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

Date: Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 3.30p.m.

Venue: Thomastown Community Centre, Marshes Street, Thomastown.

Chair:	Cllr Deirdre Cullen.
Present	Cllr Joe Sheridan, Cllr Brian Cleere (via Teams), Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Stephanie Doheny, Cllr Michael Doyle.
In attendance:	Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; David O'Brien, Senior Executive 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 Stephanie Doheny and seconded by Cllr Joe Lyons.

2) **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

(a) Speed Limit Review Update (David O'Brien)

David O'Brien, Senior Executive Engineer Road Design Office, gave the members an update on the Speed Limit Review 2026 informing them that the recommendations of the Speed Limit Review 2023 consisted of setting the rural speed limit at 60km/hr default (implemented 2025), introducing an urban speed limit of 30km/hr (current stage) and amending the default speed on National Secondary Roads to 80km/hr – this to be addressed later this year by TII.
David outlined the background to Stage 2 Urban Speed Limits and gave an update on the Kilkenny Special Speed Limit Bye Laws Review, saying draft byelaws have been prepared and consultation with An Garda Siochána has taken place.
A public consultation process was held from 17th July to 01st September which facilitated receipt of 15 submissions.
Application has been made to TII for formal approval, and it is intended that the byelaws will be adopted by the elected members by 30th October and implemented by 31st March 2027.

The members thanked David for his presentation and raised the following items:
Cllr Cullen and Cllr Doyle voiced concerns around excessive speeding between New Ross golf club and Rosbercon, asking if the speed limit can be reduced and speed ramps installed. Concern was also expressed at the contour of the road going into New Ross – Declan Murphy said he would investigate if signage at the junction would be helpful.

(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:

- 9 Restoration Improvement projects to be carried out, 6 scheduled for completion within the coming week;

- Restoration Maintenance works (surface dressing) works scheduled from 9th to 11th September;
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme update:
  (1) public light installed at Newmarket, ramp and road markings will follow when electricity is connected.
  (2) Two driver feedback signs installed on L1015 at Ballymack
  (3) Public consultation period for Section 38 Bennettsbridge Low-Cost Safety Scheme is now closed.
  6 submissions were received, minor amendments will be incorporated into the scheme and works will commence later in September.
  (4) Works at Graiguenamanagh pedestrian crossing are now complete apart from the installation of a public light.
  (5) Works at Raheen Road, Rosbercon have been approved this week, scope of works to be decided;
- The majority of works including installation of shelters are complete under the Bus-stop Enhancement Programme in Bennettsbridge. Ramp at the pedestrian crossing will be completed once electricity is connected;
- Section 38 Bus Stop Enhancement Programme for Callan and Thomastown is available to view on consult.ie, consultation period is open until 4th September;
- Works are substantially complete for the Dangan Terrace and Columbus Active Travel Scheme;
- Ferrymountgarrett Bridge reopened to traffic on schedule on 27th August, traffic management systems will be in place for the coming month to facilitate completion of repairs;
- Donnelly Civil Engineering are continuing works to the Thomastown quay wall and road, approximate timeframe for reopening the road is end of October;
- Detailed design has been approved by IFI and NPWS for the proposed Kings River works, the next stage depends on the findings of the AA Screening Report which is due for completion shortly;
- Consultants are currently reviewing submissions received following the Section 38 public consultation process for works on the N76 Callan By-pass;
- Works on the N76 at Killamery will go to tender in Q4 2026;
- Declan gave the members a presentation on the Winter Service Plan 2026-2027, outlining when and where Priority 3 Routes would be serviced.

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

- Cllr Cullen requested that residents on the Quay, Thomastown are updated on progress of the works via a leaflet letter-drop.
  She also said she is waiting for a response from Deputy Sean Canny regarding safety issues on the N10 at Danesfort, following a site visit with him earlier this summer.
  Cllr Cullen requested that sandbags are made available at the Quay in Thomastown in advance of any future flooding events; she also enquired about the possibility of providing filled salt bins at various locations around the Municipal District to allow local communities access to salt to clear local roads and footpaths during severe weather incidents;
- Cllr Joe Lyons concurred with Cllr Cullen regarding N10 safety issues.
  He also enquired about the possibility of creating a road in Callan from Mill Street to the Windgap Road to remove excess traffic from the town centre.
  Cllr Lyons requested a referral of his query regarding installation of a roundabout on the N76 Callan by-pass to the Road Design office – Declan said as Cllr Lyons had made

a submission on same during the projects' public consultation period the query would be addressed within that process.
Replying to a query around the timeline of a Natura Impact Statement for the Kings River, Declan said that would depend on whether it screens in or not.
Cllr Lyons also said a new road from the M9 motorway to the N76 would remove the excess traffic from an overburdened Burnchurch area.

- Cllr Doyle thanked all involved for the works carried out on the Ferrymountgarrett bridge and its' reopening on schedule, and thanked the public for their patience with long diversion routes.
  Cllr Doyle also raised the possibility of a two-hour parking limit being introduced for Market Street in Thomastown, to be enforced by intermittent enforcement by Kilkennys' traffic warden team. Cllr Cullen supported this suggestion, Cllr Lyons said he has previously requested this for Callan, and the use of parking spaces by retail workers for the duration of the working day was raised as a contributory factor to parking difficulties.
  Fiona Deegan agreed to bring this issue to the Management Team for discussion and Cllr Cullen said she will raise it at this weeks' SPC meeting.
  Cllr Doheny agreed with the suggestion to provide salt bins for public use, Declan Murphy said the Municipal District would not have the resources to fill bins and advised to raise the matter at the Plenary Council meeting for discussion.
- Cllr Doheny referred to a joint meeting of the Kings River Committee with Kilkenny County Council in 2017 and a plan of action agreed at that time, and asked that the Kings River Committee is kept informed and up to date with the current process position.
  Anne Marie Shortall explained that the planned 2017 works were completed and were separate works to the current proposal. The current project is funded through the Town & Village and the Callan Town Team have been in contact and are being kept informed of its progress.
  It was agreed a workshop would be organised to brief the elected members regarding the Kings River and the Town Team would be kept informed of updates.
- Cllr Joe Sheridan agreed with the view that roads L1015 & L1016 at Burnchurch are carrying excessive traffic, Declan Murphy said there has been five initiatives installed on these roads to make them safer.
- Cllr Brian Cleere enquired about the reason why diving boards were removed from the quay in Graiguenamanagh. Declan Murphy explained that Water Safety Ireland assessed the area and found that the water was too shallow for diving in that area, Fiona Deegan agreed to clarify the issue with the Environment Office.

(c) <u>Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)</u>

Anne Marie Shortall provided the following updates for community projects for the MD:
The Project Development Measure under the T & V scheme is ongoing and that there is consultation with all stakeholders on plans for an outdoor classroom, biodiversity and works to a derelict cottage in the Moate Field, Callan, with the aim of commencing a Part VIII process to progress these projects.
Tender evaluation process is in progress for the Town & Village project on 18 Upper Bridge Street, Callan.
The opening of "Madges Garden", a Town & Village funded project, will take place in Dunamaggan on 12th September.
Anne Marie provided updates on the various CCFCS and community projects in the Municipal District as follows:

The CCFCS funded St Josephs Athletic Club have works completed on shelter and walking track. Callan Soccer Club have works completed on dressing rooms upgrade.
Hugginstown Community Centre have commenced the procurement process for Age Friendly Health and fitness outdoor gym equipment.
Stoneyford Development association have commenced the procurement process for installation of soccer and basketball area.
In relation to Clár funded projects for the Municipal Distract – Windgap Handball Alley has received approval for a change of scope of the works.
Works are almost complete on the Coolagh Hall upgrade. Applications for the Clár programme 2027 have been submitted to the Department and are being evaluated.
It is expected that there will be a Town & Village funding call in late 2026, and Anne Marie will keep the members updated on same.

The members thanked Anne Marie and raised the following items:

Cllr Cullen raised the condition of the building formerly known as Billys Tearooms in Ballyhale, saying it was detracting from the aesthetics of the village.
Anne Marie confirmed that there was an Expression of Interest process carried out and that it is expected that new lease arrangements will be put in place in the near future and the building will be brought back in to use and maintained going forward with new tenants in place.
In response to a request for an update on the Friary project in Callan from Cllr Lyons, Fiona Deegan said it is at design stage and she will arrange a presentation to the members at the October or November Municipal District meeting. Fiona clarified that the current funding is for design works only.
Cllr Cullen acknowledged the effort of Kilkenny County Council in hosting the recent Ireland Woodlands Show in Woodstock gardens which was a great success.

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: Cllr Deirdre Cullen