

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

Date: Wednesday 13th December, 2023 at 4.00p.m.

Venue: Kilkenny County Council Callan area office, Prologue, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

Chair: Cllr Deirdre Cullen.

Present: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Pat O'Neill.

Absent: Cllr Matt Doran

In attendance: Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

Apologies: None

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 13th December, 2023.

The minutes of the December meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 were adopted, proposed by Cllr M Doyle and seconded by Cllr J Lyons.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) 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 13th December, 2023.

- Footpath works planned for November and December were listed – Thomastown, Graiguenamanagh, Rosbercon, Callan, Kilmoganny and Stoneyford;
- Drainage works – crews currently opening inlets on regional and local roads and dealing with emergency drainage works in certain locations;
- Active Travel – works completed on Lower Bridge Street, Callan comprising of new raised pedestrian crossings, widened footpaths, surfacing of road and line markings. Works will commence in Upper Bridge Street in early January 2024;
- Safe to Schools – works are completed on a new raised pedestrian crossing at Wood Road, Graiguenamanagh, powered by solar with no connection to the grid;
- Low Cost Safety Projects – new improved sightlines, raised ramps and widened footpaths completed in Stoneyford, driver feedback sign to be fitted today, railings at the junction currently being modified. Works on Clonmel Road, Callan, to commence early January;
- General – 2 driver feedback signs being fitted today on R701 at Castlemorris Woods entrance alerting drivers of pedestrians crossing.

The members thanked Mr. Murphy for his update, thanked him and his staff for their work throughout the year, and raised the following items:

- Damage caused to bridge in Bennettsbridge – Mr Kieran Kelly, Engineer, has investigated and this will be followed up;
- Confirmation that Belisha beacons be installed throughout the Municipal District going forward;
- Request for Low Cost Safety measures at Stoneyford school will be assessed;

- Request for driver feedback sign at Kilkenny side of Bennettsbridge will be considered under 2024 funding streams;
- Request for ramps at Danesfort to be repaired – it will be assessed in 2024 whether these need to be replaced or repaired;
- Request for loose stones and caps to be repaired at Ballycabus bridge

(b) Monthly Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)

Ms Anne Marie Shortall informed the members that Clár total grant aid of €175,000 for Kilkenny was announced, which includes a successful application from Tullogher/Rosbercon GAA.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024 to support Community and Voluntary groups has been launched, replacing the Community Enhancement Programme, Ms Shortall agreed to circulate the full details of the scheme.

The Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme will run in 2024, to be advertised in Q1 2024.

Through the collaborative effort of Kilkenny County Council, Iarnród Éireann, Age Friendly Ireland and MacDonagh shopping centre, MacDonagh train station recently won the Age Friendly Transport Award at the National Age Friendly Awards ceremony in the Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement awards ceremony.

The launch of the Decade of Centenaries will take place on Friday 15th December in the Set Theatre, John Street, Kilkenny.

The Community Monuments Fund is currently open for applications, with a closing date of 1st February 2024.

The members thanked Ms Shortall 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

Cllr Cullen confirmed a response was received from Minister Heather Humphreys office regarding funding for a new library in Thomastown, informing that the matter is currently being considered.

7) Any other Business

There were no items for discussion.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson: 