

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

Date: Wednesday 1st July, 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: 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 3rd June, 2026.

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 3rd June were adopted, proposed by Cllr Joe Lyons and seconded by Cllr Joe Sheridan.

(b) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District held 3rd June, 2026.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District held 3rd June were adopted, proposed by Cllr Stephanie Doheny and seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) 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 and planned, were listed;
- Restoration Maintenance works (surface dressing) scheduled 14th – 24th July;
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme funded works commence 2nd July in Newmarket with installation of a public light to facilitate ramp works;
- Section 38 notice of proposed works in Bennettsbridge & period for public submissions will be advertised this week;
- Bus-stop enhancement works are progressing well in Bennettsbridge. An Archaeological Impact Assessment report is being reviewed for works to the Thomastown and Callan bus stops, with a view to proceeding with a Section 38 process;
- Dangan Terrace Active Travel Scheme works will commence 8th July;
- Ferrymountgarrett Bridge works by Glas Civil Engineering are continuing to schedule;
- Repair works to the Thomastown quay wall and road scheduled to commence start of August, with completion timeframe of 6-8 weeks;
- An Appropriate Assessment/Natura Impact Statement is being prepared for the Kings River project with intention to progress to planning permission stage;
- Section 38 Notice has been published for N76 Callan Bypass Pavement Scheme proposals, documentation is available for inspection at Kilkenny County Council offices and submissions accepted from 12th June 16th July.

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

- Cllr Cullen welcomed the increased TFI bus service from Inistioge to Kilkenny;
- Cllr Cullen said additional funding received for road repairs following damage caused by Storm Chandra was welcomed but noted that the late allocation will impose increased pressure on roads crews. Declan Murphy said once the exact amount of funding is known a corresponding works plan can be formulated;
- Cllr Lyons queried why the proposal to install roundabouts on the Callan Bypass as part of the N76 Callan Bypass Pavement Scheme could not be accommodated, and asked for clarification on this at the September MD meeting – Declan said he will consult with the Road Design team, and encouraged Cllr Lyons to avail of the public consultation process;
- Cllr Doyle asked what the process is and how the additional funding for storm damage will be allocated within Kilkenny County Council. Declan said he will circulate an update when he has been informed of internal allocations;
- Cllr Cleere enquired if safety could be improved when exiting Jerpoint Abbey. Declan replied that as this is the property of the OPW, potential options and funding streams could be investigated in conjunction with both the OPW and the Council;
- Cllr Sheridan also noted the late allocation of additional funding would likely add pressure for completion of the roadworks programme;
- Cllr Sheridan and Cllr Cullen raised safety at Danesfort Cross, asking if TII design Team could reevaluate this location. Declan replied that to date he has exhausted all avenues as TII maintained the junction is satisfactory, but he will query with Road Design if any further surveys can be conducted;
- Cllr Doherty asked if additional funding will be required to progress the Kings River project. Declan replied that planning permission will need to be secured and works tendered for. Current funding stream is available until September 2026 and will need Departmental approval to extend this timeframe. Once a works estimate is received it will be apparent if the current funding level is sufficient for the project;

(b) Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)

Anne Marie informed the members that Pride of Place judging takes place in Graiguenamanagh on Thursday 2nd July, 2026. The Pride of Place competition is an opportunity for the Community to showcase the local community and all the successful initiatives and projects. All of the elected members from the municipal district are invited to attend and support the local community.

Anne Marie outlined that approval for the Local Enhancement Grant Scheme is expected to be received from the Department of Rural & Community Development within the following week and all successful applicants will then be notified in writing.

The Town & Village Scheme Kings River project will require approval for an extension of time from the Department. There will be a requirement for match funding for the project.

Anne Marie confirmed that design works under the Friary Complex, Callan has gone out to tender.

Fiona Deegan said a design team investigating potential use of the two Council-owned houses on Bridge Street, Callan has been appointed and proposals will be assessed.

Anne Marie will request an update from the Housing Section, who are leading the project.

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

- (a) Declaration of a Public Road under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993
That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the proposal to declare the existing road a public road at the following location:

"Road off Lower Green Lane, Callan, 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"

Cllr Joe Lyons proposed, Cllr Stephanie Doheny seconded and members agreed the declaration of a public road under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993 as follows:

"Road off Lower Green Lane, Callan, 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"

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 Ferche Calle*

