

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

Date: Wednesday 12th October, 2022 at 4.00p.m.

Venue: Thomastown Community Centre, Marshes Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

Chair: Cllr Matt Doran

Present: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Patrick O'Neill.

In attendance: Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Ms Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer; Ms Annette Fitzpatrick, Senior Executive Officer; Ms Josephine Coyne, County Librarian; Mr Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 14th September, 2022.

The minutes of the September meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 14th September 2022 were adopted, proposed by Cllr O'Neill and seconded by Cllr Cullen.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) New National Library Strategy & KCC Library Development plan (Josephine Coyne)

Ms Coyne presented the members with an update on the new National Library Strategy. The new five-year plan to develop the public library service will focus on improving access, use and visibility of libraries.

The consultation with the public, internal and external stakeholders and targeted focus groups will see delivery of final strategy towards the end of October.

The consultation found that the library service plays an important role regarding climate action, sustainable development goals, adult literacy and the Digital Ireland Framework.

Ms Coyne explained how the library service provides a highly valuable service to local communities, linking the public with services, providing the connection to engage people in climate actions, fostering social inclusion and promoting reading and literacy as forms of entertainment and enjoyment. The mobile library was commended on the huge contribution it makes to schools and communities.

The goals for 2028 were outlined – quality libraries promoting opportunities for all, skilled staff, best technologies, and increased membership and usage.

An update was also provided on the development of the Mayfair site, the opening timeframe envisaged for Q2 2023 with Thomastown library scheduled for completion in Q1 2024.

It was noted that adequate resources would be required to meet increased costs of operation for improved facilities.

Ms Coyne stated that the library service provides a front facing window for Kilkenny County Council with 8 branches around the county, currently financed by 3% of the Local Authority budget, with a book spend per capita of €1.28.

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked Ms Coyne for her presentation and the following item was raised:

- National Financial Support – Substantial Capital investment in Graiguenamanagh and Mayfair, also approved funding for Thomastown library. Investment in IT, My Open Library, staffing, IT, books etc. is Kilkenny County Councils contribution to investment.

Members agreed the library and mobile library is a fantastic service and thanked Ms Coyne.

(b) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)

Mr D. Murphy, Area Engineer updated the members on the following road related matters, outlining various projects updates and timelines since his previous report of 14th September, 2022:

- Road Works Programme 2022 – Mr Murphy said all Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance works are complete including all CIS and LIS jobs. He listed ongoing drainage works at Kilosary Kells, Barronscourt Bennettsbridge and drainage works complete at Windgap road Callan. Footpath works are ongoing at Millbanks, New Ross and R703 Graiguenamanagh, footpath works complete on Green Street, Callan. Works scheduled for October were listed, an update was given on Low Cost Safety Works at R695 Westcourt Business Park in Callan and junction safety works at Graiguenamanagh and Chapel Hill Thomastown (works now complete. Works on R701 Newmarket ongoing with ramp works out for tender and application made to EXT for connection of new lights;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – footpath and public lighting works completed at Stoneyford-Ennisnag, Public Realm, footpaths and parking works also completed at Hugginstown with tree planting scheduled for November;
- Active Travel/TII Projects – Part VIII Chief Executive Report and recommendation for Callan Bridge Street & Flaggy lane Active Travel Scheme will be put before the October Plenary Council meeting for consideration, and works are ongoing around an Active Travel Safe Route to School in Dunamaggan;
- Climate Action Projects Hugginstown road flooding Climate Action Drainage Works are almost fully completed.
- General - N10 Danesfort – Programme of Works to be agreed with the successful tenderer, it is hoped the project will be complete by year end;
- Winter Maintenance P3 Routes – Winter Service Season runs from 17th October 2022 to 30th April 2023 with the Area Office treating P3 routes and the Machinery Yard treating P1 and P2 routes, routes substantially unchanged year on year.

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

- Directional and information signage for Newmarket – to be followed up with Tourism Section

(c) Monthly Rural Development Update (Annette Fitzpatrick)

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick gave the members an update on Rural Development:

- Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Callan has been announced, with €100k funding available to provide grants to property owners for improvement of street facades and shopfronts, 37 applications received;
- Clár 2022 funding listed for the 12 successful projects;

- Work is ongoing to develop a new Kilkenny LECP for 2023 – 2028, with public engagement events currently underway;
- Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme 2022 is now open for applications until 2nd November, 2022;

The members thanked Ms. Fitzpatrick 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**

The members agreed to hold the Budget meeting at 2.45p.m. on Wednesday 9th November via remote access on MS Teams, immediately prior to the November Municipal District meeting at 3p.m., also via remote access on MS Teams.

Councillors O'Neill and Cullen extended best wishes to all the hurling and camogie teams competing over the coming weekend.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.38pm

Chairperson: 

