

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

Date: Wednesday 14th April, 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. Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of Municipal District Meeting of 10th March, 2021

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of Wednesday 10th March, 2021 were proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Doyle and agreed.

Cllr Cleere acknowledged the huge amount of litter picking carried out throughout the county in recent weeks and thanked all involved.

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.

- Drainage Works – Essential drainage works and road maintenance to continue;
- Road Works Programme 2021 – listed Restoration Improvement works completed, Restoration Improvement works scheduled for April 2021, completed drainage works and timeline for April commencement of footpath works;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – work packages procured, public lighting/footpath works to commence 26th April, all setting outworks complete in the Rower. Updates given on 2020 Stoneyford/Ennisnag, Thomastown and Hugginstown applications;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes Accelerated measures due to Covid – update given on outdoor seating covered area for Billys Tea rooms, Ballyhale and external camping charging points and bays for Callan and Thomastown;
- Rural Regeneration Roads Project – Thomastown Public Realm;
- ORIS projects – updates given on Abbey Meadow and Woodstock works;
- CLÁR – Coolagh Crossroads update;
- Additional Works (Active Travel) – updates on works in Thomastown, Kilmaganny and listing of 2021 funded projects (Callan, Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh);

- General – Graiguenamanagh Mobility Management Plans update, real-time bus stop shelters for Callan and Killamery, plans for plaque for Nicholas Mullins Bridge, Thomastown, recommencement of works to railings at St Marys, Callan under Historic Towns Fund.

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

- Residents concerns regarding high traffic volumes on R695, Westcourt Callan and limited signage at Westcourt Business Park – noted this is a private business park;
- Potential for Active Travel funding for roads projects in smaller rural communities – Municipal District allocation as listed in Roads Update Report;
- Concerns of owners of Service Station on Ladyswell Street, Thomastown re impact of works – owners consulted and any remaining issues being resolved;
- Possible extension to Kilbride cemetery, Callan and Bennettsbridge – there is no funding provision made in 2021 budget for graveyard extensions. Quantity of need would have to be established and referred to Environment Section. Noted current graveyard in Bennettsbridge is a parish graveyard and Kilkenny County Council has another graveyard with capacity available;
- Future funding potential for completion of works in Inistioge and the Rower – currently on the list to be put forward for future Town & Village renewal funding applications;
- Scale of works recently awarded funding in Callan noted;
- Acknowledged that a safer, connected space will be achieved in Graiguenamanagh due to Active Travel Scheme.

(b) Monthly Rural Development Update

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

She said an on-line public consultation process had been carried out for a Healthcheck for Thomastown with over thirty people in attendance, and this will be followed up by workshops with view to establishing a Town Team and Action Plan.

CLÁR closing date is 7th May and Ms Mulholland asked for proposals to be sent to the Community Section by 23rd April; CCFCs closing date is 16th April.

Ms Mulholland said Rural Regeneration Development Fund works at Logan /Low Street, Thomastown are underway.

The Design & Craft Council of Ireland, who will be the end user once the refurbishment and repurposing of the Sessions House is complete, in conjunction with GMIT have announced they will offer a Level 8 jewellery making qualification in Thomastown.

Creative Ireland have announced funding of €2m for Climate Action projects, innovation in climate action to promote behavioural change, with a closing date in May.

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

- Health check will allow local voices to be heard;
- 3rd level course being delivered in Thomastown welcomed;
- Submission regarding Bennettsbridge graveyard submitted to draft Development Plan;
- Possible resurrection of old horticultural course connected to Woodstock previously delivered in Thomastown – ETB to be contacted;

- Success and importance of walking tracks, funded by Kilkenny County Council through the CCFCS, highlighted with their extensive use by local communities bound by 5k travel restrictions during Covid 19.

(c) Greenway Update (Fiona Deegan)

Ms F Deegan informed the members that construction will be commencing on the Greenway in the coming week and the interviews have taken place to fill the post of Business Development Executive.

(d) Presentation on Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant Scheme for Tourism and Hospitality (Fiona Deegan)

Ms Deegan informed the members that this new scheme, which is funded by Fáilte Ireland and administered by Kilkenny County Council, aims to provide support to hospitality and tourism businesses towards the cost of equipment to provide additional outdoor seating to increase their outdoor dining capacity.

Grants are available of up to 75% of ex-VAT cost of equipment purchased between 1st April 2020 and 30th September 2021 to a max of €4000, open to all existing attractions and establishments in the tourism and hospitality sector where food is consumed on the premises.

Applicants must be compliant with Planning Laws and other legislative and compliance requirements.

Ms Deegan said six completed applications had been received since the scheme went live on Monday 12th April, with about thirty other applications under completion on the on-line portal.

Members thanked Ms Deegan for her presentation.

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 for discussion

7) Any other Business

Cllr Cleere and the elected members requested an update on the Flood Relief Scheme for Graiguenamanagh, Ballyhale, Inistioge and Thomastown at the May Municipal District meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.55.

Chairperson: 

Date: 12/05/21