

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

Date: Wednesday 14th December, 2022 at 4.00p.m.

Venue: Kilkenny County Council Callan Area Office, Prologue, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

Chair: Cllr Matt Doran

Present: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons

Apologies: Cllr Patrick O'Neill

In attendance: Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Mr Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 9th November, 2022.

The minutes of the November meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 9th November 2022 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Peter Cleere and seconded by Cllr Deirdre Cullen.

(b) Minutes of the Budget meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown Wednesday 9th November, 2022

Minutes of the Budget meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown held on Wednesday 9th November, 2022 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Peter Cleere and seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) South East Greenway (Jill Kelleher, BDO South East Greenway)

The members welcomed Ms Jill Kelleher, Business Development Officer for the South-East Greenway, to the meeting.

Ms Kelleher explained her role as Business Development Officer, and gave the members a presentation on the South East Greenway.

She outlined the impact of domestic and overseas visitors on Irelands Ancient East tourist industry, giving statistics on visitor numbers, revenue generation and spend per capita.

Statistics were given on both the Mayo and Waterford greenway and the profile of those who use them, what attracts the user to select a greenway experience and how that experience can become a whole holiday package encompassing other local activities.

Ms Kelleher said she is currently working on a Development Plan which needs to be completed prior to the opening of the South-East Greenway.

She outlined her action plan for promoting the greenway specifying drivers which would draw visitors such as packages and dining options, use of existing platforms like Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, and an Action Plan encompassing Meet & Greet, Events and Roadshows, and Communication & Marketing.

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked Ms Kelleher and the following items/observations were raised:

- It is unclear as yet what levels of employment the new Greenway will yield, Ms Kelleher said this would be ascertained and the information contained in the Development Plan;
- Nore Valley Linkage Project and the continuation of the Greenway from New Ross to St Mullins and on to Goresbridge would ensure this would not be a stand-alone project and would enhance its success;
- Other local visitor amenities as well as the Greenway should be included in any potential tour operators' packages;
- High level of enquiries is being received by Kilkenny County Council from local communities, suggested engagement with communities as well as local business to ensure linking in community projects with the Greenway as well as local business interests;
- Request for a presentation at a joint Municipal District meeting with the Piltown Municipal District to facilitate elected members consultation;
- Clarification on source of and recipients of monthly media packs;
- Suggested wider media communication to the general public on information surrounding development of the Greenway.

(b) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)

Mr D. Murphy, Area Engineer, updated the members on the following roads related matters, outlining updates and timelines of various projects since his previous report of 9th November, 2022.

- Road Works Programme 2022 – Mr Murphy said all remaining footpath and drainage works are now complete in Graiguenamanagh, Marion Place, Hillview and Callan. Low Cost Safety Works at R701 Newmarket will be completed in the New Year, contractor waiting on lights delivery which will then allow construction of ramps to proceed;
- Active Travel/TII Projects – Bridge Street and Flaggy Lane Active Travel Scheme, works have commenced on Flaggy Lane with drainage and accommodation works complete and kerb installation imminent, Bridge Street construction and tender drawing to be finalised circa end of January;
- General - N10 Danesfort – main civil works complete, works recommence in New Year;
- Other Projects – installation of two lights at Ennisnag is complete, lights at Wood Road, Graiguenamanagh progressing and awaiting contractor to erect one light at the Ring, Bennettsbridge as agreed;
- Inlets and drainage – roads crews currently working on Regional roads, will follow with works on local roads, also local crews salting all P3 roads daily during cold spell.

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

- Possibility of improving pedestrian safety at the Cross in Callan – D Murphy said three ramped crossings are proposed for Green, Mill and West streets;

(c) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)

Ms Mary Mulholland updated the members on Rural Development:

- Callan Friary Steering group held their first meeting recently, clear-out of the property is ongoing and when completed there will be an inventory of items remaining.

- A briefing document will be compiled for consultants to set out the potential for the best possible future uses of the Friary Complex;
- Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS) grants were awarded in November, presented at the November Plenary Council meeting.

The members thanked Ms. Mulholland 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**

Ms Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator, said New Ross Municipal District requested a joint meeting with the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District, it was agreed to extend an offer to meet immediately prior to the February Municipal District meeting on 8th February.

7) **Any other Business**

There were no items for discussion.

Cllr Doran thanked the members and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson:



