

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,  
7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 at 10.00am via MS Teams***

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

**In attendance:** S. McKeown, Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, District Engineer, Mags Whelan, PPN Development Officer, Naomi Murphy, Connect the Dots and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

**1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021**

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

**Matters Arising**

Cllr. Doherty sought an update in relation to the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme route selection. S. Cullen advised that the final report has been forwarded to TII for review and once that is complete a meeting will be held with members, prior to details of the preferred route corridor being published in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Doherty referred to the Ferrybank Shopping Centre and her request regarding maintenance and cleaning. M. Arthurs advised that he will follow up this matter with Mr. Derry McPhillips.

In response to Cllr. Doherty's query regarding treatment of ragwort, S. Cullen confirmed that two locations have recently been treated with a product being trialled in the area, at Glenmore Hill and opposite the school access in Mullinavat.

Cllr. Breathnach asked that the Litter Management Plan review would be placed on a future MD meeting Agenda at the appropriate time, as had been agreed at the last meeting. **Action MA.**

S. McKeown informed the meeting that a new campaign in relation to dog littering has been launched in collaboration with Carlow, Waterford and Wexford County Councils. It was noted that the campaign will run for the next 6 to 9 months engaging with local groups and the general public and is one of the first issues to be tackled as part of a wide range of actions set out in the Litter Management Plan.

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

***(a) PPN Workplan 2021***

Cllr. Aylward welcomed Margaret Whelan to the meeting, who gave a detailed presentation to members on the Kilkenny PPN Workplan 2021 under the following headings:-

- Capacity Building
- Relationship Building
- Training
- Representation
- Communications and PR
- Programmes Supported by PPN and Collaborative Projects
- Development of Reports for PPN
- Potential Capacity Building and Sponsorship

It was noted that the PPN has increased its membership to 378 this year and Ms. Whelan asked that members encourage all community and voluntary groups they have contact with to register with the PPN to avail of the many supports and information provided, including training and funding opportunities.

The members thanked Ms. Whelan for her very comprehensive report which highlights the level of engagement with communities all across the County and the volume of work being undertaken by the PPN.

Questions / comments were raised and discussed, including the following:-

- The age friendly training programme using tablets, social media and communication apps a very welcome initiative to help combat social isolation – a waiting period of 4-6 weeks for new participants was noted.

- A booklet also available on use of Zoom, Facebook etc, will be circulated to members to share.
- The introduction of Telesis Machine for marking of farm machinery and equipment to assist in tackling rural crime also welcomed by members.
- Transportation hub being set up for those who need assistance getting to and from vaccination centres – contact through the Community Forum.
- PPN praised for its effective dissemination of information and assistance provided in availing of funding supports.

Cllr. Aylward thanked Ms. Whelan again for her very useful and informative presentation and assured her of the members support and assistance. Ms. Whelan thanked the members and withdrew from the meeting.

**(b) Update South East Greenway**

S. McKeown gave a brief update to members stating that current restrictions were causing some delays in terms of landowner engagement, finalising detailed design and awarding of contracts, but given the nature of the Greenway development he was confident that progress can resume following review of the current restrictions by Government.

S. McKeown also confirmed that Connect the Dots (CTD) have finalised their report in relation to the engagement process undertaken to identify the site for the car park at Ferrybank and Naomi Murphy was in attendance today to brief the members on the findings. Ms. Murphy summarised the details of the process as follows:-

- Information leaflet drop and online community survey undertaken initially to seek feedback and the views of the residents.
- Following the survey, three online workshops were held in December, January and February at which 4 possible site options were put forward for consideration and discussion with residents.
- The main concerns of the residents were proximity of the car park to residential areas, impact on traffic and anti-social behaviour, but overall the respondents were very positive about the benefits to the local community.
- Through this engagement process, the most favourable location was chosen for the car park based on the relevant criteria and availability of the site, but also based on community support and taking account of the views of the residents.
- A commitment was made to hold an information session during the Part 8 process to continue the momentum and goodwill that has been built up with the local community and to keep people engaged throughout the process.
- An further summary report of the technical considerations involved in site selection by Malachy Walsh & Partners is also to be finalised in the next few days along with the report from CTD.

S. McKeown confirmed that once finalised, both reports will be published in the next week or so giving full public transparency – Connect the Dots summarised report detailing the engagement process and the technical report on the site selection undertaken by Malachy Walsh & Partners – both of which will be available on the project website.

The members thanked Connect the Dots, Sean McKeown and all the team for the work put into this process and acknowledged the value of engagement and public consultation, which has resulted in a very positive outcome.

Questions / comments were raised and discussed, including the following:-

- It was noted that ownership of the selected site has yet to be established, it is currently unregistered – the Council will consider what process to engage in order to initiate the Part 8 process, but it is hoped to commence this process in advance of the next MD meeting.
- Access point between Belfield and Fiodh Mor estates and ongoing anti-social issues – SMcK confirmed that anti-social incidents are a matter for the Gardai and should continue to be reported to them. However, he confirmed that a meeting has been held with Gardai to discuss this matter and the Council's intention is to use the Greenway development as an opportunity to put in place mitigation measures in an effort to eradicate these incidents. A further meeting

has been sought with Gardai to discuss this matter further and to seek their input into the design of those measures.

- It was noted that the bridge access between Belfield and Fioch Mor estates was built as part of the railway itself and this structure will transfer to the local authority as part of the abandonment order. SMcK advised that while the access is not a registered public right-of-way it is an established public right-of-way and will require an extinguishment order to be carried out through a formal process under Section 73 of the Roads Act. This will be considered in the context of the delivery of the Belmont link road and as part of the overall development of the area, for which there is funding in place under the URDF programme. It was further noted that the bridge access is currently listed in the Ferrybank LAP as an essential link providing connectivity. If the bridge were to be closed therefore it would require a material alteration to the LAP.
- Links to Slieverue and Glenmore villages – SMcK advised that Leader, as part of the conditions of funding, will require Roadplan to provide at least 3 route options for each village. Leader also require them to engage in public consultation on each of the options and Roadplan have committed to that, however, with current restrictions in place, there may be delays in that regard. SMcK assured members that KCC are committed to ensuring that these access points are provided so that the economic dividends of the greenway are spread to those villages closest to it.
- Contact with landowners with regard to boundary finishes along their properties – SMcK advised that restrictions were causing delays in this regard, but confirmed that landowner agreements will be put in place in relation to all accommodation works, including boundary fencing and contact will be made with each landowner at the appropriate time.
- Business Development Executive – SMcK confirmed that interviews will take place next week for this position.

**(c) *Update Monthly Roadworks***

S. Cullen circulated report in advance of the meeting and outlined works carried out since the last meeting. It was noted that a review on restrictions is awaited from Government before suspended works can resume.

S. Cullen advised that the Priority 3 salting routes were discussed at a recent meeting of the SPC, which proposed that a County-wide review of the routes be brought to the full Council, as this is the more appropriate forum to undertake this review.

**Queries raised in relation to the following:-**

- Poulanassy Waterfall – it was noted that the more environmentally sensitive works on the walkway will be arranged outside of the nesting season, while works on the car park can proceed once the contractor has been appointed and it was hoped that these works will commence in May.
- Footpath, Mill Road – detailed design and funding in place, once a meeting can be arranged with the landowners, should be in a position to proceed.
- Anti-dumping Initiative – the suspended works due to restrictions refers to work planned for Newrath cul-de-sac junction, to secure from vehicle access and some planting. Further funding under this initiative is expected to be announced in the current year.
- New Ross Bypass, agreed finishing works – it was noted that snagging works remained outstanding, but were still the responsibility of the Contractor and would recommence as soon as possible.
- Local Improvement Scheme – it was noted that an announcement was still awaited with regard to funding under this Scheme.

**(d) *Update North Quays***

S. McKeown circulated report to the members, outlining the following:-

1. **Presentation:** Waterford City & County Council staff presented an update on the North Quays SDZ at the joint MD meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February last.
2. **Infrastructural works:**

Main contract. The main construction contract for the Waterford North Quays infrastructural works comprising the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works is progressing, with tender documentation close to completion. In April 2021 the qualified submissions based on the recommendations of the Independent Assessment Board will be invited to proceed to stage 2 tender of the Restricted Procedure Process.

Planning applications. The preparation of a planning application for the western flood defence works also close to completion, to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in April 2021. Part 8 planning applications will also be prepared later this year by Kilkenny County Council for the Belmont Link Road (Q2) and N29 Port Road (Q3). Detailed design for the Abbey Road and Belmont Road Sustainable Transport Improvements are also progressing.

Advanced contracts/ enabling works. Tender documents for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station have been issued. Tender documents for the South Plaza Enabling Works and Rock Stabilisation contracts will be issued shortly.

Ongoing contracts. Utility Diversion Contracts and Demolition and Site Clearance Works Contracts have been agreed. Transport Hub Independent Design Safety Certification and Sustainable Transport Bridge Cat 3 Independent Design Check contracts are progressing with Atkins and Hewson Consulting Engineers, respectively.

3. **Greenway Access:** A Part 8 planning application for the proposed access ramp from the South East Greenway to the Abbey Road will be progressed in the coming weeks. It was noted that this application will be initiated by WCCC as it is within their jurisdiction – liaising with Malachy Walsh & Partners with regard to the various drawings required, agreement in place with the School.

The following was also noted and discussed:-

S. McKeown confirmed that works were progressing as planned on the 4 projects funded under the Waterford funded URDF scheme within the Kilkenny County Council jurisdiction and S. Cullen outlined the anticipated timeframe for completion of each of these projects.

With regard to the Restricted Procedure Process, S. McKeown confirmed that he understood there are 3 main stages, the second stage will identify the preferred contractor, while the third stage will be a series of engagements with that contractor prior to appointing them.

Location of the western flood defence – S. McKeown confirmed the location, where it is proposed to upgrade as part of URDF works.

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 proposed writing to Irish Water with regard to the number of leaks occurring in the Piltown MD, particularly around the Mooncoin area, where the level of disruption to water supply was unacceptable. Cllr. Aylward seconded the proposal. SMcK agreed to speak with Tim Butler and arrange to issue correspondence to Irish Water outlining the concerns raised. **Action SMcK**

Cllr. Dunphy raised concerns about the number of derelict sites in the area and the lack of progress in dealing with them. Cllr. Aylward agreed, also noting the difficulties around listed buildings. SMcK advised that notices have been issued on a large number of sites across the county in recent years and that in the vast majority of cases landowners have complied with the notices. he also said that a number of sites have also been CPOd by the Council in recent times for social housing purposes. He encouraged members and the public to continue to report derelict sites to the

Planning Office, so that they can be investigated and the relevant notices served on the owners concerned.

Cllr. Doherty noted hedge cutting currently taking place during the nesting season, which she felt was unnecessary. SC asked that such incidents be reported so they can be properly investigated. He also agreed to circulate hedge management guidelines to members for information. **Action SC**

Cllr. Doherty raised concerns about safety for walkers at Tory Hill. SMcK advised that a funding application was unfortunately unsuccessful under the ORIS Measure 1 to improve signage in the area and he agreed to refer this matter to Parks staff for inspection.

Cllr. Doherty raised concern over the amount of plastic being washed up in the Pink Rock area. It was noted that LAWPRO have assisted local communities with clean-ups and perhaps something similar could be arranged for this location.

Cllr. Frisby took the opportunity to thank and congratulate all involved in running the virtual St. Patricks Day event, which painted Kilkenny in a very positive light and gave a great boost to all.

Litter picking supplies – SMcK confirmed that litter picking packs were available to families and individuals from the Environment Department.

Cllr. Frisby praised the local residents who have organised a rota to carry out litter picks at the new Ferrybank Park and Playground and commended all volunteers taking part.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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