

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

Date: Wednesday 14th September, 2022 at 4.00p.m.

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

- Chair:** Cllr Matt Doran
- Present:** Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Patrick O'Neill.
- In attendance:** Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Ms Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Mr Joe Scully, Executive Engineer; Mr Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 13th July, 2022.

The minutes of the June meeting and the Annual meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 8th June 2022 were proposed by Cllr Cleere, seconded by Cllr Cullen and agreed.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update on Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme (Joe Scully)

Mr Scully presented the members with an update on the Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme, saying the scheme represented an investment of €10m - €15m in flood infrastructure which would combat 1 in 100-year events protecting 54 commercial properties and 31 residential properties, while taking into consideration the habitats and species in the area.

The team are currently at Stage 1 - Scheme Development & Preliminary Design - of 5 stages, during which time initial screening identified one viable option for the Barrow and five viable options for the Duiske.

An in-person public consultation event was held on 9th August, followed by a collaborative workshop with stakeholders on 23rd August, which will result in a public consultation report being compiled by consultants.

Mr Scully said there will now be assessment of consultation events feedback, geotechnical investigations, development of emerging preferred options, preliminary design and further public engagement after which public and stakeholder input will be considered.

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked Mr Scully for his presentation.

(b) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)

Mr D. Murphy, Area Engineer, updated the members on the following road related matters, outlining various projects updates and timelines since his previous report of 8th June.

- Road Works Programme 2022 – Mr Murphy said all Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance works are complete except two LIS jobs, one CIR job and RI night works at Ladyswell Street, Thomastown scheduled for 28th & 27th September.

He listed ongoing drainage works at Moneen, Windgap Road and Gowran Road, and footpaths on the Clonmel Road, Callan with further works scheduled for October. Update was given on Low Cost Safety Works at R695 Westcourt Business Park in Callan, junction safety works at Graiguenamanagh and Chapel Hill Thomastown, and works on R701 Newmarket;

- Town & Village Renewal Schemes – footpath and public lighting works completed at Stoneyford-Ennisnag, Public Realm, footpaths and parking works also completed at Hugginstown with tree planting scheduled for November;
- Active Travel/TII Projects –Callan Bridge Street & Flaggy lane Active Travel Scheme public consultation period now closed with submissions currently being considered by Kilgallen Consultants and KCC, members will be updated at the October meeting.
- It is hoped that works on the Safe Route to Schools Active Travel Scheme for Dunamaggan School will be completed in a few weeks;
- Climate Action Projects at Raheen, Kilfane, Hennessys Bridge & Goatsbridge and Windgap now complete;
- Speed Limits – submissions/observations on draft Bye-laws currently under review and awaiting feedback from TII & other third parties;
- N10 Danesfort – Tender returns due 16th September, works involved were listed;
- Bridge Works – Bridge Maintenance Programme is ongoing with cleaning eyes, vegetation and stone maintenance works;
- General Maintenance – road patching, gully cleaning and inlet opening works will be ongoing during the Autumn.

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

- Concern expressed regarding the rising cost of materials posing a threat to the completion of planned works in the 2022 Roadworks Programme. M Mulholland said there is a National Framework on increased costs which will be complied with but it was appropriate to highlight that future works may be impacted due to higher costs. D Murphy said it will be difficult to carry out some emergency works in the coming months due to a decrease in available funding caused by inflation;
- Driver concern expressed regarding position of a property in Newmarket – possibility of removing part of this building is not possible as it is a protected structure, the next best remedy would be to carry out low cost safety works around ramps, lighting the junction and footpath. Query if elected members can remove a building from the list of Protected Structures – M Mulholland said this is a reserved function, advice of Conservation Officer can be sought;
- Link road from Tube Rollers in Callan to the Windgap road to alleviate heavy traffic flow through Callan town – D Murphy will investigate what studies were carried out in previous years regarding this proposal;
- Proposed by Cllr Cleere and seconded by Cllr Cullen that the MD request Strategic Policy Committee 2 to write to the Minister requesting additional capitation grant funding to ensure all 2022 works can be completed;
- Timeline for works at N10 Danesfort – D Murphy confirmed works will be completed by year end;
- Concern regarding plans for facilitating cycling at N10 Danesfort – current recommendation was reached following safety audits by TII;
- Possibility of cleaning Bennettsbridge & Inistioge bridges – will be referred to K Kelly, Bridge Engineer for assessment;
- Top up of ramps at the school in Danesfort;
- Callan Bridge Street & Flaggy lane Active Travel Scheme – Consultants and KCC are currently reviewing submissions received;

- Driver confusion Mill Street up to Friars Hill, Thomastown – D Murphy will investigate;

(c) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)

Ms Mary Mulholland gave the members an update on Rural Development:

- Pride of Place judging took place in August, the high level of contributions made by local groups involved was acknowledged, the awards ceremony will take place in January 2023;
- Town and Village 2023 Streetscape Enhancement Scheme funding of €100k was awarded to the town of Callan with applications invited until 28th September;
- Clár 2022 announcement of funding for 12 projects;
- The “knitted together” project has been shortlisted for Age Friendly Achievement Awards;
- Kilkenny LECP is under review with public consultation required to generate a new plan, a virtual information session will take place on 10th October;
- Town Regeneration Officer will be appointed shortly;
- Town Centre First – 11 expressions of interest received;
- Derelict Sites legislation deals with the CPO procedure for derelict sites, currently dealt with by the Planning Section. Regeneration Scheme deals with vacant properties, not derelict properties.

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

There were no items for discussion

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.45pm

Chairperson: Albert Doe

