***Ordinary Meeting***

***Kells Municipal District***

***4.10 p.m, 19th June 2023, Kells Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor** **Paul McCabe**, presided.

**Councillors Present**: Mike Bray, Sean Drew, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Eugene Cassidy, and Sarah Reilly

**Councillors Present via Zoom**: none

**Apologies/absent**:

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer**: Michael Murphy Technician

**Meetings Administrator**: Áine Bird

**Staff Officer**: Triona Keating

**Apologies:** Aaron Smith EE

**1 Confirmation of Minutes**

## Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 15th May 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

# Matters arising from the Minutes.

Dara McGowan advised that Transportation intend to publish the Part 8 for the re-development of the Fair Green, Oldcastle in July.and a copy of the full details (site notice, drawings, etc.) will be sent to councillors prior to advertising. The members agreed to proceed.

# Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy.

Congratulations was extended to the 50KM walk in Moylagh and to Fiona Lawless on her appointment as Chief Executive.

# Statutory Business

## Community

To consider the draft Meath Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

# Fiona Fallon SEO gave a presentation on the LECP. She outlined the objectives and actions that will support the economic development and the local and community development of County Meath over the next six years. She said that the economic elements will guide and support the economic development role of the local authority and is developed by the Economic Development SPC with the Community elements developed by the LCDC. She advised that the next steps are the consideration of the draft LECP by each MD and the Eastern Midland Regional Assembly with the integrated LECP to be adopted by Full Council in Quarter 4.

# On the proposal of Cllr David Gilroy and seconded by Cllr Sarah Reilly the members agreed to proceed to the next stage of the process.

Members raised the following.

* Kells is identified as a strategic economic town which needs to be supported.
* Need to promote that one off rural housing is still allowed in Meath.
* Population figures are from the previous census 2016, will there be a review of this and zoning- advised a review in 2 years with figures updated. Plan does not set out zoning but encourages growth in towns.
* A need to note the diversity and strengths in each MD.- Advised the plan sets out what the public requested during consultation.
* How is plan presented to EMRA – advised several LECP’s assessed at same time.

## Planning

To receive a presentation on the draft Part 8 Planning Application for the Oldcastle Main Square Public Realm Enhancement Scheme.

David O’Reilly SEE Transport gave a presentation on details for a Part 8 for the Oldcastle Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. He advised that he hoped to lodge the part 8 in early July in tandem with the part 8 for the Fairgreen. He advised that there are 87 car parking spaces in the town where cars are parking for 4-6 hours and not doing business. He referred to Barrack Street which will be used for long term parking. He said that it is intended to have a two-hour parking limit where traffic wardens will enforce this.

Members raised the following:

* Welcomed the two Part 8’s. Who will police the two-hour parking- advised that will consider the Traffic Wardens to monitor the parking.
* Loosing parking around the square area for footpaths, will there be pull in areas outside shops – advised loading bays will be installed.
* Is there a one-way system- advised Barrack Street is one-way north bound.
* Is it possible to see the proposed paving surface that has been in a town for the last 5 years and see how it looks now.

Members agreed to proceed with the Part 8 application.

To receive an update on the Kells Public Realm and Regeneration Project.  This update will include a brief presentation from Consultants ‘BDP’ of preliminary plans and feedback from public consultation event.

Mehron of BDP consultants gave feedback from the consultation where the public would like to see the following included in the Public Realm:

* Inclusive streets for all,
* An improved town centre core,
* Improved parking,
* Utilising vacant buildings,
* Revitalising building facades,
* Celebrating Arts and Culture and
* Connecting heritage through wayfinding.

He outlined the next steps which will include gathering responses from recent public consultation to inform the development of a report and have it available to the public in August. The report will form part of the application for funding for the project.

The members raised the following:

* Welcomed the project which will make a big difference to the public realm. Some decisions made will not be liked however Kells needs to move on.
* Will Cross street be two ways. Footpaths are too narrow on Cross street.
* Kells has no town centre, needs to be more appealing to visitors.
* How many parking spaces in the centre.
* Need to keep public and businesses informed of all stages as some traders were panicked.
* This has activated the traders to form a group and join the PPN.
* Selling point is having Cross street as one way.
* Loss of parking on Farrell Street/ parking will be a challenge.
* Roundabout required at Paddy Powers bookies.
* Pedestrians should take priority.
* The events space is a great idea along with the Market Town concept.
* Challenges where public need to drive outside the town to soccer, scouts, no one is walking outside the town.
* Advised to have public consultation in September due to summer holidays.
* Previous learnings on parking and trader’s issues.
* Need to communicate if planning to incorporate private property.
* Can buy derelict buildings and knock to install parking.
* Is it possible to do a 3D plan of the public realm to give people an idea what it might look like and alleviate concerns.
* Requested an update on the public realm and bus stop area for Athboy.

To receive an update on the ‘Recreation and Amenity Plan for the Commons of Lloyd’.  This update will include a brief presentation on the plan scope and feedback from the initial consultation phase from Consultants ‘BDP’ who have been appointed to prepare the Plan.

BDP gave a presentation on the survey results from 240 submissions. Based on these a plan for the area will be prepared with a public consultation event for feedback. The Plan will examine and promote its wider development potential from a combined amenity and tourism perspective. It will also be designed within the context of protection and conservation of the historic landscape character of this area.

Members enquired about toilet facilities for Lloyd and if all lands are being included– Advised all lands will be part of the plan.

## Transportation

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

The report circulated in advance was noted.

## Corporate Affairs and Governance

* + 1. To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Kells Municipal District.

The allocations circulated in advance were noted.

## Notice of Question

There was no notice of question.

# Notice of Motion

## Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

That Meath County Council engages immediately with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and An Garda Síochána in relation to the installation of traffic calming and road safety measures on the N51 approaches into Athboy following a number of recent serious accidents on the Kells Road end in particular.

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

Meath County Council continually liaise with `Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) on all matters of safety on the National Primary & Secondary Road network including the N51. Applications for funding are then progressed where safety improvements are identified.

The motion proposed by **Cllr Mike Bray** and seconded by **Cllr Sean Drew** was agreed.

Cllr Bray referred to the serious accidents that occurred on the approach road into Athboy due to speeding. He requested that raised pedestrian areas or ramps are required and that the council engage with the TII and Guards to put measures in place.

Cllr Drew said that cars are building up speed coming into the town and traffic calming measures are required to slow traffic down.

Dara McGowan advised that the motion can be referred to Transportation and ask that the specific location in the motion be considered at the next meeting with TII.

# Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

* 1. To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 5th May 2023.

The minutes were noted.

* 1. To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 31st March 2023.

The minutes were noted.

# Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

# Any Other Business

* Cllr Gilroy requested a motion of support for the Tara Mines workers and their families that a solution be found.
* Cllr Bray referred to the Catherine McCauley building, Kells owned by the HSE and for sale by private Treaty.
* Dara McGowan advised that the building is state owned and requires a lot of works.

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach