

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

Date: Wednesday 10th February, 2021 at 4.00p.m.

Venue: Meeting conducted via MS Teams remote access due to Covid-19 restrictions

Chair: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere

Present via MS Teams: Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Matt Doran, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Pat O'Neill.

Apologies: None

In attendance via MS Teams: Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People; Ms Shauna McHugh, KCLR96fm Ms. Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of Municipal District Meeting of 13th January, 2021

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of Wednesday 13th January, 2021 were proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Cullen and agreed.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Presentation of Public Participation Network Workplan for 2021

This item was deferred to the March Municipal District meeting.

(b) Callan Mobility Management Plan (Declan Murphy)

Mr Murphy referred to the revised Callan Mobility Management Plan circulated to the Members, outlining new and amended items.

He said 28 submissions had been received and are included in the updated report, and will be considered prior to any future potential works being undertaken.

He said 16 submissions were received regarding proposals concerning walkways and cycleways in the Clonkil housing estate – these proposals have now been removed from the report.

A proposed upgrade of the N76 footpath to include widening to facilitate walkers and cyclists is now included.

Mr Murphy said that should any of the proposed projects in the report progress, further public consultation will take place.

Cllr Lyons proposed and Cllr Cullen seconded adoption of the Callan Mobility Management Plan.

(c) Monthly Roads Update

Mr D. Murphy A/Senior Executive Engineer circulated a report updating the members on the following road related matters, saying the report takes into consideration the announcement that Level 5 Covid restrictions suspending all non-essential construction and civil engineering projects until reviewed on 5th March 2021.

- Drainage Works – Essential drainage works and emergency road maintenance to continue
- 2021 Road Works Programme – When DTTAS has announced 2021 roadworks budgets a workshop will be scheduled for the members to discuss the 2021 programme.
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes Accelerated measures due to Covid
- Rural Regeneration Roads Project – Thomastown Public Realm
- General – Callan and Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plans updates, ORIS Abbey Meadow.
- Additional Works - Active Travel update

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

- Thanks was expressed to Mr. Murphy for facilitating Carlow County Council involvement in a joint Mobility Management Plan for Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch
- Possible safety works at Ballyteigelea bridge car park in conjunction with Carlow County Council – to be discussed when assessing George Semple bridge with Carlow County Council
- Replacement of bollards outside hurling pitch at Clara
- As Callan, Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown have Mobility Management Plans completed, possibility of submitting future applications for Active Travel funding – clarified that final details of this multiannual programme, driven by the NTA, haven't been received yet
- Very positive feedback on safety works to Killarney bridge was noted
- Lighting on approach to Ballyhale village – noted that repairs completed
- Possibility of Active Travel funding for installation of safer parking facilities for car-pooling at motorway junctions
- Potential for new signage at Brandon Hill reminding walkers to keep dogs on leads to prevent danger to livestock
- Landowners complimented on recent hedgecutting works, those who haven't carried out works so far were encouraged to complete before the hedgecutting season ends
- Litter problems becoming evident following seasonal hedgecutting
- Potential for an official trail from Cherryfield famine graveyard, through Callan finishing in Westcourt – type of trail to be clarified and funding source would need to be identified; to be discussed at the March Municipal District meeting

b) Monthly Rural Development Update

Ms Mary Mulholland updated the members on Rural Development projects, saying various works underway in Thomastown are now delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) projects in Callan are completed, and it is hoped to have information regarding 2021 RRDF funding prior to end of March 21. Therefore, consideration should be given to potential projects of scale and possible proposals submitted to allow time to prepare applications.

New projects also need to be identified as potential applications for Town & Village Renewal funding; the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme will be advertised and consultants will be appointed to carry out health checks in Thomastown and Goresbridge in the coming weeks.

Kilkenny County Council Library Service is supporting the national Keep Well campaign with a range of activities including "Ireland Reads", "Rewarding Reads", "Dial a story", over 65's door to door book service, promotion of letter-writing, and "bang, crash wallop" in conjunction with Music Generation Kilkenny for younger people.

Creative Ireland grant scheme will be advertised pending agreed at the next SPC meeting, Ms Mulholland clarified the maximum grant communities can avail of is €40,000.

The members thanked Ms Mulholland for her update and the following items were raised:

- Potential opportunity to develop links to the South-East Greenway from areas like Rosbercon and the Graiguenamanagh side of the Barrow Way; Cllr Doyle proposed and Cllr Cullen seconded the possible submission of same for inclusion into the County Development Plan – feasible connectivity to Glenmore and Slieverue to be explored;
- Explore the tourism potential of the Slatequarries which is located close to Knockroe Passage Tomb and the Ahenny High Crosses – KCC Tourism Officer and KCC representative on Trail Kilkenny to be invited to attend the March Municipal District meeting;
- Lack of facilities in Bennettsbridge for visitors - great potential for Town & Village Renewal funding application if a suitable project is identified by the community;
- Feasibility of continuing walk from Kilkenny to Bennettsbridge onto Thomastown, Inistioge, linkages to other towns and villages

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

- (a) "That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the proposal to publish Notice of Intention to declare the existing road a public road at the following location: Known as Duiske Lane in the townland of Graiguenamanagh, from two points on Mill Road L8231-2 and High Street L4224-7, over a length of 58.4 metres approximately."

Mr. D Murphy outlined his report on the proposal to declare stated road to be a public road, Cllr Cleere summarised the details of the dimensions.

The resolution was proposed by Cllr Cleere, seconded by Cllr Doyle and agreed.

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**

Members were informed that correspondence was sent to the Municipal District of New Ross scheduling a joint meeting with members of this Municipal District on 14th July 2021 at 1.30p.m.

(a) **Any other Business**

Ms Fiona Deegan informed the members that the planning application for Castlebanny Wind Farm has been accepted by An Bord Pleanála as a strategic infrastructure development (SID) and accordingly the CE of Kilkenny County Council has to submit a report with a recommendation to the Board before 10th April.

As the SID is partly located in the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown, its members are being given an opportunity to comment.

Therefore, this will be an agenda item for the March Municipal District meeting, with Mr. Denis Malone (Planning section, KCC) attending.

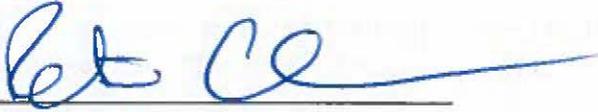
A presentation on the Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023 will also be given at the March meeting.

Ms Deegan noted that an update on the South-East Greenway had already been circulated to the members.

It was confirmed that a workshop on the 2021 Roadworks Programme would take place once Departmental budgets were received, with the Programme to be ratified at the March Municipal District meeting.

It was noted that any item not on the Agenda for the March Municipal District meeting would be included on the Agenda for the April meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.56.

Chairperson: 

Date: 14/07/21