

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE KILMALLOCK HELD IN PALLASGREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER AT 3.00PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor J Egan, An Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Carey, Donegan, Mitchell, E Ryan, M Ryan, and Teefy

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Services Transportation and Mobility (Mr Brian Kennedy), Meetings Administrator (Ms D O'Brien), Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. T McKechnie), Clerical Officer (Ms. H O'Neill), Senior Engineer Housing, (Brendan Kidney); Assistant Staff Officer (Nora Hartigan) Staff Officer, Property Services (Denise Ruth);

At the outset of the meeting, Michael Ryan, Pallasgreen Community Centre, welcomed the Elected Members and Staff Members and thanked Limerick City and County Council for the works undertaken locally, including the car park and bus stop. He outlined further potential projects, including a walkway from the Community Centre to the Nursing Home, and a footpath joining Nicker, Old Pallas and New Pallas.

An Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Ryan's comments, and thanked Mr Ryan for use of the Community Centre for the meeting. An Cathaoirleach also outlined the importance of Communities engaging with Elected Members.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the Municipal District staff for organising the Municipal District Reception in November.

A minutes silence was held for Former Deputy Michael Collins, and the Elected Members extended their sympathies to his family.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (i) Circulated copy of draft Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock held on 17th November, 2022.

Proposed by: Councillor Mitchell

Seconded by: Councillor Donegan

And Resolved:

"That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed."

2. Matters Arising:

A question was raised as to whether the correspondence to the NTA regarding Bus services had been sent. It was confirmed that this was posted.

A query was raised as to whether it would be possible to provide bus shelters for less than the €20,000 projected at the October meeting. It was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, would provide John O'Callaghan with a prioritised list of towns and villages, where bus shelters are required, which would be sent to the NTA before the end Jan 2023.

The Senior Executive Engineer welcomed submissions on this and asked that these be forwarded to him.

Clarification was provided that school buses are funded by the Department of Education and therefore not factored into NTA statistics for funding bus shelters.

It was agreed that the District Office staff would request feedback from the NTA regarding the correspondence on the bus shelters.

Councillor Mitchell wished to thank the Elected Members of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District for agreeing to submit the Notice of Motion on the Directly Elected Mayor to the Plenary Council.

3. Disposal of Property

The following disposals of property were noted :

- 6 Chapel View, Bruff
- 17 Ashill, Kilmallock
- Glebe Road, Kilfinane

4. Housing Maintenance Update

An update on housing maintenance was provided by the Senior Engineer for Housing as follows:

- 20 units are progressing onsite in Hospital, and the handover to allocations will take place at the end of Q1 2023.
- 12 units in Knocklong will be complete by end February 2023.
- A Part 8 in Kilfinane will be submitted to the Department and should commence construction at the end Q2 2023.
- 9 units are progressing in Ballylanders
- In relation to Voids, 14 remain vacant out of 25 voids at the start of 2022. Of these 14, 6 will be tendered and 6 will be turned around inhouse through the housing maintenance section.

- The Senior Engineer also outlined a plan to set up a unit specifically for turning around empty houses, and has committed to circulating the details above in an email.
- It was noted that the last 9 properties in Glengrove Estate, Kilmallock have been allocated.
- The Senior Engineer agreed to get clarification on the number of applicants for housing in the Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District and the Elected Members requested that local residents be facilitated in being allocated housing in the District.
- It was noted that the repurposed loan from Troy Studios had been used to turn around voids. Approximately €11,000 per void is grant aided by the Department, for which only 1 in 7 voids can be completed.

Notices of Motion

5. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M Ryan (moved forward on agenda as agreed with Elected Members)

“I will move at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District meeting that Limerick City and County Council Management and Directors of Services conduct a review of Staff and current projects in order to allocate all possible Staff and Skills to Housing Construction and return of voids by prioritising all construction projects.”

Proposed: Councillor M Ryan

Seconded: Councillor Donegan

REPLY:

“The Chief Executive has a legal duty to assign staff as appropriate to ensure all services and functions of the Council are met.

The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage did agree to fund additional staffing for the social housing programme earlier in the year and 5 out of the 7 posts have been filled. The additional 2 posts were of such a level that they were required to be recruited through PAS and we are currently awaiting start dates. In addition, the DHLGH recently agreed to fund 4 staff for Affordable Housing. Recruitment is ongoing.

The delivery of construction projects involves more than local authority staff and is reliant on DHLGH approvals and contractor and materials availability also.”

The Senior Engineer outlined that each Directorate has its own funding and allocation of staff, and therefore staff cannot be reallocated according to the need.

It was agreed that this Notice of Motion be submitted to the Plenary Council and the Housing SPC on 14th December.

The Senior Engineer agreed to return to the February meeting of the Municipal District with an update on the 14 voids.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Carey

I will move at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District that the council will liaise with the residents of Ballyhoura Heights, Kilfinane with a view to creating extra car parking spaces in the estate

Proposed: Councillor Carey

Seconded: Councillor E Ryan

REPLY:

The Roads Engineer will review the request of the residents of Ballyhoura Heights, Kilfinane. The review for additional car parking will be carried out in accordance with the "Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, Chapter 11 Development Standards, Section 11.8.3 Car and Bicycle Standards."

Questions

7. Question submitted by Councillor Teefy

"I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District for an update on the EV Electric charging points in the area, as previously agreed, and where are the proposed locations of same."

Reply:

The Council is currently finalising an EV Strategy which will inform on how best to roll out the development of EV charging points across the County. A construction contract to put in place the ducting and electrical infrastructure for selected pilot sites will shortly be advertised with a view to getting on the ground in early 2023. The public car park fronting the Council offices in Kilmallock is one of the chosen sites for this contract, along with sites at Bruff, Doon and Caherconlish . Once the ducting/electrical infrastructure works are in place (scheduled for Q1,2023), a separate operating contract will be put in place for management and operation of the EV charging points.

Subject to funding availability, the rollout of further EV charging points in the County will follow in line with the strategy's rollout policy, with locations to be agreed at that stage.

8. Question submitted by Councillor Teefy

“I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District, further to previous motion on traffic issues in Doon, what is the outcome of the traffic survey carried out there to help with the traffic congestion in Main St, Doon.”

Reply:

Having reviewed the traffic scenario in Doon, it was decided that an overall traffic management and a mobility plan for vulnerable road users is required. Following a submission to the NTA, a design budget was secured and Systra Ireland Consulting Engineers have recently been appointed by the Limerick Active Travel Office to prepare a masterplan for improvements. Systra are currently preparing preliminary proposals for review and public consultation. These should be available in early 2023.

9. Question submitted by Councillor Carey

“I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District [a] when did L.C.C.C request that the entire county of Limerick be defined as Urban Land for the purposes of the Derelict Sites Act 1990, section 21 [b] what was the wording of the request and [c] what was the response from the relevant Minister.”

Reply:

- a) Part III of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended) deals with the Levy on Derelict Sites. Section 23 of the Act states that the derelict sites levy shall apply in areas designated as “urban land”.

Section 21 of the Act provides that the Minister may prescribe any area not being part of a county or other borough, an urban district or a town, to be an “urban area” for the purpose of this Act.

Requests were made in 1991, 2004, 2005, and 2015.

- b) The wording of these requests are contained in the Statutory Instruments outlined below.
- c) The Minister approved these requests and made regulations under Statutory Instrument No’s 362/1991, 59/2004, 813/2005, and 154/2015.

10. Question submitted by Councillor Carey

“I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District as to what is the strategy or roadmap for additional Ukrainian refugees in Bruff, in particular, I will ask for an overview of the total numbers planned, what analysis of the required infrastructure has been carried out and what additional infrastructure will be required for the increased population. “

Reply:

The former convent at Bruff is a commercial multi-occupancy temporary accommodation centre under contract with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). As of Friday 2nd December, there are 215 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) accommodated in the former convent at Bruff of which 14 are under the age of 18 with a 2:1 adult ratio of males to females. There are a further 112 bed spaces released and available for additional BOTPs.

Limerick City and County Council is unaware of what analysis the DCEDIY carried out prior to contracting the facility. Following activation of the centre, the Limerick Community Response Forum, led by Limerick City and County Council, have collaborated to respond to the needs of the new residents in Bruff, provided a number of donated and repaired bikes, and raised public transport issues at national platforms. In addition, the operator of the accommodation centre has committed to:

- Continue to work with Community Response Forum agencies in responding to the health and wellbeing (including education and employment) of residents,
- Sourcing a minibus for transportation of residents to appointments, events, etc,
- Working with Bruff Community Council on the Community Playground
- Building on the success of recent Bank and Bring events with additional integration social events
- Continue assisting in CV preparation, employer showcases and job matching
- To work with local childcare providers to increase sessional spaces should the need arise.

11. Question submitted by Councillor M Ryan

“I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District what dates voids in Cappamore-Kilmallock will actually be returned to use.”

Reply:

There have been 10 vacant units refurbished and returned to the housing stock in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock since the start of 2022. 14 houses remain vacant of which 11 have been inspected and are in various stages of procurement, planning and refurbishment. The remaining 3 are due for inspection.

The Questions were taken as read

12. Any other Business

Step Forward

The Elected Members were updated that Mr Donn O’Sullivan, Head of Marketing in Limerick City and County Council, has committed to support a campaign to promote accessibility through the roads section. He will liaise with the Senior Executive Engineer for Roads following his meeting with The Step Forward Group, Hospital, in January 2023.

JPC

In relation to the Joint Policing Committee Meeting in February, it was agreed to get clarification as to the role of the Gardai attending in light of the new structure of An Garda Síochána. It was agreed to move the JPC meeting from January to February.

Standing Orders

Councillor Donegan requested that the Standing Orders be included on the Agenda at the January meeting.

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy School

The Elected Members wished to congratulate the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy School in Bruff and to give credit to Rory Corbett and staff regarding same.

Deputations

The following Deputations were agreed by the Elected Members:

- Oola Graveyard Committee
- Bruff Grange Meanus Graveyard Committee.

It was noted that the Standing Orders require that each Deputation correspond in writing to the Meetings Administrator prior to being brought to the Elected Members.

The above were approved subject to written correspondence being received.

Votes of Sympathy

The Elected Members wished to express their sympathy to the following :

- The family of Kathleen Donegan, aunt to Councillor Donegan, on her passing on 8th December 2022.
- The family of Former TD for West Limerick, Michael Collins, on his passing on 3rd December 2022

An Cathaoirleach thanked the Elected Members, office staff, and roads and housing staff, and wished everyone a Happy Christmas

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District will be held on Thursday 19th January at 3pm in Lough Gur Amenity Centre.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach