

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

**Date:** Wednesday 14th July, 2021 at 4.00p.m.

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

**Chair:** Cllr Michael Doyle

**Present via MS Teams** Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Matt Doran, Cllr Joe Lyons.

**Apologies:** Cllr Patrick O'Neill, Cllr Peter Chap Cleere.

**In attendance via MS Teams:** Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Mr Nicolaas Louw, Senior Executive Planner; Ms Naomi Scully, Assistant Planner; Mr Alan Fitzhenry, Business Development Officer South East Greenway; Mr MJ Walsh, Roadplan Consultants; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Ms Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People.

**Minutes silence:** It was agreed to hold a minute's silence in respect of the recent death of Elizabeth Stephenson, Ringwood, The Rower, Co. Kilkenny, mother of Ms Mary Mulholland.

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

**(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Cullen and agreed.

**(b) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District of 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 were proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Lyons and agreed.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr Doyle complimented management and staff of Mt. Juliet Estate on showcasing the estate itself as well as the Thomastown area and Kilkenny in general during the recent Irish Open golf competition.

He further complimented everyone involved in the refurbishment of the tearooms in Woodstock estate in Inistioge

**2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

**(a) Presentation from Alan Fitzhenry, Business Development Officer, South East Greenway**  
Cllr Doyle welcomed Mr Alan Fitzhenry to the meeting and Mr Fitzhenry introduced himself to the members, outlining his background and his new role as Business Development Office for the South East Greenway.

Mr Fitzhenry said he would assist in identifying, supporting and developing sustainable business opportunities and projects for the Greenway as well as sourcing funding and carrying out marketing, promotion and PR for the Greenway.

He said he will act as a conduit between local authorities, business interests and communities and will be based in the Rosbercon site office.

The members thanked Mr Fitzhenry for his presentation and wished him well in his new role.

Ms Fiona Deegan then gave members a brief update on the Greenway development, outlining the current status of detailed design, construction, Ferrybank car park options, railway abandonment and links to Slieverue and Glenmore.

**(b) Presentation of CE report on the Material Amendments to the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Draft Joint Local Area Plan (Naomi Scully)**

Ms Naomi Scully, Assistant Planner, went through the process to date, informing the members that submissions were invited from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> May on the Material Amendments to the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Draft Joint Local Area Plan and 8 submissions were received. These concerned removal of reference of Tourism Concept Study in Objectives T02.1 and T02.2, requirement for amendments to the SFRA to include reference to climate change, and request to revert zoning of land along the quay in Graiguenamanagh.

Ms Scully then outlined the next step, which is consideration of the CE's report by the elected members at the July Council meeting.

Members thanked Ms Scully for her presentation.

**(c) Presentation of draft Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plan (MJ Walsh, Roadplan)**

Cllr Doyle welcomed Mr. MJ Walsh, Roadplan Consultants, to the meeting.

Mr Walsh thanked the members and said the aim of the draft plan is to identify potential actions which would secure the optimal and sustainable movement of people, goods and vehicles and provide a set of mobility management measures for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles which would improve safety and accessibility for all and reduce traffic congestion. He identified the characteristics of the study area and existing overarching policies and plans which helped influence the plan.

Mr Walsh said the mobility needs of the area were assessed under five categories, with 45 potential projects/initiatives being identified for possible implementation.

These possible measures were then prioritised into three phases – immediate to short term, short to medium term and medium to long term, potential delivery being dependant of available funding.

Mr Walsh then outlined suggested measures whose feasibility could be explored under the following areas:

- Town centre – traffic management, footways and cycleways;
- Footways and cycleways;
- Schools;
- Bus routes and stops;
- Parking.

Mr Walsh then outlined the timeline of the draft plan, with the completion date dependant on completion of AA/SEA screening which is due to commence in October 2021.

The members thanked Mr Walsh for his presentation; Cllr Doyle expressed his hope that the public will engage with the consultation process.

**(d) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)**

Ms Mulholland gave the members an update on rural development, saying another stream of funding is expected in late summer for streetscape enhancement measures which will cover commercial, vacant and residential properties.

She said nine expressions of interest were received for Town & Village Renewal funding 2021, two of which were invalid. Seven would be submitted by closing date of 16<sup>th</sup> July,

two of which are located in the Callan-Thomastown District – handball facility in Callan and camper van parking facilities in The Hub.

She said the carpark in Thomastown is completed and work is due to commence on the Sessions House.

Ms Mulholland informed the members that she has requested to host a visit by Deputy Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Development in last July; itinerary is being finalised and invitations will be issued later in the week.

She said this is fitting as all Rural Regeneration and Development Funds received were for projects in the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District, and an application for funding for the Friary Complex in Callan under Rural Regeneration funding, with connectivity measures from the Complex to Bridge street, will be submitted by the extended deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Ms Mulholland clarified that the Community Section advertise for expressions of interest from communities for projects eligible for Town & Village renewal funding, Council cannot put forward projects itself.

Members thanked Ms Mulholland for her updates and raised the following items:

- Shortfall of funding to complete projects in the Rower and Inistioge;
- Need for funding to enhance smaller villages;
- Update on Slatequarries – members will be updated at September MD meeting;
- Request for Deputy Humphreys to be shown the Friary Complex;
- Consideration of Bennettsbridge for future masterplan.

**(e) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)**

Mr D. Murphy A/Senior Executive Engineer updated the members on the following road related matters, outlining various projects updates and timelines.

- Road Works Programme 2021 – Mr Murphy listed restoration improvement and restoration maintenance works scheduled for July and updated members on low cost safety works at Rosbercon, Goslingstown, Burnchurch and Ballyogan/Graiguenamanagh;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – 2019 application for the Rower update, updates given for 2020 applications at Stoneyford-Ennisnag, Thomastown, Hugginstown and update given on external camping charging points and bays in Thomastown and Callan;
- Rural Regeneration Roads Projects – Thomastown Public Realm Logan Street/Low Street update;
- ORIS projects – update given on Moat Field Phase 2;
- CLÁR – Coolagh Crossroads update;
- Active Travel – updates given on 2020 and 2021 projects, advert for intention to extend road closure on Bridge Street, Callan to facilitate continued one-way system to be published shortly;
- Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Funding secured for Thomastown viewing area at Scouts Den car-park and Bennettsbridge River Route Street Space;
- Climate Adaption and Resilience Works 2021 funding listed – Ballycabbus, Powerstown, Kilbline, Drimeen bridge and Inistioge;
- General –Draft Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plan – public consultation to follow presentation by Roadplan consultants of the draft plan to members at July MD meeting, real-time bus stop shelters now fitted in Callan and Killamery, timeline for submissions on Speed Limit Review to be published in due course.

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

- Width of proposed cycleways on Callan by-pass;

- One-way system on Chapel Lane from Green Street to by-pass – this is in the Mobility Management Plan but will need time to progress it;
- Potential for caretaker of Callan public toilets to also provide access to St Marys church;
- Possibility to resurface road at Burnchurch – can be considered under next 3-year programme;
- Timeframe for completion of works at Scouts Den & bridge footpath in Thomastown not available yet;
- Safety concerns expressed regarding Callan by-pass – right turns, speed, exit from Haggardsgreen and request for letter to issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland – D Murphy will discuss with Seamus Foley, Senior Executive Engineer Road Design;
- Possibility of boardwalk for Bridge Street, Callan.

**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**

Correspondence as follows circulated to the members prior to the meeting:

- (a) Burial grounds report circulated to members 10/06/21;
- (b) Update on Brandon Hill signage circulated to members 10/06/21;
- (c) Correspondence issued from Cllr Doyle on behalf of the Municipal District to Minister O'Donovan requesting OPW approval to progress Flood Relief Schemes for Inistioge, Thomastown, Freshford and Piltown and response on same;
- (d) Response received from Minister O'Donovan;
- (e) Correspondence issued from Cllr Doyle on behalf of the Municipal District to Minister Humphreys requesting an allocation to be made under Town & Village renewal funding scheme to the Local Authority allowing the elected members to allocate funding under a discretionary process led by local knowledge.

Cllr Cullen expressed thanks for the response received from Minister O'Donovan but said there was no information given on a start date for the schemes queried, and this matter should continue to be monitored and correspondence continued with the Minister.

**7) Any other Business**

- (a) **Joint meeting with New Ross Municipal District 8<sup>th</sup> September 2pm** All members agreed to hold the September Municipal District meeting directly following the joint meeting with New Ross Municipal District.

Cllr Doyle requested that the Environment Section contact Irish Water regarding sewage in the river at Inistioge.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 17.30

Chairperson: W. Michael Doyle

Date: 14/12/21