

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

Date: Wednesday 13th May, 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: Ms Mary Mulholland

In attendance via MS Teams: Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Ms Emir Slattery, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr Steve Coverdale, IS Project Leader; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Mr Christopher Dunne, Kilkenny People; Ms Shauna McHugh, KCLR96fm; Ms. Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of Municipal District Meeting of 14th April, 2021

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of Wednesday 14th April, 2021 were proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Cullen and agreed.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update on Flood Relief Schemes (Emir Slattery)

Cllr Cleere welcomed Ms Emir Slattery, Project Manager Flood Relief Schemes, to the meeting. Ms Slattery outlined the background to the current flood relief schemes in Kilkenny, saying funding of €29.8m was approved for Kilkenny by the OPW over a ten-year period from 2018 to 2028 for schemes in Graiguenamanagh, Ballyhale, Freshford, Thomastown, Inistioge and Piltown.

She explained that due to the scale of the National Programme the OPW listed the first 50 schemes to be advanced out of 118, with Graiguenamanagh and Ballyhale being listed in Tranche 1 Schemes in Kilkenny.

The remaining 4 schemes for Kilkenny have yet to be scheduled by the OPW, with a working group in place assessing how these will be progressed.

Ms Slattery said that Stage 1 of the Graiguenamanagh Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) is due for completion at end of 2021 – this includes appointment of consultants, project website, public consultation newsletter drop and topographical survey done in 2020 with environmental baseline surveys and hydrology & hydraulic design currently ongoing.

All 5 stages on due for completion in Q2 2026.

She briefed members on progress with the Ballyhale FRS also, saying that Stage 1 will see Scheme development and preliminary design completed by Q3 2021, with DBFL Consulting Engineers currently advancing a preferred option for Ballyhale. Scheme is due for completion in Q3 2023.

Cllr Cleere thanked Ms Slattery for her presentation to the members and the following items were raised:

- Possibility of coordinating public realm works with FRS;

- Cleaning of Kings River, Callan;
- Concern expressed as no timeline for commencement of 4 remaining approved schemes, need to progress these – Kilkenny County Council has written to the OPW to advance these schemes and will follow up, OPW have said they have a working group in place to see how to progress the Thomastown and Inistioge schemes. Issue of letter to Minister O’Donovan on this matter was discussed;
- Security of funding for all projects – OPW have committed to allocation of funding, extension of the 10-year deadline for completion of schemes is at discretion of the OPW;
- Type of designs being considered.

Cllr Cleere thanked Ms Slattery and requested an update in six months.

(b) Broadband – Overview on additional Broadband Connection Points (Steve Coverdale)

Cllr Cleere welcomed Mr. Steve Coverdale to the meeting. Mr Coverdale said this was a follow up overview on broadband connection points as the members had already been given a full presentation on the National Broadband Plan.

Mr Coverdale said the National Broadband Plan is to provide highspeed broadband to 540k premises in rural Ireland over a 7-year period, with National Broadband Ireland (NBI) to plan, install and manage the infrastructure.

He explained the Broadband Connection Point (BCP) Process, saying broadband is provided by wireless service until fibre broadband is available; Kilkenny County Council funds 25% of ongoing broadband service costs at each BCP.

Mr Coverdale said each site had to meet BCP selection criteria of being community based (community halls/schools) and in the Intervention area.

Kilkenny County Council had 10 sites approved, reduced to 6 as OpenEir 300k project and churches withdrew schools for public connection, leaving 6 live sites at Galmoy Community Centre, Graine Community Hall, Ballyouskill Parish Hall, Muckalee Community Centre, Crosspatrick Parish Hall and Tullahought Parish Hall, with a 5-year estimate of costs per site for wired broadband of €22,700 and wireless broadband of €24,400 and would have to be fully funded by the Council.

Cllr Cleere thanked Mr Coverdale and the following items were raised:

- Possibility of connection points in Dunbell, Cuffesgrange, Danesfort – Department are seeking point in the South of the County;
- Lack of connection points in Callan-Thomastown Municipal District making it difficult to attract business start-ups; Ms Deegan said she is attending a seminar regarding applying for BCPs for a number of existing hubs such as Enterprise Centres etc and will update members at the next Municipal District meeting.

(c) Monthly Roads Update

Mr D. Murphy A/Senior Executive Engineer updated the members on the following road related matters, outlining various projects updates and timelines.

- Road Works Programme 2021 – listed Restoration Improvement works scheduled for May 2021, Restoration Maintenance Works commencing 8th June, footpath works, waterside footpaths Graigenamanagh, low cost safety works updates for Sevenhouses, Rosbercon, Goslingstown, Ballyogan and Burnchurch;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – 2019 application for the Rower update, updates given for 2020 applications at Stoneyford, Thomastown, Hugginstown and update given on external camping charging pints and bays in Thomastown and Callan;

- Rural Regeneration Roads Projects – Thomastown Public Realm Logan Street/Low Street;
- ORIS projects – updates given on Abbey Meadow and Moat Field Phase 2;
- CLÁR – Coolagh Crossroads update;
- Active Travel – updates given on 2020 and 2021 projects, and members informed of Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund (NTA) recently announced;
- General – Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plans update, real-time bus stop shelters for Callan and Killamery, plaque for Nicholas Mullins Bridge, Thomastown.

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

- Potential for outdoor seating in Bennettsbridge – Mr Murphy will meet Cllrs Cullen and O’Neill on site to discuss;
- Speeding in Bennettsbridge – intention to install traffic calming measures following installation of footpath and can be looked at under the upcoming Speed Limit Review;
- Goslingstown – Design to be presented to elected members prior to consultation with residents;
- Potential for other projects to be considered for Active Travel funding in 2022
- Possible future Thomastown by-pass and need for business and the community to be consulted – dependant on funding, Mr Murphy will follow up with Senior Engineer Mr S Kavanagh;
- Possible outdoor seating in Windgap – online application commenced;
- Possible phased plan of works for smaller villages
- Input by Municipal District members on design for widening of footpaths on Callan by-pass
- Potential for implementing traffic calming at Callan by-pass junctions – By-pass to be looked at under Speed Limit Review, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. Seamus Foley will be invited to conduct a workshop or make a presentation at a Municipal District meeting regarding the current status;
- Public consultation on proposed changes to Bridge Street and Flaggy Lane will happen once Consultants have been appointed and a consultation brief prepared;
- Possibility of improving link road from Goatsbridge to Windgap – this would potentially require land acquisition and input of Director of Services;
- Potential for upgrade works to the Boathouse, Graiguenamanagh;
- Possibility of one-way system for the Quay, Graiguenamanagh – draft Mobility Management Plan to be presented to the members by Roadplan Consultants at either the June or July Municipal District meeting;
- List of Kilkenny CLÁR applications for Co. Kilkenny requested – Community Section will be requested to email details of the 10 applications put forward for consideration;

(d) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)

Ms Mary Mulholland was unavailable to give an update at the May Municipal District meeting.

(e) Greenway Update (Fiona Deegan)

Ms F Deegan informed the members that a photoshoot would take place on 21st May at the old Rosbercon site.

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

(a) Resolution to agree date, time and place for Annual Meeting of Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown

It was proposed by Cllr Cullen, seconded by Cllr Doran and agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown will take place on Wednesday 9th June at 3.30pm.

(b) Declaration of a Public Road (Report attached):

"That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the proposal to declare the existing road a public road at the following location:

Known as Duiske Lane in the townland of Graiguenamanagh, from two points on Mill Road L8231-2 and High Street L4224-7, over a length of 58.4 metres approximately."

Mr Murphy gave a report to the members on Duiske Lane, Graiguenamanagh, informing the members that the required notice to declare this lane as a public road was published in the Kilkenny People and no submissions were received from the public.

Accordingly, it was recommended that Kilkenny County Council resolved to declare Duiske Lane as a public road.

It was proposed by Cllr Cleere, seconded by Cllr Doyle and resolved "that Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the proposal to declare the existing road a public road at the following location:

Known as Duiske Lane in the townland of Graiguenamanagh, from two points on Mill Road L8231-2 and High Street L4224-7, over a length of 58.4 metres approximately."

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

Ms F Deegan shared a briefing note regarding burial grounds and informed the members that there are 92 burial plots remaining in Kilbride burial grounds, Callan, which equates to 4 years capacity.

She said the Council has not statutory responsibility to provide or manage church burial grounds but it approved an annual budget towards the costs of operating 14 active burial grounds and the maintenance of historical graveyards.

7) Any other Business

In response to a query regarding fire charges resulting from road traffic accidents, it was agreed that the matter would be referred to Director of Services Mary Mulholland for a direct reply.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 17.34.

Chairperson: Peter Cleere

Date: 10/2/21