

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

Date: Wednesday 11th May, 2022 at 4.00p.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.

In attendance via MS Teams: Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 13th April, 2022

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 13th April 2022 were proposed by Cllr Cullen, seconded by Cllr Doran and agreed.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) 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 2022 – Mr Murphy listed Restoration Maintenance and Restoration Improvement works for May, surface dressing works to commence on 23rd May. He outlined Restoration Improvement works completed in April, and gave an update on low cost safety works projects.
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – Updates given on footpath and public lighting at Stoneyford-Ennisnag and Public Realm, footpath and parking works at Hugginstown;
- Active Travel/TII Projects – awaiting feedback from the NTA on an options report sent by Kilgallen Consultants for Callan one-way system/public realm and Flaggy Lane. Works at Mill Street, Thomastown now complete;
- General – draft bye-laws and accompanying maps available to view at the Callan and Thomastown area offices, or at www.consultkilkenny.ie submissions accepted from 6th May to 10th June;
- Local Improvement Schemes – Funding approval request of €143,000 sent to the Department for one project on the Priority list at Raheendenore, Graiguenamanagh. Secondary list also submitted with three applications in The Rower, Kilmoganny and Dungarvan should funding become available for a second round of allocations.

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

- Thanks expressed for works at Dunamaggan;
- Possibility of carrying out future works on R695 at S bend coming from Westcourt – could be proposed for inclusion in 2023 low cost safety scheme;

- Update requested on clearing the eye of the Bridge in Callan – KCC bridges engineer has contacted the relevant river authorities regarding gaining access to the river, this can only be achieved at certain times of year, will update at June meeting;
- Possibility of resource for opening and closing gates of St Marys in Callan over the summer – it is hoped to have two summer students commencing in the area who could provide access;
- Request for improvements to road surface on Chapel Lane/Clonmel Road – this is to be investigated;
- Further active travel schools projects in 2023 – KCC Cycling Officer & Engineering staff identified issues with schools, members should contact Mr Dermot Maher KCC if they are aware of issues at other schools;
- Timeline for outcome of design proposals for safety improvement works Bennettsbridge to Danesfort – timeline will be requested from the Road Design Office;
- Lack of visibility Thomastown from St Columba's to Church carpark from Inistioge side – the bridge impairs visibility, possible potential for low cost safety scheme works to incorporate signage;
- Will budgets and delivery of projects be affected by increasing inflation and construction costs – this is a significant issue, budgets were increased for RI and RM works but footpaths and drainage works will be affected. Contracts prices are increasing, it is becoming necessary to retender for some works as the contractors cannot deliver works at the original price quoted.
Ms Mulholland added that a voluntary Inflation Cooperation Framework was announced by DEPER to consider the extra costs caused by inflation and allow public bodies to risk-share with contractors on existing projects but she needs to clarify the details;
- Timeline for public consultation on potential one-way system contained in the Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plan – consultants have been appointed in conjunction with Carlow County Council, funded by Active Travel. Meeting scheduled to take place the following day and will update the members at the June meeting;

(b) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)

Ms Mary Mulholland said there fourteen applications for CLÁR funding, six from the Callan-Thomastown area, with the majority originating from local communities.

She requested the members to engage with their communities regarding potential projects for Town and Village applications.

Under Rural Regeneration Development Funding projects, she said the process to transfer the Friary Complex to Kilkenny County Council is nearing completion, the next step will then be to commence assessment reports and public consultation.

It is hoped to have a formal handover event in Autumn 2022 which would then allow Callan Friary Trust to be liquidated.

Regarding the detailed design for Thomastown library, Kilkenny Co Co will re-engage with the Department on the overall cost due to increased costs, it is hoped to make the new design available to the public in approximately two months.

(c) Monthly Greenway Update (Fiona Deegan)

Ms Fiona Deegan gave members an update on the Greenway development outlining the current status of the following:

- Detailed Design;
- Construction;

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

Cllr Doyle and the 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.

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

It was proposed by Cllr P Cleere, seconded by Cllr M Doran and agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown would take place in person in the Callan Area Office meeting room at 3.30p.m. on Wednesday 8th June 2022.

(b) Agree format for holding the June Municipal District meeting

It was proposed by Cllr P Cleere, seconded by Cllr M Doran and agreed that the June Meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown would take place in person in the Callan Area Office meeting room at 4.00p.m. on Wednesday 8th June 2022, immediately following the Annual Meeting.

Members acknowledged and thanked Cllr Doyle for his work as Chair over the preceding year.

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

Members were informed that Minister Darragh O'Brien is scheduled to officially open the Public Realm surrounding the Brewhouse at the Abbey Quarter on Monday 16th May, with an Open Evening for the public up to 9pm that evening.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.39pm

Chairperson: Cllr. Michael Doyle

