

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
4th October, 2023 at 10:00am at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room.**

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

At the outset, Cllr Frisby took the opportunity to extend condolences on his own behalf and on behalf of the Piltown MD Members on the recent passing of his good friend and colleague Mary Rockett, who had been at the heart of the community, a stalwart for Slieverue GAA Club for many years and who will be a great loss to the community, he extended sympathy to her father Dick and all the Rockett family.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 6th September, 2023** – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

Bus Stop, Glenmore – in response to Cllr Doherty, S. Cullen advised that a feasibility study to determine the best location for the bus stop in the vicinity of the Glenmore roundabout was being undertaken, an update will be provided at the next meeting.

Meeting with TII – S. Cullen advised Cllr Doherty that arrangements are currently being made.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

- (a) **Presentation of Speed Limit Review Piltown MD**

Cllr Frisby welcomed Joe Scully, who was in attendance to make a presentation to members on the Speed Limit Review of Piltown MD.

J. Scully began by confirming that local authorities are obliged to review the speed limits every 5 years, with the last review undertaken by Kilkenny County Council in 2017. He noted that speed limits on national roads are the responsibility of TII, who were consulted as part of this current review. He pointed out that any changes to bye-laws and setting of speed limits must be in accordance with the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland 2015.

He went on to outline the public consultation process undertaken as part of the current review and submissions received, which have been reviewed and proposals are now finalised for consideration by the Municipal Districts. Following consideration of the proposals, Draft Speed Limit Bye-laws and maps will be prepared for adoption at the October Meeting of the Council.

The proposed changes to speed limits within the Piltown MD were outlined to members and these were noted. Discussion followed with contributions from all members.

Cllr Dunphy welcomed the changes, but expressed disappointment that more areas were not included. In relation to submissions, J. Scully confirmed to Cllr Doherty that all submissions were considered in accordance with the Guidelines.

Cllr Doherty asked if the driver feedback signs at Listerlin could be relocated further out of the village. S. Cullen advised that once the new speed limits have been implemented in Listerlin, a speed survey can then be carried out to determine the best location for the feedback signs.

Cllr Breathnach referred to the proposal to reduce the default speed limit on local roads to 60kph and only allow 80kph where the standard of the road was appropriate for that speed, it was noted that as yet there were no guidelines in place as to how this will be implemented.

Cllr Breathnach also raised concern at the increase in road deaths, given the increased awareness of dangers and suggested a nationwide campaign to improve road safety and awareness, to run alongside the introduction of the new speed limits. It was noted that the RSA would be tasked with the running of any such campaign to educate and improve driver behaviour.

Cllr Frisby agreed on the importance of education and a joint effort at national level. He welcomed the proposals as outlined and confirmed that efforts will continue to include additional areas in the next review. J. Scully thanked the members and withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Draft Piltown Fiddown Mobility Management Plan

S. Cullen circulated a short report to members outlining the process to-date in preparing the Piltown Fiddown Mobility Management Plan and providing an update since the September meeting. It was noted that the public consultation period took place for a two week period up to 27th September, with one submission being received during this period. The submission raised a query regarding the location of the bus stops in Fiddown. The response to the submission was read and noted by members and the Plan has been amended to include reference to the submission received and response to same. S. Cullen concluded by recommending that the Piltown Fiddown Mobility Management Plan be approved and adopted by Members.

Cllr Dunphy enquired about the location of the bus stop on Main Street, Piltown outside the Centra shop and whether there were plans to relocate same. S. Cullen advised that any relocation of this stop would have to be done in consultation with the NTA, but that there were currently no plans to relocate this stop.

Cllr Dunphy proposed that the Draft Piltown Fiddown Mobility Management Plan be approved and adopted by the Piltown MD, this was seconded by Cllr Frisby and agreed.

It was noted that the Section 38 Scheme for Fiddown Village would be presented to the members at the October plenary meeting of the Council.

(c) Winter Maintenance – Priority 3 Routes

S. Cullen circulated a map to members showing the Priority 3 routes in the Piltown MD, stating that MD staff provide periodic winter maintenance services on these routes during periods of prolonged and severe weather conditions, with the focus being in the vicinity of schools, hills and more strategic routes not covered under the Priority 1 and 2 routes. S. Cullen pointed out that only the areas outlined on the Winter Maintenance Plan can be assured of being serviced, the Council will endeavour to include some additional areas where possible and within the resources available.

(d) 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 Pil River, Harristown and Ballyverneen bridge works have been deferred, as a result of emergency works being required on the R704 last March, which were significant.

The following items were also raised and discussed:-

N24 Scheme – Cllr Frisby welcomed the joint meeting scheduled with Carrick-on-Suir MD, giving members an opportunity for discussion prior to display of the Preferred Transport Solution. In response to Cllr Dunphy, S. Cullen confirmed that completion of the Peer Review process on the Option Selection Report was imminent. S. McKeown also advised that the Peer Review will include climate proofing objectives, in accordance with recent changes to Government policy.

Tower Road, Memorial – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that once the scheme is completed, it is the intention of the Roads Section to look at proposals, content and location of same.

N24 Carrick Road – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllrs Dunphy and Breathnach that there were 5 objections to the CPO and 5 objections to the 177AE Planning Application and that it is a matter for An Bord Pleanála to decide if an oral hearing would be required, depending on the nature of the objections received.

Ramps, Glenmore Hill – S. Cullen advised Cllr Doherty that a speed survey will be conducted at this location to determine if and where ramps are required.

Surface at Roundabout, Mr Price – S. Cullen advised Cllr Doherty that these issues have been addressed as part of the taking in charge process.

(e) South East Greenway Update

Cllr Frisby took the opportunity to welcome Sean McKeown back to the Piltown MD and commended him on a great job as Acting Chief Executive over the past 15 months. Cllr Frisby also thanked Denis Malone for his help and guidance during his time with the Piltown MD.

S. McKeown circulated report and provided the following update to members:-

- Since the opening of Phase 1 of the South East Greenway, visitor numbers have been impressive despite the poor weather. Circa 9,300 visitors used the Greenway in Rosbercon last August.
- Lot 5a (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) will be the next section to advance to construction. Tender assessment and recommendation report for this section has been approved by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and a Letter of Acceptance will issue to the successful contractor this week.
- A mini-competition to procure technical consultancy services, to include contract administration and supervision of Lot 5a has been approved by TII and is also expected to be awarded this week.
- 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 TII approval this tender will issue in October.

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.
 - next step is to organise a public consultation on the findings in October.

Related Schemes

Greenway Link to Glenmore: The planning consultation process, under Part 8 commenced in early August. Plans and particulars of the proposed development were available for inspection to 5th September last on the consult website: <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/> and at County Hall, Ferrybank Library and the Ferrybank Area Office. A well attended open information day was also held in Glenmore Community Hall on 13th September and submissions were accepted to 19th September. 12 submissions were received and these are now being assessed.

Greenway Link to Slieverue: Further discussions with TII and possible additional design works will be required with respect to the proposed N29 over bridge, prior to commencing the planning process. It was noted that preferred options have been identified, including a loop option. F. Stafford is in consultation with TII and funding options are being explored, with focus on getting planning in place.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Signage – Cllr Doherty sought update regarding lack of signage, S. Cullen confirmed signage for Ballyverneen Car Park is now in place.

Public Lighting – in relation to provision of public lighting at Rosbercon, S. McKeown confirmed to Cllr Doherty that public lighting will be installed.

Interpretation Plan – S. McKeown confirmed to Cllr Breathnach that there will be a non-statutory public consultation held and that it is vitally important to get local input on the Plan.

Loop Options Glenmore – S. McKeown advised an option is being explored using the regional road, however safety concerns need to be considered and funding secured. The possible use of the R723 was welcomed by Cllr Doherty.

Woodstock Link – S. McKeown advised Cllr Breathnach that TII funded the feasibility study which is complete, it was noted there is no public land available which will be challenging and will require engagement with landowners to identify a suitable route.

S. McKeown confirmed that F. Stafford will be invited to attend the November MD meeting to provide an update to members on the Greenway Links.

(f) North Quays SDZ Update

S. McKeown circulated report and provided the following update to members:-

- The North Quays public infrastructure project is listed as one of the top 10 projects in the National Planning Framework, and is being funded by the URDF, the National Transport Authority and Waterford City & County Council (WCCC). The overall level of estimated public infrastructure investment is €207m. Kilkenny County Council (KCC) & Iarnród Éireann are also key partners in

the delivery of the project. There is a website in place providing regular updates on progress on the project www.waterfordnorthquays.ie

- Works are progressing well. In summary:
 - Dock Road Works: The first phase progressed well over the summer while schools were on holidays. The next two phases of roadworks will be carried out from October to December, 2023, with similar traffic management measures proposed. The roadworks are being phased in order to reduce the overall traffic impact. In early 2024, a further phase of roadworks will facilitate improvements at the junction of Fountain Street and Abbey Road. Further details for this phase will be provided closer to the time;
 - Sustainable Transport Bridge: The in-river works for the Bridge have commenced, including the construction of the second of four cofferdams for piling works for the bridge piers;
 - Public Transport Hub: The piling and laying of foundations for the new Hub are progressing. The Hub will include a new station building, 2 train platforms, a footbridge, and pick up and drop off facilities, along with public realm spaces. Piling and laying of foundations at the existing bus station, new train station and bridge structures are also ongoing and progressing well.
- It has been agreed between WCCC, KCC and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) that it is more appropriate that the following 4 sub-projects located in County Kilkenny are progressed by KCC:
 - Belmont Link Road - Access Road to support Housing Activation
 - N29 Port Road - Access Road to support Economic Development
 - Enhanced Greenway Connectivity - Provision of Smarter Travel Options
 - Abbey Road and Belmont Road Sustainable Transport Improvements - Smarter Travel Options on Access RoadKCC await response from the DHLGH to a resource request to assist in the progression of the above sub-projects.

Members thanked S. McKeown for his update and clarification was provided to members regarding the project team and steering group to be set up by KCC to progress the 4 sub-projects located in County Kilkenny and also in relation to provision of the temporary car park to facilitate the Greenway at Ferrybank, which will be discussed with Waterford City & County Council.

(g) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

In response to Cllr Frisby, S. McKeown confirmed that D. Malone had again written to Dunnes Stores since the September meeting seeking an update. He noted previous issues with regard to security and anti-social behaviour have since been addressed. He confirmed that efforts will continue to seek an update with regard to the future plans for the building.

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 Doherty raised issue at Belfield, access over the bridge and ongoing anti-social behaviour. S. McKeown noted the reported recent escalation of anti-social behaviour and he said these incidents are an issue for the Gardaí and should be reported to them. He noted action taken by KCC in restricting access at night in an effort to prevent anti-social behaviour, but also acknowledged that this is an established public right-of-way, an important access for residents and any proposal to close the bridge would require a statutory process including public consultation. It was also noted that it is an identified link in the Ferrybank-Belview LAP, which is due for review before the end of this year and this matter could be discussed as part of that review with the wider community. S. McKeown advised that improvements in relation to public lighting, footpaths and making a case for the erection of CCTV are all measures which could be taken to alleviate the issues here. S. Cullen confirmed that security arrangements on the bridge are continuing, but issues do arise from time to time. He agreed that installation of public lighting and facilities would assist and confirmed that development of this access is also included under the Mobility Management Plan for Ferrybank and it is considered an asset for future mobility and permeability around Ferrybank.

Cllr Dunphy asked for an update in relation to the Clover Meats site and proposed public consultation in relation to same. S. McKeown advised that the legal transfer of the lands have not yet been finalised, but once KCC have possession of the site it is intended to seek funding to prepare a master plan for the site and to use the site for recreational purposes, in consultation with the local community.

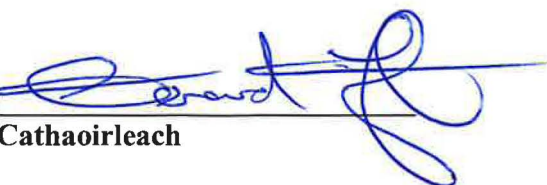
It was noted that the next joint meeting with Carrick-on-Suir MD has been scheduled for Wednesday, 8th October at 11.30am at the Rhu Glenn Hotel, items for the Agenda to be submitted to M. Phelan.

Cllr Frisby took the opportunity to again thank David Sinnott, CEO, Belview Port, for hosting the September MD meeting, for the hospitality and tour of the facility and he looked forward to a future progress update on works ongoing there.

Cllr Frisby welcomed the recent appointment of our new Chief Executive, Lar Power, to Kilkenny County Council, wished him the very best going forward and hoped to invite him to a future Piltown MD meeting, whenever he is available to attend.

Cllr Dunphy asked if an invitation could be extended to the Gardaí to attend the next Piltown MD meeting and also that a Community Policing Committee meeting be arranged in Ferrybank. M. Phelan agreed to extend invitation to the Gardaí to attend either the November or December MD meeting.

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

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 01/11/2023

