

Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in the Courthouse, Cootehill on Monday 16^h October, 2023 at 4pm

Councillor Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach presiding.

Present; Councillors P McDonald, A. Fitzpatrick, V. Smith, S O'Reilly, C Brady

Apologies; Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service

In Attendance; John McKernan, Senior Engineer
Clinton Mulligan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer
Caroline Brady, Town Regeneration Officer CCC
C. Murray – Minutes Administrator

Cathaoirleach C. Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 4th September 2023.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 4th Meán Fómhair 2023 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor V Smith

Seconded by Councillor A Fitzpatrick

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held on 4th September 2023 be hereby approved”

2. Disclosure of Interests.

There were no disclosures of Interest.

3. Presentation Re: Bailieborough Town Centre Plan

Ms C Brady presented the Bailieborough Town Centre Plan to members and discussed in detail the work that had been undertaken to date. The plan was summarised and split up into 9 enabling key themes. Ms C Brady presented in detail the objectives of each theme and once completed asked for any questions.

Cllr P McDonald congratulated Ballyhaise men's and women's football teams on their recent success. Cllr P McDonald then queried had any progression been made with landowners in regard to acquiring additional parking space in the town, as well as asking was there any plans for the newly acquired town and county building and asked had consideration been made for additional pedestrian crossings within the plan. Ms C Brady advised members that they were currently liaising with 3 landowners to see if any agreement could be made for providing additional parking. Ms C Brady advised she was hopeful that once there was a plan to present that it was easier to liaise with landowners. Ms C Brady also told members that current plans indicated that the town and country building would be used to extend the car park and provide an entrance from the car park onto the main street. In relation to the pedestrian facilities Ms C Brady advised that this needed to be looked at in greater detail as a whole project with other stakeholders and that one of the key aims was to slow the traffic down throughout the town centre.

Cllr S O'Reilly thanked Ms C Brady for the work that had been completed to date. The plan was very detailed and had been put together in a short timeframe. Cllr S O'Reilly also raised the issue of car parking as well as asking would the junction at the top of the Kingscourt road be included in the plan. Cllr S O'Reilly also asked about the plans for the derelict building on the main street. Mr J McKernan advised members that that he agreed the junction needed to be assessed but that it needed to work for the town and fit in with the planned public realm works planned for this area. He advised members that these works were at preliminary design stage and that current streams of funding were being looked at.

Ms C Brady summarised to members that a meeting was held with the town team, that included 12 local stakeholders, and the aim from these meetings was to set 1 short, 1 medium and 1 long term objective. Some of the smaller objectives included a calendar of events for markets etc as well as pop up shops being mindful of the situation with rates etc for these types of events as well as the challenges with property owners to upgrade facilities on some of the vacant properties currently in the town. Ms C Brady advised it was important to get quick wins initially to show momentum and get more businesses involved including the cleaning and repainting of vacant properties.

Cllr A Fitzpatrick asked about the digitisation of the heritage trail and whether there would be a combination of QR codes and other material as he was conscious that older people may not have access to smart technology and wanted everyone to be fit to access it.

4. Cllr V Smith – To discuss an update on road flooding issues on the L2023 Caulfield

Cllr V Smith advised he had spoken to Mr C Mulligan already about flooding issues but was concerned that no works had started and that there had been several representations in the last 3-5 months. Cllr V Smith advised he knows they have been looked at but when will works start to take place. Cllr A Fitzpatrick agreed that there is several issues throughout the district and had suggested a fund for drainage works. Due to the RI programme task lists from last year are still not completed. Mr C Mulligan agreed there were broad concerns over drainage and the works that needed to be completed. He advised members that the RI programme was extensive and with new LIC/CIS funding it meant that the crews lost substantial time in the year completing these. Generally, from March to the end of October.

In regard to the L2023, Mr C Mulligan advised that he had looked at this location that was an open drain along the road that links to a private drain system and the private system needed maintenance. He also advised members that works were to begin on the Castletara road next week.

5. Cllr P McDonald – To discuss upgrading signage with the towns in the district

Cllr P McDonald raised the issue that there was a need for maintenance to be carried out regarding signage. He advised that there was a lot of grass/shrubbery covering stop signs leaving junctions dangerous. He also advised that many local roads were missing road numbers on the end of them. Mr C Mulligan advised members that this was a resource issue. The OR and DG funding is extremely limited, and signs were usually only replaced if they were damaged. He did advise members that town signage had other funding streams that could be explored e.g. Cootehill town had received funding for new welcome signs. Cllr P McDonald asked did this include chevrons or pointers, However Mr J McKernan advised these can come under discretionary grants or low-cost safety schemes but would need to be identified at specific locations.

Cllr S O'Reilly asked was it the same outdoor crews that were used for signage and flooding. Mr C Mulligan advised that it was and that once the RI programme and grant jobs were completed it was down to work planning to assign works to each crew.

Cathaoirleach C Kelly asked was there any update on the additional staff that was to be recruited to help with these issues to which Mr J McKernan advised that the new technician post would look at drainage issues.

6. Cllr P McDonald – To discuss Flooding At the Town Lake in Bailieborough

Cllr P McDonald raised the issue that the town lake was flooding. He advised that there was an outlet on the Cavan Road, an old stone culvert that can flood for 2 or 3 weeks at a time and wanted to know who was responsible for this was it fisheries or the OPW? Mr C Mulligan advised members that this area was on a designated flood plain. Efforts had been made previously to survey the culvert but failed. This would need to be surveyed in a prolonged spell of good weather and even if a blockage was found as it is not a road flooding issues there may be no funding available to fix the blockage. Mr J McKernan advised that CCC would try to find the cause of the issue first before any further plan is made.

7. Cllr C Brady – To discuss Traffic in Tullyvin

Cllr C Brady brought members attention to Tullyvin where she explained that there is a lot of traffic passing through the village as well as a unique narrow bridge. There is a large factory with a lot of workers in the village as well as an extremely busy junction leading up to a community centre and creche especially with cars turning left and right. The current speed limit is 60km/hr and asked could the junction be looked at from a safety perspective as well as the speed limit. Mr J McKernan advised that a survey could be completed here at specific times to try to see if action needed to be taken as well as a speed limit review with Gardai.

Mr C Mulligan advised members that due to the speed limit the location was not suitable for speed ramps or cushions and that there was not a lot of collision data for this location. If members of the public reported it to elected members Mr C Mulligan would encourage elected members to advise them to report it to the gardai, even if minor so that the collision data would represent what's happening at this location. Mr C Mulligan advised it may be suitable for a low-cost safety scheme but that there was good visibility of speed signs and that it may be an enforcement issue. Cllr S O'Reilly suggested if turning lanes where an option here however Mr C Mulligan advised the road was not wide enough.

8. Cllr C Brady – To discuss the current junction at Bunnoe Cross

Cllr C Brady advised members that this location had become very dangerous. Currently when you approach the junction you must edge out significantly before you have visibility to turn. She advised hedges are cut but the junction is badly designed. Cllr C Brady advised that the landowner had been approached and was agreeable to have the hedge taken out completely and replaced with a fence. Mr C Mulligan advised that the signage and road markings were on the task list to be replaced here and that he would have further discussions about the possibility of removing the hedge with the landowner.

9. Cllr A Fitzpatrick – To discuss an update on Station Road.

Cllr A Fitzpatrick advised that several great projects in the district has started however he wanted an update on the status of station road. Mr C Mulligan advised members that Pringles, the contractor was at preliminary design stage of the active travel project with the view of the project being brought to planning in early 2024, with a view to start work later in the year. Mr C Mulligan advised the road surface was not covered under the active travel scheme and that it may need to be placed on the new Roads work programme from 2025. Cllr C Brady asked was there any way a small surface could be placed on the worst part of the road from EMCA up in front of the mart as emergency works until the bigger works are completed as the elected members were receiving abuse from individuals about the condition of the road. Mr C Mulligan advised he would investigate this option but again it was a resource issue.

10.A.O.B

Cllr A Fitzpatrick asked was there any funding available to replace the current tarmac footpaths in Redhills. He advised they had been sprayed but there were issues with moss growing on them making them dangerous to pedestrians and enquired if replacing existing footpaths was covered under the active travel scheme. Mr J McKernon advised that it was not covered under Active travel and different funding streams would need to be explored.

The date of the next meeting was agreed and set for Monday 20th November 2023 at 3.30pm in the Chamber in Cootehill.

The meeting concluded at 5.00pm.