

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held remotely on
Wednesday, 1st December, 2021 at 10.00am via MS Teams***

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

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

Apologies: S. Kavanagh, Senior Engineer

Vote of Sympathy

The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to the families of two former Councillors of Kilkenny County Council, Andy Cotterell, Inistioge and Joan Murphy, Graiguenamanagh.

Action MA

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 3rd November, 2021

Proposed by Cllr. E. Aylward, seconded by Cllr. G. Frisby and agreed

Minutes of Budget Meeting held 3rd November, 2021

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

Matters Arising

Letter to Department of Transport – Cllr. Dunphy asked if correspondence had been sent to the Department in relation to speeding issues. M. Arthurs confirmed that letter has been issued and response is awaited.

Deputation Ballygriffin Residents – Cllr. Dunphy asked that this group be facilitated at a meeting of the Piltown MD at the earliest opportunity, once public health guidelines allow.

Joint Meetings – M. Arthurs confirmed that he has been in regular contact with both Tipperary and Waterford County Councils in this regard. He confirmed that response has been received from Carrick-on-Suir MD to defer meeting until January, subject to public health guidelines. It was noted that response was awaited from Waterford Metropolitan District, same to be followed up. **Action MA**

Access Grannagh Castle – M. Arthurs advised that contact is awaited from the OPW in this regard.

Irish Water – M. Arthurs confirmed that contact has been made with Jim Fitzgerald requesting a meeting, same to be followed up. **Action MA**

Meeting with Gardai – M. Arthurs confirmed he has spoken with Superintendent Colin Furlong, who has been recently appointed to Thomastown and is keen to arrange a meeting with Piltown MD members, in person if possible and it is proposed to schedule a meeting for early January. **Action MA**

MASP – M. Arthurs confirmed he has spoken with David Kelly, Director of the Regional Assembly and update is expected shortly with regard to the setting up of the structures to provide oversight of the delivery of the agreed MASP objectives. **Action MA**

Communications – M. Arthurs advised that Corporate Services have confirmed they will assist when required with regard to promoting any items within Piltown MD on social media platforms, particularly in relation to public consultations.

Unfinished Estates – S. McKeown advised that the taking in charge team will present their programme of works planned for 2022 to each Municipal District early next year, Una Kealy and Alan Hyland will attend Piltown MD meeting in this regard. He updated members in relation to unfinished housing estates and progress on same over the past number of years, it was noted that a survey undertaken by the Department in 2020 confirmed there are 11 remaining unfinished estates in County Kilkenny, down from 44 across the County in 2013. It was noted that seven of the remaining unfinished estates are also on our current taking-in-charge list, one of which is in the Piltown MD area at Oakridge, Belmont, Ferrybank. It was noted that Una Kealy will be liaising with Area Engineers to carry out inspections on unfinished estates.

Taking in Charge – S. McKeown confirmed that Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act and Section 11 of the Roads Act provides the statutory basis for the taking in charge process for local authorities. A formal request must be made to the Council by either the developer or the majority of home owners in an estate for the Council to commence the process. A resolution by the members is then required to initiate the process and put the statutory notices in place. Works are carried out following inspections by the relevant departments within the Council in the preparation of a site resolution plan. It was noted that where the developer fails to complete any outstanding works identified in the site resolution plan, the Council can access the security bond to carry out the necessary works. The eligible works relate to public roads, footpaths, open spaces, parking areas, lighting etc. It was also noted that of the 35 applications

currently on the taking in charge list, 10 of these are within the Piltown MD and details regarding a projected timeframe and programme of works will be provided to members at the Piltown MD meeting in January.

Ferrybank-Belview LAP – S. McKeown confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that it is an objective of the County Development Plan that the Ferrybank-Belview LAP will be reviewed next year. It is hoped to appoint Consultants in Q1 of 2022 to provide assistance in undertaking the review and it was noted that the process is likely to take around 6 months to complete.

MASP – S. McKeown confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that it is the responsibility of the Regional Assembly to agree the structures for the implementation of the MASP, taking guidance from the Department and agreeing those structures with the local authorities. Cllr. Dunphy asked that this matter be raised at the December meeting of the Council, with a view to getting an update from KCC representatives on the Regional Assembly in this regard. S. McKeown advised that as per Section 25a of the Planning & Development Act, the Regional Assembly must prepare a progress report in relation to the implementation of the strategic objectives outlined in the RSES, which is ongoing at the moment. It was noted that their report is due to be finalised in early 2022 and it was agreed to include this item on the Agenda for the March MD meeting, to include MASP update.

NBI – Cllr. Dunphy referred to presentation given in February by NBI to the full Council and asked if arrangements could be made for further update on the roll out plan, either to full Council or at MD level.

Action MA

Barrow Bridge closure – S. Cullen advised Cllr. Frisby that no update was yet available on the closure of the bridge but that same would be followed up. **Action SC**

County School Safety Schemes – S. Cullen advised Cllr. Frisby that there was no report yet available on the review of the School Safety Schemes and agreed to follow up this matter. **Action SC**

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – Cllr. Frisby asked for update in this regard at the January meeting. **Action SMcK**

St. Mary's Boys NS Ferrybank – Cllr. Doherty asked that KCC work with Waterford City & County Council in working towards the provision of off-road parking to address the parking issues at the school. Cllr. Breathnach was in support of Cllr. Doherty in this regard.

Casual Trading Bye-laws – S. McKeown confirmed that the draft Bye-laws are currently under consideration by our legal advisor to confirm if consideration can be given to including additional trading bays as opportunities arise, thus allowing consideration of additional bays to facilitate for example casual trading at public car parks along the new Greenway.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update Monthly Roadworks

S. Cullen outlined works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Cllr. Aylward welcomed works at Poulanssy Waterfall and complimented the works carried out, he thanked Stan Cullen and his predecessor Ian Gardner and all staff involved in working on this project which will make a huge difference to the area. Cllr. Doherty agreed and thanked the McCarthy family for their help and cooperation and all involved in getting this project over the line.

Cllr. Aylward also thanked all involved and complimented the works carried out at the Redbridge which has greatly improved the appearance to the whole area around the Granny Roundabout and access to the shop.

In relation to Mill Road, Mullinavat, Cllr. Aylward noted feedback from the agricultural community using that section of road, who have raised concerns about the proposal to narrow the bridge which will make it more difficult to navigate with large machinery. Cllrs. Doherty and Breathnach also expressed their concerns in this regard. S. Cullen confirmed that as part of the design, consideration is given to all types of traffic using the bridge, which is currently two-way with no footpath. He advised that it is proposed to install a footpath and limit access to a single lane controlled with traffic lights, which will provide additional space on the carriageway ensuring that all large machinery is accommodated. It was noted that submissions under Part 8 can be made in this regard.

In response to Cllr. Doherty's query, S. Cullen confirmed that all available grant funding available will be drawn down and that sufficient funding will be available to complete works committed to on the programme.

Cllr. Doherty welcomed public lighting at Listerlin, S. Cullen confirmed that civils works have commenced to install the two lights in the village and it is hoped to complete works shortly.

S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr. Doherty that there is no change to the position regarding proposal for Greyway application on R723 Glenmore Roundabout to New Ross, noting the benefits to be gained with the installation of a Greyway at this location, including from a road maintenance point of view. Cllr. Doherty urged that a feasibility study be commenced at the earliest opportunity, S. Cullen agreed to seek funding to progress same. **Action SC**

Cllr. Breathnach asked if darker evenings will impact some of the works within urban areas. S. Cullen advised that consideration must be given to health and safety, for both workers and the public to limit work to daylight hours and good working conditions. While there may be some impact, this should not be significant.

Cllr. Breathnach referred to funding set aside in 2016/2017 to improve the presentation of the approach roads into Waterford and if this could be kept in mind for next year. S. Cullen advised that ongoing maintenance work will continue to improve appearance of the approaches to Waterford.

(b) Update South East Greenway

S. McKeown circulated report to members and outlined the following:-

- **Detailed Design** Landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 4 – 7 continue to progress. Lot 5 (c10Km section from Ferrybank to Aylwardstown) is almost finalised and construction tender will issue shortly. Detailed design for Lot 4 (from New Ross to Mount Elliott) is also nearing completion and will be tendered early in 2022.
- **Construction:** of Lots 1 – 3 is progressing well and are on schedule for completion before end January next year. The final wearing course has been applied to Lot 3 (Raheen to Glenmore). Surfacing works are continuing on Lots 1 and 2 with same expected to be completed shortly. The revised expected date for the full completion of the Greenway advised to TII is now Autumn 2023. The Project Office would like to thank all landowners for their continued co-operation with the Greenway Project works. The Project Office continue to remind the public that the Greenway is a construction site at present and as such it is not safe to enter/access the lands until it officially opens.
- **Ferrybank Car Park Option:** The route of the Link Road from the Abbey Road to the Belmont Road has been confirmed. A Part 8 planning application will be progressed for the Link Road in the coming weeks. The proposed Ferrybank Car Park, which will also be progressed under a separate Part 8, will ultimately be accessed from the new Link Road. MWP are preparing a preliminary design of the car park which will be a trailhead to include toilets and coach parking.
- **Railway Abandonment:** Kilkenny CoCo Road Section continue to prepare detailed mapping to facilitate the transfer of the railway lands from CIE to each Local Authority.
- **Links to Slieverue and Glenmore:** Roadplan Consulting continue to investigate the potential route options identified during the preliminary assessment and are engaging with landowners. The Piltown MD members will be briefed on the preferred option before same proceeds to public consultation.
- **Business Development Officer (BDO):** Alan Fitzhenry is the BDO and continues to be available to advise anyone with a business idea along the Greenway, and he can be contacted at 087 3737951.
- **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.
- **Greenway Animation:** Failte Ireland have indicated their intention to announce a call for proposals in early 2022 from local authorities developing Greenways. This call will be to assist local authorities to develop Interpretation/Animation Plans to enhance the visitor potential/attraction of their Greenways.

All the members joined in the call for the public to observe safety and refrain from accessing the Greenway until it is officially open, as it is currently a building site and unsafe to access. Members hoped that sections of the Greenway would be opened to the public at the earliest opportunity. S. McKeown advised that there is a licence agreement in place at the moment with CIE to construct the Greenway only, negotiations are ongoing with CIE in relation to land transfer and KCC is not yet in a statutory position to operate the Greenway.

In response to Cllrs. Breathnach and Frisby, S. McKeown advised that only the Greenways approved under the National Greenway Fund 2018 will be eligible to apply for the Greenway animation funding when it is announced, which will assist local authorities to develop Interpretation/Animation Plans to

enhance the visitor potential of their Greenways, to promote and market same. He advised Cllr. Frisby that this funding does not include capital works such as the development of the proposed links from Slieverue and Glenmore villages, however he was confident that TII would look favourably on these linkages as smarter travel options to maximise the Greenway.

S. McKeown confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that the Part 8 for the Link Road from Abbey Road to Belmont Road must commence before the Part 8 for the Car Park at Ferrybank, as the latter will be accessed off the proposed new Link Road.

In response to Cllr. Breathnach's query regarding Greenways at regional level from a tourism perspective for the South East, S. McKeown confirmed that the regional project office has been set up specifically for this purpose, with a Section 85 agreement in place between Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford local authorities to promote Greenways in the south east region as a key piece of infrastructure and tourism attraction. It was noted that Waterford City & County Council are currently developing a link from the Waterford Greenway at Bilberry to the Clock Tower on the South Quays. This will eventually connect across the proposed Sustainable Transport Bridge to the North Quays to connect with the South East Greenway. It was also noted that Carlow County Council are currently doing a feasibility study to investigate options for a Greenway from the Barrow Way at St. Mullins to New Ross. If this proved feasible, this would mean that it would be possible to provide a continuous Greenway from Dungarvan to Dublin which would be a huge asset and attraction for the region.

(c-f) Update on Major Road Schemes

The following report was circulated to members, S. Cullen outlined the following:-

N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme

A route corridor has been selected for the scheme and the Phase 2 Gate Review Statement has been submitted to TII for approval to proceed to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation). Approval to proceed is still awaited from TII and its Strategic Planning Unit. There has been a number of queries/revisions, which are being worked through. The overall outturn cost for the project is expected to be €90 to €120m. All the information on the scheme is available on the website n25waterford2glenmore.ie

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme

Kilkenny is the lead authority on this project, working in consultation with Tipperary County Council. It is 60km in length and has a projected cost of €600 - €720m. It will link up with the Limerick to Cahir scheme which is a few months further ahead in the process. The consultants are working through phase 2 on this scheme. An options report will be prepared for late 2021. Public consultation will start on the 11/12th January. Due to covid 19 restrictions, face to face consultation was cancelled. The Christmas period also contributed to the decision. All the information on the scheme is available on the website n24waterford2cahir.ie

N24 Carrick Road Scheme

Following approval of the Preliminary Design Report for the scheme the necessary documentation to make a simultaneous application to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval under 177AE and also Compulsory Purchase Order approval for the scheme is being finalised. It is now intended that the applications will be made in Q1 2022. The overall outturn cost for the project is expected to be circa €10m.

N24 Tower Road Improvement Scheme

This scheme is currently subject to final design and tender preparation. Landowner negotiations are on-going. It is currently on target that the scheme will go out to tender towards the latter end of Q4 2021 with a view to construction commencing in Q2 2022. The overall outturn cost for the project is expected to be circa €10m.

Cllr. Dunphy asked that another request be sent to TII to arrange a meeting with them to discuss on-going projects in the Piltown MD area. **Action MA**

S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that the options report in relation to the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme will be available when the public consultation commences on 11/12 January.

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

Details provided under matters arising.

6. AOB:

Cllr. Dunphy proposed to amend the date for the January MD meeting to 12th January, this was agreed.

All the members joined in thanking their colleagues, the press and all staff for their commitment and work throughout the year and wished all and their families a happy and safe Christmas. S. McKeown took the opportunity on behalf of the executive to thank Cllr. Dunphy and all the Elected Members for their cooperation and patience in these challenging times and he also thanked the press for their excellent coverage of the business of the Piltown MD and he wished everyone a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____