

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

Date: Wednesday 4th June, 2025 at 3.00p.m.

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

Chair: Cllr Joe Lyons
Present Cllr Brian Cleere, Cllr Stephanie Doheny, Cllr Michael Doyle (online via MS Teas).
In attendance: Michael Mehane, RPS Consultants; Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Mr Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.
Apologies: Cllr Joe Sheridan

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(b) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of 7th May, 2025.

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 7th May, 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr D Cullen and seconded by Cllr B Cleere.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Presentation on Ferrymountgarrett Bridge (RPS Consultants)

Mr Michael Mehane, Senior Associate with RPS Consultants, gave a briefing presentation to the members on the upcoming investigation works to Ferrymountgarrett Bridge which will necessitate its closure from 28th July to 1st August.

Michael explained that the works, in conjunction with initial surveys and ongoing studies, will determine the scope of damage and deterioration the bridge has suffered since its construction in 1930 and allow an informed proposal of preliminary works to address a suite of improvements including concrete & steelwork repairs and strengthening, resurfacing, drainage etc.

The members thanked Michael for his update and discussed the following items:

- VMS signage will be displayed on approach roads two weeks in advance of the road closure;
- An indication of repair costs won't be apparent until the full scope of works has been identified;
- Potential to increase the width of the bridge was discussed;
- Possibility of lighting of the bridge and approach roads;
- Kilkenny County Council is the lead party on the project, liaising with Wexford County Council, with the Department of Transport funding the project under a Specific Purpose Grant to bring to design and tender stage.

(b) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)

Mr D. Murphy, Area Engineer, updated the members on the following roads related matters:

- Restoration Improvement works at nine locations carried out in May, with a further seven locations listed for intended works in June;

- Restoration Maintenance works at Moneen/Coolierin completed in May, with further works planned to commence 9th June;
- Drainage works completed at Danesfort and ongoing in Hugginstown;
- ORIS funded works on Stoneyford to Ennisnag footpath due for completion 7th June;
- A design is now complete for Low Cost Safety Works at Ballyhall crossroads;
- Update given on traffic management and road closures in conjunction with construction of Clashwilliam Solar farm;
- Roads crews breasting roadside vegetation on National & Regional roads over the coming month.

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

- Possibility of measures to increase safety on the Thomastown Road at Bennettsbridge;
- Preparations for the intended works to the Kings River are on schedule but ultimately carrying out the works will depend on low water levels in-river;
- Mt Loftus junction – Road Design are progressing with a design and will then meet landowners with a view to obtaining their consent for works

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

Ms Anne Marie Shortall provided the members with an update on the rural and community development projects for the Municipal District under all of the various schemes, including the Town & Village Scheme, the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF), the Community Culture Capital Facilities Scheme (CCFCS) and the Community Recognition Fund (CRF).

The members thanked Ms Shortall for her update and raised the following items:

- Scale and scope of providing pedestrian access to the bridge in Bennettsbridge requires RRDF funding, currently waiting for the next call expected in 2026/2027;
- Correspondence with Uisce Éireann regarding water and wastewater scheme in Bennettsbridge;
- Project at Powers cottage, Moat Lane Callan is currently at an early project development stage, when suggestions for best potential use are identified the project will be brought back before the elected members for consideration.

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

Ms Anne Marie Shortall confirmed that a response was received from Uisce Éireann regarding a Water and Wastewater Scheme in Bennettsbridge which stated that the project is at Stage 2 Preliminary Business Case, and UÉ are unable to give commitments on capital expenditure

beyond 2024 for projects not currently at construction stage as the next investment period 2025-2029 is subject to the investment plan submission statutory process.

7) Any other Business

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson:



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Lymn", is written over a horizontal line.

