

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

Date: Wednesday 8th September, 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 Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Matt Doran, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Patrick O'Neill.

Apologies: Ms Mary Mulholland.

In attendance via MS Teams: Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator; Ms Annette Fitzpatrick, Senior Executive Officer; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Ms Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 14th July, 2021

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 14th July 2021 were proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Lyons and agreed.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) 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/LIS works scheduled for September, restoration maintenance works scheduled for July, footpath works scheduled for September/October, drainage and low-cost safety works;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – 2019 application for the Rower update, updates given for 2020 applications at Stoneyford-Ennisnag, Thomastown, Hugginstown and 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; additional funding secured for Kilmoganny traffic calming and safety measures;
- Active Travel – updates given on 2020 project in Ladyswell and Maudlin Streets in Thomastown and 2021 projects in Callan, Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown;
- Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Funding – update given on Thomastown viewing area at Scouts Den car-park and Bennettsbridge River Route Street Space;
- Climate Adaption and Resilience Works 2021 – Works at Ballycabbus and Inistioge scheduled for September;
- General – Draft Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plan is open for public consultation, closing date for submissions 17th September. Presentation on speed limit review is scheduled for November Council meeting, contributions from elected members should be submitted to the area offices prior to the October meeting for

consideration. Elected members representations for the 2022-2024 three-year Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme are invited by end of September for consideration. Three solar compacting bins are due for installation in the three district towns in early October, purchased under the Litter Infrastructure Support Grant Scheme.

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

- Speed Limit Review - Public consultation will take place once draft plan is completed;
- Safety works at Goslingstown – to commence in next two weeks, aim to be completed by month end;
- On-site meeting proposed to discuss potential plan for River Route Street Space in Bennettsbridge – list of items is currently being compiled by local community groups;
- Update requested on Danesfort/motorway works – Road Design Section scheduled to meet with TII today, D Murphy will get update;
- Speeding issues on Kilkenny Road, Bennettsbridge – traffic counters will be placed to monitor speed now that traffic is back to pre Covid levels;
- Request for caretaker of public toilets in Callan to provide daily access to St Marys;
- Request for repair of footpaths and downpipes on Green Street, Callan – budget of €10k available for footpath repairs, downpipe repairs could be considered in 2022 under Discretionary Funding;
- Speed limit on Callan by-pass;
- Request for road markings on West Street, Callan to be refreshed;
- Request to identify works needed in smaller villages on an annual basis to form basis of long-term plan – list of villages with outstanding works can be compiled with a view to discretionary funding being used;
- Request for driver feedback signs in Kilmoganny and Haggard Road;
- Public encouraged to read the draft Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plan prior to submissions closing date;
- Reinstatement of public toilets in boathouse, Graiguenamanagh very successful;
- Request for more signage in Graiguenamanagh;
- Traffic calming in Dungarvan;
- Public lighting Ballyhale/Knocktopher – liaising with ESB regarding removal of pole, complications of overhead high-tension wires mean a definite date for completion of works is unavailable.

(b) Monthly Rural Development Update (Annette Fitzpatrick)

Members welcomed Ms Fitzpatrick to the meeting and she gave an overview of current rural developments.

She informed members of an allocation of €260,000 for a Streetscape Enhancement Scheme, which is open to all property owners on a street, saying Kilkenny were only allowed submit five locations for approval with Thomastown selected in this Municipal District.

She said the Clár application for Kilmoganny was successful and an application for pre-development funding of the Friary Complex/Mill Street/Bridge Street in Callan under Call 3 Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) was submitted.

Mr Ronan Ryan, Community Section is preparing an information brochure highlighting rural funding and projects delivered in Callan and Thomastown.

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

- Members expressed their disappointment that Thomastown was the only town submitted to the Department for the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme within the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District – however very specific criteria had to be adhered to for this scheme;

- Possibility of a Health Check for Bennettsbridge – In response to queries Ms Fitzpatrick confirmed that there was no specific funding for a health check in Bennettsbridge. Health checks were not a priority under the Town & Village Scheme 2021;
- Query regarding the potential for development of the former motor garage at entrance to Fair Green, Callan;
- Request for an update on the feasibility study carried out by Leader for Bennettsbridge and river area;
- Request for an update at the October meeting on proposals for the Slatequarries;
- Request to follow up on query to Minister Heather Humphreys regarding a return to previous Town & Village Renewal procedures which gave greater autonomy to Local Authorities in deciding successful applications for funding;
- Annual changes to criteria for successful T&V funding applications make it very difficult for communities to plan applications.

(c) Monthly Greenway Update (Fiona Deegan)

Ms Fiona Deegan gave members an update on the Greenway development based on report from Mr. Seán McKeown (Director of Services), outlining the current status of the following:

- Detailed Design;
- Construction;
- Ferrybank Car Park Options;
- Railway Abandonment;
- Links to Slieverue and Glenmore;
- Business Development Officer (BDO) and Engineer;
- Project website details;
- Resident Engineer details.

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**

7) **Any other Business**

There were no items for discussion

This concluded the business of the meeting at 17.09

Chairperson: Ali. Michael Doyle

Date: 14/12/21

