

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

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

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

Chair: Cllr Michael Doyle

Present at venue: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Joe Lyons.

Present via remote access: Cllr Matt Doran

Apologies: Cllr Patrick O'Neill

In attendance at venue: Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Ms Annette Fitzpatrick, Senior Executive Officer; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People; Ms. Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

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

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

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr D Cullen proposed that the elected members of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown write to Minister O'Donovan seeking confirmation of a commencement date for the proposed Flood Relief Schemes in Inistioge and Thomastown.

This was seconded by Cllr P Cleere and agreed.

It was clarified that there is an Appeals process in place through the Finance Department for members of the public who dispute fire brigade charges incurred as a result of callouts to a road traffic accident (RTA).

It was also clarified that Local Property Tax does not replace service charges such as fire brigade charges, and both parties to a fire brigade callout following a RTA are charged as it is an Insurance matter to determine liability in such situations.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Monthly Roads Update

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 June and updated members on low cost safety works at Sevenhouses Crossroads, junction of R704 and L3443 at Rosbercon, Goslingstown, Burnchurch and Ballyogan/Graiguenamanagh;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – 2019 application for the Rower update, updates given for 2020 applications at Stoneyford, 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;
- 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 – Roadplan Consultants to give presentation on the draft Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plans at the July Municipal District meeting, real-time bus stop shelters for Callan and Killamery, plaque in situ on Nicholas Mullins Bridge, Thomastown and new street signs erected in Inistioge.

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

- Preliminary design for low cost safety works at Burnchurch welcomed
- Repair of mill race boundary wall at GAA in Inistioge required when water levels are low
- CLÁR works at Coolagh welcomed
- Assessment requested to determine if on-street parking on Green Street, Callan in front of Bank of Ireland can be angled
- Road and carpark at the boathouse, Graiguenamanagh – Gardai are currently being liaised with vis a vis relining the carpark and inserting double yellow lines on one side of the road to deter camper vans; “no camper vans” signage already erected;
- Works at Mill Road Rosbercon welcomed
- Public encouraged to view drawings of proposed footpath from Stoneyford to Ennisnag

(b) Presentation on funding applications (Annette Fitzpatrick)

Cllr Doyle welcomed Ms Annette Fitzpatrick to the meeting, who gave members a presentation on current funding application streams.

Ms Fitzpatrick said the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 was a standard scheme announced on 4th May, closing date of 16th July, with a focus on projects supporting remote working, enhancing town centre living and addressing vacancy and dereliction.

She said up to 8 applications can be submitted, with varying funding limits.

Ms Fitzpatrick informed the members of a new funding stream, Connected Hubs Call, which is intended to develop and leverage the capacity and quality of existing remote working facilities with a minimum grant per hub of €10,000, maximum €75,000.

The members expressed concern regarding existing projects which have already received Town & Village renewal funding but now require additional funding to be completed but don't meet criteria which changes from year to year - It was proposed by Cllr Cleere, seconded by Cllr Doyle and agreed that a letter issue to the Department of Rural and Community Development to amend the structure of granting approvals for Town & Village Renewal applications so that local discretion can allow elected members to prioritise applications and allocate funding based on local knowledge.

The members thanked Ms Fitzpatrick and raised the following items:

- 5 out of 10 applications submitted in 2020 received approval, all 5 for outdoor activities;
- It was agreed a list would be drafted of possible projects with potential for basing applications which meet the criteria for Active Travel funding in 2022 – noted that ultimately the NTA decide successful applications;

- It was clarified that applicants for Connected Hubs Call funding must be BCPs or existing hubs. Enterprise centres are considered existing hubs such as Abbey Business Centre and Castlecomer Business Centre.
- It was confirmed that health checks are now low priority.

(c) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)

Ms Mary Mulholland said updates on most rural development works are contained in the Roads Update report.

She said Town & Village Renewal and Rural Regeneration Development Fund applications are both due to be submitted in July, and the Community Section are currently preparing an application for the Friary Complex and Bridge Street/Mill Street in Callan for Call 2 Rural Regeneration Development Funding which if successful would allow plans to be completed to develop the project.

At end of year there will be another funding call for submission of applications for delivery of projects but Kilkenny County Council do not have any suitable projects at this stage of development.

Ms Mulholland clarified that all applications are assessed on their own merits on a nationwide basis, they are not assessed on a geographical basis.

The members thanked Ms Mulholland raised the following items:

- Update on proposed ORIS funded signage at Brandon Hill;
- Request for directional signage on Graiguenamanagh/Inistioge road for Brandon Hill parking facilities;
- Update on capacity of Kilbride cemetery;
- Request for workshop for the elected members on all funding streams when Covid-19 restrictions allow meetings in person;
- Requirement for communities to identify projects they wish to progress and identify needs in communities – completed health checks will feed into this process;

(d) Greenway Update (Fiona Deegan)

Ms F Deegan gave the members an overview and update on progress with the Greenway saying that detailed design for the main construction works is continuing and engagement with landowners has resumed.

The first two Lots for construction have been tendered and awarded to Glas Civil Engineering, with works commenced on Lot 1.

Malachy Walsh & Partners are preparing preliminary design of the carpark and Kilkenny County Council will lead negotiations with CIE/Irish Rail on the transfer of former railway lands.

Roadplan Consultants will commence engagement with landowners and stakeholders regarding options for links to Slieverue and Glenmore villages.

The Business Development Officer, Alan Fitzhenry, will start in his position on 8th June and will be invited to attend the July Municipal District meeting for introduction to the elected members.

Cllr Doyle and the members thanked Ms Deegan 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 of correspondence for discussion

7) **Any other Business**

Cllr Doyle thanked everyone and said the next meeting of the Municipal District will take place on Wednesday 14th July and would be an online virtual meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.52

Chairperson: Cllr. Michael Doyle

Date: 25/08/21