

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

Date: Wednesday 4th March, 2026 at 3.30p.m.

Venue: Callan area office, Prologue, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

Chair: Cllr Joe Lyons.
Present Cllr Joe Sheridan, Cllr Brian Cleere (Teams), Cllr Deirdre Cullen (Teams), Cllr Deirdre Cullen (Teams).
In attendance: Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer;
Apologies: Cllr Michael Doyle.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

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

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 4th February were adopted, proposed by Cllr Joe Sheridan and seconded by Cllr Deirdre Cullen.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Roadworks Programme 2026 (Declan Murphy)

Mr Declan Murphy gave a presentation to the elected members on the proposed 2026 Roadworks Programme which commands a total budget of €11,498,038.

Declan outlined the breakdown of funding for Restoration Improvement, Restoration Maintenance, Discretionary Works, Low-Cost Safety Schemes, Drainage, Maintenance of National Primary, National Secondary, Regional and Local Roads, Community Involvement Scheme, Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works, Specific Improvement Grants (Ferrymountgarrett Bridge and the Quay, Thomastown), and Local MD Fund for 2026.

Local Improvement Scheme funding for each Municipal District has not been announced yet. Restoration Improvement works will align with the 2025-2027 programme as agreed by the Members in 2024, Restoration Maintenance projects will be as presented to Members.

There are currently 19 schemes listed to avail of drainage funding, based on the current list it is envisaged that 3 projects will be completed under the Community Involvement Scheme.

4 locations will benefit from Low Cost Safety funding, as well as renewing markings on various roads.

Works will be completed at 7 locations under Bridge and Climate Action Rehabilitation Works, 3 locations under Climate Change Adaption and Resilience works.

Local MD fund remains at €50,000.

Cllr Lyons thanked Declan for his prior consultation on the programme and members raised the following items:

While Members welcomed increased funding compared to 2025, they noted any extra funds would be fully absorbed by repair costs for inclement weather damage, and the Municipal District will also need a further allocation of emergency funding to deal with such repairs.

The economic impact of prioritising applications in order of receipt date for the Community Involvement Scheme was noted, with the cost/benefit of pothole repairs versus carrying out reinstatement works for roads discussed.

There is a need for vastly increased funding of this scheme if any significant progress is to be made with reducing the current substantial waiting list.

Declan Murphy said the division of this funding per Municipal District is decided by the kilometre of roadway in each MD.

While Members spoke of the importance of having the Municipal District Discretionary Allocation, they also noted that the allocation needs to be increased in the next Council budget.

The Roadworks Programme 2026 was adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Joe Sheridan.

(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 to commence in the MD, Declan listed works scheduled from 6th to 13th March;
- Drainage works continuing in all GSS areas;
- Speed ramp installed in Canon Kennedy Court, Callan;
- Uisce Éireann contractors due to complete works on Ladyswell Street, Thomastown 7th March;
- Section 38 for Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme works at Bennettsbridge and Ballyhale is available for viewing on consult.ie, with submissions open until 12pm 16th March. Sections 38's for Thomastown and Callan will commence in due course;
- Section 38 for Dangan Terrace, Thomastown, Active Travel Scheme scheduled for publication mid-March, Members will be notified beforehand;
- Tender process for Ferrymountgarret bridge works will open for applications on 6th March for a 5-week period, with commencement of works envisaged for Q3 2026;
- Members will be updated when Consultants have finalised a repair plan for Thomastown quay wall and road;
- Consultants engaged for the Kings River bridge project are currently addressing feedback from Inland Fisheries on draft drawings prior to agreement on works method;
- Works to install new pumps and pumping chamber at the Abbey Meadow carpark will commence 7th April.

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

- Update on extension of Kilbride graveyard - the appointed hydrologist will complete trial holes in approximately 45 days and proceed to planning permission stage;
- Illegal dumping in Kilbride graveyard – it was noted that expenditure on the upkeep of Kilbride graveyard is running to €50,000 per annum, which is way in excess of the comparative spend on all other graveyards in the Municipal District. Various possible solutions to deter illegal dumping were discussed such as installation of monitoring cameras, monitoring by a graveyard committee, and use of social media to publicise the need for illegal dumping to cease;

- Members urged the public to engage with the current online public consultation process to submit their views on issues such as plans for Dangan Terrace, Thomastown and current plans for upgrade of bus stops;
- Timeline for works on N76 Callan By-pass – finalisation of tender package and commencement of tender process is scheduled for Q2, with works to commence in Q3 2026;
- Ferrymountgarrett Bridge works – Declan informed the members that works will go to tender Friday 6th March, part of the tender package will detail dates of proposed road closures. These will be subject to the usual statutory process, which will encompass provision for public submissions and observations.
It is Kilkenny County Councils preference that road closures take place during school summer holidays, after completion of all state exams, but this may not align with consultants' timelines. Road closures will be kept to a minimum, and while it is hoped they will not exceed a 2-month period this may not be practicable to complete the necessary works.

(c) Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)

Anne Marie informed the members that a reply was received from Deputy Jim O'Callaghan, Minister for Justice, regarding a request for additional garda resources for the Municipal District. Allocation of resources was addressed in the reply, Anne Marie will circulate this to the members.

Anne Marie also said an acknowledgement was received from Deputy Darragh O'Brien regarding request sent for additional funding to address the extensive damage caused to the road network by severe weather events in January 2026.

Cllr Cullen proposed, seconded by Cllr Doheny and agreed, that a reminder letter should issue from the Municipal District in six months.

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: _____



