

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

Date: Wednesday 1st April, 2026 at 3.30p.m.

Venue: Online via MS Teams.

Chair:	Cllr Joe Lyons.
Present	Cllr Joe Sheridan, Cllr Brian Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Stephanie Doheny, Cllr Michael Doyle.
In attendance:	Kieran Kelly, A/Senior Executive Engineer Capital Delivery Office; Aoife Quinn, Project Manager RPS Consultants; Thomas Dowling, Design Manager RPS Consultants; Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer;
Apologies:	None.

On behalf of the elected members of the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District meeting, Cllr Lyons extended sympathies to Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council, on the passing of his mother Kate.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 4th March, 2026.

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 4th March were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Stephanie Doheny.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Woodstock to South-East Greenway Link – Public Consultation No 2 (K Kelly KCC, A Quinn & T Dowling RPS Group Consultants

Kieran Kelly introduced Aoife Quinn, Project Manager and Thomas Dowling, Design Manager from RPS Group Consultants.

Aoife gave a presentation to the members, providing an update on the TII funded proposed link between Woodstock and the South-East Greenway.

Aoife said the project aims to develop a greenway with safe pedestrian and cycling facilities between Woodstock Estate and the South-East Greenway near New Ross, while facilitating sustainable growth and attracting domestic and international visitors to the 16–20-kilometre route area.

The project is currently at Stage 2 (Options Selection) of four stages with a second public consultation to take place focussing on proposed route corridors, followed by engagement with affected landowners. Once a preferred route option emerges there will be further public consultation on that preferred route corridor, followed by landowner engagement.

Phase 3, scheduled for 2026/2027 will focus on Design & Environmental Evaluation, and Phase 4 will deal with Statutory Processes taking place during 2027-2029.

The members were presented with maps of several proposed route corridor options and given timelines for stakeholder engagement events.

Details of the project are available at <https://www.woodstocktosegreenway.ie>

The members thanks Kieran and RPS Consulting for the update.

(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:

- Roadworks Programme 2026 commenced 9th March, with Restoration Improvement works completed at Tullamaine, Knockanore and Skeaghvosteen, and ongoing works this week at Rappa, Castletobin and Roscon;
- Footpath and drainage works are continuing, with works completed at Fairgreen, Graiguenamanagh and scheduled for Brandondale, Derrynahinch, Maxtown and Baunfree to commence 6th April;
- Section 38 for Bennettsbridge and Ballyhale Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme is now successfully completed, public consultation phase yielded 2 submissions resulting in some design adjustments;
- Section 38 for Dangan Terrace Active Travel Scheme is currently being reviewed by the NTA;
- Ferrymountgarrett Bridge project has been issued to tender with a closing date of 15th April, construction is envisaged to commence Q3 2026;
- When a revised design solution is completed for the Kings River, further consultation will take place with IFI and NPWS to review same;
- Members were updated on detail of works on Thomastown quay wall - if ESB overhead cables can be removed on schedule, works are due to commence mid-May;
- Contractor is scheduled to commence installation of new pumps and pumping chamber at Abbey Meadow carpark 7th April, works due to be completed end May. Works will necessitate closure of a section of the carpark and of Bridge Street for a two-week period from 18th May.

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

- The elected members held a discussion expressing their disappointment and disapproval of the recent announcement by Bus Éireann that the Waterford-Dublin Expressway Route 4 will cease to operate from May 24th. This route serves Ballyhale and Thomastown, as well as Mullinavat and Gowran in the Piltown and Castlecomer Municipal Districts respectively.
Cllr Cullen proposed, Cllr Lyons seconded and members agreed that a letter should issue from the Municipal District to the NTA requesting a reversal of this decision. Declan Murphy confirmed the NTA have indicated they are seeking a solution to the matter and that proposed enhancement works to the Ballyhale bus stop should proceed;
- Declan confirmed it is hoped works will commence on the Bennettsbridge bus stop by end April;
- A Section 38 process needs to be completed before works can commence on the Dangan Terrace Active Travel Scheme;
- Commencement of works at the quay, Thomastown is dependent on removal of ESB overhead cables but it is hoped to have works completed by end June;
- Regarding potential for introduction of paid parking on Market Street, Thomastown, Declan said this would require the passing of byelaws and provision of a resource to monitor its operation. Fiona Deegan agreed to raise the matter for discussion at management level;
- Addressing road safety concerns raised, Cllr Cullen Chair of the Road Safety Committee, said there will be a joint Kilkenny County Council/Garda Síochána

campaign to raise awareness of road safety and a zero-tolerance approach will be adopted by Gardai for road traffic offences such as speeding, use of mobile phones while driving etc;

(c) Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)

Anne Marie updated the members on the status of various grant schemes, advising that the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS) is now closed, applications are being assessed and it is hoped to present the results to members at the May Plenary Council meeting.

The 2026 Clár grant scheme has been announced and advertised, with details circulated to the members. Target groups comprise of community groups, community facilities and sporting organisations within the identified CLÁR areas, closing date for applications 22nd May.

It was confirmed there are no additions to the eligible areas in the Callan-Thomatown Municipal District.

Applications for the Community Centre Investment Fund, designed to aid refurbishment of existing centres, are made directly to the Department with the Community Section team supporting groups compiling these applications.

The members thanked Anne Marie for her update and raised the following items:

The members expressed disappointment that no additional areas within the Municipal District were included in the 2026 CLÁR list of areas eligible for submission of funding applications, and queried the criteria used during the selection process.

Anne Marie explained that 6 new areas were added, none in this Municipal District, and clarified existing areas are not removed to make room for new areas. Assessment is conducted by the Department, Kilkenny County Council do not have an input into the process.

In response to a request for an update on the Friary Complex Callan, Fiona Deegan said the project has gone for tender, when this process is complete permission will be sought to appoint consultants with a view to targeting the next call for Category 1 RRDF funding.

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:


