

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

**Date:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 at 3.30p.m.

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

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

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

**(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2025.**

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Joe Sheridan.

**(b) Minutes of the Budget meeting of the Municipal District held Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2025.**

The minutes of the Budget meeting of the Municipal District held 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Joe Sheridan.

**2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

**(a) Presentation on Town Centre First Plan for Graiguenamanagh (Annette Fitzpatrick)**

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick, Town Regeneration Officer, gave the members a presentation on the history, purpose and development of the Graiguenamanagh Town Centre First Plan, explaining it is a non-statutory plan funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development under the Town Centre First initiative, developed in partnership with Graiguenamanagh Town Team and supported by the Town Regeneration Office and the Community Sections of Kilkenny County Council.

Consultants were appointed, a Health Check was carried out on Graiguenamanagh and over the period from July to October stakeholders including the town team, community groups, businesses, public sector agencies and Council staff were involved in meetings, walkabouts, workshops and consultations resulting in the following 6 themes being identified:

- Vacancy and Dereliction
- Economic Infrastructure
- Social Infrastructure and Amenities
- Food
- Public Realm
- Tourism Development

Progress on projects identified within each of these themes will be dependent on the availability of funding streams.

An information evening/roadshow on vacancy and dereliction will take place when pertinent material is gathered.

The members thanked Annette for her presentation and discussed the following matters:

- The large numbers of tourists visiting Graiguenamanagh boosts the local economy each year, this could be detracted from if the river isn't suitable for summer swimming;
- The "living over the shop" concept was welcomed;
- Bus connectivity requires improvement;
- Issue with broadband in the centre of the town can only be resolved by installing new underground ducts to provide linkage from the top and bottom of the town as the existing ducts are at full capacity;
- The issue of unclear ownership and title for derelict and vacant properties was discussed, this can be resolved by working in conjunction with the likely owners or acquiring the properties by compulsory purchase order.

(b) 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 and Maintenance works including CIS & LIS projects are now completed;
- Footpath works in Edmund Rice estate Callan have been completed, footpath works in Kells are in progress and engagement with residents are ongoing for footpath installation at Maxtown, Callan;
- Routine drainage works are ongoing, works on the drainage scheme at R701 Kilmoganny are progressing;
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme works to improve sightlines on L2643 at Mount Loftus are ongoing, sightline improvement works at Ballyhall crossroads have been completed, works remaining consist of line marking, chevron signs, junction tightening and driver feedback sign. Works will commence 10<sup>th</sup> November on R704 junction with L7502 Hoodsgrove. Sightline works and road markings are complete on the R700 Inistioge/Graiguenamanagh junction, remaining works consist of installation of a ramp and public light;
- Ramps are scheduled for installation mid-November in Graiguenamanagh, Callan and Bennettsbridge;
- Roadplan Consultants are currently designing bus stops and shelters for priority 1 locations at Thomastown, Bennettsbridge, Ballyhale and Callan;
- Tender contract documents are due to be published for works on Ferrymountgarrett Bridge mid-January 2026.

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

- Members discussed the timeline for announcement of roads grants each year, noting that details of grants are usually received from the Department in February of each year, with the members approving project budgets in March.  
The members noted that this incurs significant delays for the commencement of the roads programme of works each year.  
It was proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr Joe Lyons and agreed that a letter issue to Minister Darragh O'Brien from the elected members of the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District requesting the announcement of funding for local

authorities earlier than February 2026, and also asking why these announcements would not normally issue before February each year.

- Following queries regarding works to bus stops and shelters, Declan agreed to circulate details on the priority system and how locations are ranked. He clarified that Callan bus stop is included for Priority 1 works;
- In response to a query about possibly installing safety measures in Kilmoganny and Dungarvan, Declan said the Section 38 process would need to be followed in scenarios such as these;
- Declan confirmed contractors have identified works required for Ferrymountgarrett Bridge but found the general condition of the bridge is very good for one of its age;
- Concern about inadequate lighting at Castle Avenue, Thomastown will be referred to the Public Lighting technician;
- In response to a query regarding an underpass in Callan from the Moat Field under the N76 by-pass, Declan said issues with ownership and title of lands had delayed Phase 2 of the Moat field project to connect into a footpath at the other side of the N76.
- Future capacity of Kilbride cemetery - Declan said Environment Section is engaging with the landowner and will revert with an update;
- Kings River, Callan – a positive meeting was held with representatives of the Department of National Parks & Wildlife and Inland Fisheries. A plan to move the project forward agreeable to all stakeholders is being devised.

**(c) The Ómós Project – An introduction to the process for developing a county memorial to the achievement of Irish Independence in Kilkenny (Regina Fitzpatrick, Heritage Officer & Mary Butler, Arts Officer)**

Regina advised members that the Ómós Project is a process being undertaken to develop a memorial in County Kilkenny for those who sacrificed in the struggle for Irish freedom in Kilkenny during the revolutionary period, the 1916 Rising, War of Independence and Civil War. Following a review of existing memorials carried out by the Naming and Commemorative Memorial Committee, a need was identified for a central memorial to honour not just individuals who made significance sacrifices, but also their family members and the wider community.

Mary outlined the public art programme process to members, which has been identified as the most appropriate process to deliver this project, with a sub-committee of the Public Art Management Group being established to include Historical/commemoration expertise on the project.

Dr Tomás Mac Conmara and Dr Siobhán Doyle will be appointed as external expert advisors.

The subcommittee will compose the artists brief for the project and a panel will be convened to assess proposals from artists prior to appointment. The project brief will be presented to the Councils Management Team, each Municipal District, SPC5 and the Plenary Council in advance of wider consultation. A one-day invited stakeholder consultation event will take place in January 2026.

It was clarified that a decision on the location of the memorial will come through the consultation process, noting the location must be central and accessible to all.

Cllr Lyons and the elected members thanked Regina and Mary for their presentation.

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

“That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the proposal to publish Notice of Intention to declare the existing road a public road at the following location: Road off Lower Green Lane, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, providing access to new residential development and Supervalu carpark, from Lower Green Lane to a point measuring a length of 64 metres approximately as set out on attached map.”

Publishing Notice of Intention to declare the existing road a public road as set out in the above proposal was adopted, proposed by Cllr Joe Lyons seconded by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and agreed.

**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**

Cllr Cullen welcomed the Government move to allow small developers in rural areas to install water and wastewater facilities with the intention of Úisce Éireann subsequently taking them over.

It was proposed by Cllr Doyle, seconded by Cllr Cullen and agreed that a letter should issue from the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District to Úisce Éireann suggesting that those towns and villages who already have a water supply but are waiting for upgrades are included in this proposal.

It was agreed that the December Municipal District meeting will be held in the Thomastown Community Centre, there will not be a meeting in January 2026 and the February 2026 meeting will be held remotely via MS Teams.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:



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