

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00p.m, 14th October 2024, Kells Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Michael Gallagher, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Mike Bray, David Gilroy, Peter Caffrey

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Apologies/absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Matthew Rafferty

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

Clerical Officer: Kathryn Fox

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 09th of September 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There was none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Pride of Place entrants and Susanne Mahon, Community section on the organization of the MD event.
- Local sports clubs on receiving funding from the Sports Capital Grant whereby Meath received €12.1m with €3.1m allocated to clubs within the Kells MD.

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1** To receive the proposed housing estates for inclusion in the 30km/h housing estate special Bye Laws.

Gillian Mangan, Engineer, Transportation updated the members on the proposed housing estates for inclusion in the 30km special byelaws. She said that these will now go on public display as required under the act.

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Members enquired how the estates are selected. Cllr Caffrey enquired if St Brigid's estate adjacent to Mellows Park, Oldcastle can be included.

The members were advised that the estates are identified by the council or through submissions from the public and councillors. Ms Mangan advised that St Brigid's can be looked at for inclusion.

4.1.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Castle Lawns Estate, Athboy.

Gillian Mangan, Transportation updated on the proposed traffic calming measures for the estate. She said that the drawings will go on display inviting submissions to the proposed works. A report will then be presented following the display period outlining any observations received.

The members welcomed the measures and said also that a stop sign is required.

4.1.3 To receive a report on the non-statutory public consultation for the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme on the R162 at Wilkinstown

Niall Busby, Engineer, Transportation said that the proposed improvement works at Wilkinstown was on public display and that 10 submissions were received. He advised that the majority requested that speed ramps be provided in addition to the current design. He said that speed surveys will be carried out before and after the proposed works to monitor effectiveness and if additional measures are necessary, the inclusion of ramps maybe considered. Works are due to start by year end.

The members welcomed the proposed works and said that lighting is required from the school to the community center.

4.1.4 To consider the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 application P823004 – Oldcastle Public Realm.

David O'Reilly, Engineer, Active Travel section updated on the proposed plans for the public realm. He said the plan included for redesign of roadways, junctions, wider footpaths, traffic calming, street furniture, undergrounding of cables, time restricted parking and new drop off/pick up area for Gilson NS and CCTV at the railway yard carpark.

The members raised the following:

- Welcomed the plan and said it would transform the town.
- Concerns regarding the reduction in parking spaces.
- Enquired about the CCTV and GDPR
- Is the site for additional parking, a separate purchase.
- When is the next call for RRDF applications.
- Sought an update on the Athboy Public Realm.



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David O'Reilly advised that they are actively looking for a site for parking spaces. He said that the Part 8 is required to make an RRDF application when the next call opens in the coming months.

Dara McGowan advised the members that they have six weeks to consider the Part 8 from the date it was circulated. Regarding the RRDF, several applications will be submitted however he said there is no guarantee that funding will be approved for any of them.

4.1.5 To receive an update on the N52 Balrath scheme and safe routes to school scheme.

Nicholas Whyatt SE, Transportation gave an update on the road safety improvement scheme gateways for the N52 at Calliaghstown. He said that there are two locations identified for the gateways and these will have an alternative road surface texture and colour to warn approaching motorists. He advised that these are TII approved and are interventions that can be done straight away.

Regarding the footpath on the N52, members were advised that an application for funds was submitted in May to the TII and awaiting details if successful.

The engineer advised that talks with the landowners regarding land required for works at the Balrath junction on the N52 have been unsuccessful to date.

An update was given on the safe routes to school scheme whereby an application for funding will be submitted next year to improve the Jim Brunnock Road which serves several schools. Mr. Whyatt advised that a footpath linking the schools to the Gardenrath road has been recommended. He said that planning permission will be required for this and therefore this will not form part of the safe routes to school application.

The members raised the following:

- Concerns regarding the proposed gateway interventions on the N52.
- That the Gardaí have no pull in areas on this route for a speed van and suggested that the council make an area suitable for a speed van.
- Sightlines blocked at Cloncat lane at the filling station where the Council erected a fence years ago.
- Referred to the fence at Cloncat which was erected at the bridge due to the steep drop, suggested having a white line on road instead of a broken line.
- Requested to look at the area where stones are blocking a gully and causing some flooding in Drumconrath.

Nicholas Whyatt responded accordingly and said he would raise the issue of a pull in area for a speed van at the next forum meeting with the Gardaí. He advised that a scheme is being prepared for the main street in Athboy however it will be next year when a planning application might be finalized. He said also that the works at the gully area in Drumconrath is

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being looked at.

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

The report had circulated in advance was noted.

An extension of time to 6.15pm was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

The allocations were noted. Members were reminded to submit final applications for processing as the closing date has now passed.

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"To ask for an update on the naming of Kells Walk/Cycleway as previously agreed upon."

Response:

The Council is currently considering any proposals for consideration as per the three walking routes identified in the attached map.

The response was noted. It was agreed that more discussion is needed on this.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"To ask the executive for an update on works planned for the R154 Oldcastle to Dungimmon Cross."

Response:

There are no current works planned for the R154 Oldcastle to Dungimmon Cross. It will be assessed to determine its suitability for inclusion in the three-year Restoration Improvement Programme.

The response was noted.

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

"The members of Kells MD call on Meath County Council to liaise with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, as a matter of urgency and priority, to design and implement Traffic Calming measures on the N52 access points into Carlanstown. The measures also to incorporate a new pedestrian crossing on the N52 in the centre of the village."

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

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) carry out analysis of collisions on the national road network in Ireland on a regular basis to identify high collision locations and also carry out Road Safety Inspections as a proactive approach to improving safety on the existing national road network. Funding for safety improvement schemes on the national road network is generally prioritised based on the results of these assessments.

Meath County Council confirm that we will contact Transport Infrastructure Ireland to discuss potential improvements to the N52 in Carlanstown. It should also be noted that Meath County Council made an application to TII in May this year for seed funding to look at active travel improvements within Carlanstown and a decision is still awaited in relation to this application.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

Cllr Drew introduced the motion and said that there has been an increase in traffic and speeding into the village from the Ardee side. He also said with more housing built on either side of the road, there is no safe place to cross. Cllr Cassidy and Gallagher supported the motion and stated that traffic calming is required to slow down the traffic as some are overtaking coming into the village.

Nicholas Whyatt advised that a report has been submitted to the TII seeking funding and is awaiting the outcome of this.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

The members raised the following questions:

- Businesses in Kells raised issues regarding the Traffic Wardens.
- Referred to some class 3 roads that are unsuitable for a school bus due to potholes.
- Asked that debris be removed from bonfires being built in O'Growney Terrace and Magdalene Court.
- Referred to the spread of sludge and the process involved.

The meeting concluded at 6.13pm.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach