

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

Date: Wednesday 14th October, 2020 @ 4p.m.

Venue: Meeting by remote access

Chair: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere

Present: Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Pat O'Neill, Cllr Matt Doran

Apologies: None

In attendance: Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Service; Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Mr. Seán McKeown, Director of Services; Mr Declan Murphy, A/Area Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Ms Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of Wednesday 9th September, 2020 were proposed by Cllr Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle and agreed.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Presentation of South-East Greenway by Seán McKeown

Cllr Cleere welcomed Mr. Seán McKeown to the meeting.

Mr. McKeown gave an overview of the Greenway project, saying planning permission was granted in March 2018 to convert the disused railway line to a 24km walking and cycling route from New Ross, through South Kilkenny to Ferrybank. He updated the members on its progress:

- Irish Rail/CIE have confirmed Abandonment Order for the disused New Ross to Waterford Railway Line from 2nd September
- Contract for Removal of rails and sleepers has commenced and is about 50% complete.
- Detailed design for main construction works ongoing
- There will be three of the planned public car parks in County Kilkenny. Part VIII on two of these is progressing and consultants have been appointed to assist with selecting a preferred option for the third car park planned for Ferrybank.
- Access routes from Greenway to Glenmore and Slieverue will be examined
- A Business Development Executive will be recruited in the coming months
- Funding applications for interpretive signs and illumination of lighting in Mountelliot Tunnel will be made to Kilkenny and Wexford Leader Companies
- Website is in place www.southeastgreenway.net
- Queries can be directed to the Resident Engineer, Eoin Atkinson

Cllr Cleere and the members thanked Mr. McKeown for his update.

(b) Monthly Roads Update

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

- Roadworks Programme 2020 – Drainage & footpath works programmed for October/November
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes Accelerated measures due to Covid
- Rural Regeneration Roads Project
- General – Callan and Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plans, ORIS Abbey Meadow.
- Additional Works (Active Travel and Climate Change projects)

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

- Wallslough drainage – D Murphy confirmed works will be carried out at three different locations
- Councillors Discretionary funding – area office awaiting confirmation of decision
- Criteria for funding of smaller towns and villages under T&V scheme raised as an issue
- Footpath cleaning in Callan successful
- Possible access footpath from Moat field to Flaggy Lane/Westcourt – this did not form part of the planning application; also, gradient issues would make this cost prohibitive and residents previously expressed concern at such a path
- Victoria Bridge, Slatequarries – Costs for bridge widening would be prohibitive, an application under low cost safety scheme for road widening has been submitted to Road Design; commitment should be sought from Tipperary County Council also
- Wall repair works needed to lessen the Impact on water level in GAA field, Inistioge
- New sign required at Island at new footpath turning into Ballyhale/Knocktopher from Thomastown
- Junction at Millbanks; Low Cost Safety Scheme application pending
- Killarney Bridge – intention to have LED chevron lights installed by year-end subject to procurement and delivery times
- 15 parking spaces and pedestrian crossing in Graiguenamanagh – scheduled for completion by December
- Traffic calming Dungarvan – option to include with future low-cost safety scheme funding applications

c) Monthly Rural Development Update

Ms Mary Mulholland said that the newly completed works in the Moat Field and Fair Green, Callan had exceeded expectations and is very timely to facilitate outdoor exercise.

Fifteen applications were successful in receiving Town & Village renewal funding to the value of €450,000, ten projects to the value of €1.5m have been applied for under the Rural

Regeneration Development Fund, an application for Christmas lights has been successful and a countywide "Shop Kilkenny" campaign will commence in November.

Application regarding change of use of Thomastown Community Hall to library is on display from 9th October until 6th November by appointment in the Planning Department, Co. Hall or the Thomastown Area Office.

Last date for submissions is Friday 20th November.

Cllr Cleere thanked Mr. D Murphy and the Community Section for the number of successful projects undertaken this year.

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

There were no items for discussion

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

(a) Agree date to hold the Municipal District Budget Meeting

Cllr Doran proposed, Cllr Lyons seconded and all agreed to hold the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District Budget Meeting at 3.45p.m. on Wednesday 11th November 2020.

At the request of Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, the members discussed a report on Monuments and Memorials which detailed that, following requests for the Sinnotts Cross Monument be taken into charge, an audit of memorials, plaques and signs had identified in excess of 300 such memorials throughout the county and the matter was considered by the Naming of Infrastructure Committee in 2017.

Members agreed that, as insurance costs in particular appeared to be the main cause of Committees seeking the local authority to take monuments in charge, the criteria for eligibility to receive the Amenities Grant should be amended to include these insurance costs, however that this shouldn't be to the detriment of other applicants to the scheme.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.55p.m.

Chairperson: 

Date: 11/11/20

