

Minutes of Kilbeggan Area Meeting held at 9.00am on Thursday 6th December 2007 at Kilbeggan Area Office

Members Present : Cllr. J. Flanagan ,Cllr. T.Cowley,
Cllr. M Newman, Cllr. M. Nugent.

Officers Present : Mr. Ray Kenny, Director of Services
Mr. Howard Costelloe, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms Elaine Eighan, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Annette Barr Jordan, Administrative Officer, C&E
Mr. John Ahern, Senior Engineer, Project Office
Mr. Ambrose Clarke, SEE, Project Office
Mr. Killian Lee, EE, Project Office
Mr. Pat Keating, SEO Legal & Enforcement
Mr. Peter Ivers, Executive Engineering

Item 1 – Delegation from Westmeath Community & Voluntary Forum

Members welcomed the Delegation from Kilbeggan Community & Voluntary Forum to the meeting. The forum was represented by Owen Duffy and Seamus Browne and were accompanied by Annette Barr Jordan, Community & Enterprise. A copy of the forums submission was circulated to members at the meeting. Representatives of the forum advised that the submission to the area committee contained the main issues that have arisen from the forums meetings:

1. Road safety in Mullagh – removal of dangerous bends between Balliniva and Killare. Forum requested that it be clarified if it would be included in 2008 programme of works.
2. Natural Heritage Sites - requested Westmeath County Council to investigate the possibility of blanket insurance for all monuments in the County.
3. Road Safety in Kilbeggan – Forum advised that received requests for a pedestrian crossing on the Tullamore Road to facilitate users of the school and church. .
4. Regeneration of Moyvore – Forum requested STP for Moyvore in order to attract development.
5. Tourism & Heritage – Forum requested that Grand Canal be recognised as Heritage Site.
6. Flooding – An area of flooding on road leading to Magher was highlighted as being particularly dangerous.
7. Access to Grange Gibbon Road – Forum raised the issue of repair to the access route to business park and main street.

Cllr. Mark Nugent thanked the forum for their submission and stressed the importance of bringing these matters to the members attention. Ray Kenny, DOS also thanked members and advised that a response to issue raised will be prepared for the Forum.

At this point members of the Forum and Annette Barr Jordan, AO, C & E left the meeting.

Item 2 -Minutes of meeting held at 3.30pm on 3rd October 2007.

On the proposal of Cllr. J Flanagan and Seconded by Cllr T Cowley it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of meeting held on 3rd October 2007.

It was agreed that an up to date report on the status of Local Improvement Schemes be circulated to members.

Item 3 - Report on status of Housing Estates/Taking in Charge.

Pat Keating, SEO & Peter Ivers, EE, Legal & Enforcement Section circulated a report on the status of Housing Estates/Taking in Charge to members at the meeting. Pat Keating, SEO outlined report to members, he advised that it is hoped to send a signal to developers that non compliance with conditions will be pursued by the Enforcement Section.

Cllr. Nugent queried the status of Castlelost Vale, Rochfortbridge. Pat Keating advised that discussions were in progress with the developer.

Cllr. Cowley raised the issue of works at The Gallops, Kilbeggan. Pat Keating, SEO, advised that there has been a lot of progress made with completion of this estate and that the Developer has been on site since early October.

Cllr. Nugent thanked Pat Keating & Peter Ivers for their report and stated that it was good to meet the enforcement team at local level.

At this point, Pat Keating & Peter Ivers left the meeting.

Item 4 - Commencement of Part VIII process for the N52 Carrick Bridge to Clonfad Improvement Scheme in accordance with the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2006, Part VIII and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2007

This item was taken first at the meeting. A set of drawings relating to the N52 Carrick Bridge to Clonfad Improvement Scheme were on display at the meeting. Ambrose Clarke, SEE, outlined the various drawings and details of the Scheme to members.

Cllr Flanagan asked about the timeline for works being carried out. John Ahern, SE, advised that subject to approval of Part VIII, a CPO would be prepared which would require NRA approval. Construction would depend on the availability of funding for the works.

Members welcomed the proposals. On the proposal of Cllr. Tom Cowley and seconded by Cllr. Michael Newman it was proposed to commence the Part VIII planning process. Members were advised that the proposal would be put on public display from Monday 17th December 2007 up to and including 1st February 2008, the latest date for submissions would be 15th February 2008.

At this point John Ahern, SE, Ambrose Clarke, SEE & Killian Lee, EE left the meeting.

Item 5 – Commence Part VIII of the planning process for construction of a childcare facility and associated work at Market Hill, Ballymore.

Drawings showing the proposed childcare facility were circulated to members at the meeting. On the proposal of Cllr. T Cowley seconded by Cllr. Mark Nugent it was agreed to commence the Part VIII process.

Item 6 – Replies to Questions

The Replies to Questions were noted and supplementary questions answered.

Item 7 - Correspondence

It was noted that there was no correspondence.

Notice of Motion.

8. **Cllr. M Nugent:** ‘That this Council would re-examine the positioning of the roundabout off the R400 and N6 junction in Rochfortbridge as it is creating safety problems.’

Reply: On the morning of Thursday 29th November 2007, engineers from Westmeath County Council met with consulting engineers and contracting engineers responsible for the works. After examining the site, it was agreed that the contractor would erect additional 'Yield' and advance warning signs on all approaches to the mini-roundabout. Existing 'Yield' signs will be relocated to afford better visibility. Older existing signs will be relocated or, if redundant, removed from site altogether. The contractor pointed out that an independent Road Safety Audit (Stage 3) will be carried out in the second week in December 2007, before taking-in-charge by the local authority.

Howard Costelloe, SEE and Ray Kenny, Director of Services advised that they had been in contact with the regional design office regarding the roundabout.

9. **Cllr M Nugent:** ‘That this Council would carry out the necessary works to relieve flooding at Mal Guilfoyle jnr’s house at Harbour Road, Kilbeggan.’

Reply: This work will be included in the Routine Maintenance Programme for 2008.

10. **Cllr M Nugent:** ‘That this Council would examine the possibility of taking in charge (if not already done so) the remainder of road no. 51451 known as the Bog road off Mullingar road, Tyrrellspass’

Reply: Only a small section at the start of this road off the old N52 has been taken in charge by Westmeath Co Co. This section serves Local Authority houses in Belvedere Court and other serviced sites previously owned by Westmeath Co Co. The remainder of this road has not been taken in charge. This office would suggest a possible solution to maintaining the road which has not been taken in charge by WCC, would be for the residents and land owners to apply to Roads Section, Westmeath Co Co for a Local Improvement Scheme.

11. **Cllr M Nugent:** ‘That every effort would be made to connect up as many houses as possible to the new sewerage system in Castletown-Geoghegan and a system put in place whereby a group scheme can be organised to facilitate those roads who can access it.’

Reply: The contract will leave spurs at the boundary of individual properties. There are up to 80 properties proposed to be connected to the network. Individuals will have to form a Group Scheme to assist in funding for connections to each property.

12. **Cllr T Cowley:** ‘That Westmeath County Council meet with local residents with regard to new N6 pedestrian underpass at Tonaphort, Kilbeggan.’

Reply: The Project Liaison Engineer, Mr. Niall Kennedy, and his team at the NRDO Project Office in Culleen Beg, Mullingar, is available to meet local residents about the underpass and any other problems.

It was agreed to have a meeting the following Monday 11th December 2007 at 11am to discuss.

13. **Cllr T Cowley:** ‘That Westmeath County Council provide details on derelict sites register for Kilbeggan and what action is being taken to upgrade them.’

Reply: There are currently 29 sites in Kilbeggan village under investigation under the Derelict Sites Act. 8 of these sites are placed on the formal Derelict Sites Register and following investigations further sites will be placed on the register. Warning letters and or formal notices have been served in respect to all sites where the owners have been identified.

The Environment Section is working with Kilbeggan Area office and the Planning Section in identifying the owners of these sites and would welcome any information that the members may have available which would assist in our investigations.’

14. **Cllr T Cowley:** ‘That Westmeath County Council ensure that the maximum number of houses be connected to the new sewage scheme at Castletown-Geoghegan.’

Reply: The contract will leave spurs at the boundary of individual properties. There are up to 80 properties proposed for connection to the network. Individuals will have to form a Group Scheme to assist in funding for connections to each property.

15. **Cllr T Cowley;** ‘That Westmeath County install a new public light on Mullingar Road, Kilbeggan near Mary Kelly’s House.’

Reply: This office will seek to include this work in the Public Lighting Programme for 2008.

16. **Cllr M Newman:** ‘That this Council would take careful note of the increasing awareness amount citizens of the rights and also the litigious nature of many in society today and in the light of the above to expedite the removal of many dangerous bends on our roads or risk being found at fault under the Health & Safety legislation’

Reply: It has been the policy of Westmeath Co Co to remove dangerous bends when resources allow. Priority of removal is based on

accident history and the road classification. Where dangerous bends exist, warning signs are erected.

17. **Cllr M Newman:** ‘That the short piece of road (200m) in Tyrrellspass known locally as ‘Poor lane’ or ‘The old bog road’ be taken over by this Council at least left passable. It serves as an alternative exit from the GAA pitch and currently has craters 1.5m wide x .25m deep.’

Reply: Only a small section at the start of this road off the old N52 has been taken in charge by Westmeath Co Co. This section serves Local Authority houses in Belvedere Court and other serviced sites previously owned by Westmeath Co Co. The remainder of this road has not been taken in charge. This office would suggest a possible solution to maintaining the road which has not been taken in charge by WCC, would be for the residents and land owners to apply to Roads Section, Westmeath Co Co for a Local Improvement Scheme.

18. **Cllr M Newman:** ‘That this Council intervene with the NRA staff and liaise to ensure that no big wide areas of waste land are left along roadsides after works are completed as these are an open invitation to unauthorised use as halting sites e.g. on the Tonaphort/Circular road in Kilbeggan near the underpass.’

Reply: The Project Liaison Engineer, Mr. Niall Kennedy, and his team at the NRDO Project Office in Culleen Beg, Mullingar, is available to meet local residents about this issue.

It was agreed to have a meeting the following Monday 11th December 2007 at 11am to discuss.

19. **Cllr M Newman:** ‘That The Green and White luminous marker bollards be installed at all lane entrances in our villages similar to the two near the pedestrian crossing in Kilbeggan at the old post office. There are people for whom these exits are vital especially senior citizens and these people must not have a vehicle parked across their exit at any time so as to allow a car out to a hospital or indeed for any reason.’

Reply: This office will seek include this scheme for funding in 2008 roads programme. Other villages will probably have to be included in this programme.

Cllr. Newman advised that he was aware of numbers people whose gateways are being blocked.

20. **Cllr J Flanagan:** ‘That this Council provides funding for safety works at Baskin Cross with a view to improving safety at this junction’

Reply: This office will seek to include this work in the 2008 Road Works Programme.

21. **Cllr J Flanagan:** ‘That this Council takes further measures to warn motorists of the dangerous bend at Mullaghcloe, Ballymore.’

Reply: This office has relined the approaches to this bend, re-sited warning signs and is looking at the possible use of new type of road studs ‘Cats-Eyes’ to warn motorists of this bend. Other options under examination are the acquisition of land at bend to improve sight distances.

22. **Cllr J Flanagan:** ‘That this Council improves the standard of road markings on the regional road from Kilbeggan to Castletown-Geoghegan.’
Reply: A new centreline has been laid along the R 389 from Kilbeggan to Scath Beag on R 392.
23. **Cllr J Flanagan:** ‘That this Council provides a water connection to residents on the Knockdomney road adjacent to Cowpark, Moate.’
Reply: This matter was investigated by Water Services in the past and due to the limit in water supply to the Moate Area it was concluded that this group scheme could not connect to the watermain supplying the town until such time as Phase I, South Westmeath Regional Water Scheme has been completed. However, recent development of the modelling of the Westmeath Water Supply network indicates that it maybe possible to connect this particular group scheme to the network.

Ray Kenny, Director of Services advised that a no. of representations have been made regarding this and that the water conservation team were examining the issue.

Item 24– Fix date for next meeting.

It was agreed to hold the next Kilbeggan Area Meeting on Friday 22nd February 2008.

Item 25 – Any other business.

Ray Kenny, Director of Services, advised that a no. of housing development have been proposed for Rochfortbridge. He advised that while the new Sewerage Treatment Plant will be coming on stream in March/April 2008, concern has been expressed regarding water supply in the area. He advised that the effect of permitting a large no. of houses would cause problems.

Cllr. Cowley raised the issue of flooding in the cemetery in Kilbeggan and stated that works need to be carried out urgently. Howard Costelloe, SEE agreed that this would be looked at immediately.

Cllr. Nugent requested that a school warning sign be erected at GAA pitch in Ballinagore and the school has temporarily relocated to this site. Howard Costelloe, SEE, agreed that a temporary sign would be put in place.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____