

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,  
4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 10.00am in the meeting room, Ferrybank Area Office.***

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. G. Frisby

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**MD Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> February** – Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. T. Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising:

**Meeting with TII** – Cllr. Breathnach asked if there had been progress with arrangement of meeting with TII, with Cllr. Dunphy noting the commitment made by TII to meet on an annual basis. M. Arthurs agreed to follow up the matter.

**Poulanassy Waterfall** – Cllr. Aylward welcomed the announcement of funding of €140k, together with €30k match funding being provided by the Council.

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

**(a) Monthly Roadworks Update**

SC circulated a report to the meeting and outlined details in relation to pavement works which commenced this week, discretionary maintenance and other works progressing in the area since the last meeting.

Cllr. Dunphy noted concerns of residents in Owing with regard to the LCSi scheme, SC confirmed that works are being completed in accordance with the agreed design.

Cllr. Doherty enquired if a short spur off the LP3426 at Ballyfasy would be completed as part of the road strengthening works. SC confirmed this would be completed.

**(b) Greenway Update**

SMcK advised that following presentation given by Malachy Walsh & Partners, preparation of the detailed design of the Greenway was almost complete. The following was also noted:-

- Accommodation works to be finalised shortly
- Options for car parks being looked at, to be finalised in the coming weeks
- Tender documents being prepared, to be agreed with the Department and Irish Rail
- Construction start date on track for September, to commence with sleeper/track removal

With regard to the abandonment order, it was noted that official correspondence was received from CIE/Irish Rail stating that they are favourably disposed to same, subject to conditions. SMcK outlined the conditions, stating that legal advice was being sought by each of the local authorities separately before reverting to CIE/Irish Rail to confirm agreement with conditions.

Following request from Cllr. Doherty, SMcK confirmed that Malachy Walsh & Partners would provide further presentation to the members once the detailed design has been finalised.

SMcK also advised that Kilkenny and Wexford Leader Partnerships were organising an animation programme to assist anyone interested in availing of business opportunities associated with the Greenway and would be holding an information evening in the next month or so in this regard.

**(c) Update on North Quays SDZ**

SMcK circulated update report to the meeting as follows:-

**National Transport Authority Funding**

- On 14<sup>th</sup> February last, the NTA announced funding of €12.6m for the North Quays project, comprising €400k for the SDZ Transportation measures; €6.2m towards the sustainable transport bridge and €6m towards the Dock Road and Abbey Road Infrastructure works.

### **SDZ Development**

- Falcon Real Estate Development Ireland submitted their application for the North Quays SDZ on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. Further information in relation to the application was requested by the Waterford City & County Council on 18<sup>th</sup> February last.

### **Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure**

- Detailed design for the Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure are currently being finalised, these works will form part of the main contract.

### **Tender Processes**

#### *a) Enabling Works*

Tenders were received on 21<sup>st</sup> February last for the proposed utility diversion works contract, these are currently being assessed by Roughan & O'Donovan, Consulting Engineers. The contract for demolition works is due to be issued shortly.

#### *b) Main Contract*

An open industry event was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January last for potential contractors to deliver the main contract (as outlined above). Roughan & O'Donovan presented the project and this was followed by a Q&A session. A suitability assessment questionnaire (SAQ) for the main contract was issued on tenders on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2020.

Cllr. Breathnach asked if details and plans relating to the North Quays SDZ could be displayed in the Ferrybank Library, now that the project was starting to progress and take shape. SMcK agreed that this could be raised at the next joint meeting with Waterford and that a further presentation to the Piltown MD members on the project could also be requested.

Cllr. Dunphy asked about funding, SMcK outlined that the four projects within KCC jurisdiction were being funded under the URDF, which include the upgrades of the N29 and Abbey Road, the link between the Abbey Road and Belmont Road which is currently at detailed design stage and access points for the Greenway. He advised that the sequencing of these projects would have to be agreed with Waterford City & County Council.

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

None.

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

None.

### **5. Notice of Motion**

None.

### **6. Correspondence**

None.

### **7. AOB:**

### **Roadworks Programme 2020**

A meeting was held in committee before today's monthly meeting to discuss the Draft Roadworks Scheme 2020.

The Roadworks Scheme 2020 for the Piltown Municipal District was proposed by Cllr. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Dunphy and agreed. It was also agreed that funding would be allocated to provide the footpath at Mill Road, Mullinavat in the current year.

### **Additional items raised:-**

#### **Cllr. Doherty**

*Glenmore Men's Shed* – Cllr. Doherty congratulated the group involved in setting up the Glenmore Men's Shed and wished them well.

***Garda Resources*** – Cllr. Doherty expressed concerns at the reduction in resources to Mooncoin and that the whole restructuring of the division and allocation of resources was cause for concern to local residents. Cllr. Dunphy agreed stating that the number of Gardaí assigned to Mooncoin had been substantially reduced in the last number of years and now a reduction in the hours which Gardaí were available at the Mooncoin Garda Station, which he felt was wholly unsatisfactory. He proposed that a letter be sent to Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes from the Piltown Municipal District expressing the concerns of members and local residents and the impact this will have on the area. Cllr. Aylward seconded this proposal, stating that it was vital that Garda numbers be reinstated in the area. Cllr. Breathnach also supported the proposal, stating that a reduction in resources goes against the grain of community policing.

Following further discussion and input from all the members, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to both the Garda Commissioner and Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes outlining the concerns raised and also to extend an invitation for Garda representatives to attend a meeting of the Piltown MD to discuss this issue before changes come into effect under restructuring plans.

***Hedge Cutting*** – Cllr. Doherty noted the closed period had commenced for hedge cutting and hoped that no hedge cutting would be undertaken except for safety reasons.

#### **Cllr. Aylward**

***General Election*** – Cllr. Aylward noted outcomes from the recent general election and the resulting lack of rural representation, but that local representatives would continue their work for communities at local level.

#### **Retirement of Michael Freiberg**

S. Cullen advised the meeting that Michael Freiberg, Executive Technician in the Ferrybank Area Office was shortly due to retire from KCC after 40 years of service and a long career in the Piltown Area. He took the opportunity to thank Michael, stating that he was of great help and support to him since he started at the Ferrybank Area Office and he wished Michael well in his retirement.

All the members wished Michael a very happy retirement.

Cllr. Aylward welcomed Michael Arthurs to the Piltown MD and looked forward to working with him.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_