

**Minutes of the  
Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 4.00 p.m.  
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag, Co. Carlow**

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

**In Attendance:** Mr. Coilín O'Reilly, Chief Executive  
Mr. Pádraig O'Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure  
Ms. Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer  
Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer  
Barry Knowles, SEO, Community  
Kieran Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office  
Linda Culleton, Economic Development Officer, LEO  
Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing (*remote*)  
Eoin Sullivan, Heritage Officer  
Tommie Hickson, Meeting Administrator

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Cllr. Daniel Pender, Cathaoirleach, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr. T. Kinsella and seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn, following a show of hands that the minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.  
**All agreed**

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

None

### 3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

#### 3.1 Draft Muinebheag Town Centre First Plan

Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer, circulated copies of the draft Muinebheag Town Centre First Plan and gave a comprehensive presentation. She advised that this plan has been prepared in collaboration with the Muinebheag Town Team and Carlow County Council. It sets out a clear pathway for the sustainable regeneration of Muinebheag which has been developed through detailed research and an inclusive co-design process with the local community.

Nicola gave a brief outline of the 17 projects proposed and the various funding streams available. As this is non-statutory, approval by the Members is not required. The official launch of this proposed Muinebheag Town Centre First Plan could possibly happen in April of this year, but this is dependent on the availability of the Minister.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Daniel Pender thanked Nicola and her team for the work involved in preparing this draft plan which he said is very welcome for the town of Muinebheag. He then opened the floor for questions.

Cllr. M. Doran took the opportunity to thank Nicola and her team and regretted the poor public participation in the consultation process which had been available to them. He raised a query about future maintenance of these proposed public outdoor spaces and costs involved.

Cllr. W. Quinn also thanked the team and acknowledged that a huge amount of work had gone into preparing this plan. He queried if all angles have been covered in relation to funding, land purchase and involvement of Uisce Éireann.

Cllr. A. Gladney acknowledged the amount of work it takes to get to this stage in any proposed town plan. He believes that if only three quarters of these projects are realised, it will be an improvement to the town and attract more people to visit, work and live in Muinebheag. He understands that this will take time, but it will be worthwhile and has massive potential.

Cllr. T. Kinsella also welcomed the plan and queried the time period for these proposals. He also queried where the funding would come from.

Cllr. W. Quinn queried how many projects would require Part VIII planning? He also queried if this plan would effect other districts applying for substantial projects in the future?

Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer, answered these questions. She advised that an average of 10 projects would require Part VIII planning. She also assured the members that other areas would not be excluded from applying for future funding as different categories cover different funding amounts.

Nicola emphasised that the proposed projects within the Plan are concepts and show ideas only. If the plan is approved, each of these projects will be required to go through the usual statutory process. All proposals are based on public land and it would be premature to approach Uisce Eireann at this stage. Nicola acknowledged that there was a very strong town improvement group (B.I.G.) represented in Muinebheag who have great pride and desire within their community. She advised that Local Authority funding could not be relied on and these outdoor projects would depend on these types of groups for support and ongoing maintenance. However, when an approved Town Plan exists, it puts that town in a strong position when submitting new funding applications for approval each year.

**Proposed:** Cllr. T. Kinsella

**Seconded:** Cllr. Quinn

*And Agreed following a show of hands*

### 3.2 Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 – Economic Development

Kieran Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise gave a presentation. The following is a summary of the budgetary allocation for 2026:

Element 1: Christmas Programme -	€26,000
Element 2: Streetscape Enhancement Scheme -	€15,000
Element 3: Maintenance & Management Industrial Estates -	€ 4,000

It is proposed that the funding will be allocated on the following basis;

#### Element 1: Christmas Programme

Christmas Lights -	€16,000
Féile Lonrach Christmas Event -	€ 5,000
Shop Local Shop Carlow	<u>€ 5,000</u>
Total =	€26,000

An application scheme was introduced in 2025 to support Christmas Lights initiatives led by community and business groups. It is proposed to continue this scheme in 2026 offering grants of up to €10,000 for district towns and up to €5,000 for small towns and larger serviced rural villages. The purpose of this funding is to enable commercial activity associated with the festive period. Applications will be accepted from other areas, but allocation will be at the discretion of Elected Members. This scheme is intended to support the annual erection and management of existing lighting systems.

In 2025 Féile Lonrach – Santa Bus Experience visited Bagenalstown and this was a very successful event. It is envisaged that a similar experience be planned for 2026.

Shop Local Shop Carlow is a countywide promotional campaign delivered in partnership with County Carlow Chamber and other stakeholders. Activities within Muinebheag Municipal District will include radio shows, road signage, digital advertising, and competitions, co-ordinated by the Economic Development Team.

Element 2: Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2026

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme is operated in order to support and facilitate the enhancement of the streetscapes and the presentation of the public realms of the towns and villages in Muinebheag Municipal District.

It is proposed Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2026 will facilitate the improvement of premises and shop front improvements by supporting upgrade works which can include painting, repairs, decluttering, new signage, outside lighting, and window display design/merchandising.

The maximum upgrade proposed will be as follows:

Residential - up to €1,000 (including VAT) based on 75% of eligible expenditure  
Commercial - up to €1,500 (excluding VAT) based on 60% of eligible expenditure

The proposed closing date for applications is 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and successful applicants will have until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026 to complete works. The scheme has been redesigned to support the ongoing work of the Town Centre First Office and applications will be reviewed in consultation with them.

The following approach which was approved by Elected Members for the three year period 2025 – 2027 is as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Focus Area</u>
• 2025	Borris
• 2026	Bagenalstown
• 2027	Ballinkillen / Tinnahinch

The scheme will be advertised following approval of the Annual Service Plan via an online application/press release/flyer drop in the selected areas, with a fixed period of 28 days for applications to be developed.

Element 3: Maintenance & Management of Industrial Estates

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. W. Quinn

**Seconded:** Cllr. M. Doran

*And agreed following a show of hands*

### 3.3 Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 - Community

Barry Knowles gave a presentation on the Community Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2026. A total of €45,000 has been allocated for the Muinebheag Municipal District and proposed as follows:

Grant Type	Recommended Funding in 2026
Carlow's Pride of Place Grant	€15,500
Carlow's Pride of Place Tidy Towns Grant	€12,000
Building Community Leadership Support Scheme	€14,500
St. Patrick's Day Parade	€ 3,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>€45,000</i>
Discretionary Grants	€50,000
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>€95,000</b>

In addition, Members have €10,000 each as a special fund for their own discretion – total €50,000 for the Municipal District of Muinebheag. This can be used individually or aggregated with agreement of Members.

Other contributions/grants specifically provided in the budget are:

Contribution to	Amount
Swimming Pool Muinebheag	€25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€25,000</b>

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Andy Gladney to divide the proposed allocation of €3,000 for St. Patrick's Day Parade as follows;

- Muinebheag - €2,000
- Borris - €1,000

The following queries were raised:-

- Environmental/Amenity Grant replaced by Pride of Place Grant
- St. Patrick's Day Fund
- Building Community Leadership Support Scheme
- Tidy Towns Groups
- New application forms

Coilín O'Reilly, Chief Executive, and Barry Knowles answered all queries.

**Proposed:** Cllr. W. Quinn

**Seconded:** Cllr. T. Kinsella

*And agreed following a show of hands*

### 3.4 Community Support Centres

Barry Knowles, Senior Executive Officer, Community, gave details of the establishment of nine designated community support centres across the county. He highlighted the need to provide services in areas where people who are affected by severe weather conditions can get access to basic welfare requirements such as food, heating and wi-fi connection.

He gave a progress report and confirmed that the nine centres would be split evenly between the three municipal districts. Muinebheag will have centres in McGrath Hall, Ballymurphy and Old Leighlin. McGrath Hall is now complete with a generator installed and is ready for immediate use.

### 3.5 Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 – Roads

Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer gave a presentation and brief overview. She advised that the allocation list as circulated remains the same as 2025 and these projects are subject to funding and Department approval.

The following queries were raised:-

- Effect of storms on budget
- Maintenance of roads
- Environmentally friendly materials

All queries were answered.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Andy Gladney

**Seconded:** Cllr. Willie Quinn

*And agreed following a show of hands*

### 3.6 Housing Report

Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing, gave a brief update on the Housing Progress Report. The following areas were discussed:-

- Ballyknockan estate
- ESB connection in Borris
- Green Drake, Borris
- Bilboa
- Ballymurphy
- Health Centre, Tinnahinch
- Serviced sites
- Derelict buildings
- Short Term Leases – new legislation
- Manor House, Bagenalstown

Tadhg Madden and Nicola Lawler answered these queries.

Pádraig O’Gorman advised that he will request the planning department to attend the next Municipal District meeting to answer any planning related queries.

### **3.7 Heritage-led Regeneration Plan for Borris**

Dr. Eoin Sullivan, Heritage Officer, gave this presentation. He advised of his intention to apply for funding from the Heritage Council which would enable him to engage the services of a conservation architect. A cohesive design and long term plan looking at the heritage of Borris town will then be prepared under the Historic Towns Initiative. This plan will be for heritage-led regeneration in Borris, and can be used for funding applications in relation to conservation works in the Architectural Conservation Area in 2027 onwards.

Cllr. W. Quinn acknowledges and appreciates this valuable work.

Cllr. T. Kinsella raised a question about the church and also windows.

Dr. Sullivan advised that a call for the Community Heritage Grants will open in February.

### **3.8 Ballyellen Group Water Scheme**

Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, gave this update. He advised the Members that Ballyellen Group Water Scheme was approved funding of €864,473 under the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2024-2026. The purpose of this funding is to connect the Ballyellen GWS with Uisce Éireann’s network on the Goresbridge side of the River Barrow, as this is the preferred solution from an economical and practical point of view. The Scheme has 38 domestic connections and 1 non-domestic connection within 3.5km of a distribution network. Once the works have been completed and a connection has been made, the Ballyellen GWS will be taken in charge by Uisce Éireann and the GWS will be dissolved.

All queries were answered.

## **4. Notices of Motion**

None.

**5. Correspondence**

Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services confirmed that a letter had been sent to Iarnród Éireann in relation to the carpark facilities in Muinebheag Train Station. The letter enquired of the possibility of opening more of this car park to the public, or, extending the area that is already there. We are currently waiting for a response to our request for a meeting.

**6. Any Other Business**

Cllr. Daniel Pender, Cathaoirleach, raised the issue of dumping in Seskin and The Ridge area of the county. He enquired of the possibility of erecting mobile CCTV cameras in this area.

Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services confirmed that this will be listed on the Agenda for the next Muinebheag Municipal District meeting and the Environment Department will attend.

Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services advised that the car-parking facilities in St. Mary’s cemetery is a valuable addition and will be reviewed in 6 months.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

*This concluded the business of the meeting*

Signed:  Date: 11/4/26

**Cllr. Daniel Pender  
Cathaoirleach**

Signed:  Date: 11/4/26

**Meetings Administrator**