ category. He has already met with Bagenalstown Improvement Group to discuss various initiatives and give full support.

Cllr. Andy Gladney congratulated the group and their great work throughout the year, which was agreed by all members.

2.2 Approval of Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) 2025

Townland / Location	Length of Road	Area of Road M ²	Total Cost €
Donore	160	576	12,672
Newtown Hill	230	851	18,722
Knocklonagad, Garryhill	250	875	20,125
Kilcoltrim	130	481	11,063
Ballyknockcrumpin	550	1650	37,950
Kilmison, Ballymurphy	82	287	6,601
Burgage	220	770	17,710
The Stable	190	665	15,295
Millrace House	160	560	12,880
Ballinvalley	220	770	17,710
Johnduffswood	200	700	16,100
Slievedurda	220	770	17,710

Resolved On the proposal of Cllr. M. Doran, seconded by Cllr. D. Pender following a show of hands that the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) 2025 as circulated proceed.

All agreed

2.3 Approval of Community Improvement Scheme (CIS) 2025

Road Number	Area of Work	Estimate of Cost €	Community Contribution €	Grant Funding €
L-70651-0	775.5	17,837	1,784	16,053
L-30374	1200	27,600	2,760	24,840
L-30375-0	2000	46,000	4,600	41,400
L-30464-0	630	18,900	1,890	17,010

Resolved On the proposal of Cllr. M. Doran, seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn, following a show of hands that the Community Improvement Scheme (CIS) 2025 as circulated proceed.

All agreed

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

3.1 To consider Part VIII Development – Bagenalstown Cemetery

Pádraig O’Gorman acknowledged that Bagenalstown Cemetery is nearly at full capacity. He advised that engagement has been made with a neighbouring landowner and ‘Agreement in Principle’ has now been agreed. He welcomed Liam Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and invited him to make his presentation.

Liam Carroll confirmed that the land most suitable for an extension is to the North-East of the existing cemetery. Municipal District and Environment staff will work in collaboration to prepare design drawings. There is potential for 1,210 plots in total, which will extend the life of this cemetery by 30 to 40 years.

Liam advised that the cemetery design will incorporate a Columbarian wall to cater for the cultural change in Ireland. He confirmed that changes will be required to the entrance while also incorporating approximately 40 car parking spaces. Consideration should also be given to a ‘Lawn Cemetery’ which is becoming more widespread throughout the country, and is easier to maintain. A decision on this is not necessary now, but it is an idea that will be looked at in the future.

The following queries were raised:

- Part VIII process
- Timeframe
- Columbarian Wall
- Lawn Cemetery
- Car-parking
- Dogs
- Tinnahinch cemetery

Pádraig O’Gorman answered all queries. He confirmed that approval is required from the Municipal District followed by full Council approval. This is followed by a Public Consultation period of 6 weeks. Plot layouts must be agreed before tender documents can be prepared.

Liam Carroll answered queries. He envisaged works to commence February/March 2026 and will take approximately 6 – 8 weeks.

3.2 Muinebheag Public Realm Project Update

Pádraig O’Gorman confirmed that this project is 90% complete and is expected to be 98-99% complete by Easter. He advised that once the tarmac is finished, there will be an official opening of this fabulous space in May or June. All queries were answered.

3.3 Ballyellen Carpark – Update

Lilly Slye gave an update on this project and confirmed that good progress was being made, with expected completion by Easter. All queries were answered.

3.4 Roads MD Report

Lilly Slye circulated the roads report, which covered the following areas:-

Projects

Borris village to Ballyteighlea Bridge
Clashganny
Extension of railway walkway at Borris
Improvement works to Bagenalstown Swimming Pool
Ballyellen Carpark

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2025

R702 Ballyteiglea X, Borris
R729 Ballycoppigan Junction
R703 Skeagh Cross
L3037 The Ridge X, Old Leighlin

Drainage Works 2025

R724 Ballymoon
R702 Ballygraney - Complete
L7121 Lacken
L71203 Crannluskey
L3025 Barrett's Street
L3000 Kilgraney

Restoration Improvements

R703 Ballymurphy - Mohullen
R703 Harristown - Tinnahinch
R705 Kilree St., Bagenalstown
R705 High St., Bagenalstown
R705 Church St., Leighlinbridge
L3007 Mullaghamaun - Ballyglisheen
L3037 Ballynolan - R448
L20242 Drumphea - Rathnageeragh
L3021 Hotel St., Bagenalstown
L3029 Church St., Bagenalstown
L3030 Green Rd., Dunleckney
L3044 Oldtown - Rathwade
L7006 Ballynakill X - Clonacur
L70243 Rathnageeragh - Coolnasneachta

L7124 Seskin X - R448
L7126 Collnakisha - Tomard Lower
L7127 Agharue – Gallow's Hill
L3041 Craanlusky – Whelan's X
L3039 Milford X - Ballinabrannagh X

Restoration Maintenance

R702 Ballygraney - Ballyellen
L7120 Annagar - County Bounds
L7107 Corries X - Ballyloughlan
L3046 Leighlinbridge - Harrow X
L3003 Ballinree X - Flanders X
L3001 Ballinree X - Currenree
L7145 Bradleys X- Cloonee Br
L7021 Clomoney - Slyguff
L7000 Royal Oak- County Bounds
L3048 Rathwade X - Augha X
L3041 Bilboa X – Whelan's X
L3001 Ratheen X - Rathanna Br

Town Improvement Works Project

<i>Bagenalstown</i> –	Fencing outside McGrath Park repaired Bridge at Buckeridge's entrance
<i>Borris</i> -	Pedestrian cross complete

Additional Works

Rain Garden (Railway House Junction) – Planting to commence in April

Lilly advised that works were progressing well with expected completion by Q2. She confirmed that a contractor has been appointed and she will circulate a rotation list in advance of works.

The following queries were answered:

- Signage at junctions
- Sign on road from Rathellen to Leighlin
- Review of speed limits
- Lay-bys

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Gladney seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn the members agreed that a decision will be made at the next meeting to apply for funding in relation to safety systems at Kilree Bridge.

3. Any Other Business

(i) Muinebheag Municipal District Cathaoirleach Awards 2025

Tommie Hickson requested nominations for the 2025 Cathaoirleach Awards. The members agreed that this year's Awards will be held on Wednesday, 7th May 2025 in McGrath Hall, Bagenalstown commencing at 7.00 p.m.

(ii) Town Centre First Plan – SETU Health Check Presentation

Pádraig O’Gorman reminded the members of an invitation received from Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer. In her email, Nicola advised that Muinebheag Town Team collaborated with SETU to carry out a Health Check on the town as part of the Town Centre First Plan. This report has now been finalised and the students would like to present it to the MD Members and the Town Team Members. Their presentation will be on Tuesday, 8th April at 9.00 a.m. in the college.

(iii) Launch of Blackstairs Art Publication & Exhibition

As part of “*Applied Learning Programme for High Nature Value Landscape Communities in the Blackstairs*”, students from Borris College created artwork inspired by the Blackstairs. Shane Casey, BioDiversity Officer, Carlow County Council extended an invitation to Members to attend the launch of this beautiful publication which will be held on Friday, 11th April at 11.00 a.m. in Borris Library. The artwork will remain on display in the library for the month of April.

(iv) Town Twinning – Muinebheag and Pont-Péan

Cllr. Daniel Pender had a query about the 25th anniversary of the twinning of Muinebheag and Pont-Péan. The twinning charter commits to developing social, economic, cultural, touristic, and sporting links between the two communities. He asked if there were any plans, and if not, could we make contact? Cllr. Michael Doran agreed with this.

Pádraig O’Gorman confirmed that he would follow up on this query.

The following queries were raised:-

- Housing in Ballyknockan
- Distillery
- Bus Shelter update

Pádraig O’Gorman answered all queries.

This concluded the business of the meeting