

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

Date: Wednesday 18th September, 2019 at 3.00p.m.

Venue: Thomastown Community Centre, Marshes Street, Thomastown, 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; Mr. Nicolaas Louw, Senior Executive Planner; Ms. Naomi Scully, Assistant Planner; Ms. Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer; Mr. Eamon Mahon, Executive Engineer; Ms. Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Ms. Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of 19th July, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and agreed, subject to amendment of Cllr. Cullen's name from Cllr Clune.

2) Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

(a) Update of Litter Management Plan 2018-2020

Ms Bernadette Moloney circulated copies of the Litter Management Plan 2018-2020.

Members were informed that the Environmental Enforcement team will be making house calls in Kilkenny City requesting evidence of household waste disposal methods, with 21 days to provide receipts.

Other measures identified to deter illegal dumping were roaming cameras, drones and publication in local papers of successful prosecutions.

The 2018 mattress amnesty and bulky good collections in 2019 were successful and 20 groups have entered the Tidy Towns competition this year to date.

While roadside litter and dog fouling continues to be a problem, "National Spring clean" and the "Green schools programme" continue to be a success.

Cllr O'Neill thanked Ms Moloney for her presentation and she responded to items raised by the members:

- Financial implications of court prosecutions;
- Litter on Bennettsbridge to Kilkenny road when verges cut;
- Illegal dumping at Danesfort junction – possible installation of camera;
- Removal of bins due to illegal dumping of household waste – areas without a waste provider being looked at - a litter hotline is planned for reporting illegal dumping;
- Dog fouling & bag dispensers – walkers encouraged to bring their own bags, dispose of same correctly and avail of specific dog friendly walks;

- Roving dog warden between the Municipal District towns – warden cannot issue fines for fouling;
- Possible inclusion of Graiguenamanagh in WEEE recycling collection days;
- Expansion of house calls outside of Kilkenny City – to be conducted in rural areas also & reports of suspicious activity will be welcomed;
- Expansion of Green Schools Programme – many schools participate in alternative environmental programmes;
- Installation of new bins – Upgrade of old or damaged bins given priority over installing new bins;
- Mr. D Murphy agreed to review the routes taken by the towns minisweepers with a view to devising a rota;

(b) Presentation of review of Graiguenamanagh Local Area Plan

Mr. Nicolaas Louw introduced new Assistant Planner, Ms Naomi Scully, who gave members a presentation on the Graiguenamanagh Local Area Plan.

Mr. Louw stated that the plan would contain 2 sections and be compiled in conjunction with Carlow County Council as Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch, in Co. Carlow, are designated as a single settlement.

Cllr O'Neill thanked Mr. Louw and Ms Scully. Items were raised by the members and responded to:

- Zoning and re-zoning of lands – currently following CSO settlement boundaries;
- Timelines - LAP will be in place until 2026, to be finalised in Q3/Q4 2020;
- Non district towns are represented in the Development Plan as other settlements;
- Serviced sites determined by availability of water and wastewater services;
- County Development Plan to be recommenced January 2020 when Spatial Economic Strategy is adopted;
- Rural Housing Policy – awaiting National Directive which will inform County Development Plans – members requested follow-up on timelines for same from relevant Department;

(c) Update on National Enterprise Town Awards

Ms. Fiona Deegan stated that a judging delegation for the National Enterprise Town Awards visited Kilkenny City, Callan and Knocktopher, Ballyhale and Knockmoyle (KBK) on August 26th & 27th stating that it was a fantastic showcase of achievements attained through collaborations of local business and communities. Ms Deegan noted that the National Awards Ceremony would be held in Lyrath Estate Hotel on 5th December with over 500 guests from around the county attending same. Members commended the positive effect which taking part in these awards has on the communities who participate and noted the positive endorsement which comes from Kilkenny being chosen as the venue to host the finals for the second year running.

(d) Update on FÁS workers' status

Ms Deegan referred to correspondence previously circulated with the agenda in relation to Community Employment Schemes which clarified that all CE participants aged 55 and over can now avail of three consecutive years on a CE scheme with an overall limit of six years from 2007, or seven years if on a disability payment.

(e) Monthly Roads Update

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

- Restoration Improvement Works;
- Restoration Maintenance Works;
- Community & Local Involvement Schemes;
- Footpath Works (Discretionary Improvement);
- Drainage Works;
- Low Cost Safety Schemes;
- Thomastown Culvert;
- Irish Water Works;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes;
- Rural Regeneration Projects;
- Mobility Management Plan Thomastown;

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

- Low Cost Safety Scheme applications: currently under compilation, members invited to contact Mr. D. Murphy with areas of concern.
- Remaining works at Woodlawn and Station Road, Bennettsbridge
- Ballinaboola Cross drainage works – proposed for 2020
- Mobility Management plan for Graiguenamanagh; Currently progressing with Thomastown Mobility plan, Callan will follow this and Graiguenamanagh proposed for 2020
- Footpath from GAA pitch to Bennettsbridge Village – form part of budget 2020 discussion
- Speed on approach roads to Bennettsbridge – kerbs and footpaths to address this on Kilkenny side, low cost safety measures application on Thomastown side
- Safety concerns at church in Knocktopher
- HGV's impacting on Inistioge bridge structure
- Safety concerns at Rosbercon schools and church
- Safety measures to be investigated at secondary school in Graiguenamanagh
- Condition of road verge at Culletons Cross
- Courtesy crossing at the Church in Callan
- Potential of Coolagh Cross for inclusion in CLÁR programme
- Safety concerns at Sevenhouses crossroads
- Speed issues on the Clonmel Road in Callan & exiting from Bolton Woods
- Safety at the Cross in Callan regarding emerging traffic from the West Street side
- Safety concerns on exit lanes of Callan by-pass

(c) Rural Development Update

Ms Mulholland informed the members on the following projects:

- 12 applications have been made under Town and Village Renewal, announcements expected in mid-October;
- Works are underway on the Square in Inistioge and works to the Kings River in Callan are commencing;
- Three projects out of 11 submitted for CLÁR funding were successful and although the unsuccessful applications are being followed up on, funding is awarded proportionate to the number of CLÁR areas in the County, of which Kilkenny has few;

- Three programmes (Piltown, Graiguenamanagh and the Greenway) have been submitted under Rural Regeneration with an announcement expected towards the end of 2019;
- It is envisaged that a design team will be appointed in the coming week regarding redesign of the Sessions Hall and Community Hall in Thomastown;
- Other projects discussed were the Mens Shed, Community Enhancement grants and Healthy Ireland;
- The Community Section Grants booklet is currently being updated for 2020 and communities and other groups should contact the Community Section and elected members for information on funding streams;
- Ms. Mulholland concluded by informing the members that Mr. Michael Delahunty will be retiring from Kilkenny County Council in October after 41 years of service to the local authority and wished to acknowledge the huge contribution he has made since joining the Community Section in 2017, which was endorsed by all present.

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

(a) Adopted Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown Members (inclusive of amendments) for noting

The adopted Standing Orders for regulating the proceedings of the Municipal District members were circulated.

It was agreed by all members that the start time of future meetings be amended to 4pm instead of 3pm.

4) Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

There were no items for discussion.

5) Notices of Motion

There were no items for discussion.

6) Correspondence

There were no items for discussion.

7) Any Other Business

Cllr Joe Lyons and all members present expressed sympathy on the passing of Brother Damien Brennan, Callan.

Cllr Joe Lyons also congratulated Callan on being named Kilkennys' Energy Town for 2019 and on the successful production of "The Big Chapel".

Following discussion, it was agreed to hold the next scheduled meeting of the Municipal District on Wednesday 16th October in the Danesfort Community Centre at 4pm and be available from 3.30pm to meet with local community representatives.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Patric O'Neill

Date:

16/10/19