

Minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown

Date: Wednesday 12th February, 2020 @ 4p.m.

Venue: Thomastown Community Centre, Marshes Street, Thomastown,
Co. Kilkenny.

Chair: Cllr Patrick O'Neill

Present: Cllr Peter Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Matt Doran, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons.

In attendance: Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Mr Declan Murphy A/Senior Executive Engineer; Mr Frank Stafford, Senior Engineer, Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Ms Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of 15th January, 2020 were proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Cleere and agreed.

2) Reception of Deputation: South Kilkenny Cardiac First Responders

Cllr O'Neill welcomed a deputation representing South Kilkenny Cardiac First Responders.

Ms Adriano and Ms Nolan, representing the deputation, explained that the group will be dispatched by the National Ambulance Service to assist in cases of cardiac or respiratory arrest until an ambulance arrives, serving a 10km radius around Callan.

The deputation outlined the costs involved in providing this service and requested that consideration be given to sponsorship of equipment and training for the group, and answered questions from the members.

Ms Deegan advised the delegation to contact the Local Enterprise Office for assistance. Members congratulated the delegation on establishing the group and Cllr O'Neill thanked them for attending.

3) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Tourism and Recreational Project Concept Study

Mr F Stafford gave the members a presentation on the Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Tourism and Recreational Project Concept Study, an initiative of Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny LEADER Partnership, Carlow County Council and Waterways Ireland.

Mr. Stafford explained the purpose of the plan is to attract and retain tourists in the Graiguenamangh/Tinnahinch area, making same a “Destination” by developing the recreational potential of the area to stimulate economic development in the town and surrounding areas.

Mr Stafford described elements of the plan including the redevelopment of the old pitch & putt area to an outdoors activity hub, the potential to develop services areas to facilitate campervans, bus and car parking, enhanced river access and two additional pedestrian/cyclist river crossings, which would open up the riverbank area creating looped walks and links to the other natural, built and cultural assets within the town.

Mr Stafford advised that the Concept Study was not a statutory document and that the actions within the study would be subject to the relevant statutory processes for planning etc.

However, he went on to say the Study would inform the first joint Graiguenamangh – Tinnahinch Local Area Plan which was currently being prepared and anticipated same would go out to public consultation before the end of Q3 2020.

Mr Stafford answered questions from the members, who congratulated him and all involved in devising the Study.

Cllr O’Neill thanked him for the presentation.

(b) Monthly Roads Update

Mr. D Murphy, A/Senior Executive Engineer circulated a report updating the members on the following roads related matters:

- Roadworks Programme 2020;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes;
- Rural Regeneration Roads Projects;

The members thanked Mr. Murphy for his update and raised the following items:

- Killarney Bridge – Irish Rail to fund additional chevron signs and repair wall;
- Speeding at Kilfera;
- Grovine Cross sightlines – possible Low Cost Safety measure in 2021;
- Legan Junction;
- Fallen rocks on Mill Road, Thomastown;
- Salting of R705 the Stripes to Graiguenamanagh and at Windgap school – resources and budgets do not allow for regular salting of P3 routes however repeat offender locations will be reviewed and monitored closely;
- R705 Ballyogan Road – possible low cost safety scheme

Mr. Murphy was complimented for works at the Fair Green, Callan and Sevenhouses crossroads.

(c) Monthly Rural Development Update

Ms Mulholland informed the members that, regarding Health Check funding for Thomastown, the socio-economic profile of Thomastown will be compiled in-house with the funding being directed at developing town teams and town action plans as well as the commencement of project development going forward.

She updated the members on plans for the Sessions House, saying a Part VIII application will be brought for public consultation in March, noting that the Bridewell structure requires stabilisation works and Historic Structures funding has been applied for same.

It was clarified that design proposals are currently being finalised with the proposed end user, the Design and Craft Council of Ireland before commencement of the statutory planning process. Proposal will be brought to the next meeting of this Municipal District and to the March meeting of Kilkenny County Council.

She further updated the members on rural regenerations works, saying the Fairgreen in Callan is being transformed and works will shortly commence in the Moate Field which will link with the Abbey Meadow and help facilitate a heritage trail in Callan.

Ms Mulholland said an application is being prepared for Category two funding for the Friary Complex in Callan, which if successful would fund public consultation, design, planning and procurement of a plan for the Complex.

The members thanked Ms Mulholland for her updates.

(d) Thomastown Mobility Management Plan

Mr D Murphy circulated copies of the Thomastown Mobility Management Plan 2020-2025 and related Appropriate Assessment Screening Report. Sixteen submissions had been received and included in the plan.

Cllr O'Neill proposed, Cllr Cullen seconded and all agreed adoption of the Thomastown Mobility Management Plan.

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

There were no items for discussion

5) Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

There were no items for discussion.

6) Notices of Motion

There were no items for discussion.

7) Correspondence

There were no items for discussion.

8) Any Other Business

Members discussed the holding of joint meetings with the Municipal District members of Piltown and New Ross to foster a collaborative approach on common issues.

Ms Mulholland agreed to discuss holding a joint meeting with the Municipal District of Piltown with Mr Sean McKeown, director of Services.

M Mulholland said a Natura Impact Statement is required for the Ladywell Housing Scheme which necessitates a Planning decision from An Bord Plenála; this will add six months to the timeline for decision.

Members also discussed the possibility of erecting a bus shelter in Callan.

Cllr O'Neill relayed a response from Ms B Moloney regarding dog fouling.
It was agreed that the members would hold a workshop to discuss the Roadworks Programme at 3pm preceding the next Municipal District meeting at 4pm on Wednesday 11th March in the County Council area office in Callan.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Patrick O'Neill

Date:

11/3/20