

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

Date: Wednesday 9th November, 2022 at 3.00p.m.

Venue: Meeting via MS Teams remote access

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

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 12th October, 2022.

The minutes of the October meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 12th October 2022 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle.

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 12th October, 2022. He advised the members that due to persistent adverse weather conditions which brought heavy rain, all roads crews had been attending various drainage and flooding issues over the previous two weeks and this had impacted on scheduled projects in the roadworks scheme.

- Road Works Programme 2022 – Mr Murphy listed footpath and drainage works, five locations complete with a further three ongoing or due to commence imminently. Low Cost Safety Works at R701 Newmarket are due to commence in late November, with lights and ramps tender return due this week and ESB connection works and agreement with relevant landowner now in place;
- Active Travel/TII Projects – Part VIII for Bridge Street and Flaggy Lane Active Travel Scheme is now in place with some works on Flaggy Lane due to commence before year end, weather permitting, and consultants are currently working on a tender package for the project. The main works on the Safe Route to Schools Active Travel Dunamaggan School Scheme are now complete, with installation of bollards and landscaping works to follow and ESB to connect power for crossing points;
- Climate Action Projects - all related works are now fully completed;
- General - N10 Danesfort – The contractor, Lagan, have commenced drainage, kerbing and prop works on site, with the main surfacing works due for completion by year end, dependant on weather conditions;

- Other Projects – works have commenced on installation of two lights at Ennisnag, lanterns and final ESB connection to be completed. Application to ESB lodged for lights at Wood Road, Graiguenamanagh and connection for one light at the Ring, Bennettsbridge is agreed;
- Inlets and drainage – roads crews will commence work on Regional roads drainage inlets in the next week, followed by works on local roads.

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

- Level of recent rainfall was discussed, D Murphy said the Kings River in Callan was within two inches of the highest level it has ever reached, the Quay in Thomastown was flooded for the first time since 2015 and this had occurred during the worst flooding event experienced;
- Cllr Cullen proposed that the Municipal District write to Minister O'Donovan requesting a start date for two flood relief schemes, in Inistioge and Thomastown, Cllr Doyle seconded the proposal;
- Large number of issues highlighted by recent heavy rainfall, possible scope for extra works to be undertaken in 2023 – works on roads which were rendered impassable will be put forward for funding by the Climate Adaption Scheme, however very little can be done in situations where the river floods onto the road;
- Flooding in Callan – D Murphy said the Abbey Meadow carpark and Upper Bridge Street had flooding issues as the pump couldn't cope with the sheer volume of water coming in due to the swollen millrace which runs under the carpark, this is being discussed with the OPW – Bridge Street problems caused by water coming up in the storm drains due to the elevated levels of the Kings River;
- Query if there is an issue with non-return valves on pumps – D Murphy said there is only one on Bridge Street, when the river reaches a certain height the water comes out in the gullies – the issue occurs when the river rises to a certain level it reaches the same level as the Street. M Mulholland said the current flood relief measures in place in Callan were designed at a time when lower levels of flooding occurred, the flooding events of recent years are way in excess of those previously experienced;
- Numerous issues have been received already relating to flooding and members were asked to forward any further issues to the area offices also;

(b) Monthly Rural Development Update (Mary Mulholland)

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

- Cultural Creativity Strategy has been agreed nationally, this is a five-year programme enabling access to funding for countywide projects;
- There were fourteen applications under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS), due to go before the November Council meeting;
- Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic development and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) will in the coming week agree high level actions and specific actions under each goal for a new Kilkenny LECP from 2023 to 2028;
- LEADER programme concluded mid-Covid and a new programme wasn't announced, expressions of interest have been sought with closing date of December 2022;
- Community Enhancement Scheme – it is envisaged there will be a new call before year end;

The members thanked Ms. Mulholland 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**

There were no items for discussion

7) **Any other Business**

It was confirmed that the December Municipal District meeting would take place in person in the Callan Area Office.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson:

Neil Doan

