

Cookstown Bypass Meeting with MUDC and Department for Infrastructure

Tuesday 4th August 2020

MUDC Dungannon Office

Attendance

David McKinley	Department for Infrastructure
Eamon Lynch	WSP
Cllr Cathal Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Kerri Hughes	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Trevor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
Martina Totten	Mid Ulster District Council
Paul McCreedy	Mid Ulster District Council

Apologies

Gordon Noble	Department for Infrastructure
Cllr John McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Wilbert Buchannon	Mid Ulster District Council

E. Lynch delivered a presentation on the update of the scheme including progress to date, proposed timeline and route options.

Cllr Mallaghan asked when DfI will be in discussion with land owners. E. Lynch said that they have been in continuous contact with land owners and they are aware of what is happening. D. McKinley said that discussions regarding land purchase is further down the line and that the Public Information Day in December will be a formal starting point for discussions.

Cllr Wilson informed the meeting that the Golf Club and failed to secure finance from the bank to commence amendments to the course in advance of the scheme as the bank require a formal commitment from DfI that the by-pass scheme will happen. They also will require 2 years to complete all necessary works before they can release the required land for the by-pass.

Cllr Hughes enquired about the progress of all necessary surveys. E. Lynch confirmed they are all ongoing.

D. McKinley confirmed he was confident that funding will be made available for the scheme development up to 2021/22. There after funding for delivery of the new road will depend on the Minister's priorities.

Cllr Mallaghan proposed Elected Members and DfI meet every 2 months to discuss updates on the scheme. D. McKinley agreed that the Project Team would be happy to do so.

Cllr Mallaghan offered Dfl to use the Burnavon the same day Council meet in December as all appropriate equipment will be in place in place for the meeting.

P. McCreedy questioned what initiates a Public Inquiry. D. McKinley informed that depending on the number and nature of objections received a Public Inquiry may be required. The decision as to whether a Public Inquiry is required will be referred to a Dfl Roads Director other than the Director responsible for Strategic Road Improvements.

A. McCreesh recommended that Dfl carry out discussions with all key stakeholders prior to the Public Information day in order to resolve any issues. He offered the Council's assistance.

A McCreesh underlined the fact that the golf club will require a financial payment in advance to make the necessary amendments to their course prior to release the required land. He asked Dfl to have the necessary discussions to ensure this can happen. D. McKinley assured that he will take this back to the department.

A McCreesh asked Dfl to share the vision for the link with Sandholes and the new by pass. D. McKinley gave a brief outline of the reasons for promoting the Sandholes Link Road and that it's delivery would depend on affordability. It may be that the A29 bypass would proceed ahead of the link road but the eventual decision on this would be for the Minister.

Cllr Mallaghan informed the meeting that the 3 councils in the South West Region Growth Deal have now agreed their priorities for the bid, which the Cookstown by-pass is one. D McKinley welcomed this news and stated that it will be very important to the progression of the scheme.

A McCreesh pointed out that there is growing pressure for moving forward with the Dungannon by-pass. He proposed to include discussion of this scheme at the bi-monthly meetings. D. McKinley welcomed the idea to open discussions to further this scheme.

Actions

1. Share WSP presentation with elected members and council officers
2. Dfl and Elected Members to meet every 2 months to discuss Cookstown and Dungannon by pass scheme.
3. Dfl to meet with key stakeholders prior to the Public Information day.
4. Dfl to discuss the provision of advanced payment to the golf club.