

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
1st July, 2020 at 10.00am in the meeting room, Ferrybank Library.***

Present: Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs. P. Dunphy, T. Breathnach and G. Frisby.

In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, Area Engineer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. F. Doherty

1. Confirmation of Minutes

MD Meeting 3rd June – Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. P. Dunphy and agreed.
MD AGM 12th June – Proposed by Cllr. P. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. G. Frisby and agreed.

Matters Arising:

Volume of water leaks in Piltown MD – SMcK advised that Irish Water attend bi-monthly meetings with KCC and that Tim Butler is aware of the matter and will raise with IW at the next meeting.

Information brochures re Waterford to Glenmore Scheme – SMcK advised that brochures had been circulated to all households directly affected by the route corridor options totalling approximately 650 households, but a small number at approximately 5% percent of households targeted did not receive the brochures. However, since the last MD meeting all households affected have now received a brochure, with additional brochures also being circulated. Cllr. Frisby thanked the Roads Section for the swift action on this matter, that all residents affected and also those just outside the affected areas had received the information requested and had been given opportunity to make their submissions.

Rathkieran Junction – SC advised Cllr. Dunphy that Road Design raised this issue with TII at a recent meeting, update to be provided at the next meeting. **Action – SC – update from Road Design.**

Tybroughney Road – SC advised Cllr. Dunphy that matters had been addressed.

Meeting with TII – Cllr. Breathnach urged KCC to emphasise to TII the importance and value placed on these meetings by the members. He felt that it was far too long since the last meeting in 2017 and these meetings were of huge importance in order to raise issues and progress matters. He noted that TII had indicated these meetings were helpful also from their viewpoint, and they had been constructive in progressing the N25 road improvements and the N24 Tower Road junction. All the members were agreed that a meeting be arranged with TII as soon as possible. **Action – MA – follow up with TB.**

Update on N24 Improvement Scheme – SC advised that a decision was awaited from An Bord Pleanala, decision listed for 29th July, 2020. Utility and other investigations have continued pending the ABP decision, which will inform the design and ultimately construction tender documentation if the decision is positive. If the decision is positive by ABP, various administrative procedures will follow in order to confirm the CPO, allow for appeals etc., with those procedures likely to start early September.

Update on Speed Limit Review – SC advised that it was proposed to commence the speed limit review by October of this year, it will be progressed through the relevant SPC and is likely to take approximately 12 months to complete.

Cllr. Aylward took the opportunity to congratulate Cllr. Andrew McGuinness on being elected Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council. He also extended congratulations to Cllrs. Michael McCarthy, John Coonan and Peter ‘Chap’ Cleere on being elected Cathaoirleach of their respective Municipal Districts and wished them all well in their roles for the year ahead.

2. Agree by Resolution to restrict duration of the meeting to maximum of 1hr 55minutes in compliance with Public Health Guidelines

Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. P. Dunphy and agreed.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Monthly Roadworks Update

SC circulated report to the meeting and outlined details in relation to pavement and surface dressing works, discretionary maintenance and other works progressing in the area since the last meeting, which was noted by members.

In response to Cllr. Aylward, SC advised that no changes to the budget had yet been notified.

(b) South East Greenway Update

SMcK advised that further to the presentation given at the last MD meeting by Sean Breen, Malachy Walsh & Partners, the detailed design was almost complete and engagement with land owners was ongoing to finalise accommodation works, taking account of farming operations. It was noted that the services of an agronomist had been offered to farmers in certain situations to assist them understand the likely impact of the Greenway and the proposed accommodation works. It was also noted that a positive meeting has been held with the County Executive of the IFA to discuss the Greenway development.

The following was also noted:-

- As agreed at the last meeting, when the detailed design is finalised, it is proposed to arrange information displays for the public to view same to create a better awareness of the standard of finish proposed and the features along the Greenway.
- It was noted that there was some confusion with members of the public about the current status of the Greenway development. In particular, a small number of people in recent months have started to access sections of the disused railway, especially at weekends. Such access is premature and needs to be discouraged. It is also a cause of concern, especially in relation to health and safety for local landowners who are meeting these people. Efforts of the local media to assist in emphasising the fact that the Greenway is not yet opened would be appreciated.
- Detailed design is progressing in relation to the public car parks that will be located along the Greenway, and it is envisaged that Part 8 documentation will be finalised in the coming weeks for the 3 that will be located in County Kilkenny, namely Ferrybank, Glenmore and Rosbercon. Ferrybank and Rosbercon car parks will be the main trail heads with a larger number of spaces and they will also have toilet facilities.
- The southern terminus for the Greenway will ultimately be located within the North Quays development. In this regard, a temporary terminus will be provided on the Abbey Road, close to the Abbey Community College. This additional access point will facilitate students at the college to walk to school along the Greenway. It was also noted that it is the intention that the proposed Ferrybank Car Park will be used as a 'Park and Stride' car park so that commuters can access and walk to work along the Greenway to Waterford City Centre and the North Quays development, when it comes on stream.
- the contract for removal of sleepers and rail track has been awarded. CIE have approved the Access licence and it is envisaged that works will commence in the coming weeks.
- An Animation programme is being developed by the Kilkenny and Wexford LEADER Companies to stimulate and encourage business and community development along the route. Work is continuing to deliver same shortly, taking account of Covid restrictions.
- The Boards of CIE/Irish Rail are to meet in August to finalise the Abandonment Order and once complete, the negotiations can commence with regard to transfer of the lands to the 3 local authorities.

Cllr. Aylward was delighted with progress and enquired about the funding gap and how same would be met. It was noted that the project cost while estimated at €13.5m at the time of the application for funding almost 2 years ago, is now likely to be closer to €15m. The funding gap net of the €8m in grant funding provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is therefore circa €7m. It was noted that the 3 local authority chief executives had met recently to discuss a funding model in principle, and an agreement is now being prepared. It was also noted that the local authorities nationally through the CCMA were making a business case to Government to increase the level of funding for major infrastructure projects, such as the Greenway, that are already in the pipeline, to act as an economic stimulus to help redress the adverse impacts of Covid-19.

4. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Order or Resolution of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meetings

None.

5. Notice of Motion

None.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. AOB:

(a) Suspension of Standing Order No. 11 (Signing of Attendance Register) for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic

Proposed by Cllr. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. Dunphy and agreed.

Additional items raised:-

SMcK circulated an extract from the Executive Summary of the multi-Criteria Analysis that had been prepared as part of the URDF application submitted by Waterford City & County Council (WCCC) for the North Quays development in 2018. It was noted that the WCCC URDF application that was subsequently approved, includes 4 projects located in KCCs administrative area as follows:

- (1) Belmont Link Road. Preliminary design is progressing and is expected that Part 8 will be progressed in the coming months.
- (2) N29 Port Road upgrade.
- (3) Abbey Road Greenway Connectivity. This will include the access on to the Abbey Road and the ‘park and stride’ option discussed under the Greenway update.
- (4) Abbey Road & Belmont Road Improvement works. SC advised that a scoping exercise would be required to see what elements could be brought into these schemes. He stated that it is envisaged that Consultants will be procured in Q3 of this year to develop proposals, with a view to commencing works next year.

SC noted that the Abbey Road has been included in the 2020 surface dressing programme, however in light of possible funding of road improvements under the URDF Scheme, he proposed that the Abbey Road scheme should be excluded from the 2020 Roads Programme and replaced by Dournane Road, which is equivalent in terms of costs etc. This was agreed by all the members.

Action – SC – arrange for amendment to Programme, advise Roads Dept.

Cllr. Dunphy noted the significant progress in spite of Covid restrictions. He said that co-operation is key for delivery of projects, including the Greenway, URDF and North Quays projects and he congratulated all involved in progressing same, which he said will help transform the Ferrybank area.

Cllr. Aylward acknowledged the benefits these projects will bring to South Kilkenny and he asked about timelines, including completion of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park and Playground. SMcK advised that the proposed completion date for the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park is now 31st July, due to delays with delivery of equipment.

Cllr. Breathnach asked as follows:

Scores for URDF Projects: SMcK advised that the scores were awarded against the National Strategic Objectives contained in the NPF, and that all 4 projects scored above 8 out of 10 which is deemed to be high.

North Quays Development: SMcK advised that information is available on the project website, but he agreed to raise the matter with WCCC regarding possible public display. It was noted that the FI requested in relation to the planning application for the North Quays SDZ is currently being considered by WCCC. **Action – SMcK – contact WCCC regarding display.**

Ferrybank-Belview LAP Review: SMcK confirmed that the Planning Section would undertake a desktop review of the LAP following the adoption of the City & County Development Plan to ensure that they aligned. It was noted that a Draft of the City & County Development Plan should

be completed for review in September. It was agreed that Denis Malone should present the draft to the elected members at each of the MDs. **Action – SMcK – arrange presentation.**

Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan Current Status – SMcK advised that the Chief Executive has asked the Director of the Regional Assembly to arrange a meeting of the Chief Executives of both Kilkenny and Waterford City & County Councils to discuss the implementation of the MASP. It was also noted that the National Transport Authority has also initiated a Regional Transport Strategy, and as part of that process the spread of the projected population growth of the Waterford Metropolitan Area needs to be discussed.

Cllr. Dunphy

Sinnotts Cross Monument TIC Request – Cllr. Dunphy asked for an update. SMcK advised that it had been agreed at the Council Meeting held in June that this matter be deferred to the Naming Infrastructure Committee for consideration. He advised that the current policy of KCC is not to take monuments in charge and that those who erect such monuments are responsible for them. He also advised that KCC do not currently have a budget line for any such undertaking.

Cllr. Dunphy stated this particular monument is more an amenity, with parking and a picnic area and not just a monument. Cllr. Aylward stated that when the deputation attended a meeting of Piltown MD last July, they were informed that consideration would be given to taking-in-charge Sinnotts Cross.

Cllr. Breathnach noted that expectations had been raised with the deputation at the meeting held in 2019, and they had been informed that options would be explored. He further noted that the Council's current policy was in place prior to the deputation, and he asked that they be given an update in this regard.

Following further discussion, Cllr Aylward proposed and it was agreed that one of the Council's SPCs be given the task to review the Council's policy on monuments as a matter of urgency and that each MD be tasked to identify a monument in their area to be taken-in-charge by the Council as part of the 2021 centenary celebrations. **Action – SMcK.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____