**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 21ST OF JULY AT 11AM**

Chair: Cllr M.H. Cavanagh, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs J Brennan, P Fitzpatrick, M McCarthy, P

Millea and M Shortall.

In attendance: P Beubry, Castlecomer Area Engineer,

P O’Neill, Director of Services

M Delahunty, Meetings Administrator

T Lauhoff, Thomastown Area Engineer

S Foley, Callan Area Engineer

N Byrne, Castlecomer Area Office

B Hynes, Community & Culture Section

L Butler, Community & Culture Section

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 13th of June**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr P Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr P Millea and agreed

**2. Matters Arising**

No issues were raised.

1. **Adoption of Standing Orders**

M Delahunty referring to the Draft standing orders which had been circulated, advised members that there is very little deviation in the standing orders from those of the Plenary Council’s standing orders. He brought to the attention of members a number of matters which were agreed as follows:

* the day of the meeting to be the same day as the Ordinary meeting of the plenary Council,
* the hour of the meeting will be 11am
* the meeting will conclude no later than 12.30
* summoning of the meeting will be by both hard copy and email
* effective date for these standing orders will be 22nd of July 2014.

**Proposed by Cllr M McCarthy, seconded by Cllr P Millea and Resolved**:

“That the Minutes of the Municipal District of Castlecomer be adopted subject to the revisions as agreed”.

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1. **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) & Public Participation Network (PPN) Structures**

**Public Participation Network (PPN)**

Brid Hynes ,Community & Cuture Department gave a detailed presentation to the members in respect of establishing the Public Participation Network (PPN) for Kilkenny and answered member’s questions. She advised that in accordance with regulations and guidelines under the LG Reform Act 2014 each Local Authority is required to roll-out PPN structures which replace the previous Community & Voluntary forum. She advised adoption of a framework for public participation in each local government is now a reserved function. She advised details of working groups established in September of last year on citizen engagement with local government and report published in February 2014. The PPN will be the main link through which Local Authority links with Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental Sectors.

An outline of the intended structure and key elements of PPNs was detailed to the members together with details of state supports for PPNs . Brid also outlined details of public information dissemination strategy including 8 public meetings and advised of emerging issues from these and the 4 pilots established.

**Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)**

Lindsey Butler gave a detailed presentation to the members in respect of the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) as required under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the preparation of Local Economic and Community Plans featuring the Economic element to be prepared by the Economic Development SPC and the Community element to be prepared by the LCDC. The LCDC replaces the previous Co Development Board. Lindsey answered member’s questions.

An overview of typical make up of the LCDC was outlined to the members and details of interim LCDC membership established in May were outlined. Lindsey outlined details of key milestones to progress the establishment of LCDC and details of administrative support to LCDC.

Members voiced their concern with regard to the current position as taken by the Leader Companies with regards to the establishment of PPNs & LCDC .

Both Brid and Lindsey were thanked for their presentation and congratulated on their work to date. Their difficult task ahead was acknowledged by all those present.

1. **Update on the Road Works Scheme for the Area**

**Castlecomer Engineering Area**

P Beubry circulated to the member’s details of the status of the 2014 Road Works Programme for the Castlecomer Engineering Area. He advised that weather permitting, the majority of restoration improvement and maintenance works will be completed in advance of the holidays. Philippe updated members in respect of the CIRWS. He advised 5 schemes are proceeding this year, a further offer is under consideration and he is in a position to make one more offer. It was agreed by the members that their involvement is very worthwhile to assist with take up of offers under this scheme.

The provision of ‘Children at Play’ signs was discussed with particular reference to the Forestry Road at The Islands, Urlingford. P Beubry clarified that current Council policy is that the Community provide the sign and the Council will erect the sign. Following discussion by the members it was agreed that this sign should be provided by the Council.

**Callan Engineering Area**

Seamus Foley circulated to the members details of the status of the 2014 Road Works Programme for the Callan Engineering Area which falls within the Municipal District of Castlecomer. He advised members that approximately 200km of roadway falls within this area and is covered by John Rafter, Overseer from the Kilmanagh/Tullaroan Depot. Members were advised of details of restoration maintenance work, carriageway maintenance works, drainage measures, signage maintenance, solar/ traffic signs maintenance, winter maintenance, local primary edge lining and other environmental maintenance works included in the 2014 Road Works Programme. Seamus also advised details of 3 CIRWS applications located within the Municipal District of Castlecomer.

**Thomastown Engineering Area**

Tony Lauhoff circulated to the members details of the status of the 2014 Road Works Programme for the Thomastown Engineering Area which falls within the Municipal District of Castlecomer. He advised this section of the Thomastown Engineering Area is currently dealt with from the Gowran Depot. Tony advised members of details of status of restoration improvement, restoration maintenance, drainage maintenance, signage maintenance, discretionary maintenance and low cost accident scheme works. He advised details of one CIRWS application which will be transferring from what was previously the Thomastown Engineering Area to the new Castlecomer Municipal District, one offer was made to the applicant but refused.

Members were advised that the division of budgets between the areas is made on the basis of road length within the area. Maintenance and replacement of road signage and green bollards marking road junctions was discussed .

**6. Items submitted by the members**

Cllr P Millea - Footpath near Lisdowney School

Cllr P Millea confirmed he had spoken to SOLAS who had confirmed that they would supply a stone mason to complete the wall. P Beubry advised that this work will be considered when preparing the 2015 Road Works Programme.

7. **Any Other Business**

Cllr P Fitzpatrick requested that a deputation from the Discovery Park, Castlecomer be invited to the September meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District to give a presentation to the members. It was agreed that the deputation would be invited to attend at 11.05 and would be allowed speak for no more than 10 minutes.

Members agreed that items not dealt with at today’s meeting would receive attention at the September meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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