

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held remotely on
Wednesday, 12th January, 2022 at 10.00am via MS Teams***

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

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

Apologies: M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator

Vote of Sympathy

The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Jim Freeman, Bishopsgrove, Ferrybank. The members all paid tribute to Jim, who was a great character and family man, very well known in the area and highly involved in Kilkenny GAA and all aspects of the community. He will be sadly missed in his community and County and the members wished to extend their deepest sympathies to all his family. **Action MA**

Cllr. Dunphy took the opportunity to congratulate Mooncoin on winning the Leinster Junior Hurling Final and also to Ballyhale Shamrocks on their success in the Leinster senior club hurling championship.

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 1st December, 2021

Proposed by Cllr. T. Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty and agreed

Matters Arising

Letter to Department of Transport – Cllr. Dunphy asked if response had been received from the Department in relation to speeding issue raised. S. Cullen advised that response was still awaited.

Deputation Ballygriffin Residents – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr. Dunphy that this matter is being kept under review and that the group will be facilitated at the earliest opportunity.

Joint Meetings – S. McKeown confirmed that M. Arthurs has been actively trying to arrange meetings with both Waterford and Tipperary and will continue to follow up. **Action MA**

Meeting with Gardai – S. Cullen advised that Supt. Colin Furlong is anxious to meet with the Municipal District and it is hoped that this can be facilitated at the February MD meeting. **Action MA**

MASP – S. McKeown advised Cllr. Breathnach that the Regional Assembly will shortly complete its biannual Section 25A report on the progress in implementing the strategic objectives agreed in the RSES and this will include the proposed structures and governance to provide oversight for the implementation of the objectives contained in the RSES in relation to the Waterford MASP. The Regional Assembly expect to finalise their report by the end of March. Cllr. Dunphy called on the KCC representatives on the Regional Assembly to progress the matter of the MASP as quickly as possible as it will be the mechanism by which Waterford and Kilkenny local authorities will continue to co-operate and it will help dispel any future talk about boundary reviews. **Action MA**

St Mary's Boys National School, Ferrybank – Cllr. Doherty asked that KCC liaise with WCCC to work towards a solution to address the parking issues in and around the school, particularly with the imminent opening of the Primary Care Centre which may compound the issue further. S. Cullen confirmed that Consultants have been appointed to prepare the Mobility Management Plan for Ferrybank and the parking issues at the school have been highlighted as an issue which may be addressed under the plan.

Barrow Bridge – S. Cullen advised that he was unsuccessful in making contact with Iarnród Éireann with regard to the reason for closure of the bridge, but will follow up the matter. **Action SC**

School Safety Survey – S. Kavanagh advised that five schools in Kilkenny City have been successful in securing funding under the Safe Routes to Schools programme and that three schools in the Piltown MD are on a waiting list for the next round of funding, Mullinavat, Mooncoin and Kilmacow. He advised that each Local Authority has set up an Active Travel office with funding from the NTA and Safer Routes to Schools will likely link in with the Active Travel offices going forward for improvements around schools.

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – in response to Cllr. Frisby, S. McKeown advised that the legal dispute is continuing, however there is ongoing positive engagement between the parties and the matter is likely to be resolved shortly. Members will be updated in due course.

Casual Trading Bye-laws – S. McKeown advised that the Chief Executive's report on the review of the bye-laws will be on the Agenda for the plenary Council meeting next week. He outlined the process to-date and advised that following the review and submissions received, it is intended to include two additional trading bays at the public car parks being provided as part of the Greenway project at Glenmore

and Ferrybank. He stated that clause 47 of the bye-laws also provides the flexibility to the elected members to keep the location and number of trading bays under review.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) *Taking in Charge Update Report*

This item was postponed to the February meeting.

(b) *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. Dunphy asked what the position was in relation to the programme of works for 2022. S. Cullen advised that he had a record of all submissions and complaints received in relation to drainage, footpaths, road improvements etc, which will all be included for consideration under this year's programme of works, once funding allocations have been notified by the department.

Cllr. Doherty asked that the feasibility study for the Greyway proposal on the R723 at New Ross be brought forward as soon as possible.

(c) *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. In preparation for the award of the Lot 5 contract a Part 8 planning application is being prepared for a temporary construction compound.
- **Construction:** of Lots 1 – 3 is progressing well and are on schedule for completion before end January. The erection of public lighting has commenced in the urban sections. The final wearing course has been completed on Lot 3 and will be completed on Lots 1 and 2 by end of next month. The Project Office would like to thank all landowners for their continued co-operation with the Greenway Project works. The Project Office continues 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:** A Part 8 planning application will be progressed for the new Link Road from the Abbey Road to the Belmont Road in the coming weeks, and the Ferrybank Car Park will be accessed from the 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 Co. Co. 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. Roadplan hope to be in a position to brief the elected members of Piltown MD on the preferred options at the February MD meeting.
- **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:** The Project Office awaits the launch of the Failte Ireland funding scheme to assist local authorities developing Greenways funded as part of the National Greenway Strategy to develop Interpretation/Animation Plans aimed at enhancing the visitor potential/attraction of their Greenways.

Cllr. Doherty welcomed the progress on the project and took the opportunity to remind members of the public not to access the Greenway until such time as it is officially open and safe to do so.

In response to Cllr. Breathnach, S. McKeown confirmed that in relation to the Greenway animation, the Project Office will make an application for funding to Fáilte Ireland on behalf of the three local authorities when the funding scheme is launched. He said the ambition is to develop an

interpretation/animation plan to use the Greenway to tell the rich stories and history of the region including the Vikings and Normans, the JFK connection, the Dunbrody experience, the trade facilitated by the River Barrow and the former rail line and to attract many visitors to the region.

(d) North Quays SDZ Update

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

SDZ Developer

- WCCC is having ongoing engagement with private developers to review options for the development of the North Quays SDZ site.

Main contract

- The main construction tender for the Waterford North Quays infrastructural contract, comprising the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works has been issued on etenders with a closing date of 8th March, 2022.

Planning applications

- An Bord Pleanála received 4 submissions in relation to the planning application for the western flood defence works.

Tender stage - advanced contracts/ enabling works

- Tenders have been received for the Rock Stabilisation works to the north of Plunkett Station and these are being reviewed by ROD Consulting Engineers.
- It is proposed to commence the South Plaza enabling works later this month.
- The tender for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station was reissued in December, 2021.
- Works are ongoing on the Greenway access ramp at Abbey Bridge.

(e-h) Update on Major Road Schemes

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

Minor Projects (Not included in NDP-Funded by TII)

N24 Tower Road (Safety Scheme)

It is envisaged that the scheme will go out to tender towards the end of Q1 2022 with a view to construction commencing towards the end of Q2 2022. An allocation of €3m was received for 2022 to allow the scheme proceed to construction. The overall outturn cost for the project is expected to be circa €10m.

N24 Carrick Road:

An allocation of €150K was received for 2022 which will fund progression to statutory approvals stage which is likely to be submitted Q1 2022. The overall outturn cost for the project is expected to be circa €10m.

Major projects (Included in NDP- Funded by TII)

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme

Unfortunately, no funding was allocated to Kilkenny to progress with work on the above scheme in 2022. Kilkenny County Council has written to the TII looking for guidance on what the next steps are for the scheme. A message will be relayed to the Elected members\Public once a response is received from the TII.

In light of the above, the public consultation planned for January has been cancelled. Notification of same has been posted on the project website **N24waterford2cahir.ie**.

N25 Glenmore (New Ross bypass) to Waterford Scheme

Unfortunately, no funding was allocated to Kilkenny to progress with work on the above scheme in 2022. Kilkenny County Council has written to the TII looking for guidance on what the next steps are for the scheme. A message will be relayed to the Elected members\Public once a response is received from the TII.

All the members expressed disappointment that no funding has been allocated for the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme and N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme and the severe blow this is to the South East Region in terms of its impact on business, employment and growth in Kilkenny and the region as a whole. The impact on road safety was also noted, with members noting the number of lives lost on

both roads and also the implications of delays on planning and development in the area, creating great anxiety and uncertainty among local communities.

The members all agreed on the need for action and for local authorities in the region to work together to get these projects back on track and to push this matter with the Minister for Transport and TII. S. McKeown suggested using existing regional fora already in place, such as the First Citizens Forum, to raise this with our local TDs and national representatives and add additional weight in making our case.

Action SMcK

Cllr. Dunphy also proposed that a letter issue to Minister Ryan from the Piltown MD expressing our disappointment and outlining the severe impact this decision will have on Kilkenny and the wider region. **Action MA**

Cllrs Doherty and Aylward noted that a number of fatal accidents have occurred on the N25 Glenmore to Waterford Section in recent years and it is unacceptable that this section of road should remain as a single carriageway with dual carriageways either side.

Cllr Breathnach stated that this issue highlights the importance of regional co-operation.

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

S. Cullen advised there were no updates regarding correspondence issued.

6. AOB:

Cllr. Dunphy:-

- raised ongoing concerns about speeding in Fiddown and asked if safety measures could be taken to address the matter, to include a pedestrian crossing.
- noted the proposed withdrawal of the rescue helicopter service in the South East, which he said will be another backward step for the region. He asked that a letter be written to the relevant Department outlining the vital nature of this service and he said that under no circumstances should it be removed from the South East Region. **Action MA**
- praised all front-line workers, particularly in the health sector, who are still battling with covid and thanked them all for their continued efforts.

Cllr. Doherty

- congratulated Ferrybank Library on nine years of providing a great service to the local community.
- raised safety concerns in relation to the low bridge at Granny, which was recently struck by a bus and requested if additional signage could be put in place as appropriate. **Action SC**
- enquired about the level of salting of the R704, noting recent incident on this road in icy conditions
- called on pedestrians and cyclists to wear high viz gear in the interests of road safety and also called on motorists to slow down and consider other road users.
- complimented staff and the contractor on works completed at Poulanassy Waterfall and looked forward to this amenity to being reopened to the public.

Cllr. Aylward

- took the opportunity to raise concerns surrounding the leaving cert exams in 2022. He said that to say their leaving cert years have been disrupted is an understatement and called on the Minister to allow for predicted grades to continue for this year's leaving cert students and asked the other elected members to lobby and give their support in this regard. Cllr. Dunphy suggested a letter be issued to the Minister for Education in this regard. **Action MA**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____