

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on
Wednesday, 6th July, 2022 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, Ferrybank Library**

Present: Cllr F. Doherty, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs Pat Dunphy, T. Breathnach and G. Frisby
In attendance: D. Malone, A/Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen,
District Engineer, and N. Morris, Clerical Officer
Apologies: Cllr. E. Aylward

Welcome

Cllr. Doherty took the opportunity to thank the Press and KCLR for their attendance at the meeting. The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Tom Walsh, Springfield, Piltown. He will be sadly missed in his community and County and the members wished to extend their deepest sympathies to all his family.

The members also joined with Cllr. Breathnach in extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late James Tobin, Deputy Mayor of Waterford. The members all paid tribute to James and noted that he will be a big loss to his community and to the City of Waterford. The members wished to extend their deepest sympathies to all his family, Waterford City & County Council and the City of Waterford.

- 1. Minutes of Annual General meeting held 8th June 2022**
Proposed by Cllr P. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr G. Frisby and agreed.
- 2. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 8th June, 2022**
Proposed by Cllr G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr T. Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

N24 New Aghlish to Grannagh – Members noted that correspondence from TII was received by Council but not distributed to the members. Cllr. Dunphy expressed his surprise and disappointment that letter from TII was not provided to all members and requested that members be included in communications going forward.

Mobility Management Plan Piltown – S. Cullen confirmed that consultants are progressing work on the Piltown Mobility Plan with a draft projected to be complete by end of July.

Mobility Management Plan Ferrybank – S. Cullen confirmed that a draft of the Plan has been received and has been submitted to the NTA for review. Deadline for submissions on the Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy of 12th July noted.

Access to Grannagh Castle – S. Cullen noted that there has been no further communication from the OPW with regard to access to Grannagh Castle. The OPW are currently engaging with the landowner. The installation of interpretive signage remains outstanding, S. Cullen awaiting signage.

Speed Limit Review – Cllr. Doherty asked if any submissions had been received locally in regards to the speed limit review. S. Cullen confirmed that submissions had been received and have been provided to the Engineer overseeing the review. Report currently in progress.

Mill Road Footpath – S. Cullen confirmed that engagement with landowner has been completed and expressed his thanks to the landowner for their co-operation. Public Consultation documentation is being finalised and an Options report is under preparation for NTA.

ESB connection Piltown – S. Cullen noted that connections at two pedestrian crossings have been completed, awaiting ESB connections to be completed at remaining crossing.

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – Cllr. Frisby asked if there was any update on Ferrybank Shopping Centre. D. Malone advised that further correspondence has been issued to NAMA and response is still awaited. D. Malone agreed to follow up on this matter. Cllr. Breathnach seconded Cllr. Frisby's query and requested that members be informed of any updates.

- 3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**
 - (a) Update Monthly Roadworks**

S. Cullen circulated report and outlined works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates with regard to the national road schemes. S. Cullen highlighted the completion of works related to CIR scheme in Busherstown, and LIS schemes in Ballyfasy Lower, and Kilmurry. S. Cullen also noted that works related to CIR scheme in Kilkeasy were nearing completion.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

N24 Tower Road – S. Cullen advised that approval has been received from TII to proceed to Phase 5, comprising the formal tender stage. A consultant is amending the tender documentation and reports required by TII. Once this is complete KCC will then make the formal request to issue the tender. S. Cullen noted that it is likely that Q4 2022 is a realistic timeframe for the commencement of construction work and the programme has been amended to reflect this. A 12-month timeframe is envisaged for the construction stage.

N24 Carrick Road – S. Cullen explained that the reports on the AA Screening and EIA Screening were submitted to the KCC planner and report has been returned confirming an application to An Bord Pleanála under Section 177ae is the appropriate planning route. All documentation is now undergoing final checks for both the planning application and CPO applications to An Bord Pleanála (ABP). Legal review of the CPO documentation has been completed. S. Cullen advised that once all checks are complete, the gate review statement for the conclusion of phase 3 can be submitted including a request to commence phase 4 (statutory processes) and separate request for approval to publish. The date of 9th September is targeted as the submission date. Cllr. Dunphy expressed his concern with the delays and highlighted the danger that residents on this road are facing due to the lack of visibility when trying to leave their home. Cllr. Dunphy requested that these concerns be passed to TII.

Water Leaks Piltown and Mooncoin – Cllr. Dunphy noted that water leaks in the Piltown and Mooncoin Areas were ongoing and that alerts for water outages are common. D. Malone acknowledged the concerns and noted that a programme to address the leaks is in the works. D. Malone advised that the programme will take time but agreed to follow up on issue with Director of Services. Cllr. Breathnach requested to be associated with these remarks and highlighted an example from last year where the water was out in Slieverue for two weeks. Cllr. Breathnach also acknowledged that work was being done to address this issue and highlighted the long-term benefit from resolving the issue.

Anti-Social Behaviour on Greenway – Cllr. Doherty highlighted a recent incident where a car was driven onto the Greenway and abandoned, as well as graffiti on the Greenway. Car accessed the Greenway by driving through fields next to Greenway. Cllr. Frisby expressed his sadness that this incident occurred and noted the difficulty in securing the Greenway. Cllr. Frisby has been in discussion with an Engineer in regard to installing harder fencing on the Greenway, though noted that this type of fencing had been cut through in other locations. Cllr. Frisby asked that locals and residents remain vigilant and contact local authorities should they witness similar behaviour. Cllr. Frisby also took the opportunity to express thanks to the General Services Supervisor and all involved for their quick response and action regarding the incident. Cllr. Dunphy expressed his disappointment that this incident occurred and asked if a meeting could be arranged with An Garda Síochána prior to next Municipal Meeting, to give members the opportunity to express their concerns. D. Malone noted the difficulty in securing the site and advised that Contractor is responsible for site security but has agreed to follow up on this matter. S. Cullen explained that there are ongoing engagements with the Contractor and a security company to arrange patrols of the Greenway and talks are expected to be resolved this week. S. Cullen also noted a spike in anti-social behaviour during the Summer months. S. Cullen has also engaged with land owners of the fields who have acknowledged that they will need to improve their own security. S. Cullen also explained that fencing will be strengthened at the Abbey Road end and Bellfield end of the Greenway.

Cllr. Doherty took the opportunity to express thanks to the Engineer and outdoor staff for their treatment of Ragwort in the area, the completed works in Ballyfasy and for the installation of public lights in Listerlin. Cllr. Doherty also noted that, despite treatment, Ragwort continued to surface and requested that this be attended to.

Cllr. Frisby took the opportunity to express thanks to S. Cullen and all involved in the roadworks. Cllr. Frisby also welcomed the commencement of works involving the replacement of watermains in Slieverue. Cllr Frisby noted that these works were long overdue and expressed his thanks to Tim Butler, Director of Services and Irish Water.

(b) Update South East Greenway

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

- **Detailed Design:** Landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 4 – 7 continue to progress. It has been decided to split Lot 5 into two sections of equal length comprising Lot 5a (Ferrybank to Luffany) and Lot 5b (Luffany to Aylwardstown South). TII are undertaking a final review of the tender documentation for Lot 5a and documentation for Lot 5b is nearing completion.
- **Construction:** of Lots 1 - 3 are progressing well and are approaching substantial completion. The ramp access to the Greenway from Abbey Road, Ferrybank is complete. Waterford City & County Council have received tenders to widen the footpath at the connection point to the ramp access and a Letter of Intent has issued to the preferred contractor for these works. The Greenway Project Office are currently exploring the possibility of opening sections of the Greenway as they are completed. In the meantime, the Project Office continues to stress to the Public that the Greenway is a construction site at present and is not safe to enter/access until it officially opens. The Project Office expresses thanks to all landowners for their continued co-operation with the Greenway Project works.
- **Ferrybank Car Park Option:** Following detailed environmental assessments, a Part 10 planning application to An Bord Pleanála will now be progressed for the new Link Road from the Abbey Road to Belmont Road in the coming weeks. The Ferrybank Car Park will be accessed from the Link Road and will form part of the overall project. Consultant procurement is being processed to develop the design and documentation for the scheme.
- **Railway Abandonment:** Kilkenny CoCo Road Section have now completed the detailed mapping of the Greenway lands. The associated documentation is being provided to CIE to facilitate the transfer of the railway lands from CIE to each Local Authority.
- **Links to Slieverue and Glenmore:** Preferred options for both Links have been identified. The Consultants are engaging an Ecologist to undertake Appropriate Assessment Screening on both links, which will determine the planning process to be followed.
- **Other Links:** In a joint initiative with Kilkenny Leadership and Partnership (KLP) and Trail Kilkenny, the Feasibility Study and Route Selection Report for a further Link to Woodstock Estate, Inistioge is being developed. Punch Consulting Engineers have been appointed to undertake this work.
- **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 still awaits the launch of the Fáilte 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.

The following was discussed and noted: -

Construction - Cllr. Doherty expressed thanks to S. Cullen for the update and welcomed progress on the Link to Slieverue, as well as noting the importance of engaging with the landowners during the process. Cllr. Doherty also welcomed that the Greenway will allow for more cycling in the Area. Cllr. Doherty called for sections of the Greenway to be opened as they are completed and seconded the Greenway Project Offices call for people not to access the Greenway until it is safe to do so.

Railway Abandonment - Cllr. Doherty queried whether any section of the Greenway would be retaining the old train tracks. Cllr. Breathnach also requested that part of railway be incorporated into the Greenway, if possible, noting the tradition of railways in the South East. D. Malone agreed to

follow up on this request. S. Cullen mentioned that he was unsure of any plans to retain part of the old railway.

Cllr. Doherty noted that thousands of sleepers had been discarded near the quays in New Ross and questioned if they could be given out to the Community instead of dumped. S. Cullen noted that sleepers are hazardous and would not be provided to members of the Community.

Cllr. Frisby also took the opportunity to express thanks to S. Cullen for the update.

D. Malone noted how important the Greenway will be in regards to the Smarter Travel Plan and noted that approximately 1,000 houses are expected to be built in this Area over the next 5 – 10 years.

(c) Update North Quays SDZ

D. Malone outlined the following to members: -

D. Malone noted that the main Construction tenders were issued with a return date of 7th June. Returned tenders currently being assessed.

The final business case is expected to be submitted to the Heritage Department in August.

A submission regarding the West Flood Defence was made to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in September 2021, awaiting their report.

It is expected that a Contractor will be hired shortly to undertake the widening of footpaths on Abbey Road.

A brief for the link road between the roundabout at Aldi (Belmount Road) and the Abbey Road has been drafted and it is expected that the Project will be extended by six months before the application is ready to go to ABP.

Route will link the existing road to the roundabout at Aldi, Ferrybank and the car park for the Greenway will be incorporated into the design.

Talks are progressing in regards to the re-appraisal of the North Quay. Cllr. Doherty asked if the Public would have input in the consultation. D. Malone advised that Road Design were developing the Brief and that pre-application consultation is usually carried out.

The following was discussed and noted:-

Cllr. Frisby raised his concerns regarding the volume of heavy vehicles accessing IDA via the road from Pond Hill to Ballavalla, noting that this road is not fit for purpose for these types of vehicles and that the volume of traffic does not equate to the amount of people living on this road. Cllr. Frisby asked that the Council look into the IDA planning application and stressed that the improved Port Road should be the access point into IDA. Cllr. Frisby requested that the concerns of the residents be taken on board and noted that conservation should not be considered over the residents. He noted the main concerns of the residents related to noise and screening. D. Malone acknowledged the concerns and advised that HGV vehicles should be using the N29 and not country roads. D. Malone noted that the planning application should extend this provision and agreed to look into the matter.

Cllr. Breathnach asked if there had been any progress in regards to the Rock Stabilisation Project. D. Malone explained that a Contractor has been awarded and S. Cullen advised that vegetation removal had started.

Cllr. Breathnach asked if there would be any public consultation involved in the Part X application to ABP for the North South link Road and for N29 Port Road. D. Malone explained that the Public could make submissions directly to ABP. A non-statutory pre-application consultation will be arranged.

Cllr. Dunphy expressed his disappointment with the delays associated with the Part X process and noted that a lot of money and time has gone into this project. D. Malone acknowledged these issues but noted the importance of displaying environmental responsibility and that the Council should lead by example in this regard. D. Malone also noted that the public consultation will help the process.

Cllr. Doherty asked if the delays meant that the Greenway would not be complete until 2025. D. Malone advised works would commence in 2024 at the earliest so it's likely that completion won't be

until 2025. Cllr. Doherty also requested that Glenmore to New Ross section be opened when complete, instead of waiting for the delayed section to be completed.

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

None

5. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

None

6. Notice of Motion

None

7. Correspondence

M. Arthurs noted requests for correspondence to be issued to TII and An Garda Síochána. Cllr. Frisby requested that correspondence be issued to NAMA in regards to Ferrybank Shopping Centre.

8. AOB:

Cllr. Doherty enquired about the opportunity of linking the Greyway with the Greenway. S. Cullen noted that Department has requested the suspension of the Link between Ferrybank and Slieverue. Guidance is awaited before progressions can be made. S. Cullen also noted that introducing a Greyway could be beneficial use of excessive space needed for downgraded regional roads.

Cllr. Doherty addressed the vacant bus stop and weighbridge, Glenmore and noted that it remains closed, despite initial plans to open in May 2014. S. Cullen advised that the bus stop remains closed due to safety concerns and that issues cannot be resolved currently. Bus stop will be addressed during the realignment of the Waterford to N25 scheme.

Cllr. Dunphy noted concerns from the Public regarding long delays for planning consultations for the Area with consultations unavailable until October. Cllr. Dunphy also queried when consultations may return to face to face meetings. D. Malone acknowledged the concerns and agreed to follow up with the Senior Planner to address the long wait times. D. Malone also advised that there are no plans currently to change back to face to face meetings. He acknowledged that the public preferred face to face but noted that the online system allowed Planners to have better access to information during the consultation.

Cllr. Doherty advised that upcoming Sunday is Tory Hill day and recommended that people partake in the climbing of the hill at 3pm.

Cllr. Doherty also noted that the Piltown Show would be occurring on 27th August.

Cllr. Doherty took the opportunity to wish good luck to the Senior Hurling Team and Management in the All-Ireland Final.

Cllr. Doherty welcomed the development of a plant for Kilkenny Cheese Ltd in Belview, noting the benefits for job development.

Cllr. Doherty expressed her thanks to the Press and KCLR for their attendance at the meeting.

Cllr. Doherty proposed that next Municipal District Meeting take place on 7th September, agreed by members.

Cllr. Doherty thanked all for attending. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: Fidelis Doherty
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 7/9/22

