

**Minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown**

**Date:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 3.00p.m.

**Venue:** Kilkenny County Council Area Office, Prologue, Callan, Kilkenny.

**Chair:** Cllr Patrick O'Neill

**In attendance:** Cllr. Peter Cleere, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Matt Doran, Cllr. Joe Lyons.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Michael Doyle

**In attendance:** Ms. Mary Mulholland, Director of Services;  
Ms Fiona Deegan, Meetings Administrator;  
Mr. Declan Murphy A/Senior Executive Engineer;  
Mr. Michael Delahunty, Senior Executive Officer;  
Mr. Brian Tyrrell, Senior Executive Officer;  
Ms. Sian Moloughney, Kilkenny People.

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Clune and agreed.

**2) Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

**(a) Callan Town Plan Presentation**

Mr. Dermot Mc Cabe, Chairman of Callan Town Team along with Etaoin Holohan joined the meeting, thanked the Cathaoirleach for the opportunity to speak and provided a formal presentation on the Callan Town Improvement Plan. He outlined that the plan had been prepared by Callan Town Team following an extensive identification of the needs of the town based on the Council's commissioned Health Check Report and sets out the vision for Callan and is representative of the many community and business groups in the town. He stated that the aim is to put Callan on the map, build on its existing infrastructure, drive change and create vibrancy in the community. Mr. Mc Cabe stated that the plan identified potential agencies and groups which they will partner with in order to lever funding opportunities available and also drew attention to a number of actions which he sees the Council being in a position to influence others to assist and requested that the plan be kept on the agenda of the monthly meetings and progress reports be provided where the Council is a lead or a supporting partner.

The members thanked the delegation for providing such a clear actionable, achievable plan and wished them the best of luck with same and looked forward to working with them to achieve their goals.

**(b) Roads Update**

Mr. Declan Murphy, A/Senior Executive Engineer presented a report to the members providing an update since the last report of 14<sup>th</sup> June, covering the following items:

- Restoration Improvement Works;
- Restoration Maintenance Works;
- Community & Local Involvement Schemes;
- Footpath Works (Discretionary Improvement);
- Drainage Works;
- Low Cost Safety Schemes;
- Thomastown Culvert;
- Irish Water Works;
- Town & Village Renewal Schemes;
- Rural Regeneration Projects;
- Mobility Management Plan Thomastown;
- The Big Chapel Outdoor Theatre.

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

- Road markings around the Girls Secondary School in Callan and clarification in relation to a one way system;
- Update requested on Ballyhinch graveyard;
- Timeframe on completion of footpaths in Castle Avenue, Thomastown near GAA grounds;
- Signage at Jerpoint Abbey; Issue with driver confusion with regards car-park
- Raw sewage entering the river at The Mall in Thomastown;
- Drainage at Kilfane and Ballinaboola;
- Immediate and long term speed interventions for roads between the N76 and N10  
Danesfort and Ballymack
- Parking and Lighting issues outside home of Edmond Rice;
- Public Lighting at entrance to Wescourt Business Park;
- Low cost safety scheme at main crossroads in Callan – follow with road design;
- Proposed footpath from Stoneyford to Ennisnag;
- House leaflet drop for residents in relation to road closures for Big Chapel Outdoor Theatre;
- Update on funding for repairs to bridge in Skeough;
- Railing on steps at cemetery in Graiguenamanagh;
- Prioritise footpaths in need of repairs in preparation for budget;
- Lights in Dungarvan village - update on footpath to complete work
- Mirror Coppenagh;
- Low Cost Safety scheme Chapel Lane – ensure public notified well in advance;
- Bennettsbridge – Station Road – footpath completion;
- Signage for traffic coming down Danesfort Hill to Bennettsbridge;
- Bridge in need of repair on river walk to Bennettsbridge;
- Speed on Callan Bypass – to be raised with Gardai;
- Ramps on Bridge Street, Callan;
- Public supply of water for Tidy Towns;
- Cooley cross;
- Ballymack Road – speed;
- Kilbride cemetery – grass cut more than once a year.

The members requested that Eamon Mahon be invited to the next meeting to provide an update on other areas of the Callan/Thomastown Municipal District.

**(c) Rural Development Update**

Mary Mulholland provided an update on all rural development funding streams in the area including Town & Village Renewal, Rural Regeneration, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure and CLAR. Members queried the position in relation to funding approval for CLAR projects. It was clarified that no allocations had been received to date with announcements in relation to CLAR due in July and Town & Village due in September.

Applications to be submitted under the Rural Regeneration Programme in 2019 would include Piltown Urban Street and Playground, Graiguenamanagh Outdoor Hub Access Road, Abbey Hall Amenity Area, Library and Civic Space improvements including Men's Shed and an application in respect of the South Kilkenny Greenway project. These applications to be submitted before August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**(d) South East Greenway Update**

Mr. Brian Tyrrell stated that as the members were aware, €8m had been secured for the development of the Greenway on the disused railway line from New Ross, Co. Wexford to Ferrybank, Co. Waterford, of which a small part of same was within the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District Area. Following a lengthy discussion and in order to facilitate the development of the South East Greenway from New Ross to Waterford City, along the disused railway line, it was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Pat O' Neill and agreed to formally request that Coras Iompair Eireann (CIE) and Irish Rail (IR) declare their intention to abandon that section of the disused railway line within the functional area of this Local Authority.

**(e) St. Mary's Church Update**

The meeting was made aware of recent incidents of vandalism to headstones at St Marys graveyard. The damage to graves as well as windows to in the Church has resulted in a risk to those visiting the site during newly arranged opening hours. To address the damage and reduce risk to visitors the site will revert to opening on request until further notice. This is a very significant site and must be safeguarded against further damage. Those grave owners who have been affected must be contacted where possible and the OPW will be notified on how best to address the issues arising. Update to be provided at the next meeting.

**3) Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District members for transaction at such meeting**

**(a) Adopted Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown Members (inclusive of amendments) for noting**

The adopted Standing Orders for regulating the proceedings of the Municipal District members were circulated prior to the meeting for noting.

The Chair requested that due to circumstances since the previous meeting, that the meetings be amended to Wednesdays at 3pm, which was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Clune, seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere that the Standing Orders be adopted following amendments to meeting times.

**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**

(a) **Schedule of Meetings for 2019**

The dates for meeting for the remainder were discussed in light of changes and agreed as:

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 3pm in Thomastown Area Office

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 3pm in Callan Area Office

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 3pm in Thomastown Area Office

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 3pm in Callan Area Office

(b) Cllr. Joe Lyons raised the issue in relation to FAS workers status after 3 years. Following discussion it was noted that this was a national issue, but that the Council had made a submission in relation to same previously and that the outcome of same would be followed up and reported at the next meeting.

(c) Michael Delahunty reminded the members that Minister Jim Daly, Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health and Older People would be visiting Kilkenny on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 1pm in Mac Donagh Junction to attend a formal acknowledgement of the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Patrick O'Neill

Date:

18/9/19