

**Minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown**

**Date:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at 4.00p.m.

**Venue:** Danesfort Community Centre, Fr. Campion Place, Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny.

**Chair:** Cllr Patrick O'Neill

**Present:** Cllr Peter Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Matt Doran, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons.

**Apologies:** None

**In attendance:** Ms. Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Mr. Declan Murphy A/Senior Executive Engineer; Ms Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer; Mr. M.J. Walsh, Roadplan consulting; Ms. Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Ms. Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People.

It was proposed by Cllr Cullen, seconded by Cllr Cleere and agreed that the commencement of the Municipal District Meeting would be postponed from 4pm until 4.15pm. The meeting commenced at 4.15pm.

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 was proposed by Cllr Doyle, seconded by Cllr Lyons and agreed.

**2) Reception of Deputation: Danesfort Hurling Club presentation on future redevelopment**

Cllr O'Neill welcomed the delegation of Mr. Anthony Dunne and Mr. Tom O'Mahony representing Danesfort GAA Club. Mr. Dunne provided an overview of Danesfort GAA plans for the clubs' future redevelopment, stating that planning permission had been secured and the club are in the early stages of developing a new clubhouse together with the upgrade of the existing facilities which will include a new AstroTurf playing pitch and a refreshments area, with fundraising underway to fund the estimated cost of €1m.

In reply to queries regarding the future use of a new development which will be in very close proximity to the existing Community Centre, Mr. Dunne stated the new facility would focus on fitness and health needs.

Ms Mulholland advised eligibility to apply for the various funding streams have differing criteria and requirements.

Cllr O'Neill thanked the delegation for attending.

**3) Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

**(a) Presentation of the Thomastown Mobility Management Plan by Roadplan Consulting.**

Mr. M.J. Walsh, Senior Engineer with Roadplan Consulting, gave the members an overview of the work completed to date on the Thomastown Mobility Management Plan by Roadplan Consultants since their appointment in April 2019, identifying their aim to improve mobility,

safety and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, stating that 45 individual projects were identified and recommended for implementation during the lifespan of the Plan, subject to funding, including the following:

- Provision of new shared footways/cycleways with connectivity;
- Relocation of existing bus stops to southwest of the Salmon Pool on the R448 and in front of the Quay Carpark on the R700;
- A new "Town Link" bus service between Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown;
- Options for safer travel patterns for schools;
- Reconfiguration of traffic systems on Ladys Well Street, Chapel Lane;
- Amended traffic signage;
- Redesign and relocation of some parking spaces;
- Upgrade of existing car parks;
- Reduction in duration of on-street parking stays;
- Installation of a new signage scheme for parking facilities and public transport options.

Mr. Walsh stated that the next step is to meet key stakeholders and conduct a review of feedback in mid-November.

Members raised the following items:

- Consultation with residents required prior to connectivity of existing housing estates;
- Budgetary constraints;
- Safe cycling for school routes;
- Promotion of schools devising Mobility Management Plans;
- Retention of existing parking spaces;
- Existing car parks potential being realised.

Ms Mulholland added that the plan was a useful framework of objectives to aim for which could inform development proposals in the coming years, and that more intensive consultation would be appropriate on a project by project basis.

Cllr O'Neill thanked Mr. Walsh for his presentation.

#### **(b) Update Roads Update**

Mr. D Murphy, A/Senior Executive Engineer circulated a report updating the members on the following roads related matters:

- Restoration Improvement Works;
- Footpath Works (Discretionary Improvement);
- Drainage Works;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes;
- Rural Regeneration Projects;
- Thomastown Quayside Car-park
- Mobility Management Plan Thomastown
- Upcoming Irish Water Works

The members thanked Mr. Murphy for his update and raised the following items:

- Completion works for Blackstone Bridge, Kells Road;
- Danesfort Hill to Annamult Road; ground signage to be refreshed & speed counters installed;

- Timelines for the redefinition of the Engineering area for the new Callan-Thomastown Municipal District; changeover to happen 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020;
- Chapel Lane, Callan; Footpath works commencing imminently, Callan Mobility Management plan will ultimately identify and determine best manner of vehicular and pedestrian use;
- Rosbercon to Mullinavat road, Windgap, Tullaghought & Kilmoganny: Engineering responsibility will move from the Municipal District of Piltown to Callan-Thomastown Municipal District in January 2020;
- Inistioge Town & Village Renewal; Consultants have been appointed and it is hoped contractors can be appointed by year end;
- Speed on approach to Dungarvan from Skeoughvosteen; speedbumps installed.

#### **(c) Update on Kilkenny County Councils Pollinator Programme**

Ms Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer, updated the members on Kilkenny County Councils' contribution and involvement to date in supporting the All Ireland Pollinator Programme, explaining the vital role native plants and the bee population play in combating the prospect of a predicted 30% extinction in Ireland's pollinators, adding that Kilkenny County Council was the first Local Authority in Ireland to sign up to the Biodiversity Framework Agreement.

Ms Ledwidge stated that at Kilkenny County Councils meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 the members showed their support by adopting the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, agreeing the preparation of the annual Kilkenny Pollinator Plan, and adopting as it's emblem the garden bumblebee.

Ms Ledwidge identified the plants, crops and fruits which require insect pollination and the Irish pollinators which carry out this work.

She said the support of the elected members and by-in from the public in moving from a mind-set of tidiness to biodiversity is crucial to the Programme and thanked the members and agreed to provide a further update in October 2020.

Cllr O'Neill and the members thanked Ms Ledwidge for her presentation and expressed their praise for her efforts and dedication; the potential for sowing wild flowers on the Graiguenamanagh by-pass was noted, and it was clarified that best practice is to allow grass to grow naturally thus supporting wildflower growth rather than sowing wildflower seeds.

#### **(d) Monthly Rural Development Update**

Ms Mulholland informed the members that an announcement on the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and Town and Village Renewal schemes were awaited and that she would brief members in due course.

#### **4) Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District members for transaction at such meeting**

There were no items for discussion

#### **5) Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting**

There were no items for discussion.

#### **6) Notices of Motion**

There were no items for discussion.

**7) Correspondence**

Ms. Deegan, meetings administrator informed the members that, in response to a request by the Piltown Municipal District members to meet with Minister Harris and the HSE on the issue of 24/7 cardiac care services at University Hospital Waterford (UHW), Ms. Grace Rothwell, General Manager UHW had agreed to a meeting to which Members of all Municipal Districts in the catchment area of UHW have been invited to attend. Ms. Deeghan requested confirmation of the members' attendance at same by 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**8) Any Other Business**

**Nomination for meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)**

Ms Deegan informed the members that a delegate was required from the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District to attend an upcoming meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland. It was proposed by Cllr Cleere, seconded by Cllr Cullen and agreed that Cllr Doran would represent the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District.

It was proposed by Cllr Cleere, seconded by Cllr Doran and agreed that the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District Budget meeting would be held at 4p.m. on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November in the Callan Area Office, to be followed by the November Municipal District Meeting at 4.30p.m.

It was agreed that the meeting then went into committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Patrick O'Neill

Date:

13/11/19