

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
6th September, 2023 at 10:00am at Port of Waterford, Marine Point Building, Belview Port.***

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

In attendance: D. Malone, A/Director of Services, S. Cullen, Area Engineer, M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator, Aoidín Curran, Roadplan Consultants and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr P. Dunphy

Welcome

Cllr Frisby welcomed all to the meeting and took the opportunity to thank David Sinnott, CEO of Port of Waterford and his team for hosting the MD Meeting today. He noted future developments planned for the Port, its huge importance to the local economy and he looked forward to the presentation and tour of the Port facilities, which has been arranged for members after the meeting.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 5th July, 2023** – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Aylward and agreed.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

- (a) ***Piltown Fiddown Mobility Management Plan***

Cllr Frisby welcomed Aoidín Curran, Roadplan Consultants, who was in attendance to make a presentation to members on the Piltown-Fiddown Mobility Management Plan (MMP).

Ms. Curran stated that the overall objective of the MMP is to improve connectivity and support a better balance between vehicular traffic and more sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport. She outlined the characteristics of the study area, noting the many different functions served by the existing transport network and the importance of balancing the mobility needs of both Piltown and Fiddown – these needs were assessed under different categories including footways & cycleways, bus routes & stops, schools, traffic management/calming and parking. A number of policies and plans, national and local, were reviewed and considered in the preparation of the MMP and these were noted. Proposed developments within the villages were also looked at in terms of how they would be affected by the proposed initiatives.

It was noted that a total of 49 individual projects/initiatives were identified and subsequently recommended for implementation during the lifetime of the MMP. The implementation and phasing of proposed measures was looked at, which is divided across three phases for delivery based on priority and feasibility. The proposed projects/initiatives were looked at in detail and it was noted that the delivery of these measures will be subject to consultation and availability of funding to KCC. The timeline for public consultation and adoption of the MMP was noted, it is expected that the MMP will be finalised and agreed at the December meeting of the Council.

The members thanked Ms. Curran for her presentation and complimented Roadplan Consultants for the huge volume of work undertaken in the preparation of the MMP. The members posed a number of questions on the measures outlined, to which Ms. Curran and S. Cullen responded. It was agreed that a copy of the presentation will be circulated to members.

- (b) ***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 two rounds of additional funding were made available to the Piltown MD, which allowed 2 schemes to be brought forward from 2024 Programme, R704 Ballymartin-Ballynooney and R698 Owning.

NTA comment in relation to funding of Mill Road Footpath was noted, funding will be sought to bring the scheme through planning and funding from other sources will be looked at to progress the scheme.

It was noted that the Fiddown Village Improvement Scheme 2023 is currently on public display, with the deadline for submissions being 4pm on 20th September, it is intended to bring the Scheme before the Plenary meeting in October.

The following items were also raised and discussed:-

Belmont Link Road – it is proposed to submit planning application to An Bord Pleanála in January 2024, then await decision to proceed to the next stage.

Mill Road Footpath – timeline for delivery will depend on screening assessment to determine if planning will proceed under Part 8 or Part 10 to An Bord Pleanála. Application for funding will be informed by the required planning process.

Speed Limit Review – S. Cullen advised that it is intended to meet with Municipal Districts shortly, with presentation expected at the October Piltown MD meeting, to be confirmed.

TII Meeting – S. Cullen agreed to follow up on proposed arrangements and revert to members at the next meeting.

(c) South East Greenway Update

D. Malone provided update to members as follows:-

- The opening of Phase 1 (New Ross to Glenmore) of the South East Greenway took place on 25th July. This first phase of the project was officially opened by Minister Jack Chambers T.D. in the presence of Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council & Cllr John Fleming, Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council. Since opening and despite the poor weather, crowds have been enjoying this wonderful new amenity which takes in views of the Pink Rock area and the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge.
- The Lot 5A, Ferrybank to Curraghmore, will be next to advance to construction stage. The tender assessment for this 5km's of greenway is now completed and will be submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for approval shortly. It is anticipated that this works contract will be awarded later this year.
- In tandem with the above, a mini competition using the TII framework was held to procure technical consultancy services to undertake the administration of the Lot 5 construction contract. This tender process is also now complete and TII approval will be sought for appointment.
- It is noted Wexford County Council (WCC), as lead authority under the Section 85 Agreement in place, appointed Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) as overall project consultants for the Southeast Greenway in January 2019. Their appointment was procured via a Multi-Party Framework, originally advertised in the OJEU and subject to the provisions of the EU Procurement Directive. At that time, The Department of Transport (DoT) was the funding authority. During the time since MWP's appointment, the scope of required services changed considerably. In addition, Transport Infrastructure Ireland replaced the DoT as Funding Authority in late 2021. This has resulted in the requirement to comply with the new and evolving TII project management guidelines and procedures for greenways. The Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways introduced in December 2021 has also resulted in a change of scope.

Consequently, the cost of the required project services has increased due to these scope changes and the projected outturn cost of MWP's engagement exceeds what is permissible in relation to Modifications to Contracts during their Term under the Procurement Directive and its transposing national legislation, S.I. No. 284 of 2016 European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016. It has therefore been agreed between the parties to conclude MWP's current engagement and proceed to procure replacement technical advisors for the completion of the Southeast Greenway project.

It is therefore intended that WCC will now seek to appoint a multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy to undertake the necessary services required for the remainder of the South East Greenway. The successful tenderer will be appointed, subject to TII approval, to complete all phases from their current status to completion.

- We are currently exploring the option of including the preliminary design and planning for the Ferrybank Trailhead car park within the scope of the North – South Link Road brief. It is expected the latter will be advertised under Part 10 in Q1 2024.
- The planning consultation process, under Part 8, for the South East Greenway Link to Glenmore, commenced in early August. Plans and particulars of the proposed development were available for inspection from Wednesday the 2nd of August, 2023 to Tuesday the 5th of September 2023

inclusive, and on the consult website: <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/> and at the Planning Department, County Hall, Ferrybank Library, and Ferrybank Area Office. An open information day will also be held in Glenmore Community Hall on Wednesday 13th September from 2pm to 5pm and submissions on the scheme will be accepted up to Tuesday the 19th September, 2023.

D Malone responded to queries from members in relation to progress on link to Slieverue, parking availability and signage for the newly opened section and tenders for the appointment of a new Engineering Consultant to complete the project.

(d) North Quays SDZ Update

D. Malone provided the following update to members:-

- The North Quay infrastructural works have continued to make good progress over the summer months. The first phase of works on Dock Road progressed well over the summer while schools were on holidays. This current phase of traffic management will remain in place during September. The next two phases of roadworks, also located along Dock Road (east and west of the current works) will progress from October to December 2023, with similar traffic management measures proposed.
- The main contractor BAM is now progressing works in the river, at the Transport Hub site and along with the Dock Road and Abbey Road.
- The first of four cofferdams is currently being constructed in the River Suir. For the Sustainable Transport Bridge. BAM's 'Skerchi' construction barge has commenced works in the river since July.
- Piling for the train stations southern platform is also ongoing and sheet piling for flood defence for the platforms have been installed. Section of new track has also been laid.
- Traffic management measures are in place along Dock Road to install sewer and surface water network services. A design consultant for the Flood Defence contract is due to be appointed shortly.
- David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing on programme for both the Pump Station Enabling Works and the Ferrybank Pump Station relocation contract.

D. Malone advised that monthly meetings are being held, which S. Cullen attends, to discuss ongoing works, traffic management measures etc and he took the opportunity to thank WCCC for ensuring the regular circulation of information through Newsletter and website.

D. Malone responded to queries relating to traffic management and disruption, timeframe for completion of works on the new train station and transport bridge and parking.

It was noted that a planning application for the residential and retail elements of the project is expected to be lodged towards the end of the year.

D. Malone informed members that the Planning Department is currently in the process of engaging Consultants to commence review of the Ferrybank-Belview LAP, which will take on board all the developments currently underway in the area.

(e) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

D. Malone advised that he has again written to the Property Manager, Dunnes Stores to enquire about the use and possible opening date for the shopping centre, but no response has been received to-date. He agreed to keep communicating with Dunnes in an effort to seek this information.

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

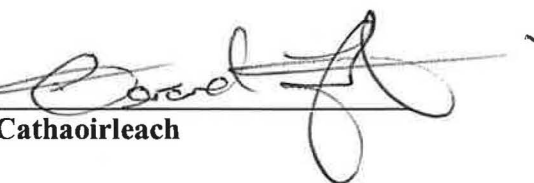
M. Phelan advised members that, following another invitation to Uisce Eireann to attend a Piltown MD meeting, correspondence has been received from them to advise that there is a workshop for KCC elected members on 20th September from 3-5pm in Co Hall to outline how they will be interacting with local authority members going forward. Copy of this correspondence to be forwarded to members.

7. AOB:

(a) Glenmore Bus Stop N25

Cllr Doherty raised this item noting the previous process to install a weighbridge and bus stop on the N25 at Glenmore, which was subsequently not approved for use. She asked that the infrastructure there be removed if it is not going to be brought into use. S. Cullen advised the meeting on the history of the provision of a weighbridge and bus stop at this location, stating that the design of the bus stop was not submitted to TII for approval, as required, in advance of its construction and as the current arrangement does not meet TII design standards, this bus stop will not be approved and so must remain closed. The only solution in terms of the bus stop is its relocation and if the N25 Scheme proceeds, it is envisaged as a dual carriageway, therefore a bus stop at that location is not an option. The proposal to relocate the bus stop in the vicinity of the Glenmore roundabout on the N25 is currently being developed, which would ensure safety and link in well with the Greenway link to Glenmore. A feasibility report will be prepared and submitted to TII to support a funding application to appoint a consultant to progress planning and design and it is hoped that will proceed by the end of this year. If the bus stop is relocated, the existing weighbridge facility could then be reviewed and approved for Garda use.

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

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 04/10/23