

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00p.m, 09th September 2024, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Michael Gallagher, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Mike Bray,

Councillors Present via Zoom: David Gilroy,

Apologies/absent: Councillor Peter Caffrey

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Matthew Rafferty

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th of July 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There was none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There was none.

4.0 Disposal of land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.022Ha of land at Drumbaragh, Kells, County Meath. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The members agreed in principle to the disposal on the proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Economic

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5.1.1 To receive an update on this year's Samhain Festival of Food and Culture.

Ella Ryan, Economic Development gave an update on this year's festival which is taking place from 7th to 10th November in various venues in Kells. She said that the festival is partnering with Sheridan's Irish Food Fair which will be hosted in Eureka House with 100 plus producers exhibiting. The programme of events will focus on cookery demonstrations, workshops, tasting events and much more and is expected to attract 6000 visitors over the weekend.

The members welcomed the festival and the events being planned. They said that the festival will promote the local businesses and showcase the many traditions and skills. They enquired about the provision of parking and public transport and were advised that a traffic management plan will be in place during the festival.

5.2 Transportation

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Default Speed Limit for Rural Local Roads.

Stephen Shortall, Engineer, Transportation presented an update on the implementation of the new Rural Local Roads Default Speed Limit as per legislation enacted in April 2024. He said that variations to the Default Speed Limits will be permitted by way of byelaws and the creation of Special Speed Limits in accordance with the guidelines. He advised that existing Special Speed Limits will remain in place.

The members were advised that a phased rollout will commence with the new 60km/h default speed signage installed by the end of November 2024 and the review of the speed limit byelaws will commence in 2025 and be finalized in 2026.

The members welcomed the reduction to the speed limits. They enquired about previous submissions that had been submitted and if they will be included in the review.

The engineer advised that all previous submissions and new submissions will be included in the review process.

An update was given by Mr. Shortall on the N3 Virginia Bypass whereby the project is now at the design and environmental evaluation of the preferred option with all property owners within this corridor been notified.

5.2.2 To receive an update on proposed works for the R162 Wilkinstown

Niall Busby, Engineer, Transportation updated on the proposed traffic calming measures for Wilkinstown and said it will go on public display this week.

The members welcomed the works where they outlined their concerns regarding speeding through the village. They requested that speed ramps be included to slow down traffic approaching the village and the greenway crossing.

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- 5.2.3** To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District.

The report circulated in advance was noted.

5.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 5.3.1** To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Kells Municipal District

The allocations were noted.

6.0 Notice of Questions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"To receive an update on all low-cost safety schemes planned for the Kells MD."

Response:

The current safety improvement scheme in Kells MD is the R163 L7141 Junction at Gibbstown scheme, the design and requirements for which are currently being finalised. The extent of works required and to be undertaken will be subject to the to the amount of funding available.

The response was noted.

Clr Reilly stated that she is requesting the full list submitted for funding for next year.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"To ask if there is an update on when the social housing scheme will commence on land purchased by Meath County Council at Loughcrew View, Mountnugent Road, Oldcastle."

Response:

The Council expect to procure a consultant in the coming months to progress the scheme. It is likely that construction would commence in Q2/2025.

The response was noted.

7.0 Notice of Motions

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"Given the data results gleaned from the traffic speed analysis on the Oldcastle Road, Kells, before and after the installation of driver activated signage, I ask that this type of signage be erected on all regional approach roads to Kells to alleviate traffic speed issues."

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Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded, and considered:

The Traffic Signs Manual emphasises that Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) should be used sparingly and should be considered only when there is a collision history associated with inappropriate speed that has not been remedied by standard signing. Meath County Council has a policy on the use of VAS which was agreed at a Transportation SPC in 2017. This policy sets out the criteria for the use of the signs and these criteria will have to be considered in the assessment of any proposed site for a VAS.

The notice and response were noted on the proposal of **Clr Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Clr Mike Bray**.

Clr Reilly introduced her motion and said that the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) are positive and reducing speeding into the town. She asked that a second VAS be acquired and used on other approach roads into the town.

Clr Bray suggested that the signs should be moved around as drivers are becoming immune to their location. The members agreed to relocate the signs to other approach roads.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

"I call on Meath County Council to install traffic calming measures on the N52 road at Balrath, Kells."

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded, and considered:

Meath County Council are currently engaging with Transport Infrastructure Ireland who are responsible for National Roads in relation to this section of the N52. Any works will be subject to adequate funding being made available.

Please note Meath County Council have also engaged with An Garda Síochána in relation to the enforcement of the 60km/h speed limit at this location.

The notice and response were noted on the proposal of **Clr Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Clr Sean Drew**.

Clr Gallagher introduced his motion and stated that the works are urgent due to the number of recent accidents.

Clr Drew said that the scheme at Balrath was separated into two projects and has requested a breakdown of the works accordingly.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

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“I call on Kells MD to seek a meeting with the Transportation section to engage with the Kells MD Councillors during the preparation of the three-year roads programme.”

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded, and considered:

“As part of the preparation for the 2025-27 Roadworks Programme all Councillors were invited to submit a list of roads, they consider appropriate for the programme. These lists are currently being collated and presently there are just over 100 roads to be assessed with approximately ¾ of these in the Kells MD. All submitted roads will be assessed for suitability using data and local knowledge from MD Engineers and Councillors and will be in accordance with any directions from the Department of Transport.

There is a significant body of work in preparing the 3-year plan and works are still ongoing on the 2024 programme. As the programme is developed this information will be communicated to Councillors.”

The notice and response were noted on the proposal of **Cllr Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Cllr Sean Drew**.

Cllr Gallagher discussed his motion and said that 33% of the roads are in this MD and that extra funding is required to maintain the road network. He requested that an official be invited to the October meeting to discuss the upcoming Roads Programme.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

“I call on Meath County Council to provide a pedestrian crossing at Supervalu, Kells Road, Oldcastle and at Gibney’s Hardware, Oldcastle”

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded, and considered:

The elected members of the Kells Municipal District will be aware that the Council is progressing a public realm scheme for Oldcastle town centre which includes the provision of pedestrian crossings throughout the town centre. Subject to the successful conclusion of the required statutory consent processes (currently ongoing), and funding, it is proposed the pedestrian crossings will be constructed as part of the public realm project.

The motion was not approved as **Cllr Caffrey** was absent from the meeting.

8.0 Correspondence

There was none.

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9.0 Any Other Business

An update on the following projects for the next meeting was sought:

- Print Works
- SVP Hall
- Safe Routes to School, Gardenrath
- Men's Shed
- Sensory Garden, Headfort Place
- Kells Public Realm
- Lands at Lloyd
- Market Cross

- An update on Kells Swimming Pool to include reviewing public opening hours
- Referred to drainage works required at the church/school in Athboy which were included in the RRDF application and asked that these works be progressed separately.
- Referred to the removing of a pole in Kilbeg village.
- Manhole near church in Kilmainhamwood needs attention.

- The members proposed the following to be referred to the Transportation SPC:
"To review and develop a policy for Traffic Calming Measures in the County"

The meeting concluded at 6pm

Signed:

Cathaoirleach