

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

Date: Wednesday 13th September, 2023 at 4.00p.m.

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

Chair: Cllr Deirdre Cullen.

Present: Cllr Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Patrick O'Neill.

In attendance: Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Fiona Deegan A/Director of Services; Joe Scully, Executive Engineer; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr Matt Doran.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of Wednesday 12th July, 2023.

The minutes of the July meeting of the Municipal District held on Wednesday 12th July 2023 were adopted, proposed by Cllr M Doyle and seconded by Cllr J Lyons.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Speed Limit Review (Joe Scully)

Mr. Joe Scully, Executive Engineer, gave the members an update presentation of the Speed Limit Review, saying that the 2022 public consultation procedure had resulted in receipt of 64 submissions, all of which were reviewed and proposals finalised in line with published guidelines.

The specific locations on roads where changes are proposed to existing 50km/h and 60km/h speed limits were listed and also identified on accompanying maps.

Following consideration of proposals at Municipal District meetings, Kilkenny county Council will prepare draft speed limit Bye-laws, which will include any National Road speed limit revisions agreed with TII.

It is envisaged that adoption of speed limit revisions will come before the plenary County Council October meeting, to be followed by publication of revised bye-laws with a specified date of implementation in October 2023.

The members thanked Mr. Scully for his presentation and raised the following items:

- Clarification was given on distances where some new limits are proposed;
- Requirement for increased funding to implement additional Low-Cost Safety Schemes;
- Some locations require installation of traffic calming measures prior to being eligible for consideration of lowering existing speed limits;
- When Callan by-pass carriageway is narrowed application can be made to TII to reduce speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h;
- Personal responsibility of drivers and enforcement of speed limits important for safety on roads;
- Possibility of a local Municipal District campaign through media and schools to raise awareness of importance of road safety;
- Recent reduction in local garda numbers due to retirements etc discussed, it was proposed by Cllr Cullen, seconded by Cllr Cleere that a letter issue to the Chair of the

- Cleaning of the bridge eyes in Callan welcomed and hope expressed that funding will become available next year for further small in-river works;
- Annamult, concealed entrance, road markings needed;
- Active Travel 2024 – more equitable balance of funding allocations between rural towns/ villages and larger urban settings required;
- Design complete for footpaths in Skeoughvosteen but would cost is prohibitive and funding has not been identified;
- Following a discussion on funding streams to remove silt from the Kings river, from the bridge in Inistioge and other areas, the members agreed that an invitation should be issued to Minister O'Donovan to attend a Callan-Thomastown Municipal District meeting.

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

Ms Anne Marie Shortall informed the members that tenders have been assessed by an independent tender evaluation review board and a further update will issue at the next meeting.

Invitation for expressions of interest for Town & Village Renewal projects have been advertised with a closing date of the end of August. Community Section continue to accept applications.

Pride of Place Competition judging scheduled to take place this week, three projects were nominated, one being Callan Solar Energy EV charging points in Supervalu carpark, Callan.

The possibility of awnings at commercial premises requiring retention planning permissions or Section 254 licences was discussed, AM Shortall will revert.

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

7) Any other Business

It was agreed to change the joint meeting with New Ross Municipal District from 12pm on October 11th to 4pm on Wednesday 18th October in New Ross.

The Callan-Thomastown Municipal District October meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th October at 4pm via remote access MS Teams.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson: 