

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

**Date:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at 4.00p.m.

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

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

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

**(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.**

The minutes of the January meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Michael Doyle and seconded by Cllr Peter Chap Cleere.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> January:

- Road Works Programme 2024 – final compilation of draft Roadworks Programme 2024 pending allocation of budgets by the Department, however a draft list of works has been prepared which will be circulated to the members in due course;
- Restoration Improvements will proceed in line with the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Programme, a draft priority roadworks list will be available to members for review and as an aid with potential additional 2024 projects & additions to the next Multi Annual Programme
- Restoration Maintenance projects due for presentation and consideration by the members;
- Awaiting Low Cost Safety Schemes approval
- Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) and Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) will proceed in line with list of applications, if funding remains consistent with previous years it is envisaged that three CIS and one LIS projects will be completed;
- Climate Action Projects will derive from works already submitted for Departmental approval
- Active Travel Projects 2024: €300k for Upper Bridge Street, Callan (continuation of completed works to Lower Bridge Street) and €100k Safe to Schools Programme, Graiguenamanagh. Callan works scheduled to commence end March subject to contractor.

- Restoration Improvement Works taking place week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> March
- Footpath repair works Bennettsbridge and Callan commencing in the next week;
- Drainage works ongoing;
- Ramps installed in Hoban Estate and Clonmel Road, Callan;
- Footpath widened at the bridge, Stoneyford and new footpath commenced Carrick Road, Kilmoganny;
- Base for new bus shelter completed, Ballyhale
- Bridge parapet works completed at Bennettsbridge

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

- Disabled parking bay Ballyhale – confirmed it will be right behind the bus shelter;
- Traffic speed count for Dublin Road, Thomastown due to speeding concerns expressed;
- Active Travel funding – disappointment expressed at disproportionate funding within the County, with two allocations within the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District;
- Members discussed a gap in funding streams for footpaths, Active Travel criteria stipulates social footpaths are not eligible for consideration as footpaths must provide active links, Clár new criteria isn't favourable towards low development areas;
- Request for high step in Woodlawn, Bennettsbridge to be ramped or covered;
- Hedgecutting and drainage works requested for Stonecarty Road;
- Request for maintenance works in centre of Kilmoganny village;
- Concerns expressed for approach to Thomastown from Knocktopher side;
- Speed limit review, change of speed limit signs to be funded from Discretionary Maintenance funds;
- Damage to Annaleck bridge – will be referred to Bridge Maintenance engineer for inspection;
- Low cost safety works requested for Mt Loftus junction;
- It was clarified that disabled parking spots require both road markings and signs for each space, and for by-laws to be in place, in order to be enforceable. It was agreed that Cllr Doran, Chairperson of SPC 2 would include as agenda item at that committee meeting;

#### **(b) Monthly Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)**

Ms Anne Marie Shortall updated the members on various schemes.

The Community Enhancement Grant closing date for application is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

The Community Events Grant Scheme, to promote small scale events by local communities, will be advertised soon, with applications now eligible for night-time events. Closing date for this scheme is expected to be around mid-March.

A new suite of funding has been announced to assist towns and villages formulate detailed designs, plans and processes for potential projects. This would allow same to be ready to apply for Town & Village funding. Advertisements will soon be placed inviting expressions of interest from communities.

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**

It was confirmed that Minister O'Donovan had acknowledged the invitation extended to attend a Municipal District meeting and agreed to follow up same.

**7) Any other Business**

There were no items for discussion

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson:



