

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

**Date:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 at 3.30p.m.

**Venue:** Online via MS Teams.

**Chair:** Cllr Joe Lyons.  
**Present** Cllr Brian Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Sheridan.  
**In attendance:** Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer; Paul Byrne, A/Executive Engineer; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Aoidín Curran, Roadplan Consultants; Jan-Ross Jordaan, Roadplan Consultants.  
**Apologies:** Cllr Stephanie Doheny.

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

**Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2025.**

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Joe Sheridan.

**2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

**(a) Presentation on bus stops (Aoidín Curran, Roadplan Consultants)**

Cllr Lyons welcomed Roadplan Consultants to the meeting and Aoidín Curran gave the elected members an overview of the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme and how it is being rolled out by Kilkenny County Council.

Aoidín said the Local Authority have an allocation of €500k per annum for design and construction of bus stop upgrades, which excludes ancillary infrastructure such as footpaths and crossings.

Eligibility for shelters is determined by the level of use the stop provides, e.g. it should serve more than five services and be a Connecting Ireland stop.

It is envisaged that two stops at each of the four locations in the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District - Bennettsbridge, Thomastown, Ballyhale and Callan - will proceed to construction by Q2 2026.

Each stage of the procedure was outlined, currently at Final Design and Road Safety Audit stage.

The package of works was outlined for each location, with Bennettsbridge requiring relocation from the existing stops together with footpath and pedestrian crossing facilities.

These facilities require that a Section 38 process is followed, part of which comprises a public consultation period where members of the public are invited to provide their submissions and observations on proposed works for consideration.

Works at the other locations would require improvements to the existing bus stop locations.

The members thanked Aoidín for her presentation and raised the following items:

- Concerns raised regarding road safety with a volume of agricultural, equestrian and commercial traffic in the area and potential reduced visibility – Aoidín replied that the

straight stretch of road being considered for the bus-stop location should maximise visibility, and the low speed environment, signage and buildouts to deter speed would also allow for sufficient visibility - the Section 38 process will provide opportunity for public comment on these and other issues;

- Regarding use of and distribution of total funding, it is estimated the works outlined for the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District will require approximately €200k of the total €500k available to the County, and the programme must adhere to the process outlined which includes review and approval by the National Transport Authority.
- Timeline of the process – it is hoped to get NTA approval by end February and commence Section 38 process in March. Section 38 process for other locations, although not a Statutory requirement, can be conducted should it be determined same would add value to the project.

**(b) Update on Urban Speed Limits (Paul Byrne)**

Cllr Lyons welcomed Paul to the meeting and Paul updated the members on the Speed Limits review as follows:

The 2023 Speed Limit Review was implemented in 3 stages, stage one being the introduction of the 60km Rural Speed Limit completed in 2025.

The current stage is rollout of the 30km Urban Speed Limit – the third and final stage comprises of the 80km National Secondary Roads limit which will be later in 2026 by TII.

The pre-draft consultation phase for stage 2 has been completed and authorisation to proceed with the review was received in October 2025.

Draft bye-laws will be prepared in consultation with TII and An Garda Síochána, and TII formal approval will be required following a public consultation period.

It is envisaged that the bye-laws will be adopted by end October 2026 with a view to implementation of the bye-laws by end March 2027.

The members thanked Paul for his update.

**(c) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)**

Mr D. Murphy, Area Engineer, updated the members on the following roads related matters, outlining projects completed and planned:

- While drainage works and pothole repairs will continue, recent severe weather events has delayed progress with routine maintenance works;
- When 2026 roads budgets have been announced, a draft list of discretionary works will be finalised for the Members consideration prior to presentation at the March MD meeting;
- Any amendments to the list of Restoration Improvement projects in the Multi Annual Programme 2025-2027 requires prior Departmental approval;
- Restoration Maintenance projects draft list will be presented to the Members for consideration;
- Low-Cost Safety Schemes to be determined by the Department based on list submitted by Road Design Section;
- Community Involvement Scheme and Local Improvement Scheme projects based on current pending lists;
- Climate Action Projects based on works submitted to Department for approval;
- Active Travel projects were listed for works in Thomastown, Graiguenamanagh, Bennettsbridge, Ballyhale, Stoneyford and Callan;

- It is envisaged that Restoration Improvement works in the Municipal District will commence on 9<sup>th</sup> March, locations to be decided;
- 2025 works now complete – ramp installed at The Ring, Bennettsbridge and junction buildouts, chevron signs and driver feedback signs completed at Ballyhall. Ramp will be installed in Inistioge once ESB has connected public lighting, ramp at Canon Kennedy Place in Callan to be installed in the coming week;
- Footpaths at Kilbride Cemetery, Callan and Kells Playground being surfaced today Wed 4<sup>th</sup> February;
- Members were advised of the KCC decision, on application from Shareridge Utilities, to close to public traffic R448 Ladyswell Street, Thomastown 8am to 9pm from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February to facilitate water and sewerage connections to Abbey Hill housing development.

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

- Members spoke about the impact extreme flooding events had on the Municipal District, they acknowledged and thanked Declan and the roads crews for their work contending with Storm Chandra;
- It was noted that during the visit to flooding affected areas by Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Deputy Kevin “Boxer” Moran a commitment was given to provide resources for interim measures required to mitigate flooding in the immediate term prior to the rollout of appropriate Flood Relief Schemes;
- Members flagged that additional funding will be required to address damage caused by Storm Chandra.  
Cllr Cullen proposed, seconded by Cllr Lyons and agreed, that a letter should issue from the Municipal District to the Minister for Transport Deputy Darragh O’Brien requesting additional funding to address the extensive damage caused to the road network by severe weather during the preceding weeks;
- Declan asked the Members to submit details of storm-damaged roads to include in a comprehensive list of pending repairs;
- Declan clarified works are scheduled to commence for installation of a larger underground chamber and two more powerful pumps to combat flooding at the Abbey Meadow carpark in Callan;
- Draft plans to address issues with the Kings River, Callan have been sent to Inland Fisheries & NPWS and are awaiting feedback on same;
- Update on extension to Kilbride Cemetery will be given at March MD meeting;
- Timeline for works to resolve subsidence issues at the Quay, Thomastown – any in-river works are only allowed by Inland Fisheries to take place during summer months;

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

Anne Marie informed the members that an announcement regarding Town & Village Renewal Scheme funding has been made and communicated via email to the elected members, included in this is €300k allocation for renovation of 18 Upper Bridge Street, Callan.

The Local Enhancement Programme 2026 is currently open, closing date 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.

The Community & Culture Facilities Capital Scheme 2026 (CCFCS) is currently open, with a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.

The timeline for submission of tenders for works at the Friary Complex development in Callan is now closed and the project is envisaged to be application-ready for RRDF funding call in 2027.

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**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

