

**Minutes of Meeting of the Carlow Municipal District
held in the Town Hall Chamber, Carlow, on
Thursday 30th April 2026, at 4.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor P. Doogue (Mayor)
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor F. Phelan (Remote)
Councillor A. Wallace (Remote)
Councillor J. Cassin (Remote)
Councillor K. Murnane

In Attendance: Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service, Corporate Services, Human Resources, Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development /LEO
Mr. B. Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer
Mr. S. Loughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation
Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. M. Griffin, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. A. Connolly, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

Mayor P. Doogue opened the meeting by welcoming all to the April meeting of Carlow Municipal District.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Minutes of Meeting of Carlow Municipal District held on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 4.00 p.m.

The Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 26th March 2026 were:

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane

And agreed following a show of hands

2.0 Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for Transaction at such meeting

3.0 Consideration of Reports & Recommendation

3.1 Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service Section 26 Operations Plan 2026-2030 Briefing

Mr. B. Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer, presented members with a briefing on Fire and Rescue Service Operations Plan 2026-2030 which outlined the key revisions to the current S26 Operations Plan. These include development of Fire Stations and Fire Services Learning and Development Centre in Hacketstown, procurement of fire appliances and equipment, to maintain the accreditation of ISO 45001:2018 during the period of plan, to implement new communications technology with Eastern Regional Communications Centre Shared Services Group, preparation for Major Emergency Management and to achieve public sector targets by reducing emissions by 51% by 2030.

Following presentations to all Municipal Districts, Fire Stations, engagement with SIPTU County Representatives, the Plan will be presented at the June Council meeting for adoption. Mr. Woodhouse answered all queries raised.

3.2 Fire Services Update

Mr. B. Woodhouse gave a brief update on Fire Services Section within Carlow Municipal District. He advised of the retirement of Terry Fitzpatrick from the Fire Services following 43 years of service, the longest service in the country. Members expressed their thanks to Terry on his hard work and dedication over the years and wished him well for the future.

3.3 Active Travel Update

Mr. S. Loughlin, Transportation, gave a detailed update on Active Travel schemes within Carlow Municipal District. These included progress on phase 1 and 2 of the Carlow to SETU Pedestrian & Cycle Schemes and an update on the preferred route for the Church Street Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme. Mr. S. Loughlin advised the preliminary design is near completion and will commence to public consultation in mid-May for a period of four weeks. Members raised several queries which were answered by Mr. S. Loughlin and Mr. C. Madden. These included:

- Disruption of traffic during works
- Installation of shorter bollards on Green Lane
- Speeding on approach to Kilkenny Road and Chapel/Chaff Street

- Emergency services vehicle access on Kilkenny Road
- Lifespan of the red surface on cycle lanes
- Possibility of including footpath at Tinryland as an Active Travel scheme
- Loss of bus bays on Kilkenny Road

3.4 Carlow MD Engineer's Report

Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer, provided members with a members with a detailed report which included progress on footpath works, ongoing enhancement works and upcoming projects in the Carlow Municipal District. He answered all queries raised which included:

- Footpath deterioration due to gritting
- Disabled Parking bays not user friendly
- Lack of progress on Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project
- Flagpoles at Croppy Graves need painting
- Water pooling on road at Éire Óg
- Update on river Burrin flood prevention scheme
- Possibility of installing bollards at Gaelscoil to prevent parking
- Update on John Sweeney Park alleyways
- Rubbish gathering between Liberty Tree fountain and Tullow Street
- Possibility of installing a gate at Carrigbrook/Willow Park similar to one at Éire Óg
- Dedicated teenage space in Carlow Town
- Installation of a speed sign on Ballycarney Road
- Potholes at St. Mary's Cemetery
- Speed cameras on Link Road not working

4.0 Notices of Motion

4.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

That Carlow Co Co will develop a Tree Protection policy that will include details on how to determine the grounds for the removal of any trees, how to remove them safely if needed, how to safely prune trees and identify which native trees are best for planting in different terrain. The policy should be developed with input from independent environmental groups as well as council staff and should be circulated to all council staff upon completion.

The following response was circulated to members:

Carlow County Council has adopted the following strategic Tree Protection Policies, which have been adopted and are included in the County Development Plan.

- WT. P1: Protect and manage existing woodlands, trees and hedgerow which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their consideration, protection and management when undertaking, approving or authorising development.
- WT. P6: Protect individual or groups of trees which are important for environmental, recreational, historical, biodiversity and/or aesthetic reasons or by reason of contribution to sense of place, and to discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development.
- WT. P8: Ensure a Tree Management Plan is provided (by the developer) so as existing tree planting is adequately protected during development and incorporated into the layout and design of new developments.

Carlow County Council only carry out tree removal or pruning operations where there is a threat to public safety; due to the specialist and safety critical nature of this work, this is typically contracted to 3rd parties who have arboriculture qualifications as well as specialist training, experience and equipment. Due to significant Health and Safety as well as insurance liability implications, it would not be appropriate for the Local Authority to provide guidance or direction to members of the public with regard to pruning or tree felling operations.

Carlow County Council's in its Green Infrastructure Policy has adopted the Tree Council of Ireland's Right Tree Right Place Policy. A current objective of Carlow County Councils Biodiversity Action Plan Review is to provide further training and guidance on this policy to internal staff as well as Community Groups via Pride of Place training events.

In addition to the above, Carlow County Council's Biodiversity Officer has recently completed an extensive survey of Significant Trees of County Carlow which will be shortly published on Carlow County Council's Website. These significant trees (almost 900 in total) have been mapped and are available to Carlow County Council Planners when considering new applications.

Carlow County Council has hosted numerous tree planting and maintenance workshops in recent years through both the Community & Environment Departments. A number of these have been focused around National Tree Week and others to support Pride of Place.

Most recently, the Environment Department held a tree planting workshop in Carlow Town last October as part of Climate Action Week.

Some of the workshops included:

- Right Tree Right Place,
- Planting & Staking

In recent weeks Carlow County Council's Biodiversity Officer issued over 400 Trees to local Community Groups and over 6,000 trees were issued to local landowners, community groups and schools as part of the Hares Corner Project.

Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

And agreed following a show of hands

4.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. John Cassin

That Carlow Municipal District condemns the Government's lack of urgency in addressing the scandalously high cost of fuel in Ireland, which continues to impose an intolerable burden on households, commuters, farmers, hauliers, contractors and businesses across the country.

Carlow MD calls on the Government to publish, without delay, a clear and enforceable plan to ensure that any reduction in fuel costs is passed directly and in full to consumers, rather than being lost through excuses, delay or a broken supply chain.

The Council notes that the continued failure to act is compounding the cost-of-living crisis, driving up the cost of transport, food, goods and essential services, and hitting rural communities and working families especially hard.

Carlow MD therefore urges the Government to treat this as an emergency and to act now, rather than continue with the slow response and weak leadership that have characterised its approach to date.

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin
Seconded by Councillor A. Wallace

The Mayor, Cllr. P. Doogue, proposed an amendment to the motion. This was not seconded. Following discussion, it was agreed to go back to the original Notice of Motion for a roll call.

Meeting	Carlow Municipal District
Date	30th April 2026
Item No	4.2
Proposed	Cllr. J. Cassin
Seconded	Cllr. A. Wallace

Member of Carlow Municipal District	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne		✓		
John Cassin	✓			
Andrea Dalton		✓		
Ken Murnane		✓		
Paul Doogue	✓			
Fintan Phelan		✓		
Adrienne Wallace	✓			
Absent:				
Sum Total:	3 For	4 Against		
Decision/Resolution:	Motion Defeated			

6.0 Any Other Business

The Mayor, Cllr. P. Doogue, advised that it had been brought to his attention that the Carlow Town Council Chain of Office had been returned in December 2019 to Carlow County Council for use by the Mayor of Carlow Municipal District as their Chain of Office. He advised that he would bring a Notice of Motion to the next meeting to return the Chain of Office to the Carlow Museum.

Following discussion, it was agreed that copies of the minutes of Carlow Municipal District meeting and Carlow Museum Committee meeting regarding this matter be circulated to members.

There being no other business concluded the meeting.

Signed: 
Mayor of Municipal District of Carlow

Dated: 28-05-20

