

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

Date: Wednesday 6th November, 2024 at 3.00p.m.

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

Chair: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere
Present Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Stephanie Doheny, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Joe Sheridan.
In attendance: Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Mr Déclan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.
Remote attendance MS Teams: Cllr Joe Sheridan
Apologies: None.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(b) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of 2nd October, 2024.

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 2nd October, 2024 were adopted, proposed by Cllr S Doheny and seconded by Cllr D Cullen.

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:

- Drainage works Callan and Dungarvan completed, works imminent at Curranmore, Ballyredding and Thomastown with inlet works commencing in the coming months;
- Bridge Street Active Travel Scheme – new surface, ramps & line-marking works commencing 18th November for 4 nights;
- Low Cost Safety works on Bennettsbridge footpaths and drainage now completed with ramp installation scheduled 11th November, Kells Village footpaths completed;
- Climate Action works - new drainage on approach road to Hugginstown eliminating standing water nearing completion, drainage upgrade measures carried out to alleviate water from Mill Road, Inistioge;
- Community Recognition Funded carpark works completed in Bennettsbridge during school mid-term break;
- Safe to Schools works continuing on Mill Road, Graiguenamanagh with pedestrian ramp and works on girls' school to follow;
- ORIS Stoneyford to Ennisnag footpath – groundworks commencing mid-November;
- Clár funded public lighting works commenced in Coolagh carpark, macadam works to follow;
- Preparatory works to commence in December for implementation of revised 60km/h rural roads speed limit on 7th February 2025.
Urban speed limit changes scheduled for implementation end June 2025, awaiting guidance as these changes require prior amendments to any existing bye-laws.

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

- Successful transition in rural roads speed limit change from 80km/h to 60km/h requires broad public awareness, personal responsibility of drivers and Garda enforcement – Kilkenny County Council Road Safety Awareness Officer will be requested to publicise same;
- Update on flood relief schemes requested at December Municipal District meeting;
- Second phase of works in Kings River preferential to happen as early in permitted time period as possible;
- Possibility of heavy through traffic in Callan being diverted out of town by upgrading slip road from Goatsbridge to Windgap Road or using IDA land at Tube Rollers;
- Possibility of speed audit for traffic entering and exiting Kilkenny villages;
- Potential to install physical measures to slow traffic at Danesfort junction & redesign exit for Bennettsbridge – installation of public lighting at Danesfort could assist possibility of physical measures being considered, it was agreed that the matter should be raised at the next Joint Policing Committee meeting;
- Ramps requested for The Ring, Bennettsbridge – currently a list of 20 requests for ramps, funding available to deliver 5;
- Speeding issues on Dublin Road, Thomastown;
- Possibility of taking in charge roads in Westcourt Business Park, Callan – D Murphy said this is privately owned and any application for taking in charge is firstly assessed to ensure services are at an acceptable standard;
- Speed ramp requested on Mill Street, Callan;
- Reduction from 2 lanes to 1 from Watershed Kilkenny to Thomastown Road Roundabout;
- It was agreed the un-commissioned light at Foulkstown should be referred to SPC meeting from the Municipal District members;
- The Library Service was congratulated on the high quality of its Halloween booklet for Primary School children, which was produced entirely in-house by the Library staff & funded by Creative Ireland;
- An Garda Síochána was commended on it's work on Halloween night in Bennettsbridge;

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

Ms Anne Marie Shortall informed the members that Inistioge Community Group secured runner-up position in their category at the Pride of Place awards ceremony held on the 2nd November. Inistioge also received recognition and was awarded a gold medal for County 1st in the Tidy Towns competition on 1st November, 2024.

Under the Town & Village schemes, consultants have been appointed for phase 2 of the Kings River project. A project development measure in the amount of €50,000 is available for developing and outdoor classroom concept in Callan together with reimagining potential use of a derelict cottage in the Moat Field, Callan. It is intended to engage consultants who will assist in the development of this project.

Under the CLÁR programme, Windgap handball alley was successful in securing funding of €29,419 for external insulation of two outside walls, along with Windgap GAA Club who were allocated €38,307 for works to include tarmac to driveway and parking area.

Under the Community Investment Fund, Stoneyford Community Centre were allocated €19,800 in funding. Ms Shortall listed the various beneficiaries of the CCFCF 2024 fund for the Callan-Thomastown MD.

The annual Grants Booklet detailing grants available in 2025 will be produced before year end, and if available will be circulated to the members at the December Municipal District meeting.

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

It was agreed that an update would be provided on the development of the Friary in Callan at the December Municipal District meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson: 

