

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
10th January, 2024 at 10:00am at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room.***

Present: Cllr G. Frisby, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs F. Doherty, P. Dunphy and T. Breathnach

In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, Stan Cullen, Area Engineer, M. Whelan, Environmental Awareness Officer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr E. Aylward, M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator

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

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

(a) Litter Management Plan

Ms. Margaret Whelan, Environmental Awareness Officer, was in attendance to make a presentation to members regarding the review of the Litter Management Plan, which is currently underway. It was noted that the Draft Litter Management Plan 2024-2026 will go to public consultation shortly.

Ms. Whelan stated that the review of the current Plan will identify what has been achieved, what objectives are ongoing and remain outstanding. She noted the volume of work undertaken by the Environment Section over the last few years, including the roll out of a number of campaigns, such as paint smarter, the conscious cup, the picker pals programme, leave no trace and the bag it bin it campaign, all of which were very successful in raising awareness and emphasising the importance of the individual in combating litter at local level.

Ms Whelan stated that the Plan will be set out in six sections and these were noted. She advised members of the IBAL survey result, with Kilkenny remaining in the top 5 of 40 towns and cities nationally that are above the EU norm for cleanliness and litter management. It was noted that cigarette related litter has increased to 91% of overall litter composition in the County and addressing this issue will be a focus for the Environment team this year. It was also noted that a description of a litter conscious citizen will be incorporated into the Plan to help change the mindset and putting responsibility back on the individual.

Ms Whelan outlined details of new objectives to be included in the Plan and also amendments to existing objectives. She also outlined the stages in the review of the Plan, stating that the first draft of the Plan will be made available to members on Friday. Once the Draft Plan has been signed off, arrangements will be made to commence the statutory public consultation phase. Following review of submissions received, the Draft Plan will be finalised for approval and published by end of Q1 2024.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

- Legal directive on use of CCTV – S. McKeown advised members that the Codes of Practice have been signed off for the use of CCTV under the Litter Pollution Act, the Waste Management Act and for the use of drones for litter management and that work is continuing on the Data Protection Impact Assessments to be undertaken by local authorities nationally as part of the process. He stated that local authorities must have a legislative basis for the use of CCTV. It was agreed that members would be kept informed of progress on this matter and when legislation has been fully enacted. In the meantime, Ms. Whelan agreed to look at options to manage and reduce illegal dumping at particular black spots through additional signage, education and awareness.
- Concerns were raised about the volume of litter strewn along rural roadsides. Ms. Whelan advised that the campaign which ran in 2021 to tackle roadside litter can be reviewed and also look at improving education and awareness around this issue.
- S. McKeown confirmed to members that local authorities are not permitted to name and shame offenders under current legislation.
- Ms. Whelan agreed that consideration could be given to the provision of additional bins in an effort to reduce cigarette litter and noted that vapes were also a significant source of litter.
- S. McKeown advised members that some reorganisation of staff was currently being undertaken in the Environment Section, but that two litter wardens will continue to operate in the County.
- Litter Complaints, CRM – Cllr Dunphy asked if a response could be issued to the complainant to advise when an issue has been resolved and closed.

- IBAL – Ms. Whelan advised that litter monitoring was on a countywide basis through the ‘See it Say it’ app. S. McKeown advised that according to the latest NOAC Report - Kilkenny is currently 63% litter free throughout the county, which is the second highest after Kildare. Cllr Breathnach felt that the overall county performance should be highlighted and recognised.
- S. McKeown noted the importance of the Litter Management Plan for the County and also the co-operative relationship with the Tidy Towns groups throughout the county. Ms. Whelan advised that there are 3 forums, which take place with Tidy Towns groups during the year at different locations to provide support to them and she acknowledged, along with the members, the phenomenal work being done by Tidy Towns Committees and KCC will continue to support them in any way possible.

Cllr Breathnach took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank those who made the effort to dispose of their litter and recyclables in a responsible manner and also thanked David Gertberg for his work on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Frisby noted the role that schools play in driving the education and awareness element of litter management, which feeds out from students into the wider community and in turn encourages more public participation.

Cllr Frisby thanked Ms Whelan for her presentation and she withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Monthly Roadworks Update

S. Cullen, Area Engineer, circulated report outlining works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates on major schemes – N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Tower Road Improvements, N24 Carrick Road, Belmont Link Road and Greenway Connectivity.

S. Cullen provided further clarification to members in relation to the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme and the public display of the Preferred Transport Solution due to take place from 23rd January to 9th February. It was noted that all landowners affected will be contacted prior to the public display and will have the opportunity to meet with the project team during the consultation period, by request up to the 9th February. S. Cullen advised that Tom Brennan, Project Liaison Officer is the first point of contact for any queries in relation to the Scheme.

(c) Greenway Update

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

Mainline Works

- Glas Civil Engineering Ltd commenced works on Lot 5A (c5.5km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore) in November. The anticipated contract duration is 12 months.
- The closing date for receipt of tenders for Technical Services for a multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy team to complete all remaining phases of the Greenway is 17th January.
- Legal contracts are being prepared to finalise the acquisition of the lands along the abandoned rail corridor from CIE.

Interpretation, Wayfinding & Orientation Plan

- The Paul Hogarth Company (TPHC) are currently assessing all of the information gleaned from the public consultation events held last November.
- A presentation will be made to the Elected Members of the 4 Municipal Districts through which the Greenway traverses – to outline the emerging animation themes and the programme of works still to be undertaken. It is anticipated that this presentation, which will be via MS Teams, will be scheduled for late January (Date TBC)

Related Schemes

- **Greenway Link to Glenmore:** Part 8 planning is now in place. The next step is identifying potential funding streams to advance the project to detail design, land acquisition and construction.
- **Greenway Link to Slieverue:** The Feasibility and Route Selection Report are completed. Consultation is ongoing with the TII Structures Section prior to commencing the planning process.

- **Woodstock (Inistioge) to South East Greenway Link:** The Tender Assessment and Recommendation Report for Technical Consultancy Services to identify and progress a route to planning has been approved by TII. Letters to the unsuccessful tenderers and a Letter of Intent to the tenderer under consideration were issued last week.
- **Rosslare to Waterford Scheme:** This potential project has been paused pending completion of the All Island Rail Review. While the review has been approved by the Irish Govt, it cannot be formally published until it has been considered by the Northern Ireland Assembly. Among the 30 recommendations in the Review is support for a new Atlantic railway spine linking Ballina to Rosslare, principally for freight.

Further discussion took place on the following:-

- Greenway Link to Slieverue – S. McKeown advised that approval is required from TII on the proposed footbridge, following which the Part 8 process will commence.
- Rosslare to Waterford Scheme – it was noted that progress on this scheme is subject to an All Island Rail Review, requiring sign off by both Governments.
- Interpretation Plan – points raised at the last meeting by members, along with information gathered during public consultation, including the history of the area, railway heritage and townlands, will all be incorporated into the plan being prepared by The Paul Hogarth Company.

(d) *Ferrybank Shopping Centre*

As agreed at the last meeting, S. Mc. McKeown confirmed that written correspondence has issued to Dunnes Stores advising them of the review of the LAP and joint Retail Strategy with Waterford, and inviting Dunnes to engage on same. It was noted that no response has yet been received. S. McKeown noted there is a good line of communication with the Dunnes Property Manager on operational issues and he agreed to continue seeking engagement with regard to their intentions for the building.

(e) *Official Opening of N24 Tower Road Scheme*

S. Cullen advised that the scheme must be substantially completed before the official opening takes place, noting that the weather conditions have caused some delays but that the official opening is likely to take place end of January or early February. He also advised that the memorial will not form part of the Scheme and won't happen until the Council have control of the site, to look at location and engage correctly with the community and those affected. Cllr Dunphy asked that this be undertaken as soon as possible after the official opening.

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

Cllr Frisby noted that Marie Phelan will follow up on the proposed visit to the Primary Care Centre and she will revert to members at the next meeting.

7. AOB:

Swallow hole N24 – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that during wet weather after Christmas an Eircom chamber was undermined, but that the matter is in hand with work due to be carried out within the next week or so. Cllr Dunphy advised of a similar issue at another location at Aghlish, Carrigeen, should be looked at also, this was noted.

Cllr Doherty advised that she has been made aware of a serious threat to pollinators in Ireland from the Asian hornet and has been asked to raise awareness of its possible threat. S. McKeown agreed to seek an update from our Biodiversity Officer on this invasive species and how we should respond to any possible threat.

S. McKeown advised that Una Kealy will be available to provide an update to members at the February meeting on unfinished housing estates in the Piltown MD.

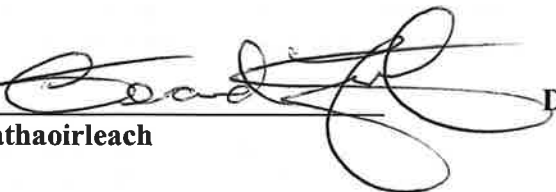
S. McKeown confirmed that funding has been secured under the Sports Capital Equipment Programme for the construction of a multi-use games area (MUGA) in the Neighbourhood Park Ferrybank, which is essentially an all-weather playing area. There will be some disruption during completion of works.

Cllr Doherty raised concern about the use of an unofficial bus stop at Walsh's Garage, Ferrybank. S. Cullen advised that the appropriate mechanism to look at this will be under upgrade of Belmont Road and Abbey Road under RRDF to look at location and frequency of stops etc.

Next Meeting

It was noted that the February meeting of the Piltown MD will take place on Wednesday, 7th February at 10:00am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:  Dated: 7/2/21
Cathaoirleach