

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

Date: Wednesday 10th January, 2024 at 4.00p.m.

Venue: Remote access via MS Teams.

- Chair:** Cllr D Cullen
- Present:** Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Patrick O’Neill
- In attendance:** Steve Coverdale, IS Project Leader; Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Mr Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.
- Apologies:** None

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 13th December, 2023.

The minutes of the December meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Joe Lyons and seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update on rollout of broadband (Steve Coverdale)

Mr S Coverdale gave a presentation updating the members on broadband status and roll-out within Co. Kilkenny.

He outlined timelines for activation at the regional exchanges of Kilkenny City, Waterford and Carrick-on-Suir, the local exchanges of Thomastown, Johnstown, Castlecomer and Ballynabola, and the status of rollout per Kilkenny deployment area as at December 2023.

Data was also given on connection works by NBI within the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District.

Open Eir has said that villages and areas with poor broadband which are outside the NBP will have fibre available by end of the NBP in 2026/2027.

In reply to queries regarding these areas, Mr Coverdale said there is more information on the Eir website (www.openeir.ie) and he agreed to provide an update every three months to the members.

The members thanked Mr Coverdale for his presentation.

(b) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)

Mr D. Murphy, Area Engineer, updated the members on the following roads related matters, outlining updates and timelines of various projects since his previous report of 13th December 2023, commencing with Roads Work Programme 2024:

- Drainage – Crews working on opening inlets on all roads, pothole repairs, cleaning & fixing signage and salting works;

- A draft list of discretionary works will be submitted to the members for review, the list will be finalised and presented to the members for consideration once 2024 budgets are announced;
- Restoration Improvements will proceed in line with the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Programme, members asked to forward details to the area offices of any additional roads for consideration on the Priority list;
- Restoration Maintenance projects will be presented to the Elected Members for consideration;
- Low Cost Safety Schemes to be determined by the Department, CIS and LIS project works to be determined from existing list of current applications;
- Climate Action Projects will derive from works already submitted for Departmental approval
- Active Travel – works at Lower Bridge Street Callan fully complete, Upper Bridge Street/the Cross works to commence in January, members will be notified in advance;
- Community Recognition Fund – new seating and fencing complete at Thomastown Amenity Area Scouts Den, works to install base of bus shelter in Ballyhale will now progress as positioning of the shelter is agreed;
- Trees planted at Dock Road, Graiguenamanagh with seating, low level railing and landscaping works to follow, including installation of a bollard to prevent parking on the lane;
- N76 by-pass and ring road footpaths – project at detailed design stage with preparation of tender documents to be submitted in the coming months. Members will be updated after a meeting of Road Design team with TII late January.

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

- Timeline for works at Upper Bridge Street/The Cross, Callan will be late January due to outstanding delivery of limestone kerbs;
- Deferred works on Bridge Street, Callan – scope of this work is dependent on the level of funding which the NTA will offer;
- Update on cleaning of the eye of Callan Bridge – funding is available in 2024 but works are dependent on river levels and Inland Fisheries time restrictions on entering the waters, works likely to happen in summertime;
- Salting schedule and possibility of leaving salt supplies for local collection in the event of adverse weather – P3 routes are currently being treated, any decision regarding extra salt supplies would be made by the Director of Services but weather conditions would need to be extremely unfavourable for changes to the current plan to be considered;

(c) Monthly Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)

Ms Anne Marie Shortall informed the members that the Creative Ireland grant fund has been open for applications from local groups and individuals since December, closing date 12th February.

The grant scheme for Cruinniú na n-Óg, which takes place on 8th June, is now open with a closing date of 12th February also.

Community Climate action Office is now in place with a grants scheme currently being advertised for Climate Action Initiatives, awarded on a competitive basis.

The Community Enhancement Scheme is due to be advertised next week and will run until the end of February.

The Community Monuments Fund is open until 1st February through the Heritage Office.

The members thanked Ms Shortall 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**

Clr Cullen read correspondence she received from Minister Heather Humphreys confirming approval of additional RRDF funding of €1,450,823.70, bringing the total funding to €4,013,144.70, to enable delivery of the Thomastown Community Library project.

Clr Cullen confirmed the extra funding was required due to increased costs of the project.

Ms Shortall said the project was going through the legalities of the procurement process with an estimated start date of March 2024.

7) **Any other Business**

There were no items for discussion

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson: 

