

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

Date: Wednesday 8th February, 2023 at 4.00p.m.

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

- Chair:** Cllr Matt Doran until 4.15pm, Cllr Cleere for remainder of the meeting
- Present:** Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons.
- In attendance:** Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.
- Apologies:** Cllr Patrick O’Neill

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 11th January, 2023.

The minutes of the January meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Joe Lyons.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) 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 11th January, 2023.

- Road Works Programme 2023 – Mr Murphy said 2023 Road Works Programme cannot be finalised until Local Authority budgets are allocated by the Department but a draft list of discretionary works has been prepared.
Essential drainage works are continuing, full list of projects will issue once budgets are allocated.
Restoration Maintenance projects are currently being finalised, Restoration Improvement works will proceed in line with the agreed 2022-2024 Multi Annual Programme with some changes from year 3 to year 2 where roads have deteriorated. Low Cost Safety Schemes to be determined by the Department, CIS and LIS project works to be determined from existing list of current applications once budgets issue, waiting for Department to issue full list of Climate Action Projects.
- Low Cost Safety Works update – waiting for ESB to make final connections for poles at R701 Newmarket;
- Active Travel – Bridge Street Callan tender drawings being reviewed, works completed on Flaggy Lane apart from line-marking. Funding announced for safe to schools works at three schools in Graiguenamanagh as well as traffic assessment report for safe pedestrian options at George Semple bridge;

- N10 Danesfort – surfacing works scheduled for March;
- N76 by-pass and ring road footpaths – project is progressing through design stage
- Two ORIS projects commencing in Graiguenamanagh
- Repair works scheduled for next week on Mill Street Thomastown, Killarney Bridge and R700

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

- Repairs to collapsed culvert in Kilmoganny to be funded from 2023 budgets;
- Possibility to have interior of Callan public toilets painted;
- Timeframe for Bridge Street works – going to tender in 4-6 weeks subject to NTA approval;
- Request for new road sign on Kilkenny Road for Callan town – signage strategy for Callan by-pass currently being formulated;
- Update on works to eye of Bridge, Callan – this would be financed by Climate Change budget which hasn't been notified as yet;
- Ballycabus bridge in need of repairs;
- Concern expressed regarding perceived unbalanced distribution of Active Travel funding between urban and rural areas.

It was proposed by Cllr Cleere and seconded by Cllr Cullen that a letter should issue to the Minister seeking clarification on the allocation of funding between urban and rural areas.

M Mulholland said information would be sought from Kilkenny County Council Active Travel Department on the process involved in allocation of funding for specific projects and areas and will request that the members are updated at the next Municipal District meeting;

- George Semple bridge – assessment required on impact of potential traffic lights on traffic;
- It is hoped to complete the ORIS funded looped walk in Graiguenamanagh by Easter;
- Potential to install segregation bollards to encourage traffic calming at Grennan College will be examined;
- Request for update regarding feasibility study on amenities in Bennettsbridge;
- Hedge-cutting process discussed;
- Reduction of speed limit on Callan by-pass - when the overall proposed by-pass scheme is approved and implemented it is envisaged there will be a three-metre wide shared surface which will reduce the carriageway and slow traffic.

(b) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)

Ms Mary Mulholland updated the members on Rural Development:

Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2028 is currently being completed, Local Development Strategy is being developed by Kilkenny Leader Partnership.

Consultation on the development of the Friary Complex in Callan will commence shortly as consultants John Gilsean Research Ltd has been appointed.

An assessment process will be conducted regarding minor works on flood relief at the Kings River, Callan, a meeting with a local group will be facilitated when this is complete.

RRDF Stream 2 funding for Graiguenamanagh, will look for funding based on studies completed.

Applications and potential projects will be sought for Town & Village Renewal works.

Members were informed that Ms Anne Marie Shortall will soon be commencing in the Community Section replacing Ms Annette Fitzpatrick.

The members thanked Ms Mulholland for her update and raised the following items:

- Private bus service linking New Ross and Kilkenny has been discontinued, possibility of re-establishing this transport link;
- Assistance required for the development of rural villages in South Kilkenny – M Mulholland will discuss with the Planning Section how the concept of cluster housing could be developed and moved forward.

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

D Murphy informed the members that Bill Harrison will be replacing Ger O'Shea as GSS in the Callan area.

M Mulholland said this was her final meeting as Director of Services for the Municipal District, Ms Fiona Deegan will be taking on this role going forward.

All members thanked Ms Mulholland for her work and input into the Municipal District.

Members noted that the March meeting of the Municipal District will take place by remote access via MS Teams.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson:

Malet Doreen

