

**Minutes of the September Meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown**

**Date:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 at 3.00p.m.

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

**Chair:** Cllr P Cleere

**Present:** Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Matt Doran, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Joe Sheridan.

**In attendance:** Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Mr Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator.

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

**2) (a) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.**

The minutes of the Annual meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Joe Lyons and seconded by Cllr Deirdre Cullen.

**(b) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024.**

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024 were adopted, proposed by Cllr M Doyle and seconded by Cllr D Cullen.

**3) 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 completed and planned projects:

- Restoration Improvement works scheduled for week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> September were listed;
- Representations were invited for consideration under the new three-year Road Plan 2025-2027, to be submitted in advance of the October Municipal District meeting;
- All Restoration Maintenance works now complete, with the exception of LIS lane works;
- Footpath works complete in Mill Street, Thomastown & Mill Street, Callan, works will commence in Woodlawn & Main Street, Bennettsbridge 9<sup>th</sup> September;
- Bridge Street Active Travel Scheme works progressing in Callan, due for completion end September;
- Low Cost Safety works scheduled to commence in Bennettsbridge during school mid-term, timeframe for Phase 2 works in Kells Village to be confirmed;
- Climate Action works at Windgap, Coppengagh and Ballycavas completed, timeframe for works in Hugginstown and Inistioge to be confirmed, cleaning of silt mounds from eyes of the Kings River bridge in Callan is ongoing this week;

- Two Community Recognition Fund roads projects were recently announced for works to Bennettsbridge carpark and traffic calming, stone wall and seating in Knocktopher;
- Works scheduled to commence on Duiske Lane, Graiguenamanagh 23<sup>rd</sup> September under the Safe to Schools project, two other projects under this scheme currently awaiting approval of NTA;
- ORIS funded works in the Abbey Meadow, Callan are ongoing with new pedestrian bridge and signage installed, footpath and planting works to commence.
- Procurement process is ongoing for sub-contractors to complete a new looped walk connecting Stoneyford to Ennisnag
- Emergency roadworks ongoing to alleviate a sinking section on R713
- Clár funding will allow consultant led works at Windgap and public lighting & surfacing works by Kilkenny County Council at Coolagh Cross

The members thanked Mr. Murphy for his update and for the volume of works completed to date in the Municipal District, and raised the following items:

- Cllr Cullen asked if traffic calming could be investigated to reduce hazard risks when leaving St. Columba's Hospital/Scouts Den in Thomastown, especially in light of an increase in the number of the Hospitals residents – D Murphy will discuss with Road Design Section regarding inclusion on list for Low Cost Safety Scheme, noting the Department of Transport is compiling a report on Regional roads accident blackspots which will determine criteria for inclusion on the list;
- Cllr Sheridan enquired if rumble strips could be installed at Sevenhouses Crossroads, D Murphy listed the numerous safety measures already installed at this location and said he would investigate the feasibility of rumble strips and refresh the road markings, and also noted once the new speed limits are implemented the speed limit on this road will reduce to 60km/h;
- Cllr Cleere asked if the R700, Thomastown road can be included in next application for Climate Action Funding to remedy sinking issues, D Murphy said a report was compiled by the Flood Relief Section which he will follow up;
- Cllr Cleere asked for the public to be extra vigilant on the roads with Hedgecutting season getting underway;
- Cllr Cleere requested the possibility of providing a safe area for parked cars on roads accessing the M9 Motorway, D Murphy said he will seek an update from Road Design Section who have carried out a Feasibility Study for provision of Park & Ride facilities at Motorway junctions;
- Cllr Cleere asked if safety measures similar to those in place at Clara GAA pitch could be installed at Danesfort GAA club, D Murphy said TII carried out a safety audit at Danesfort which didn't indicate any further measures, he will query with Seamus Kavanagh and Road Design Office but noted different regulations applied to Clara as that road is not a National Road so doesn't fall under TII remit;
- Cllr Lyons asked if public lighting could be installed on Clodeen Lane, Callan – D Murphy replied that there is no longer a specific funding stream for provision of public lighting, and this can be revisited when compiling the 2025 Road works Programme under Councillors Own Funds.

4) **Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District members for transaction of such meeting.**

(a) **Adoption of Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Municipal District meetings of Callan-Thomastown**

Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown were adopted, proposed by Cllr Cullen and seconded by Cllr Lyons.

(b) **Adoption of Amended Schedule of Meetings 2024/2025**

Schedule of Meetings for the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown 2024/2025 were adopted, with the following amendment, proposed by Cllr Lyons and seconded by Cllr Doyle:

It was agreed the January 2025 meeting will be deferred to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

5) **Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting**

There were no items for discussion

6) **Notices of Motion**

There were no items for discussion

7) **Correspondence**

There were no items for discussion

8) **Any other Business**

The members agreed to hold a Roadworks Programme Workshop at 2.30pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October (via remote access) immediately prior to the October Municipal District meeting at 3pm

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson:



