

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag  
held on Wednesday 5 February 2020 at 4.00 pm  
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Memorial Hall, Muinebheag**

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

**In Attendance:** Pdraig O’Gorman, Director of Services,  
Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Anita Sweeney, Senior Planner  
Margaret Moore, A/Senior Executive Officer  
Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer.

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- 1. Councillor McDonald chaired the meeting until Cllr Kinsella arrived.**
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag on 11 December 2019**

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Quinn seconded by Cllr Doran that the Minutes for the meeting of the Municipal District of Muinebheag on 5 December 2019 be confirmed and taken as read.

**3. Matters Arising**

As noted in the December 2019 minutes Ms Sweeney attended the meeting to address rural area planning, the review of the County Development Plan and general questions relevant to the district.

Ms Sweeney detailed the Muinebheag MD Forward Planning Work Programme under three headings:

**(a) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy**

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region was made on the **31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**, in accordance with section 24(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. The RSES and Environmental Reports are available on line at [www.southernassembly.ie](http://www.southernassembly.ie).

**(b) Carlow County Development Plan Review**

The commencement of the review of the Carlow Development Plan 2015-2021 and the preparation of a new Plan is required to commence **within 13 weeks after the making of the RSES.** The Pre-Draft Issues Paper is currently being prepared and

will issue for public consultation in April 2020. Engagement with the Elected Members will be carried out throughout the two-year process. Following the public consultation on the issues paper a CE Report will be prepared and circulated to the Members. At this stage Directions will be sought from the Members regarding the preparation of the Plan

(c) **Graiguenamanagh – Tinnahinch Local Area Plan 2020-2026**

Pursuant to Section 18(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Carlow County Council in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council intend to co-operate in the preparation of a Joint Local Area Plan in respect of the combined functional area of Tinnahinch (Co. Carlow) and Graiguenamanagh (Co. Kilkenny). The LAP will be considered by the Elected Members of each Local Authority as appropriate and will be informed by supporting Environmental Studies to include Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. A Pre-Draft Issues Paper was published in October 2019 and a public information meeting was facilitated on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Submissions received during the consultation process will inform the drafting of the Local Area Plan. The draft plan will be placed on public display during quarter 1 of 2020.

The Councillors expressed concern regarding the zoning, vacant site levy, accessibility, % rates for refusals and further information requests for planning permissions and asked for clarity on Carlow's Wind Turbine Policy for the County. Councillor Quinn asked that consideration be given to Borris having its own area plan. Cllr McDonald asked if a location could be found to facilitate an all weather pitch. Mr O'Gorman advised that this request be noted for housing as they are currently looking at land and will bring a report to the next meeting.

#### **4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

(a) Mr Crowley circulated the Engineers Roads Service Plan Report for the area. The report was noted by all members.

The Councillors raised a number of items to be addressed, including:

- The meeting requested that the Engineer give serious consideration to the inclusion of the Road between Leighlinbridge and Bagenalstown on the next roadworks programme.
- Widening the road at Dowlings Garage to make it safer for meeting vehicles on this narrow stretch of the road
- An update on Ballyellen Car Park
- To improve the entrance at Leighlinbridge Graveyard
- To note that the clean up after hedge cutting works carried out adjacent to Bagenal Court was poor.
- To assist with the cleanup of the bridge at the County bounds above the Butts known as 'the Black Bridge'
- To Consider signage at the pedestrian crossing ramp at Royal Oak Road.
- Tall Trees on the Bagenalstown to Borris Road

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- To address speed concerns on the regional road from Fenagh coming over the bridge
- Agreement between the Director and Engineer to discuss concerns regarding heavy trucks damaging road near afforestation areas
- To consider re-wrapping or cleanup of the Green & White de-lineators
- Anti-Social behaviour at the Nine Stones
- To liaise with Carlow Municipal District to come to a maintenance agreement for road between Milford Cross and Milford Bridge
- Bad bend at Donore
- To investigate the public lights out of action down by the Convent and The Range
- Manhole covers rattling at the Royal Oak Road

Cllr Gladney welcomed the installation of the new swing at the Fairgreen Bagenalstown playground.

Mr Crowley asked that a meeting be arranged to present the Roads Plan for 2020. Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00pm was agreed by all.

- (b) In the absence of a representative from housing the Housing Report for the area was noted.

The items raised by the members to be sent to housing included:

- that further consideration should be given for more 2 bedroom town houses suitable for retired applicants
- the necessity to be on the housing list to be eligible for HAP

As requested by the Director of Housing Mr Brennan prior to the meeting information regarding the Part VIII for 2 houses on Main Street Borris Pre Planning was circulated by Ms Ahearne and was proposed by Cllr Quinn and seconded by Cllr McDonald for noting by all members.

- (c) Ms Moore, representing Community Recreation & Amenity circulated the Draft Annual Service Plan 2020 detailing the community & environmental grant schemes with the following grants proposed for 2020:

<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Recommended Funding in 2020</b>
Environmental/Amenity Grant	10,500
Tidy Towns Grants	10,500
Community Development Grants	7,500
St. Patrick's Day Parades	1,500
Total	€30,000
Discretionary Grants	30,000
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>€60,000</b>

In addition, Members have €6,000 each as a special fund for their own discretion – total **€30,000** for the Municipal District of Muinebheag. This can be used individually or aggregated with agreement of Members.

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Other contributions / grants specifically provided in the Budget are:

<b>Contribution to:</b>	<b>€</b>
Swimming Pool Muinebheag	15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€15,000</b>

On the proposal of Cllr Gladney, seconded by Cllr Quinn the Draft Annual Service Plan 2020 was noted and agreed by all members.

- (d) Mr O’Gorman informed the members that Kilkenny County Council were the lead authority regarding the Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Tourism & Recreational Project Concept Study and that all councillors were invited to an upcoming information evening on 20 February 2020.
- (e) Mr O’Gorman informed the members that the environment department agreed to fund the stripping back of lands to remove rock and increase the capacity by a further 60/70 plots at Ballinkillen Cemetery. The members welcomed this news.
- (f) Mr O’Gorman updated the members that the lowest tenderer had withdrawn from the Borris Viaduct Project and that due diligence would now take place.

### 5. Correspondence

- (a) Ms Ahearne read out correspondence from Irish Water regarding a recent review of the Councillor Clinic format. Irish Water proposes to facilitate a Councillor Clinic in each of the Municipal Districts in Carlow during 2020. The clinics will be open to all Councillors, with the focus on issues relating directly to the district the clinic is held in. The format of the IW Clinics is that an individual appointment is scheduled for each councillor and attended by both Water Services and Irish Water Staff. All notifications/invitations will issue directly from Irish Water.

The following schedule was proposed:

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
Q1 2020	Muinebheag MD	McGrath Hall, Muinebheag	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 * ( <b>note change to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020</b> ) 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm
Q2 2020	Carlow MD	Carlow Town Hall Meeting Room	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm
Q3 2020	Tullow MD	Tullow Civic Offices	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm
Q4 2020	All areas	Carlow County Council Municipal Building	To be confirmed later in the year by Irish Water

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As the March Municipal District meeting for Muinebheag was now being rescheduled to \* Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00 pm it was agreed that Irish Water be informed of this. All members agreed with the proposal.

(b) Cllr McDonald advised that the application for school bus transport was extended to 24 April 2020.

(c) Ms Ahearne updated the members regarding the planned electrical works to upgrade the meeting room to facilitate access to the network for meetings, adding that a TV will be installed for viewing presentations. The timeline regarding the wi-fi application was not available yet.

### **6. Cathaoirleach Awards**

Nominations were received and noted for consideration by the Cathaoirleach. Further details will be circulated when available.

7. The presentation of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Roads Plan for 2020 is scheduled for Thursday 13 February at 4.00 pm.

The next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for Friday 6 February 2020 at 4.00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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

**Cathaoirleach**

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

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

**Meetings Administrator**