

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Wurzburg Room, Wicklow County Buildings Monday 1st April 2019 at 12.00pm.

Present: Cathaoirleach Tommy Cullen
Councillor Edward Timmins
Councillor Jim Ruttle
Councillor Pat Doran
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Vincent Blake

In Attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager
Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator
Ms. Andrea Connolly, A/Assistant Staff Officer
Sgt. Shaun Durkan, Blessington Garda Station

Apologies: Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer

1. To discuss: The proposed Community CCTV project for Blessington Town.

Before Cllr. Cullen opened the meeting he noted that Cllr. Timmins had submitted a request for a suspension of the Standing Orders in order to discuss the issue of designated areas within the Baltinglass Municipal District which have been deemed as election poster free areas. Cllr. Cullen proposed that this item be discussed after the main item of the meeting was discussed. The suspension of standing orders was proposed by Cllr. Timmins and seconded by Cllr. Blake.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cullen opened the special meeting by welcoming Sergeant Shaun Durkan from Blessington Garda Station to the meeting and asked him to give the members an overview on the proposed CCTV project.

Sergeant Durkan informed the members how the project was discussed in early 2017 through the Blessington Town Team Forum meetings. J & N Security Consultants Ltd then

came on board to provide expertise and advice. Sgt. Durkan also advised the members that over a five year period, between 2014 and 2019, crime rates were heat mapped and 11 locations were identified in the Blessington area. These locations are where the cameras will now be situated. The heat maps were developed through statistical analysis of crime data over a five year period in Blessington town. Through discussions with the Blessington Town Team, Blessington Forum and Wicklow County Council it was agreed that Wicklow County Council would act as data controller and would house the recording equipment and act as data controller. There is to be a direct feed from the CCTV to Blessington Garda station. This proposal has the support of local businesses and public support. A large number of the businesses and community groups have submitted messages and letters of support for the development of the community CCTV project.

Cllr. O'Neill raised a number of concerns over the CCTV project and requested clarification on these matters. These concerns included:

- The location of cameras at Glending and Oak Drive – no areas should be singled out
- Data protections laws – could any individuals be held personally liable
- The total cost of project - €190,000

District Administrator, Mr. Garvan Hickey, outlined that the Community CCTV project would be compliant with data protection regulations and the proposed application and has been signed off on by the Data Protection Officer and An Gardai for the purpose of making the application to the Department of Justice and Equality. The recording equipment will be housed in the BMD office in Blessington and only three members of staff, who are in the process of being Garda vetted, will have access to data. He explained that data can only be obtained once a request in writing is received from the Superintendent before being released. Data will only be held for 30 days in line with good practice.

Mr. Garvan Hickey acknowledged the issues raised by Cllr. O'Neill and noted that the names of the two estates were included in the report as reference points for the location of the cameras as some people may not be aware of the road references and was not meant to stigmatise any area. The proposed locations of the cameras is based on statistical of the five year data available and focused on the main routes into and out of the town.

The Baltinglass Municipal District is to make an application to the Department of Justice and Equality for funding towards the installation of a community-based CCTV system for the town. The proposed installation of the Community CCTV in Blessington will assist Gardai with public order and crime prevention and detection. It will also assist with traffic

management in the town. He also advised the members that installation of the CCTV will cost €100,000 approximately with an agreed 5 year maintenance contract. An application for funding will be made to the Department of Justice and Equality of €40,000 and Wicklow County Council Chief Executive has guaranteed funding of €60,000 towards this project.

He also informed the members that the map that had previously been circulated at the Baltinglass Municipal Meeting had been amended and estate names had now been changed to road names and areas.

After some discussion Cllr. Cullen asked if another camera could be positioned between Dunnes Stores and Deerpark as this is quite a busy roadway, especially with pedestrians out walking at night. Sergeant Mark Durkan stated that an additional camera could be placed at the Dunnes Stores roundabout and that the project was fully compliant with GDP regulations, this would be dependent on the level of funding available.

District Manager, Mr Sean Quirke, advised the members that there was a need to keep this application to the forefront and not let it fall behind. That there is support from Blessington Town Team and the public and he advised putting the project out for public consultation.

Cllr. O'Neill asked about the location of one of the cameras at the entrance to Glending Estate. Mr. Sean Quirke advised the members that this was a Licence Plate Recognition camera as fully outlined in the proposal submitted by J & N Security Consultants.

Following a discussion it was agreed that all members were satisfied with the location of the cameras but the consultant's report would require amendments to remove the names of some estates and replace with road locations. The members also received assurances from Wicklow County Council that no Councillor would be personally liable under corporate liability and responsibility with regard to GDP regulations. Mr. Garvan Hickey to liaise with the consultants to change the reference to the estates to road locations.

Cllr. Ruttle proposed the project go on display for public consultation and Cllr. Timmins seconded this. This was agreed unanimously by the members. Mr. Garvan Hickey advised members that depending on getting the amendments to the consultants report it was hoped to go advertise in the local papers from Wednesday 17th April. The proposed project would be available for public consultation in Blessington Garda Station. Civic Offices Blessington and Blessington Library.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cullen, thanked Sergeant Durkan for attending the meeting and giving a detailed presentation on the project to date.

2. Election Poster Free Zones

Cllr. Timmins advised the members that he had received correspondence regarding the erection of posters during the upcoming election campaign. Cllr. Timmins highlighted the excellent work being done by groups as part of the Pure Mile Project and informed members that he had received numerous correspondences from Pure Mile groups requesting that their pure miles be considered election poster free areas. Cllr. Cullen noted that he had seen at first hand the excellent work being done on the ground by pure mile projects and it was important to recognise this work.

Mr. Sean Quirke advised that a motion had been passed at the February Baltinglass Municipal meeting and candidates were to be advised that Baltinglass Municipal District do not want posters erected within the 60km zones. Cllr. Timmins proposed that the Pure Miles are included in this motion and this was seconded by Cllr. Ruttle seconded.

Cllr. Timmins asked if a list of all the pure miles in Baltinglass MD could be circulated to members. Mr. Garvan Hickey to contact Mr. Ian Davis, Project Manager, PURE for a list of the pure mile projects.

The meeting was closed by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Cullen.

Signed:



CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 15/04/2019