

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
1st November, 2023 at 10:00am at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room.**

- Present:** Cllr G. Frisby, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs P. Dunphy, F. Doherty, T. Breathnach and E. Aylward
- In attendance:** Supt. S. O'Meara, Waterford Garda Station, D. Malone, Senior Planner, F. Stafford, Acting Senior Engineer, E. O'Meara, Assistant Planner, S. Cullen, Area Engineer, M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator and N. Morris, Clerical Officer
- Apologies:** S. McKeown, Director of Services

At the outset, Cllr Frisby took the opportunity to extend condolences on his own behalf and on behalf of the Piltown MD Members to the family of the young man who died in the recent fatality on the Port Road the previous weekend. Cllr Frisby welcomed Superintendent Sean O'Meara to the meeting and expressed thanks for his attendance. Cllr Frisby also expressed his thanks to Denis Malone for attending meeting on behalf of Sean McKeown.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 4th October, 2023** – proposed by Cllr Dunphy, seconded by Cllr Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

Tower Road, Mooncoin – in response to Cllr Dunphy's request for an update on the memorial for those killed on the N24, S. Cullen advised he will correspond with the Road Design office and will request an update on the progression of the proposals.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

(a) Community Policing

Cllr Frisby once again welcomed Supt. O'Meara and invited him to present his report on community policing.

Supt. O'Meara thanked members for their feedback prior to the meeting and outlined statistics regarding community policing, such as number of patrols, checkpoints, and arrests for 2023. He advised that the statistics were trending in a positive direction in most categories except for shoplifting cases. He addressed the ongoing anti-social behaviour in Bellfield, Fiodh Mor and Clover Meadows estates and advised that there would be increased patrols in these areas going forward.

Supt. O'Meara also noted that a programme is to be commenced for providing lessons to schools regarding road safety which will be delivered by Sergeant Barron.

Supt. O'Meara also addressed the fatality on the Port Road and noted that a SAO will be appointed to investigate the incident. He expressed his sympathies to the family of the young man.

Discussion followed with contributions from all members.

Supt. O'Meara clarified to Cllr Frisby that the 2,500 patrols in the Ferrybank area is the total for 2023, as of meeting date.

Supt. O'Meara noted Cllr Frisby's concerns regarding the anti-social behaviour in Clover Meadows and advised that an evaluation of the policing model will be commencing in Q2 of 2024. He noted for the amalgamation of the South Kilkenny area to into one policing area which will increase the co-operation between Ferrybank and Mooncoin Garda Stations. He highlighted that this change will result in increased Garda patrols for the areas. Supt. O'Meara clarified to Cllr Aylward that there would be no change to traffic core or garda resources as a result of the proposed changes and that resources will be available to provide support from Waterford area.

Cllr Frisby highlighted the presence of E-Scooters in Aylesbury Park and noted the danger posed by them and stressed that this issue needed attention.

Cllr Dunphy highlighted the lack of ground presence by Gardaí in rural areas and requested an increase in presence which was noted by Supt. O'Meara. Cllr Dunphy also requested improvements for rural road checks. Supt. O'Meara advised that current speed camera locations are set using data to identify locations of previous accidents. He also noted that speed cameras will be moved to rural areas should the number of accidents increase at certain locations. Supt. O'Meara encouraged members to email any dangerous locations to him.

Cllr Dunphy noted that Garda alert signage in the area provides the contact number for Thomastown Garda Station and questioned if changes will be required when the new policing model is implemented. Supt. O'Meara clarified that there should be no issues as the Garda Safe system will ensure that the closest available unit will be deployed whenever an alert is raised.

Supt. O'Meara clarified to Cllr Dunphy of his intention to continue facilitating community engagement meetings.

Cllr Breathnach acknowledged the contribution of Supt. O'Meara and congratulated him on his new position. Cllr Breathnach questioned if there were plans to replace retired Garda members Ted Hughes and Peter McConnell. Supt. O'Meara informed Cllr Breathnach that Garda Deirdre O'Neill is providing interim cover for Garda Peter McConnell's position and works are ongoing to fill Garda Ted Hughes position.

Cllr Frisby welcomed the new model and stressed the need and benefits of keeping in place the community engagement meetings.

Cllr Aylward highlighted the increased prevalence of speeding and road deaths and enquired about Garda road unit numbers. Supt. O'Meara re-iterated the school programme being released to teach school children about road safety. He noted the recent fatality as the only serious collision in Ferrybank to date in 2023 but advised Cllr Aylward that there was currently no capacity to increase the traffic core units, which will remain at the current number.

Cllr Doherty raised the issue of speeding in Knocktopher and stressed the importance for pedestrians to wear high vis jackets and use torch's at night.

Cllr Frisby noted that Garda presence was common on the Grannagh to Slieverue link road and requested increased presence at the top of Glenmore Hill, near the Rue Glenn, citing high speeds of traffic.

(b) Greenways Update

Cllr Frisby welcomed Frank Stafford to the meeting. F. Stafford circulated a report and provided following update to members:

- Lot 5a (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) will be next to advance to construction. The tender process to award a construction contract for this Lot is complete, Glas Civil Engineering Ltd., have been awarded the Works Contract, with an anticipated commencement on site in November 2023.
- A tender process to appoint technical consultants, for contract supervision, administration and handover, of Lot 5a is also complete. Roughan & O'Donovan have been appointed Technical Consultants for this Lot.
- Wexford County Council, as lead authority, are continuing to prepare a Technical Services Tender for a multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy team to complete all remaining phases of the Greenway. Subject to Transport Infrastructure Ireland, hereafter, TII, approval of this tender will issue in November.
- In October, Gillian Power was appointed Project Manager for the scheme, taking over from Fintan Ryan. F. Stafford acknowledged the work of Fintan Ryan and expressed his thanks to Fintan. Eoin Atkinson is the Resident Engineer on site and he can be contacted at 087 1884342.

Interpretation, Wayfinding & Orientation Plan

- Fáilte Ireland have engaged The Paul Hogarth Company (TPHC) to conduct an Interpretation, Wayfinding and Orientation Plan for the Greenway. The Plan can then be used to apply for funding for the implementation of same. The following progress has been made on the Plan:
 - inception meeting took place involving all 3 local authorities and TII last July.
 - a site visit was undertaken by TPHC in August.

The members were advised that a public consultation event on the findings will take place on 22nd November at the Rhu Glenn Hotel, from 11am to 2pm and 15:30pm – 19:00pm at the Brandon House Hotel.

Related Schemes

Greenway Link to Glenmore: The Part 8 planning consultation period has now concluded. In total, 15no. submissions were received, and staff are currently reviewing same. It is anticipated that a Chief Executive's report will be presented to Council at the November Meeting.

Greenway Link to Slieverue: The Feasibility and Route Selection Report is now completed. Consultation is ongoing with the TII Structures Section and it is likely that further additional design works with respect to the proposed N29 over bridge will be required prior to commencing the planning process.

Woodstock (Inistioge) to South East Greenway Link: In 2022, Kilkenny County Council, in partnership with Trail Kilkenny, commissioned Punch Consulting Engineers, to prepare a preliminary Feasibility Study and Route Selection Report for a recreational connectivity link between Woodstock Estate and the South East Greenway. In conjunction with the preparation of this study the Council commenced discussions with TII. The net result of these discussions was that the TII agreed the project had merit and subsequently allocated funding to progress the scheme in line with TII's Project Manager's Manual for Greenway Projects. In July, utilising TII's Technical Services Framework Agreement, tenders were sought for a multi-disciplinary engineering team. In total three tenders were received, the tender assessment process is now nearing completion and it is anticipated that a tender recommendation report will be issued to TII for approval in November.

The scope of the services requirements includes Phases 0-4 of the (TII) Project Managers Manual (PMM) for Greenway Projects and TII's Project Management Guidelines. The estimated duration to complete this element of the project is 49 months and additional details on the various Phases is provided hereunder:

- Phase 0 Strategic Assessment
- Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility
- Phase 2 Option Selection
- Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation
- Phase 4 Statutory Processes

The following items were raised and discussed: -

Completion date – F. Stafford advised Cllr Dunphy that the full 24km greenway is expected to be complete by 2026.

Public Lighting – F. Stafford informed Cllr Doherty that public lighting will be addressed in the 5a section in the next 12 months.

Heritage – F. Stafford addressed Cllr Breathnach's point about the importance of the heritage in the area and noted the importance of local knowledge, advising members that the forthcoming public consultation with TPHC and Fáilte Ireland was a good opportunity to engage in the scheme animation process.

Slieverue and Woodstock Link – F. Stafford advised Cllr Breathnach that good progress had been made regarding the Woodstock link and that the Slieverue link will need to pass the planning process stage before works can commence.

(c) Monthly Roadworks Update

S. Cullen circulated a report outlining works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting under pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works. Updates on major schemes, N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Tower Road Improvements, N24 Carrick Road and Belmont Link Road were also noted.

It was noted that some drainage works were delayed due to weather and have yet to commence.

The following items were also raised and discussed: -

Ramps, Glenmore Hill – S. Cullen advised Cllr Doherty that a speed survey will be conducted at Glenmore Hill and the results of the survey will determine if ramps are required.

Signage – S. Cullen advised Cllr Doherty and other Councilors to report any dirty signage to the Area office.

N24 Tower Road – S. Cullen advised Cllr Breathnach that the road would reopen to traffic following substantial completion of the road works and could possibly be opened before the next MD. Cllr Dunphy expressed his thanks to the Contractors for the speed of the works.

Drainage and Flood Maintenance – In regards to allocating extra funding to drainage and flood preventative works, S. Cullen informed Cllr Aylward that a funding stream for climate adaptation and resilience can be used. S. Cullen noted that these works are reactive due to the difficulty in predicting the weather and encouraged members of the public to clear gullies, where possible. This was backed by Cllr. Breathnach. S. Cullen welcomed the funding and informed Cllr Frisby that the climate action resources amounted to €80,000 in funding. Cllr Frisby noted the significant flooding to homes in Ballyvalla and expressed the need for proactive works and the need for funding for homeowner issues. Cllr Breathnach proposed a meeting to form a contingency plan to identify the area's most at risk of flooding. S. Cullen noted that the area office has already identified the most at-risk areas to prioritize but agreed there was merit for a meeting. Cllr Frisby recommended issuing correspondence to Tidy Towns to encourage them to clear gullies and ease the pressure of leaves, where safe and possible to do so. Cllrs Aylward, Dunphy and Doherty highlighted the public fear of litigation or liability if they attempt to clear the gullies themselves.

N24 Waterford to Cahir - Cllr Dunphy questioned what opportunity would members of the public have to engage with the consultation for the route. S. Cullen advised that a formal consultation will form part of the Planning process. A public display will inform the public and they will be provided with the option to submit comments. Cllr Breathnach stressed the need for focus and priority on the villages and towns between Waterford and Cahir for the N24 scheme.

(d) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

D. Malone confirmed that he wrote to Dunnes Stores again seeking an update but no response was received. D. Malone advised the members that the opening of the building is a commercial decision for Dunnes Stores. D. Malone confirmed to Cllr Frisby that efforts will continue to seek an update regarding future plans for the building. D. Malone advised Cllr. Dunphy that he will seek confirmation that Kilkenny County Council is in ownership of the Area office and Library space.

(e) Abbeylands estate / car parking / sports facilities

S. Cullen advised that meetings were held with Waterford City and County Council to discuss the status of Abbeylands Estate. The roads in the estate have not been taken in charge by Kilkenny County Council and remain under the authority of Waterford City and County Council. Waterford City and County Council are reviewing planning permissions in regards to provisions for improving footpaths. S. Cullen noted to Cllr Breathnach that Waterford City and County Council will determine if the entire road or just the access road in Abbeylands estate will be taken in charge by Kilkenny.

S. Cullen noted the difficulties for sports clubs to access the Dunnes Stores car park. S. Cullen advised Cllr Frisby that it is intended to provide the clubs with contact details for Dunnes Stores and to encourage the clubs to contact Dunnes Stores directly.

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 sought approval to open the Mooncoin Rose Walk on 24th November. D. Malone advised that he will confirm same for Cllr Dunphy.

In relation to the recent flooding on the Abbey Road, S. Cullen advised that he will be proposing a Section 85 agreement with Waterford City and County Council to allow Kilkenny County Council to perform works on the Waterford section of the channel. S. Cullen advised Cllr Breathnach that the Section 85 would come to the members for agreement.

Cllr Doherty expressed her thanks to the outdoor staff for their works during the flooding.

Cllr Doherty re-raised the issue from the previous MD meeting regarding anti-social behaviour at the public right-of-way access over the bridge in Belfield and questioned if there was more the Council could do to alleviate the issue. S. Cullen advised that the draft Mobility Management Plan for Ferrybank would propose using the bridge as a cycle path. It is expected that this plan would address the anti-social behaviour as there would be increased use of the bridge and more public lighting on the bridge.

Cllr Doherty questioned when the Local Area plan for Belview would be reviewed. D. Malone advised that tenders have been sought for consultants to carry out the plan and the intention is to appoint a consultant before Christmas.

Cllr Breathnach discussed the Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and noted that a lot of strategies impacted Ferrybank. He stressed the importance of the public being kept informed of works on all strategies. D. Malone agreed and noted the benefits of the North Quays Project for the Ferrybank Area.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th December at 10:00am.

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

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 6/12/23

