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

Date: Wednesday 7th October, 2026 at 3.30p.m.

Venue: Online via MS Teams.

Chair:	Cllr Deirdre Cullen.
Present	Cllr Joe Sheridan, Cllr Brian Cleere, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Stephanie Doheny, Cllr Michael Doyle.
In attendance:	JJ Digby, Digby Brady Landscape Architects; Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.
Apologies:	None.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 2nd September, 2026.

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 2nd September were adopted, proposed by Cllr Joe Lyons and seconded by Cllr Brian Cleere.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Presentation on the Callan Outdoor Amenity Plan (JJ Digby, Digby Brady Landscape Architects)

Anne Marie Shortall introduced JJ Digby and clarified that the presentation was on a project development measure under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme to develop proposals around what could be delivered in the Abbey Meadow and Moat Field in Callan, should the opportunity arise.

JJ Digby stated that the intention of the proposals is to improve the access and amenity of the existing facilities for the benefit of the community who use them, and said a geophysical archaeological survey was undertaken which gave guidance on where new interventions could be proposed.

The historical, natural and cultural importance of both sites, which are National Monuments and lie within a Special Area of Conservation, was noted.

Community engagement and public consultation was a principal part of deriving proposals, with three public consultation events held.

It is proposed to:

- renovate the derelict building locally known as Mary Powers Cottage in the Moat Field, for community use
- Remove hoarding and renovate the existing gates to the cottage
- Improve the yard of the cottage, perhaps include public toilet facility and community raised vegetable beds;
- Provide a secondary walking loop to accommodate walkers during flooding episodes;
- Include a nature-based play area and an outdoor learning/community space, additional planting and a stepped connection across the existing flood-relief mound;

The members thanked JJ for his presentation and raised the following items:

Cllr Doheny welcomed the inclusion of an enclosed dog park and asked what the next step is – JJ replied that the planning process is the next step and it would then depend on available funding streams which will determine the timelines.
Cllr Lyons suggested that a controlled locking mechanism would be required if public toilets were being considered and welcomed the possibility of reinstating the original cottage gates.
Declan Murphy clarified that a link between the Meadow and the Moat already has planning permission, and Anne Marie Shortall said that the Planning Section have clarified what falls within the Part 8 planning process but added that new guidelines were impending.
Anne Marie outlined that there may be future opportunities under the Town & Village Scheme and ORIS funding to deliver some elements of the proposal on a phased basis.

(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 works completed in September were listed, only one project remaining;
- Footpath works at Maxtown, Callan completed with footpath and drainage works ongoing on Mill Road, Inistioge;
- Drainage works complete on R697 near Baurscoob Cross, at New Farm and Raheen;
- The Jet Vac will be in the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District for the month of October;
- Ramps complete at Westcourt housing estate, Callan and Kells village;
- Public light now operational and ramp due to be installed early October under Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Newmarket, while ramp, signage and driver feedback signs are scheduled for installation in Bennettsbridge during October;
- Repair works to the Thomastown quay wall and adjoining road scheduled for completion end of October;
- An Appropriate Assessment/(AA) Screening Report is now complete, the outcome of the screening is that a Narura Impact Statement (NIS) will be required – report as outlined to the members during the Kings River workshop will be circulated;
- New seating and macadam surface at Wood Road link footpath in the Quay carpark, Graiguenamanagh completed under the ORIS project.

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

- Timeline for when the interim flood relief measures would be in place - Declan replied that pumps have been procured and a contractor is in place for the inflatable walls but a date hasn't been finalised;
- In response to a request for safety measures to encourage decreased speed of traffic in Kilmoganny, Declan said these will be applied for under Active Travel and Low Cost Safety Scheme funding, they are on a list and he will update further when the level of funding is apparent.

(c) Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)

Anne Marie informed the members that there will be an announcement in the coming week seeking Expressions of Interests for Town & Village Renewal Scheme applications and funding.
The Community Section will also reach out to all community groups who may wish to apply.
Cllr Cullen wished Graiguenamanagh best of luck in the IPB Pride of Place Awards on 24th October, 2026.
Cllr Sheridan thanked Anne Marie for her input with the official opening of Madges Garden in Dunnamaggan, which took place on 12th September, 2026 and acknowledged the work of the Community Department in working with communities to secure funding and deliver projects.
Fiona Deegan informed the members that the Friary Complex, Callan project is still at design stage and Frank Stafford will make a presentation to the members prior to year end.

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

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

In response to a query from Cllr Cullen, Fiona Deegan agreed to ascertain the percentage of older stock of social housing which has been retrofitted to date in the Municipal District.
Members wished all teams from the Municipal District best of luck in their upcoming county semi-final matches.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Cllr Pericle Cullen