

**Minutes of Municipal District of Piltown Meeting held Wednesday, 3rd July,
2019 at 10.00am at the Ferrybank Area Office**

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

In attendance: B. Tyrrell, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, Area Engineer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Apologies: S. McKeown, Director of Services

1. Confirmation of Minutes

MDP AGM 11th June – Proposed by Cllr. P. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty agreed.

MDP Meeting 11th June – Proposed by Cllr. T. Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. G. Frisby and agreed

4. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

(a) Deputation re Sinnott's Cross Monument

The Sinnott's Cross Monument Committee attended the meeting, members of which are Eoin Walsh, PRO/Vice-Chairman, Kay Fripps, Treasurer and Hilary Delahunty, Secretary.

Eoin Walsh addressed the meeting and circulated a report outlining the history of the site and the story to-date from the initial public meeting, forming of the committee, fundraising, the erection of the monument and its official opening on 18th June, 2016. It was noted that fundraising efforts continue in an effort to cover the annual costs of insurance, signage and to provide for ongoing maintenance. He outlined their reason for the deputation, which was to request that Kilkenny County Council "take charge" of the Sinnott's Cross Monument to ensure its future and also to remove the burden of annual costs associated with the upkeep of the monument. H. Delahunty added that the site was of great benefit to the parish providing an amenity with great potential. The members were in agreement noting the potential of the monument from a tourism point of view. The position was noted with regard to the current ownership of the site and also the annual costs involved.

Cllr. Aylward thanked the committee for their comprehensive presentation and they withdrew from the meeting. It was agreed to discuss this matter further in committee at the end of the meeting.

(b) Update on PPN

Margaret Whelan, Co-ordinator Kilkenny PPN, was in attendance to update the members on the progress of the PPN to date and informed them about the forthcoming PPN election process. She stated how important the role of the elected members is to the PPN and the importance of working together to encourage participation. She noted the lack of participation under the Environment Pillar and asked that the elected members help to encourage participation to build membership of this and other pillars. She outlined the work of the PPN and the benefits of participation to local communities who can use the PPN as a learning platform through networking and engaging with other groups. It was noted that plenary meetings were held twice annually, a monthly newsletter was circulated to members and information about the PPN, its activities and how to join can also be accessed on the PPN website.

Cllr. Dunphy asked if perhaps a leaflet could be made available to circulate to the general public to increase awareness and encourage more participation. M. Whelan confirmed that a new leaflet was currently being developed for this purpose and agreed to circulate a draft to members when available.

Cllr. Aylward thanked M. Whelan for her attendance and update and she withdrew from the meeting.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Monthly Roadworks Update

A report was circulated outlining details in relation to pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works carried out over the past month. Details were noted. Queries were raised in relation to the following:-

Poulnessy Waterfall – it was noted that the screening report had been received which was being reviewed and it was hoped to publish the Part 8 later this month.

R704 Listerlin LCSI – SC confirmed to Cllr. Aylward that edge lines only will be applied through this scheme due to the width of the road and in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual.

Piltown Urban Enhancement Scheme – Cllr. Dunphy requested if a 20m section of footpath to Kildalton could be included as part of the scheme, S. Cullen advised that a submission should be made in this regard as part of the statutory process.

HGVs using R704 and speeding – it was noted that a speed survey was being carried out on the R704 on the section near the motorway. The opening of the New Ross Bypass should significantly reduce the numbers of HGVs using the R704, in the meantime signage could be reviewed.

Signage maintenance – Cllr. Doherty was advised to submit locations of where maintenance was required via the reps system.

Bus Stop/Weighbridge, Glenmore – Cllr. Doherty noted the update but expressed disappointment at the delay in opening this facility.

Junctions on N25 – Cllrs. Doherty and Frisby asked that junction improvements would form part of forthcoming N25 improvements, in particular right hand turns for Ringville and Rathinure. SC advised that Road Design will raise these junctions for inclusion under the tender that will be prepared by Tramore House RDO.

(b) Update on N25 New Ross Bypass

B. Tyrrell advised that no update report was available to circulate, however it was noted that completion of the project was still on course to finish in Q4 of 2019. It was also noted that discussions were ongoing with regard to organising a charity event prior to the opening of the Bypass. Cllr. Breathnach asked that any event being held would benefit a number of charities rather than one single charity, this was noted.

Cllr. Doherty enquired whether the hatched area and signage at Glenmore roundabout has been investigated. SC advised that Stage 3 road safety audit are currently being undertaken on completed elements of the work and all parts of the work will be subject to the safety audit process. Any issues arising from this will be brought to the attention of the Contractor and Wexford County Council.

(c) North Quays SDZ

B. Tyrrell advised that no meeting of the steering group had taken place since the last MD meeting. It was noted that updates were available on the website and Cllr. Dunphy asked if this could be highlighted to the public, B. Tyrrell agreed to circulate the relevant information regarding the website on all KCC's social media platforms.

(d) Kilkenny Greenway Update

B. Tyrrell confirmed that €8m in funding has been announced for the Greenway project, which he said is a potential game changer for the entire south east region. He advised that a visitor experience plan would now be fully developed jointly by Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny County Councils and a meeting would be arranged shortly to discuss the next steps in the process.

A discussion took place with regard to a proposal to request Irish Rail to abandon the disused railway line, as had been requested by Waterford County Council for the section from Bilberry to Ferrybank. It was noted that the public consultation process in relation to abandonment of the line would be undertaken entirely by Irish Rail. B. Tyrrell advised that the advantage of this process over a lease would remove uncertainty surrounding any potential lease arrangement and would mean that KCC would have full control in the event of any future issues arising.

Following further discussion, it was agreed to gather further information with regard to potential lease arrangement, the abandonment process and timeframes involved for both and also funding for the project. It was also agreed to examine whether the Waterford Greenway was developed on an abandoned railway line. A special meeting of the Piltown MD would then be arranged to discuss this matter further and agree how to proceed.

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

None

5. Notice of Motion

- (a) Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Dunphy: “That Kilkenny County Council take immediate action to prevent further serious accidents occurring at The Sweep Junction in Piltown”

Cllr. Dunphy requested that this junction be looked at again in light of numerous minor and some more serious incidents occurring due to the fact that traffic did not appear to heed stop signs at this junction.

S. Cullen advised that he had inspected this junction and found it unusual that this number of incidents was occurring, given the existing signage in place and recent pavement improvements on the approaches to the junction. However, he advised that a single stop sign is being replaced by 2 new stop signs facing traffic approaching from Mullenbeg, to increase awareness and visibility of the signs. He also advised that road markings and lining would be replenished and enhanced once surface dressing road works in the area were completed. He agreed to undertake a traffic survey to establish traffic levels on this road.

6. Correspondence

(a) Letter to Minister Harris

(b) Letter to HSE Director

Correspondence issued was noted. It was also noted that to-date no response had been received from Minister Harris.

Cllr. Dunphy proposed that further correspondence be sent to the Minister requesting a meeting and also enquiring when the promised national review on cardiac services would be completed. Cllr. Breathnach seconded Cllr. Dunphy's proposal and expressed his disappointment at the lack of response from the Minister.

B. Tyrrell referred to meetings held with the Gardai and an undertaking from Superintendent Dominic Hayes that the proposed new local policing structures would be in place by Q3 of 2019. It was agreed to write to Superintendent Hayes to seek an update in this regard.

7. AOB

Additional items raised by Members:-

Cllr. Dunphy

Survey, Portnascully/Pill River – Cllr. Dunphy asked for an update with regard to applications made to TII for additional capacity at the N24 bridge and also to OPW for funding to undertake cleaning of this section of river, as continuous flooding in the area was affecting landowners. S. Cullen agreed to investigate and follow up on these matters.

Rathkieran Junction N24 – Cllr. Dunphy again raised the dangers at this junction with vehicles turning right and traffic overtaking in the hard shoulder, where often there were pedestrians walking. He asked that the meeting with the TII be followed up. Cllr. Aylward agreed that this matter should be raised again at CPG level in an effort to arrange a meeting with TII as soon as possible to discuss this and other matters.

Grass cutting in Mooncoin – Cllr. Dunphy requested that grass cutting be undertaken on a more regular basis in Mooncoin, particularly on the Carrick Road. S. Cullen stated that this work was undertaken by contractor.

Cllr. Doherty

Speeding – Cllr. Doherty raised issues of speeding on the Mullinabro Road and also on the Bishopshall to Milltown Cross road. S. Cullen advised that these matters should be submitted as reps.

Cllr. Aylward

Fiddown Village – Cllr. Aylward requested that issues in Fiddown, previously raised by Cllr. Breathnach, be looked at in relation to speeding and the current location of the bus stop which was located on a bend, both matters being compounded by the lack of a pedestrian crossing in the village. He asked that the location of the bus stop be looked at in the short term to improve safety for passengers.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____