

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

**Date:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2025 at 3.30p.m.

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

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

### **1) Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.**

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle.

### **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:

- Footpath works phase 1 at Maxtown, Callan now complete, footpath works phase 2 R697 Kells complete with link across the bridge;
- Routine drainage works are ongoing, significant blockage cleared on R448 Thomastown;
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme works on L2643 at Mount Loftus and at Sevenhouses crossroads are completed. All works except junction tightening and signage complete at Ballyhall cross. Boundary and junction works complete at R704 junction with L7502 Hoodsgrove. New ramp and public light installed on the R700 Inistioge/Graiguenamanagh junction, waiting for ESB to connect power;
- Ramps are scheduled for installation mid-December in Graiguenamanagh, Callan and Bennettsbridge;
- Works at Ladyswell Street, Thomastown to facilitate connections of Abbey Hill development scheduled to commence early January 2026.

The members thanked Declan for his update and raised the following items:

- Members reported very positive feedback following works at Ballyhall Cross;
- Antisocial behaviour in and vandalism of the public toilets in Callan was discussed. It was noted that recent installation of a cardreader to gain paid access to public toilets in Thomastown could be explored;

- An update on acquiring additional capacity in Kilbride cemetery will be requested from the Environment Section;
- Roadmarkings from Jerpoint towards Mt Juliet are being refreshed today;
- Renewing of anti-skid measures for Killarney Bridge will be considered in 2026;
- Issues around Hedgecutting should be reported to the Callan and Thomastown area offices, it was agreed that a reminder would be advertised for landowners to be aware of their responsibilities;
- Road markings and paint on ramp at Inistioge to be brightened;
- Road safety concerns were expressed for Danesfort junction.

The elected members held a discussion where a wish was expressed to have sight of the safety audit previously conducted by TII for this location.

Declan Murphy said that the Municipal District Offices do not have a remit to deal with TII but he would enquire about the possible inclusion of this location for consideration in the upcoming speed review.

Cllr Doyle proposed, Cllr Cullen seconded and members agreed that a letter should issue to the Minister for Transport highlighting their concerns about the safety of this junction and requesting a review of same so that measures can be implemented to make the location safer.

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

Anne Marie informed the members that County Kilkenny received a grant of €365k CLÁR funding and listed the various projects which benefit from this.

An announcement regarding Town & Village Renewal Scheme is imminent, and Anne Marie will brief the members on the Scheme outline at the next Municipal District meeting.

A proposal to launch the CCFCS 2026 scheme earlier than in previous years is currently being considered and Anne Marie will revert when she has further details; details of the 2026 Local Enhancement Scheme will issue soon.

A discussion was held regarding the criteria for inclusion on the CLÁR scheme.

Anne Marie explained that the criteria is set by the Department and can be amended each year. Other funding streams were discussed, it was noted that the criteria for Active Travel funding has changed considerably in recent years.

The members discussed recurrent problems with flooding issues within the Municipal District.

It was proposed by Cllr Doyle, seconded by Cllr Cullen and agreed that a letter should issue to Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran as a follow-up to previous correspondence requesting a timeline and faster progress with developing flood relief schemes for areas within the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District affected by recurrent flooding problems.

Following queries related to a feasibility study previously carried out on the potential for a pedestrian bridge and amenity park in Bennettsbridge and the current status of proposed development of the Friary in Callan, it was requested that an update be provided to the members at the next Municipal District meeting.

The members thanked Anne Marie 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**

There were no items for discussion.

7) **Any other Business**

The elected members discussed a lack of regular Garda presence in many of the Municipal District towns and villages.

Cllr Cullen proposed, Cllr Lyons seconded and it was agreed to write to Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Chair of the Local Community Safety Partnership Committee, with a request that this is highlighted at the committees next meeting and to also write to Deputy Jim O'Callaghan, Minister for Justice, requesting additional garda resources for the Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_



