

*Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
3rd February, 2021 at 11.00am via MS Teams*

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

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

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 6th January, 2021

Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Report Incremental Purchase Scheme (M. Mulholland)

It was noted that M. Mulholland, Director of Housing, had sent apologies and was unable to attend the meeting for this item.

It was proposed by Cllr. Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Frisby and agreed that this item would be deferred until the March meeting.

(b) Update Monthly Roadworks

SC circulated report to the meeting. It was noted that works carried out since the last meeting were mainly discretionary and that tendered works were on hold due to the current restrictions.

In relation to Poulanassy Waterfall, SC advised that the tender report was under review and a decision would be forthcoming shortly.

SC also advised that tender documents were being prepared for delivery of Town & Village Renewal works at Kilmacow.

Cllr. Doherty referred to the landslide which had occurred at the Pink Rock, resulting in the road being closed and expressed her disappointment at the removal of safety barriers and signage from the location. It was noted this had been reported to Gardai.

Cllr. Aylward asked if the draft Roadworks Programme would be available to discuss at the March meeting. SC advised that details of the annual funding allocation was still awaited, and this will inform what schemes can be included on the programme. S. Kavanagh noted there was a two week delay on allocations, but that an announcement was imminent.

Cllr. Aylward asked for an update with regard to the N25 route selection. S. Kavanagh advised that a review meeting had recently taken place and it was anticipated that an announcement would be made in this regard by the end of March.

Cllr. Breathnach called for the review of the Winter Maintenance Programme with regard to the Priority 3 routes as soon as possible. SC advised that it would be best to undertake the review at the end of the current season and he suggested placing the item on the Agenda for the April meeting. This was agreed. **Action MA**

Cllr. Doherty asked what the position was with regard to the treatment of ragwort along public roads. SC agreed that this was a significant problem on a number of roads. He advised that spring was the best time to treat ragwort and that a product was being trialled currently to see how effective it is in treating ragwort. Cllr. Breathnach also asked about the treatment of Japanese Knotweed, SC advised that a programme was in place for treatment of knotweed which appears to be successful.

(c) Update South East Greenway

SMcK circulated update report prior to the meeting, as follows:-

Rail and Sleeper Lifting Contract: All of the rails and sleepers have now been lifted. Final site clearance work will recommence when current Level 5 restrictions are lifted.

Detailed Design: for the main construction works (i.e. accommodation works, structures, crossing points, etc.) along the route of the Greenway is continuing. Current Level 5 restrictions are also impacting on engagement with landowners.

Construction: the main construction of the 24km Greenway is being awarded in a number of Lots. The first Lots, namely for the construction of 5m wide macadam surfaces through the urban sections of New Ross (Lot 1 - c 2.5km) and Ferrybank (Lot 2 - c1.5 km) have been tendered and these will be awarded in February. However, these works are proscribed under current Level 5 restrictions. Lot 3 (i.e. c6km section – 3m wide from Raheen, New Ross to Ballyverneen, Glenmore) has also been tendered. Further contracts will be awarded as the detailed design is finalised and the landowner accommodation works are agreed in each Lot.

Ferrybank Car Park Option: The public engagement process for the selection of a suitable site for the proposed Ferrybank Car Park to bring to Part 8 is progressing. A second workshop was held with local residents on 29th January last to discuss a number of sites under consideration. There was very good engagement at the workshop and the Greenway Project Office will now undertake further investigative works on the site options. A final workshop will be held with residents before the end of February before a preferred site is recommended to progress to Part 8 planning.

Links to Slieverue and Glenmore: KLP have confirmed approval of LEADER Funding towards the cost of consultancy services to identify the optimal access routes from the Greenway to the villages of Glenmore and Slieverue. A consultant has been appointed and has commenced works. A public consultation (subject to Covid restrictions) will be arranged to discuss the options when they have been identified.

Business Development Executive and Assistant Engineer: job descriptions for these positions have been forwarded to the Dept for approval.

Project Website: www.southeastgreenway.net.

Resident Engineer: Eoin Atkinson is the Resident Engineer and he can be contacted at 087 188 4342 with any queries in connection with the Greenway. A Senior Resident Engineer, Patrick O'Connor has also been appointed and he can be contacted at 087 927 2796.

SMcK also provided update on Rosslare to Waterford (i.e. Wexford) Greenway as follows:-

The proposed 57km Wexford Greenway project is still at pre-planning. As the proposal is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and NATURA impact report, the application for planning consent must be made to An Bord Pleanála (ABP). The Wexford Greenway will require a connection to the Kilkenny Greenway in order to access Waterford City from Belview. The preferred route is for a c3km connection from Belview to Drumdowney. Wexford County Council undertook a local public information exercise in the Drumdowney/Belview area on the preferred route for the connection, which included the distribution of an information leaflet to households in the area. Submissions were invited on the proposal. A number of submissions were received, including 15 submissions specifically related to the proposed connection. These submissions will be addressed in the planning application to be submitted to ABP in the coming months.

All the members thanked Sean McKeown, Stan Cullen, Claire Goodwin and all the team involved for their hard work to-date and for the extensive engagement with the residents of Ferrybank to find the best option for the location of the Greenway car park. Cllr. Breathnach also thanked the people of Ferrybank for their engagement with the process to achieve the optimal outcome.

Cllr. Frisby welcomed the confirmation of Leader funding towards the cost of consultants to review route options for links to Slieverue and Glenmore Villages and stated the importance of seeking funding to develop these links as part of the development of the Greenway.

In response to Cllr. Aylward, SMcK confirmed that the project was 3 months behind schedule, but it is still anticipated that the greenway will be completed and open by the end of 2022 at the latest.

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

None.

4. Notice of Motion

None.

5. Correspondence

None

6. AOB:

Cllr. Dunphy raised concern regarding a number of accidents occurring on the Carrick Road, Mooncoin and asked if additional warning signage could be put in place, pending the proposed realignment scheme. SC agreed that the level of speeding on this road is unacceptable. He confirmed that he had consulted with Road Design on the matter and advised that it will need to be referred to the TII for approval.

Castlebanny Wind Farm

SMcK advised members that a planning application for a windfarm at Castlebanny had been accepted by An Bord Pleanala as a Strategic Infrastructure Development and will be available to view at County Hall, Ferrybank and Callan/Thomastown area offices. It was noted that information on the proposed development is also available online and through a website set up by the developers, namely Coillte and ART Generation, which provides useful information for residents, including drawings.

SMcK stated that the elected members must be given an opportunity to express their views and comment on the development before the Chief Executive submits her report and recommendation to An Bord Pleanala. In this regard, it is proposed to put the item on the March Meeting Agenda, at which Denis Malone, Senior Planner will attend to facilitate discussion on the proposed development. This was agreed. **Action MA**

It was noted that Planning is deemed to be an essential service, therefore members of the public are entitled to travel to any of the KCC offices to view planning applications and drawings, by appointment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____