

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

**Date:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025 at 3.00p.m.

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

**Chair:** Cllr Deirdre Cullen.  
**Present** Cllr Brian Cleere, Cllr Stephanie Doheny, Cllr Joe Lyons,  
**In attendance:** Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer;  
Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Carmel Brett, Staff  
Officer.  
**Apologies:** Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Sheridan.

Prior to commencement of the meeting Cllr Cullen, on behalf of herself and her fellow elected members, extended condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Jelena Kuzic who lost her life following a road traffic accident on the N76 Callan by-pass on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, and said thoughts and prayers were with all involved and the greater community of Callan.

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

**(b) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.**

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr J Lyons and seconded by Cllr S Doheny.

**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 projects completed and planned:

- Restoration Improvement works commenced 31st March, locations were listed for the five days of works. Roadworks in Knocktopher from Tirlán to R448 junction scheduled 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April, subject to weather and plant availability;
- Safe route to schools' project in Graiguenamanagh is continuing, bollards and footpath works at girls' school to commence over Easter break;
- ORIS works continuing on Stoneyford to Ennisnag footpath, it is hoped works will be completed mid-May;
- Drawings of proposed works under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme were presented to the members for locations on R697 at Birchwood (Ahenny), R705 at Ballyogan and L1016 Sevenhouses crossroads
- Community Recognition Funded remedial works to commence on walls between Ballyhale & Knocktopher 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Section 38 process for traffic calming works now concluded, 5 submissions were received and these will be reviewed.

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

- Footpath works on R448 Thomastown were welcomed as it enables pedestrian connectivity from Thomastown United AFC to junction with R700;
- Possibility of provision of visual road markings used under the Safe to School project in Graiguenamanagh being rolled out for other schools in the Municipal District – it was clarified that while these measures are expensive and provision of same would ultimately be guided by funding availability, efforts would be made to provide same when doing overlay works at other schools;
- Request for provision of a bus shelter in Thomastown to be progressed;
- It was clarified that any proposed improvement works to Victoria Bridge at Birchwood would need to be funded outside of the normal bridge maintenance allocations and the intrinsic issue is the narrowness of the bridge;
- Safety measures for bend on R448 approaching Dungarvan from Thomastown – Declan Murphy said road markings have been completed this week, further works could be considered under Low Cost Safety Scheme and in the mean-time he would carry out a speed and traffic count;
- Possibility of provision of additional public lighting on N76 Callan by-pass – Declan Murphy said this road is under the remit of TII but he will liaise with the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (Pleep) team to ascertain what the findings are from their recent survey works on N76.

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

Ms Anne Marie Shortall updated the members on progression of the various schemes available, stating that the Community Events Grant Scheme is now closed for applications and will be brought before the Plenary Council at the next meeting..

The Local Enhancement Programme grant was approved by the LCDC and will benefit over 180 groups, receiving funding of €170,000 on final approval by the Department.

Applications are invited for the CCFCS grant scheme, open until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025, with applicants advised to contact the Community Section should they require assistance. It was clarified that any projects which are not exempt from planning permission would require to have the necessary permissions prior to submission of application.

Advertisement inviting applications for Expressions of Interest in the Town and Village Scheme will be placed in the coming weeks, and contact will be made with Community groups throughout the County.

Anne Marie confirmed that acknowledgement was received from the Minister following correspondence sent regarding lack of progress on rollout of water and wastewater services in Bennettsbridge.

**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

Anne Marie Shortall agreed to issue a letter from this Municipal District to Uisce Éireann expressing disappointment that works for the Water & Wastewater Scheme in Bennettsbridge will not commence until 2029.

It was agreed to request an update on housing provision from the Housing Section at the next Municipal District meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson:



