

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

Date: Wednesday 10th November, 2021 at 4.15p.m.

Venue: Meeting conducted via MS Teams remote access.

Chair: Cllr Michael Doyle

Present via MS Teams Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Matt Doran, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Patrick O'Neill.

Apologies: Mary Mulholland, Director of Services.

In attendance via MS Teams: Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Mr Michael Murphy, Senior Resident Engineer; Mr Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Ms Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People; Ms Edwina Grace, KCLR 96 FM.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 13th October, 2021

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 13th October 2021 were proposed by Cllr Lyons, seconded by Cllr Doran and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Doyle, seconded by Cllr Doran, and agreed that the meeting would recess for five minutes as a mark of respect to the late Harry Byrne, Gowran and Martin Burke, Urlingford.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) 2021 Speed Limit Review (Michael Murphy)

Mr M Murphy gave members an overview of previously circulated report containing recommendations and comments on proposed changes to existing speed limits on a number of roads.

He noted that further submissions can be made and the report amended accordingly.

Members thanked Mr Murphy and raised the following items:

- R703 Thomastown Road, Graiguenamanagh – request to review recommendation to refuse extension of 50kph zone, speeding issues out as far as water treatment plant;
- Request to extend existing 50kph zone on R705 Borris Road, Graiguenamanagh – M Murphy replied that in general an issue of dangerous bends should not be addressed by a change of speed limit, however in this case he will reconsider the recommendation to refuse this request;
- Request for extension of existing speed limit on R713 Stoneyford to Ennisnag road to cover the entire length of roadway from Ennisnag to Stoneyford and not in phases based on stage completion of road improvement works – M Murphy said a rural area such as this only requires 50/60kph speed limit where there are footpaths, and therefore the speed limit changes here will only be implemented in line with the timetable for the construction of the new footpath. He also

confirmed that a request for change of speed limit can be made at any time, and outside of a current review process;

- R700 Thomastown Road, Bennettsbridge – M Murphy confirmed this speed limit will be on the Thomastown side of Bennettsbridge, start location of 60kph zone to be decided once an appropriate sign location is determined;
- N76 Callan bypass – while 60kph was expressed as the preferred limit, members asked that TII are requested to approve change of speed limit from 100kph to 80kph. Regarding right turns, M Murphy agreed there was considerable traffic movement across the bypass and that there were a lot of existing junctions but all had been designed for speeds of 100kph and had filter lanes;
- R697 Kilmoganny – Request for 60kph on approach road to the village, M Murphy said this was not deemed necessary prior to the start of 50kph zone;
- R697 Kells – similar request for 60kph on approach road to the village as issue with ice on the road in wintertime – M Murphy said visibility is good in this location and a change of speed limit should not be used to address other road issues;
- R701 Newmarket – concern expressed regarding junction at existing house which is a protected structure – M Murphy said speed limit at this location is currently 50kph;
- Various potential measures were discussed for the Callan bypass, Mr S Kavanagh said there will be overlay and active travel works taking place on the bypass in 2022 and it might be possible to look at some potential engineering works to be undertaken in conjunction with these works.

Cllr Doyle thanked Mr Murphy for his report and thanked the members for their contributions.

(b) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)

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 – Mr Murphy listed footpath works completed and underway, drainage works are continuing with the jet vac cleaning out gullies in towns and villages, and Low-Cost Safety works are due to commence at Burnchurch on 15th November;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – Updates given for 2020 applications at Stoneyford-Ennisnag, Hugginstown and on external camping charging points and bays in Thomastown and Callan;
- Rural Regeneration Roads Projects – Thomastown Public Realm Logan Street/Low Street update given, with all main works substantially complete;
- ORIS projects – update given on Moat Field Phase 2, awaiting positive outcome on lease agreement between Camphill and KCC to progress;
- CLÁR –Contractor appointed for first phase of works in Kilmoganny, works due to commence this month;
- Active Travel – updates given on Callan one-way system, Callan ring road widening of footpaths, and Mill Street Thomastown permeability footpaths works;
- Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Funding – update given on Thomastown viewing area at Scouts Den car-park and Bennettsbridge River Route Street Space;
- Climate Adaption and Resilience Works 2021 – update on works at Ballycabbus, works to commence once waters are low;

- General – Adoption of Three-year multi annual restoration improvement programme 2022 – 2024 was proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and agreed;
- Members were informed all three compacting bins for Callan, Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown are now installed, and works to St Marys railings, Callan are now complete.

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

- Update requested on road concerns at Callan Bacon/Callan bypass – this has been put forward for consideration for low cost safety works;
- Safety concerns expressed about bend at Knocktopher on church approach – possibility to fund works from discretionary funding;
- Request for additional solar panel bins – these are provided by the Environment Section;
- Possibility of altering the timing of proposed works listed under the Road Works Programme for roads which are in close physical proximity to each other – this can be reviewed in Spring 2022.

(c) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)

Ms F Deegan told the members that Ms Mulholland had been unavoidably delayed and sent her apologies, and further said that Ms Mulholland would present a report at the December meeting on the Kings River, Callan with a view to the members receiving a delegation from the Kings River Committee at the January Municipal District meeting.

(d) Monthly Greenway Update (Fiona Deegan)

Ms Fiona Deegan gave members an update on the Greenway development based on report from Mr. Seán McKeown (Director of Services), outlining the current status of the following:

- Detailed Design;
- Construction;
- Ferrybank Car Park Options;
- Railway Abandonment;
- Links to Slieverue and Glenmore;
- Business Development Officer (BDO);
- Project website details;
- Resident Engineer details.

Members thanked Ms Deegan for her update.

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

Ms Deegan informed the members that Ms Mulholland intended to schedule a workshop regarding the preparation of a Housing Delivery Action Plan at 3pm on Wednesday December 8th immediately prior to the December Municipal District meeting. The members agreed that the December Municipal District meeting would take place in person in the Council Chamber, County Hall if the guidelines regarding Covid allowed.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 17.28pm

Chairperson: W. Michael Doyle Date: 14/12/24