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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TRALEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2016.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH THRÁ LÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAN AN 1 FEABHRA 2016.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

P. Daly

N. Foley

T. Ferris

S. Locke

T. O'Brien

G. Spring

P. McCarthy

J. Finucane

Apologies for absence received from Cathaoirleach T. McEllistrim

In attendance/i láthair

Mr. C. O'Sullivan

Delegated Executive for the MD of Tralee

Mr. G. O'Brien

Meetings Administrator

Ms. J. Foley

AO

Mr. G Riordan

SE

Mr. T Sheehy

SE

Mr. T McSwiney

SEE

Mr. E Scanlan

SEE

Mr. C Lynch

EE

Ms. A M Costelloe

AP

Ms. S Broderick

SO

The meeting commenced at 2.25pm

As apologies for absence had been received from Cathaoirleach T McEllistrim, Leas Cathaoirleach G Spring took the Chair.

1. Amenity trail from the Ashe Memorial Hall via the Neill Armstrong way to Blennerville Bridge, including improvement works to the Canal Path.

Mr. T Sheehy briefed the members on a report on this item which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Sheehy referred to page 12 of the report and said that the plans have been amended to omit the section of the amenity trail within Siamsa Tíre grounds and along Neil Armstrong way pending ongoing discussions with the management of the folk theatre and Save the Green Committee.

Cllr. J Finucane welcomed the construction of the amenity trail and said that any development that will enhance the attractiveness of the Tralee and the quality of life for residents and visitors is hugely positive. He PROPOSED that the construction of the amenity trail would proceed.

Cllr. T O'Brien SECONDED the proposal and said that he appreciated that the section of the amenity trail within Siamsa Tíre grounds is being postponed pending ongoing discussions.

Cllr. N Foley supported the proposal and acknowledged the huge amount of preparatory work and negotiation that has been undertaken by the Capital Infrastructure Unit to progress this development. She asked for clarification as to where the starting point is located. She referred to the uneven surface on the canal bank walk and welcomed that it is intended to replace the gravel path with a tarmac surface to ensure that it is accessible to all sectors of the community. She referred to the use of the canal walk by cyclists and said that the same care and consideration must be given to walkers as to cyclists.

Cllr. S Locke welcomed the proposal and said that he has reservations about the canal walk being used by cyclists and asked if it will be sufficiently wide to provide a designated cycle lane. He said that he was also concerned about users falling into the canal due to lack of a protective barrier.

Cllr. P Daly said that his priority is that this amenity trail is constructed and available for use as soon as possible. He asked if a pedestrian crossing will be provided at the aquadome side of the roundabout.

Cllr. P McCarthy referred to an error in the Typical Cross Sections drawing and said that this should read *N86 road* not *N70 road*.

Cllr. T Ferris congratulated all involved in progressing this proposal. She commended Save the Green Committee and said that further encroachment on the Town Park would reduce the leisure aspect of the park. She said that a considerable part of the canal walk will be wider and will facilitate walkers and cyclists. She did not think that additional verge protection was required along the verge of the canal.

Cathaoirleach G Spring said that the promotion of an active life style in Tralee is very welcome.

Mr. E Scanlan referred to the use of the canal walk by cyclists and pedestrians and said that this was examined in detail when the design was being prepared. While it is acknowledged that the interaction of pedestrians and cyclists can be problematic in certain instances this must be balanced against the need to encourage more cycling and provide the necessary facilities to achieve this, therefore, it has been decided that a shared space is the best option. The scheme will provide adequate signage to alert pedestrians and cyclists to the shared use of the trail.

With regard to the verge of the canal, Mr. Scanlan said verge protection will not be constructed and pedestrians and cyclists will have to be aware that the pathway is on the verge of the canal.

Mr. Scanlan said that provision has been made for the development of a pedestrian/cycle crossing on the L-2010-0 Ballyard road.

Mr. Scannell said that it is intended to enter into further discussions with Siamsa Tire regarding the route of the trail around their property, therefore phase 1 of this amenity trail will terminate before reaching the grounds of Siamsa Tire.

Cllr. N Foley said that while she accepted that a shared use of the trail is the preferred option she felt that sometimes the rights of pedestrians can be compromised and asked that signage to ensure equal parity for cyclists and pedestrians is erected on the trail.

Cllr. P McCarthy suggested that if problems arise that the provision of a rippled surface on one side of the pathway could be considered.

Cllr. T O'Brien said that this would not be appropriate for people who use wheelchairs and people pushing buggies.

Cllr. P Daly referred to the Tralee to Fenit Amenity Trail (Edward Street to Rock Street) asked if an update is available on removal of a wall at the rear of a business along the trail.

Mr. Scanlan said that there has been no further development in this regard.

Cllr. N Foley PROPOSED that a further communication would take place between Kerry County Council and the business concerned regarding this matter.

Mr. C O'Sullivan agreed that it is very important to keep the lines of communication open.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J Finucane SECONDED by Cllr. T O'Brien it was agreed to construct an amenity trail from the Ashe Memorial Hall via the Neill Armstrong way to Blennerville Bridge, including improvement works to the Canal Path in accordance with Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended),

2. 7 bedroom, single storey dwelling and associated site works, at Ballyvelly, Dingle road, Tralee.

Mr. T Sheehy advised the meeting that subsequent to the agenda being circulated a number of issues were raised by the members regarding this item, therefore, it has been decided that it will not be dealt with at this meeting and will be rescheduled for a meeting at a future date.

The meeting concluded at 2.50pm

Gerard O'Brien
Meetings Administrator

Mayor of the Municipal District of Tralee

