

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

Date: Wednesday 13th April, 2022 at 4.00p.m.

Venue: Meeting conducted via MS Teams remote access.

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; Mr. Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Annette Fitzpatrick, A/Senior Executive Officer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 9th March, 2022

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 9th March 2022 were proposed by Cllr Cleere, seconded by Cllr Cullen and agreed.

Matters arising:

In reply to a query regarding replacement of Clerical Officer and Technician in the Callan Area Office, Mr. D Murphy said that Ms Jennie O'Connor had commenced work as Clerical Officer and the HR department were starting to put arrangements in place for the formation of an Executive Technician panel from which a replacement would be sourced in due course for Callan.

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 2022 – Mr Murphy listed Restoration Improvement works for April & May and said surface dressing works would commence on 23rd May. He outlined ongoing and completed works, and gave an update on low cost safety works projects.
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – Updates given for 2020 applications at Stoneyford-Ennisnag and Hugginstown:
- Active Travel/TII Projects – preliminary designs for Callan one-way system/public realm and Flaggy Lane to be approved by NTA prior to proceeding to Part VIII planning. Works at Mill Street, Thomastown due to be completed 19th April;
- General – all works to Killarney Bridge to be completed by 14th April;
- Local Improvement Schemes – 25% increase in LIS allocations, currently reviewing same and will provide update at the May MD meeting.

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

- Completion of works to Killarney bridge welcomed;
- Update on Danesfort project – preliminary drawing has been issued to Road Design from TII, it is hoped to present this at the May or June MD meeting
- Next phase of works for Mill Street – Phase 1 works were funded by Active Travel; new tranche of funding needs to be identified to complete works in 2023.

(b) Monthly Rural Development Update (Annette Fitzpatrick)

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick updated the members on various schemes and events, saying the CLÁR programme has been advertised with closing date for applications of 20th April with a focus on projects facilitating outdoor activities in community areas.

The Estate Management Grant Scheme closed for applications on 25th March with 45 eligible applications received, and the Events Grants Scheme closed on 30th March with 16 applications received.

Bike Week 2022 runs from 14th to 22nd May with a number of events being advertised which will also be accessible on the Council website.

Creative Ireland and Cruinniú na nÓg Grant Scheme 2022 was open for application until 4th April, with Crinniú na nÓg national day on 11th June. The current five-year programme concludes at end of 2022, with a new five-year Creative Strategy being required from 2023.

Rural Recreational and Development Fund closing date for applications is 29th April. Work is in progress on the RRDF project in Callan.

Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership are currently devising a new draft Strategic Plan. Ms Fitzpatrick said a working group has been set up to devise a new framework for the next six years of the LCDC Local Economic & Community Plan, expected adoption date March 2023, with an advisory steering group meeting scheduled for 26th April.

Cllr Doyle and the members thanked Ms Fitzpatrick for her update and the Community Section for securing large tranches of funding to date.

The following items were raised:

- Toilet facilities needed for Skeoughvosteen Community Complex;
- Potential for tourist development of the Slatequarries.

(c) Monthly Greenway Update (Fiona Deegan)

Ms Fiona Deegan gave members an update on the Greenway development outlining the current status of the following:

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

Cllr Doyle and the members thanked Ms Deegan for her update, Cllr Doyle noted the huge public anticipation of this project coming into public use but urged that the Greenway is not be accessed by the public until it is officially opened.

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 declare the existing road a public road at the following location:
Known as Woodstock Avenue in the townland of Inistioge, on the grounds of the Woodstock Estate over a length of 228 metres approximately and connecting the L8280-1 to the Woodstock gardens carpark."

Declaration 3(a) above was proposed by Cllr D Cullen, seconded by Cllr P Cleere and agreed.

In response to a query from Cllr Doyle, Mr D Murphy agreed to investigate if the section of road as it continues to the gates is a public road.

(b) **Agree format for holding the May Municipal District meeting**

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Doyle and agreed that the May Municipal District meeting would be held virtually via MS Teams.

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 Lyons raised the issue of recent road traffic accidents on the N76 from Callan to Kilkenny saying the road needed to be reviewed, referring in particular to the village of Cuffesgrange and the Callan by-pass, saying increased signage at these locations would be helpful and noting the absence of a hard shoulder after Ballymack.

Cllr Doran agreed, saying there were excessive right-hand turns off the Callan by-pass.

Mr D Murphy said national roads such as the N76 are under constant review and said HD15 sites, roads which are the location of a number of accidents, have accident information sent to the Road Design section and to TII for review, with these sites eligible for safety works funding. He noted that the accidents which occurred were in different locations, and said the Callan by-pass is currently the subject of design for works scheduled during 2023.

Members observed that speeding is a huge problem on all roads and urged road users to slow down.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.43pm

Chairperson:

Cllr. Michael Doyle

Date: _____

