

Minutes of the January Meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown

Date: Wednesday 13th January, 2021 at 4.00p.m.

Venue: Meeting conducted via MS Teams remote access due to Covid-19 restrictions

Chair: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere

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

Apologies: None

In attendance via MS Teams: Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Una Kealy & Mr Alan Hyland, Planning Section; Ms Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People; Ms. Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of Municipal District Meeting of 9th December, 2020

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of Wednesday 9th December, 2020 were proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Lyons and agreed.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update on Taking in Charge Developments

Ms Úna Kealy and Mr. Alan Hyland gave a presentation to the members regarding the current situation on housing developments which have applied to be taken in charge by the Local Authority, saying there are fifteen live applications of which it is hoped to complete at least three in 2021; four estates were taken in charge during 2020.

Cllr Cleere and the members expressed thanks for the presentation and raised the following items:

- Request for update on Friarshill, Graiguenamanagh
- Timeframe for taking in charge – dependant on condition of each estate and level of engagement involved
- The Greens, Thomastown – Conditions of planning permission to be complied with, works in estate substantially complete

(b) Monthly Roads Update

Mr D. Murphy A/Senior Executive Engineer circulated a report updating the members on the following road related matters, saying the report takes into consideration the recent imposition of Level 5 Covid restrictions which saw the suspension of all non-essential construction and civil engineering projects until reviewed at end of January 2021.

- Drainage Works – Essential drainage works and emergency road maintenance to continue
- 2021 Road Works Programme – Draft list of discretionary works to be submitted to the members for discussion prior to presentation at the February MD meeting
- Restoration Improvements to follow the existing 3-year Multi Annual Programme, Restoration Maintenance projects will be presented to the members
- Low Cost Safety Schemes to be determined by the Department
- CIR and LIS jobs to be undertaken in accordance with existing list of applications
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes Accelerated measures due to Covid
- Rural Regeneration Roads Project – Thomastown Public Realm
- General – Callan and Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plans updates, ORIS Abbey Meadow.
- Additional Works - Active Travel update

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

- Investigate possibility of a joint Mobility Management Plan for Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch;
- Timeline for commencement of new footpath from Stoneyford to Ennisnag and associated concerns regarding speed limits & pedestrian crossing – Road Design Section will commence process which will incorporate all relevant aspects;
- Future possibility of Town & Village Renewal Scheme for Bennettsbridge
- Joint works with Carlow County Council to the surface of George Semple bridge in Graiguenamanagh to be investigated;
- Bridge cleaning works – to be recommended for remedial works survey
- Winter maintenance plan – salting routes queries to be referred to SPC 2;
- Timeline for commencement of preparatory works on next three-year roads programme;
- Extension of consultation period for feedback on Callan Mobility Management Plan agreed;
- Possibility of lodging ORIS application for link pathway from Hutchinson's mills to the Priory in Kells;
- Callan by-pass – speed limit reduction and widening of existing footpaths discussed;
- Cleaning of sand deposits between bridges Kings River, Callan – this was previously costed at approximately €380k and Council funds do not currently allow for this. Ms Mulholland requested sight of recent correspondence from Inland Fisheries to Cllr Lyons on the matter.

b) Monthly Rural Development Update

Ms Mary Mulholland said many of the Rural Development projects are included in the Roads Update report.

She welcomed the recent announcement that five community projects in Kilkenny will receive funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme with three of these based in the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District.

Thomastown will receive €99,326 for creation of an amenity/sports recreational space, €100,000 is being allocated for installation of a pedestrian walkway with lighting from Stoneyford to Ennisnag, and Hugginstown will also receive €100,000 for a public realm project to deliver street kerbing, parking, drainage and footpath development on the Main Street.

Ms Mulholland said as all non-essential construction sites are currently closed work will not commence on the Sessions House in Thomastown until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. All other rural development updates were covered in the roads update report.

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

(a) Any other Business

It was noted the next Municipal District meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10th February and members were advised to contact the meetings administrator, Ms Fiona Deegan, should they want any items placed on the agenda.

It was agreed that once the 2021 budget announcements were made the members would meet in committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.52.

Chairperson: Peter Cleary

Date: 10/02/21

