

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

Date: Wednesday 3rd September, 2025 at 3.30p.m.

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

Chair: Cllr Joe Lyons.

Present Cllr Brian Cleere (Teams), Cllr Stephanie Doheny (Teams), Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Joe Sheridan

In attendance: Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Carmel Brett, Staff Officer; Bríd Hynes & Grace Quinn, KCC Housing Capital Section.

Prior to commencement of the meeting Fiona Deegan, on behalf of the staff and elected members, expressed condolences to Cllr Joe Lyons on the recent passing of his mother, Mona Lyons.

Further condolences were offered by the Cathaoirleach and the elected members to the family of the late Noel McNulty, General Operative, who worked in the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of 2nd July, 2025.

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 2nd July, 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Joe Sheridan.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Affordable Purchase Scheme (Bríd Hynes & Grace Quinn)

Bríd Hynes and Grace Quinn, KCC Housing Capital Section, gave a presentation to the elected members on the KCC Housing Affordable Purchase Scheme. They explained this is a Shared Equity Scheme, with houses available at a reduced price for eligible applicants in return for Kilkenny County Council taking a minimum 5% equity share in the home, which the Council redeems upon sale or death of the owner unless the purchaser opts to buy back the equity at a time of choosing within a 40 year term.

There were 46 affordable homes across 3 schemes delivered in 2024. An application process will open in Autumn 2025 for 13 houses in Church View, Kilmacow and for 22 units in Abbey Hill, Thomastown. It is planned that a scheme of 39 affordable units at Kilcreene will be advertised in Q3 2026.

Kilkenny has also delivered 25 cost rental units in 2024, and has received approval for 12 units in 2025.

The members expressed thanks for the presentation, warmly welcomed the Scheme and received clarification on their contributions as follows:

- The Scheme is currently for new builds only;
- The Local Authority Equity is protected by a legal agreement with the purchaser and a charge being placed on the property folio;
- Equity is based on the open market value of the property at the time of redemption;
- There is a countrywide National Shared Equity First Homes Scheme available to applicants.

- There is also a Help to Buy Scheme which is a tax remate scheme through Revenue for first time buyers.

(b) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)

Mr D. Murphy, Area Engineer, updated the members on the following roads related matters, outlining projects completed and planned:

- Restoration Improvement & Maintenance Programme nearly completed, remaining works include completion of L8269 Kiltorcan Road, CIS projects and additional funded works covering the final LIS job and L6732 Powerstown, a joint project with the Castlecomer MD;
- Drainage projects ongoing, with works completed at Friars Hill, Thomastown and at the Harvester, Danesfort.
- Footpath works completed in Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh, works planned for Callan and Kells in the coming weeks;
- All works at the three schools in Graiguenamanagh under the Safe Route to Schools Programme are now fully completed;
- ORIS funded footpath from Stoneyford to Ennisnag is now fully completed, including installation of public lighting;
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme works comprising erection of chevron signs at Ahenny & Ballyogan, and line marking at Ahenny, now complete. Line marking complete at SevenHouses crossroads. Works at Ballyhall crossroads, R704 junction with L7502 Hoodsgrove, Mount Loftus L2643 and Inistioge R700 junction with Graiguenamanagh Junction surveyed and designed, and meetings both held and scheduled with landowners;
- Update given on Uisce Éireann works in Thomastown;
- Thomastown Quay update – Consultant engineers will identify the best solution to resolve subsidence issues on R700 at the Quay, Thomastown, with the road remaining open to one lane traffic;
- Kilmacoliver bridge works complete and road reopened;
- A schedule of ramp works will be drafted in the coming weeks for completion in October.

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

- Possible speed reduction on N76 Callan by-pass – waiting for guidance on a potential national reduction of speed limit on all National Secondary roads. Simultaneously, a works scheme for the N76 by-pass continues to be developed and will shortly be ready to proceed to tender stage;
- Recent trimming of roadside ditches has made rural roads safer;
- Breadth of public comprehension that the stop/go traffic management system on R700 at the Quay, Thomastown is a public safety issue;
- Possible funding for additional bus shelters in Thomastown, Ballyhale and Bennettsbridge – design and concept to be progressed in 2025;
- Lack of bus signage for the number 891 bus route Piltown to Kilkenny – this route is Priority 3, it is hoped to mobilise on this when P1 and P2 routes are completed;
- It is envisaged that footpath works in Edmund Rice Estate, Callan, will be finished in approximately three weeks;

- Additional parking spaces in housing estates – the number of spaces in estates is based on the number of units. Parking, green space etc are conditions in the grant of Planning Permission;
- Installation of pencil bollards at Bunscoil McAuley Rice in Callan will be complete in a number of days;
- Traffic speed and road safety in Newmarket – concerns were raised regarding the safety of a corner property in Newmarket.
It was agreed to assess if this property is within the category of a Dangerous Structure as defined in relevant legislation and if this is the case, to engage the owner in the appropriate legislative process.
Newmarket can also be included for consideration on the Low-Cost Safety Scheme list for provision of speed ramp and public lighting.

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

Ms Anne Marie Shortall circulated copies of the Graiguenamanagh Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Report, which contains the findings gathered during the Graiguenamanagh Health Check process. These findings provide an overview of the town baseline analysis stage of the Town Centre First Plan and the CTCHC report contains information and data relevant to the Graiguenamanagh Town Centre First Plan preparation process.

Anne Marie said there will be two public consultation events following appointment of consultants, and a final report will be presented to the elected members before year end. The members will be notified of the time and date of the public consultations.

Anne Marie Shortall acknowledged the delay with regard to the proposed works at the Kings River in Callan under the Town & Village Scheme. Anne Marie explained that the works were delayed due to changes in the Water Framework and relevant legislation and that an alternative proposal is now being actively considered. This will require Departmental approval for an extension of time to allow for detailed design, AA Screening and if planning permission is required.

Anne Marie outlined the new proposal will be for silt management and silt prevention along with a more enhanced amenity area for the community. It will be necessary to comply with all environmental regulations and collaborate with all stakeholders including the NPWS and Inland Fisheries.

Members expressed their disappointment with the delay of works.

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**

Cllr Lyons raised a query with regard to a request for a Swimming Pool in Callan. Declan Murphy explained that this proposal is not included in any plans for Callan.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

