

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
1st March, 2023 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, Ferrybank Library***

Present: Cllr F. Doherty, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs P. Dunphy, T. Breathnach, G. Frisby and E. Aylward
In attendance: M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, Area Engineer, M. Phelan, SEO, Human Resources and O. Bannon, Staff Officer
Apologies: D. Malone, A/Director of Services

At the outset, Cllr Doherty took the opportunity to congratulate Shamrock Grove, Kilmacow and St. Patrick's Close, Mullinavat on their success in the tidy estates competition.

Cllr Doherty noted the sod turning event which took place to mark the commencement of N24 Tower Road Junction Improvement Scheme on the 9th February.

It was noted that Supt. Anthony Farrell would be transferring to the Carlow District. Cllr Doherty thanked him on behalf of the Piltown MD members for his help and support and wished him well in his new role.

Cllr Doherty also noted that the Ferrybank Library was now open until 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings, providing greater access to the public.

Welcome & Introduction

M. Arthurs advised members that Ms. Marie Phelan, SEE, Human Resources Department, would be taking over the role of Meetings Administrator for the Piltown MD, introductions followed. M. Arthurs expressed his gratitude and appreciation to members for their help and assistance during his time as Meetings Administrator. Cllr Doherty welcomed Ms. Phelan on behalf of the members, M. Phelan thanked Cllr Doherty and said she looked forward to working with the members.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 1st February, 2023** – proposed by Cllr Frisby, seconded by Cllr Dunphy and agreed.

Matters Arising

Plaque, N24 Tower Road Scheme – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that proposals for the erection of a memorial plaque by KCC to honour those who lost their lives is under consideration and will be finalised towards the end of the project.

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – in response to Cllr Frisby, M. Arthurs advised that ownership of the Shopping Centre has been established as Better Value Unlimited and confirmed that direct contact will be made with them to seek clarification on matters such as security, maintenance etc. **Action DM**

Hedgecutting – Cllr Doherty noted the end of the season for hedgecutting and expressed her disappointment at the severe and harmful manner in which some hedgerows have been cut.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

- (a) **Update N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme**

A report from Thomas Brennan, Project Liaison Officer (PLO), was circulated to the meeting. S. Cullen outlined the details as follows:-

- The Project is currently at Phase 2, Options Selection. A systematic assessment of the potential solutions identified is currently being undertaken through a three-stage process in line with the TII Project Appraisal Guidelines with a view to selecting a Preferred Transport Solution for the project.

The Stage 1 preliminary assessment of the Alternatives and Options is complete. The project team is currently undertaking the Stage 2 assessment using a multi-criteria analysis in line with the Department of Transport, Common Appraisal Framework.

- The PLO is continuing to work with landowners to agree access to facilitate the completion of the preliminary ground investigation works. Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils appreciate the cooperation being shown by landowners in allowing access to their lands for these works.

Although investigation works commenced in November 2022, the works were suspended in December due to saturated ground conditions as a result of consistently poor weather. The works will recommence towards the end of February 2023 and will be completed in April 2023. The findings of these investigations will inform elements of the Stage 2 assessment detailed earlier.

- The next step in the Options Selection process is to complete the multi-criteria analysis for the Stage 2 assessment. Stage 3 of the assessment process will then determine the best performing Alternative or Option or combination of Alternatives(s) and/or Options to be taken forward as the Preferred Transport Solution.
- The Preferred Transport Solution was scheduled to be put on public display at the end of Q2 of 2023, however this is now scheduled to take place in Q4 of 2023.
- The project team and PLO continue to be available to answer any questions from the public and can be contacted via the Contact Us page of the project website at <http://n24waterford2cahir.ie/contact-us> or alternatively the PLO may be contacted directly.

In response to Cllr Dunphy, S. Cullen confirmed that any questions that the public have can be addressed during the public consultation process and submissions made will be taken into account, allowing scope for adjustments to be made before going through the statutory processes.

Cllr Dunphy asked if arrangements could be made for Thomas Brennan, PLO, to attend the next Piltown MD meeting. **Action SC**

S. Cullen advised Cllr Breathnach regarding elements taken into account in selecting the preferred corridor, stating that a number of aspects would be considered, including feedback from public consultation, TII criteria, ground investigations, environmental habitats and archaeological investigations. He also advised that the project is unlikely to be a full offline dual carriageway, this was noted.

(b) Monthly Roadworks Update

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

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Belmont Link Road – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Doherty that the Design Consultants have just been appointed and that members of the public will be able to make submissions when the public consultation process commences.

Mill Road Footpath – Cllr Aylward expressed his frustration at the continuing delays in progressing this scheme, which has been on the agenda for a long number of years and he asked what the reasons were for such delays. S. Cullen acknowledged that it has been a long process. He advised that feedback from the NTA significantly changes the preferred options put forward in the initial report and that the constraints of the scheme make it more complex. It was noted the preferred option was to provide a dedicated pedestrian bridge beside the existing bridge, however the NTA do not feel this is good value for money. He confirmed that work is ongoing to try balance the needs of the scheme with the views of the NTA. S. Cullen also advised that it is unclear whether sufficient funding can be secured under Active Travel measures, that other sources of funding may need to be looked at to deliver the scheme and uncertainty remains around when and how the scheme can be delivered. However, he assured members that this scheme is a priority and work is continuing to make the case to the NTA that the scheme is viable and cost effective. All the members were in support of Cllr Aylward, noting this is a very busy road and an important link for lots of activities within the community and improving safety needs to be prioritised.

(c) Roadworks Programme 2023

S. Cullen presented the Roadworks Programme 2023 to members, noting that similar allocations to 2022 have been received in the current year. Members thanked S. Cullen and staff involved in producing the programme and thanked staff for their work throughout the year.

The Roadworks Programme 2023 for the Piltown MD was proposed by Cllr Doherty and agreed by all members.

Cllr Doherty asked that the scheme at Sommers Cross to Tullogher Village, be brought forward and completed as soon as possible due to its very poor condition.

S. Cullen confirmed that rates used to compile the programme have been adjusted to take account of inflation and rising costs of fuel and materials. He also advised that suppliers may increase prices during the year and re-tendering may be required.

(d) South East Greenway Update

M. Arthurs advised members as follows:-

- SEG – Lot 5a
 - A meeting was held with TII/WCC/MWP last Tuesday and it was advised the tender would be advertised this week or next.
- Kilkenny and Wexford County Councils are continuing to engage with IFA and landowners in relation to the project.
- Re: Lot 3 mini tender works to facilitate Q2 opening.
 - Works on the public lighting ducting tender have commenced.
 - Tender for temporary carpark is with TII for approval.
 - Snagging by GLAS on Lot 1 & 3 commenced.
- Links to Slieverue and Glenmore
 - Meeting scheduled for this Thursday with Roadplan to review.

Cllr Frisby requested that a report be provided to members following the scheduled meeting with Roadplan regarding the links to Slieverue and Glenmore, this was agreed. **Action MA/MP**

S. Cullen clarified for Cllr Dunphy that there are a number of Regional Design Offices engaged solely on design of national roads for TII, which are staffed by Local Authorities and who engage with TII in relation to design and funding to carry out improvements on national roads.

(e) North Quays SDZ Update

M. Arthurs confirmed that an event will take place on 6th March to mark the opening of the North Quays regeneration project, to which the members have received an invitation. He noted the two URDF funded projects within KCC jurisdiction, status as follow:-

- Belmont Link Road – Design Consultants O'Connor Sutton Cronin have been appointed, to commence 6th March
- N29 Roundabout – tender documents being prepared for appointment of consultants later this year

With regard to the commencement of the works on the North Quays SDZ, M. Arthurs commented on the expected level of disruption and confirmed that works will commence on the Dock Road and Fountain Street in April and that there will be a single point of contact nominated by BAM for queries in relation to traffic management and for ongoing consultation with the general public.

Cllr Dunphy noted VMS signage in place to advise of upcoming works on Rice Bridge, due to commence on 6th March.

Discussion followed, with members noting the impact upcoming works will have on the residents of Ferrybank and the wider South Kilkenny area and it was agreed to seek updates and information from WCCC as to what works are taking place, timeframes etc. It was further agreed to include this matter on the agenda for the forthcoming joint meeting with Waterford Metropolitan District.

M. Arthurs advised members that the joint meeting with Waterford Metropolitan District had been agreed for Wednesday 22nd March. Following request from Cllr Dunphy, it was agreed to revert to Waterford with alternative dates for the joint meeting, the morning of 27th 28th or 29th March. **Action MA/MP**

Cllr Doherty also asked that an item be included on the joint meeting agenda to discuss parking issues at St. Mary's Boys NS Ferrybank, to try work towards a solution. **Action MA/MP**

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

M. Arthurs advised members that D. Malone has made contact with the HSE seeking information regarding services provided at the Primary Care Centre and the possibility of scheduling a site visit for members. D. Malone to revert to members in due course. **Action DM**

7. AOB:

Cllr Dunphy referred to the numerous water leaks occurring in the Mooncoin area, leaving residents without water for extended periods on a very regular basis. He stated that this was not acceptable, the only solution being to put a programme in place to replace pipes in the area in order to solve this ongoing problem. All the members were in support of Cllr Dunphy, noting similar issues in the past in the Slieverue and Dournane areas, which have been resolved following upgrades to infrastructure in these areas.

Cllr Dunphy proposed that a representative from Irish Water be requested to attend a meeting of the Piltown MD to discuss and try to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Frisby and agreed. **Action MA/MP**

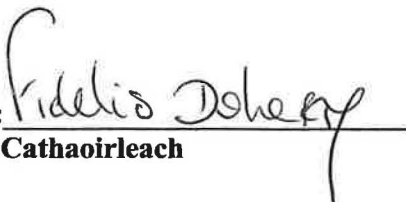
Cllr Doherty referred to lack of progress in delivering the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme and in particular the dangers posed to traffic at the junction at Murphy Motors for Aylwardstown and Scartnamoe, where there is no deceleration lane. The members were in support of Cllr Doherty on this matter and hoped that some additional safety measures would be taken on this road in the absence of funding to progress the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th April at 10.00am.

The members took the opportunity to thank Michael Arthurs for all his help, commitment and diligence during his time as Meetings Administrator for the Piltown District and they wished him well in his new role. They welcomed Marie Phelan into her role as Meetings Administrator and looked forward to working with her.

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

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 5th April '23