

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
5th October, 2022 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, Ferrybank Library**

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

In attendance: D. Malone, A/Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen,
District Engineer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer
Josephine Coyne, County Librarian

Cllr Doherty welcomed all to the meeting and with members agreement, the meeting opened with the presentation from Ms. Josephine Coyne, County Librarian.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Presentation – National Library Strategy & KCC Library Development Plan

Josephine Coyne was in attendance to update the members in relation to the National Library Strategy and its implications for Kilkenny's Library Service and Development Plan. She outlined the focus of the Strategy in developing the public library service over the next 5 years and on bringing further innovation to improve access, use and visibility of the public library. The broad consultation findings were noted, including the important role the library service has to play in the community and its contribution to the vitality of an area.

Ms Coyne went on to advise members on progress with current library developments at Mayfair and Thomastown and she stressed the importance of continued capital investment, which will increase the quality of service, leading to increased library visits, items borrowed and attendance at events. She outlined details of the budget spend on the Kilkenny library service and the need to keep pace with demand. Ms Coyne concluded her presentation by thanking the members for their ongoing support and commitment to the library service.

All the members thanked Ms Coyne for her presentation and noted the high quality service being provided by library staff across the County with the level of resources available.

The following was noted and discussed:-

- J Coyne confirmed that the revenue budget is applied fairly to ensure all services are funded equitably across the library service. It was noted that the overall stock allocation as part of the capital development in the Mayfair– 50% of this allocation can be recouped from the Department.
- The evolution of libraries into community and cultural spaces and the importance of the connection to the local community was noted. J Coyne confirmed that there is engagement with smaller local groups to provide book stock to them and this can be explored further.
- Libraries provide a safe community space to all and are firmly rooted in the community. They bring a vitality and vibrancy to the area and although there are challenges with regard to the budget, the service will continue to be supported.

Cllr Doherty noted that the Ferrybank Library will soon celebrate its 10th year serving the community very well. She thanked Ms Coyne for her presentation and Ms Coyne withdrew from the meeting.

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 7th September, 2022

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

Matters Arising

MASP – Cllr Dunphy asked if a representative of the Regional Assembly could be requested to attend the MD meeting to give an update on this matter. D Malone advised that he would contact David Kelly to make a request to attend the joint meeting with WCCC to update members. He noted that although there is no formal structures in place as yet, there is ongoing coordination and cooperation between both local authorities on a number of projects in the area.

Pre-planning meetings – D Malone advised that remote pre-planning consultation meetings can often be more effective as more information can be accessed online during the meeting, however he confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that face to face meetings can and will be facilitated where required.

N24 at Granny – S Cullen confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that safety concerns regarding the right-turning junction at the former Croke's shop would be taken into account and addressed as part of the assessment of improvements along the N24 from New Aglish to Grannagh under the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme.

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – in response to Cllr Frisby, D Malone confirmed that further communication would be sent to NAMA in an effort to get more information about the owners and future of the centre. – **DM Action**

Primary Health Care Centre – Cllr Doherty asked if it would be possible to arrange for members to visit the new centre – **MA Action**

Speed Limit Review – Cllr Doherty sought an update. SC advised that the drawings are being drafted and the Bye Laws being amended, having taken the proposed changes and submissions into consideration.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(b) Update Monthly Roadworks

S. Cullen circulated report and outlined works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including pavement works, discretionary maintenance. Updates with regard to the N24 Tower Road, N24 Carrick Road and Belmont Link Road were also noted.

The following items were also raised and discussed:-

Mill Road Footpath – Cllr Aylward asked what options had been submitted to NTA, noting that provision of a footbridge would be the most favoured option. S Cullen confirmed that the report has looked at a number of options including an option of a footbridge over the River Blackwater. KCC are working with the NTA so the best decision can be made and works are ongoing.

R704 level crossing – Cllr Aylward noted the very poor condition of the road at the level crossing on the R704 at Mullinavat and asked if contact could be made with CIE to address this matter urgently. S Cullen noted that CIE are carrying out a number of improvements in the area and agreed to bring this matter to their attention.

Draft Ferrybank Mobility Management Plan – in response to Cllr Frisby, S Cullen advised that the WMATS and review of the Ferrybank-Belview LAP must be completed before the Ferrybank Mobility Management Plan could be finalised and works in relation to the Belmont and Abbey Road improvements will commence thereafter.

(c) Update South East Greenway

D. Malone circulated report to members and outlined the following:-

- **Detailed Design:** landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 1 – 7 continue to progress and a number of agreements have been signed over the summer months.
- It was decided to split Lot 5 into two sections of equal length comprising Lot 5a (Ferrybank to Luffany) and Lot 5b (Luffany to Aylwardstown South). Transport Infrastructure Ireland have now completed their final review of the tender documentation for Lot 5a and the works tender will be advertised within the next week. The review of the design to rock cutting faces for Lot 5b in accordance with TII specifications is ongoing
- **Construction:** of Lots 1 – 3 are substantially completed. The ramp access to the Greenway from the Abbey Road, Ferrybank is complete.
- The Greenway Project Office are exploring the possibility of opening sections of the Greenway as they are completed.
- **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. The Ferrybank Car Park will be accessed from the Link Road and will form part of the overall project. The tender to procure consultancy services to develop the design and documentation for this scheme has been advertised by the Road Design Office.
- **Railway Abandonment:** Kilkenny Co. Council, Road Design Office, has 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 Kilkenny Co. Council with Kilkenny LEADER Partnership and Trail Kilkenny, engaged the services of Punch Consulting Engineers to prepare a Feasibility Study & Route Selection Report to develop a Link between the South East Greenway and Woodstock Estate, Inistioge. Works have been progressing over the summer months and it is anticipated that the draft Feasibility Study will be ready in the coming weeks.
- **Business Development Officer (BDO):** Alan Fitzhenry, has recently vacated the position of SEG Business Development Officer and has been replaced by Jill Kelleher, contact details for Jill are provided hereunder: Email: Jill.Kelleher@wexfordcoco.ie Mobile: 0873737951
- **Project Website:** www.southeastgreenway.net.
- **Resident Engineer:** Eoin Atkinson is the Resident Engineer on site 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.

Cllr Doherty welcomed the possibility of opening some sections of the Greenway as they are completed and repeated the advice that it is not appropriate to access the Greenway until such time as it is officially opened and safe to do so.

D Malone agreed to follow up progress and timelines in relation to the links to Slieverue and Glenmore for the next meeting.- **DM Action**

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

None

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

None

5. Notice of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. AOB:

Cllr Dunphy

N25/N24 – Cllr Dunphy noted the N25 being recently reported as the ‘most dangerous’ road in the Country, followed closely by the N24, given the numerous fatal accidents that have occurred on both roads and he proposed that KCC again write to TII and the Minister for Transport asking that immediate action be taken to speed up progress with regard to the upgrading of these roads, as progress to date has been far too slow with too many lives being lost in the meantime. Cllr Frisby seconded the proposal and this was agreed.

Lights at Piltown – S Cullen confirmed that the contractors have been asked to investigate the issue.

Belfield Estate – it was noted that some manhole covers had been removed at Belfield and dumped following anti-social behaviour, S Cullen confirmed that water services are working to replace same.

Cllr Doherty

Joint meeting with WCCC – M Arthurs confirmed 23rd November has been agreed and will revert with time and details in due course.

Luffany & Slieverue Roundabout – S Cullen confirmed that the Luffany Roundabout is part of the PPP scheme and will liaise with the PPP Company regarding improvements and maintenance and funding will be sought for improvements to the Slieverue Roundabout.

Abbey Gate, Abbey Road – S Cullen noted that a taking in charge application has been received for this estate, he agreed to follow up with regard to a timeframe for taking in charge for the next meeting.

(a) Draft LECP High Level Goals and Objectives

D Malone advised members that KCC have begun the process of preparing the new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028, which will build on and replace the LECP 2016-2021. The new LECP will set out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development in the County. Membership of the Advisory Steering Group was noted, who will oversee the process and monitoring of the LECP. It was noted that Consultants were appointed to prepare the Draft Socio-Economic Statement and draft high level goals. The public consultation phase has commenced and engagement with economic and community stakeholders was completed in September. The public consultation will continue with a number of events, commencing this evening with an in-person event at Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny City at 7pm. Details of other virtual events were noted. D Malone encouraged members and the public to comment and make submissions on the draft through the dedicated website, www.yourkilkennylecp.ie. Following the consultation process, the draft statement and goals will be reviewed and agreed by the Advisory Group, the SPC and LCDC. It was noted that the final Draft will go before the full Council for approval and will be submitted to the Minister in April 2023.

The members thanked D Malone and discussion followed. Details were noted in the Draft in relation to population growth, inward migration, employment, housing, deprivation and access to internet. Foreign direct investment in the County was also discussed, along with the importance of small business to employment in the County.

Cllr Breathnach asked if a meeting of the full Council could be arranged to fully examine the Draft, Cllr Frisby agreed to raise at the next meeting of the SPC.

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

Signed: Fidelis Doherty
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 2/11/22