

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

**Date:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at 4.00p.m.

**Venue:** Remote access via MS Teams.

- Chair:** Cllr Matt Doran
- Present:** Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Patrick O'Neill.
- In attendance:** Fiona Deegan, A/Director of Services; Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Emir Slattery, Senior Engineer; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.
- Apologies:** None.

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

**(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.**

The minutes of the April meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Joe Lyons.

**2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

**(a) Update report on Kings River, Callan (Emir Slattery & Declan Murphy)**

Ms Emir Slattery updated the members with a presentation on the timeline of events relating to the Kings River in Callan, culminating with the RPS report (April 2023) which assessed the specific risk the silt mounds in the Kings River may or may not have to a flood risk to the immediate receiving environment in isolation of the overall flood risk in the area.

Three flood model comparisons were explained: Baseline (Current day scenario), removal of the sediment mounds to low flow channel level and channel works for which planning approval was granted in 2019, with the results of every scenario showing a negligible outcome.

The conclusion was summarised, indicating the following:

- that there is little benefit in removing the sediment from the river over a relatively short and localised distance;
- the presence of the sediment deposits does not present an increased flood risk to Callan;
- it is unlikely the OPW would fund the removal of the silt mounds as it is unlikely local homes and business would benefit from the removal of silt mounds at this scale;
- A larger flood relief scheme which would protect the community from flooding was found to be non-cost beneficial in the "pilot scheme viability review" carried out by the OPW so has not been included in its flood relief schemes list for Capital funding.

Mr Declan Murphy outlined two options following assessment of the existing pumping station arrangements with a view to future proofing same.

Option 1 is based on eliminating surface flooding for all events up to and including the 100-year event and would require the construction of a large pump chamber to house three large pumps and an underground storage tank of 750m<sup>3</sup> capacity.

Option 2 is based on carrying out relatively minor capital works replacing the existing pump with one large pump and replacing the existing rising main to the King's River. A back up diesel generator and pump would also be purchased for back up purposes.

When the final report is complete, outlining costs and recommendations, it will be sent to the OPW. A contractor has been engaged to remove the silt mounds from under the eye of the bridge in Callan once Kilkenny County Council has agreed a method statement and timing of works with Inland Fisheries. This is being funded from Climate Change Adaption and Bridge Maintenance grants to the value of €30,000.

Ms Slattery confirmed the report and presentation would be circulated to the members.

The members thanked Ms Slattery and Mr. Murphy for their updates and raised the following items:

- Members expressed dissatisfaction that the silt mounds would not be removed and raised concerns regarding recurrent flooding and the likelihood that these events will increase in frequency due to climate change;
- It was noted there are some Council owned properties and green amenities within the area prone to flooding;
- BCR (Benefit to Cost Ratio) Rating of 0.67 – threshold is unity or 1 to be considered cost beneficial, i.e. the value of the properties being flooded would need to at least equal the cost of remedial works for OPW to consider the project to be viable;
- Purpose of the report was to assess if the silt mounds cause an increased risk of flooding in Callan, and it found this was not the case, however current flooding issues remain unchanged;
- Confirmation that consultants final report on the assessment of the existing pumping station will contain costings and recommendations regarding best option for the future, at this stage will revert to OPW regarding provision of funding;
- There is not a further update available regarding progression of a flood relief scheme for Inistioge or Thomastown;

**(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 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

- Restoration Improvement works completed: L2633 Smithstown/Dunbell, L1026 Ballyhall, L8289 Coolnamuck, L6729 Curraghlane Lower, L2629 Castleinch;
- Restoration Improvement works planned from 8<sup>th</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> June were listed;
- Timeframe for restoration Maintenance works planned on RI works already completed were listed;
- Drainage project in Inistioge is completed and in progress at Killamery hill;
- Update was given on Active Travel projects underway at Bridge Street Callan, George Semple bridge in Graiguenamanagh and Safe Route to Schools Programme in Graiguenamanagh;
- Town and Village renewal/ORIS Schemes - new shed and seated area surfacing works complete at the Thomastown recreational area, tarmac works completed at the Dock Road in Graiguenamanagh with laying of paving bricks to commence 15<sup>th</sup> May, contractor appointed and works to commence 15<sup>th</sup> May at Wood Road footpath;
- Work has commenced on trial holes and trenches for Graiguenamanagh Flood relief scheme;
- Irish Water surfacing works on R700 & R448 Thomastown due for completion this week;
- 3 public lights to be installed on Wood Road, Graiguenamanagh & new pole and light to be installed in Bennettsbridge this week.

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

- Agreed that Mr Frank Stafford would be consulted on approaching Coillte with a view to extending the carpark at Brandon Hill;
- Possibility of considering Knocktopher for low cost safety scheme in 2024;
- Stage 3 Safety Audit conducted following completion of Danesfort works did not highlight any major issues, Tramore House have been contacted regarding provision of additional lighting;
- Update on Speed Limit Review requested;
- Ballyhall Cross potential for low cost safety scheme or signage however driver behaviour can be an issue;
- How to address vehicle access to the Moat Field and damage to signage there;
- Update on timeline for Bridge Street project will be provided at June meeting;
- Update will be sought from the Castlecomer Municipal District on timeline for works to road from Ballycloven to Killaloe.

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

Ms Anne Marie Shortall updated the members on Rural Development:

- CLÁR Scheme remains open for submissions until 24<sup>th</sup> May;
- Closing date for the Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS) 19<sup>th</sup> May;
- Approval received from Minister to commence the tender process for new library in Thomastown, advertisement will be on E-Tenders Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May;
- Official opening of the Sessions House, Thomastown by Minister Heather Humphreys, will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

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.**

**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**

**7) Any other Business**

It was agreed that the Annual meeting of the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District will take place at 3.30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June in the Thomastown Community Centre, immediately prior to the June meeting of the Municipal District commencing at 4pm.

Cllr Doran thanked all for their support during his year as Cathaoirleach of the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson: 

