

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
3rd July, 2024 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room.**

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

In attendance: D. Malone, Senior Planner, S. Cullen, Area Engineer, M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator, A. O'Connor, Senior Executive Planner, D. O'Brian, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Apologies: S. McKeown, Director of Services

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 1st May, 2024** – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

None.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

- (a) **Draft Kilmacow Masterplan**

Cllr Frisby welcomed Arlene O'Connor, Senior Executive Planner, who was in attendance to update members on the Draft Kilmacow Masterplan.

Following on from the Workshop held with the Consultant on 29th May, Ms. O'Connor advised that based on discussions and issues raised some amendments and additions have been made to the Draft, which were outlined on the report circulated to members. The main changes were noted, including amendments to the Vision for Kilmacow, the meaning of Kilmacow, reference to Kilmacow Sports Complex throughout, statistics and employment information in the village. Some new objectives included in the draft were also noted.

Ms. O'Connor advised that it is proposed to put the draft on public display from 12th July until 23rd August. It was noted that there will also be an information evening held at the Community Hall in Kilmacow on Wednesday 7th August from 5-8pm and a summary of the draft will be published in the Parish Newsletter.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the public display period should be extended, from 12th July to 30th August.

The members thanked Ms O'Connor for her update. Cllr Dunphy raised a query in relation to the traffic congestion in the village, Ms O'Connor agreed to revert to members on this item.

- (b) **Ferrybank-Belview Local Area Plan**

D. Malone advised members that the review process for the LAP was progressing, stating that an issues paper has been prepared following a pre-draft meeting with Consultants, on which submissions have been invited from the public up until 12th July. An information event was also held at Abbey College on 19th June, which was well attended. It was noted that 68 submissions have been received so far, mainly in relation to traffic associated with school drop off and collection at St. Mary's Boys' National School.

It was noted that the next stage will be preparation of the Report for approval, following which the Draft LAP will go to public consultation, late September or early October. D. Malone advised that the LAP will be adopted by May 2025. He noted close cooperation with Waterford City and County Council in preparing the plan, which will continue.

D. Malone responded to members queries, as follows:-

- All submissions will be considered and followed up, which was welcomed by members. It was noted that submissions in relation to traffic at the school will be raised with the Active Travel section to seek to address the matter in cooperation with WCCC.
- Challenges were noted with regard to growing population, consideration needs to be given to a number of matters including demand for housing and future requirements, creating sustainable communities, land use and transportation.

- Closure of the Abbey Road to facilitate the North Quays development works was noted by members, which was causing difficulties for local residents. Members asked for continued cooperation between both Councils to address any issues that arise.
- Following discussion on the status of the Waterford Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP), in particular the need to formally put in place the mechanism to ensure coordination between Waterford and Kilkenny, it was proposed by Cllr Dunphy, seconded by Cllr Frisby and agreed to write to the Department and the Regional Assembly to seek an update and progress this matter.

(c) *South-North Link Road*

Cllr Frisby welcomed David O'Brien, S.E.E. and invited him to begin his presentation to members on the South-North Link Road. Mr. O'Brien outlined the following:-

URDF

- Delivery of compact and sustainable development under Project Ireland 2040.
- Greater proportion of residential and mixed-use development within the existing built-up footprints.
- URDF supports the objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF).
- Funding allocation approved for South-North Access Road (Belmont Road to Abbey Road) and Greenway Connectivity.

Statutory Objectives

Transport objectives noted, as contained in the Ferrybank-Belview LAP and the Kilkenny City & County Development Plan, with regard to provision of the link road.

Scheme Background

- Previous Part 8 in Q1 2022 – incomplete due to inconclusive Environmental Impact of scheme
- Consultants appointed Q4 2022 – revise design to incorporate further ground investigations for EIAR and Greenway car park
- Part 8 route selection in Q1 2024
- Part 8 preferred route Q3 2024

Residential Developments

Potential future residential developments following access road works were noted, the total estimate between 2020-2830 dwellings

Greenway Connectivity

- East-West Access Road c.700m long
- North-South Access Road c. 240m Long
- Two signalised four-arm junctions
- Segregated cycle and pedestrian facilities throughout
- C.200m long greenway connection (3-4m wide) from Greenway carpark (c.172 spaces)

Mr. O'Brien responded to queries from members in relation to timeline for completion of the link road, provision of shower facilities, campervan facilities and landscaping at the Greenway car park.

(d) *Monthly Roadworks Update*

S. Cullen, Area Engineer, circulated report outlining pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates on major schemes – N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Tower Road, N24 Carrick Road and N25 Waterford to Glenmore. He also advised that additional funding of €270k had been allocated to the Piltown MD to carry out remedial works and repairs following recent wet weather, for which a list of locations and map was circulated to members for approval.

Following request from Cllr Doherty, S. Cullen provided update on the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme as follows:-

- Phase 2 Option Selection has concluded.
- A funding allocation to progress the project and Preferred Transport Solution to Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation has not been provided in 2024. The purpose of this phase is to develop the design of the Preferred Option selected in Phase 2 to a sufficient level of detail to:

- establish land take requirements;
 - undertake environmental evaluation so as to identify and mitigate impacts;
 - prepare documentation required for the statutory process to be undertaken during Phase 4.
- The commencement of Phase 4, Statutory Processes is subject to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) approval. The purpose of this phase is to advance the project through the Statutory Processes to ensure that the proposed project is developed in accordance with planning, environmental and other relevant legislation.
 - The project will only progress to Phase 5, Enabling and Procurement subject to approval by An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and subsequent TII approval. Further approval by TII would be required prior to proceeding to Phase 6, Construction and Implementation.

The members discussed the possibility of arranging a similar online meeting, as was held in relation to the N24, to invite TD's and Senators in the South East Region, in order to discuss and progress the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme. This was proposed by Cllr Dunphy, seconded by Cllr Breathnach and agreed. Cllr Doherty stressed the urgency of advancing this scheme, as it was having an impact in relation to planning and development locally. D. Malone confirmed that planning applications within the route corridor must await the route selection in the next phase of the Scheme.

It was also agreed that a face to face meeting with TII be followed up and arranged as soon as possible. Cllr Doherty requested that the report from the last meeting with TII be circulated to members. Cllr Doherty also requested that the up to date list of CIR and LIS schemes pending be circulated to members.

(e) Greenway Update

D. Malone provided the following update to members.

Mainline Works

- Glas Civil Engineering Ltd., commenced works in November last on Lot 5A of the greenway, a 5.5km section, from Ferrybank to Curraghmore. Over the past few months significant progress has been made on the permanent greenway carpark at Ballyverneen, Glenmore. Works also continue on a number of road and agricultural crossing locations as does the construction of Kilmurry Lane access ramp. The greenway sub-base is now installed and fencing, screening and embankment reshaping work continues. The programme remains of track for completion in December 2024.
- The Project Landowner Liaison Officer is continuing to engage with landowners adjoining the greenway in relation to boundary treatment and crossing points. The parameters for these discussions are set out within the Charter for South East Greenway Accommodation Works.
- A tender for the provision of Technical Services for a multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy team was advertised earlier this year. The scope of this tender includes for the completion of all remaining phases of the greenway. Three tender submissions were received and following the tender assessment, Fehily Timoney and Company Limited (FTC) were deemed the preferred tenderer and the contract of award was subsequently signed on 28 May 2024.

Land Acquisition from Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE)

Legal contracts have now been signed by both the Local Authority and CIE and the final conveyance works are progressing to conclude the acquisition of the lands along the abandoned rail corridor.

Greenway Link to Glenmore: In May, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced that our funding application under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) to progress this project was successful. This funding will now allow us to proceed to the detail design, land acquisition and construction stage of the project. This project also incorporates the provision of a new Pink Rock Cycle Loop which will offer greenway users, travelling from the New Ross end, the option of cycling back along an alternative route beside the scene River Barrow.

Greenway Link to Slieverue: A Feasibility and Route Selection Report was previously completed to connect Slieverue village to the South East Greenway. The findings recommended a looped connection to the village, from Rathpatrick in the north and Kilmurray Lane in the south. Consultations are ongoing with the TII Structures Section pertaining to the northern link road bridge crossing. It is proposed to progress to the planning stage, under Part 8, for the southern link initially and this process is scheduled to commence over the summer.

Woodstock (Inistioge) to South East Greenway Link: RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd., were awarded the technical consultancy services contract in February. This technical consultancy services contract provides for feasibility, route selection and the progression of the preferred option through planning.

The contract period to deliver the prescribed services is 49 months and regular updates will be provided to Council through the Chief Executives Report.

Cllr Doherty raised concerns over continuing anti-social behaviour to the rear of Ard Glas, which is causing difficulties for residents. S. Cullen advised that a breach in the fencing to the rear of Abbey Community College was addressed directly by the College and should rectify the matter.

(f) North Quays Update

D. Malone outlined the following update, as provided by North Quays Project Team, Waterford City & County Council:

North Quays

- The North Quays main contract has made significant progress in the last two months. The substructure works for the Sustainable Transport Bridge is continuing with all four cofferdams operational and work progressing internally with the formation of the bridge piers. The fabrication of the steel deck superstructure in Belgium is close to completion, the sections are currently being painted. The pile support slab for the South Plaza is well progressed with over half of the concrete slab now poured.
- The Transport Hub building works is continuing with the support walls and columns complete and the construction of the southern platform blockwork at platform level has commenced. Construction of the northern platform reinforced boundary wall is ongoing. Works to external lift shafts are proceeding to roof level.
- Road and access infrastructure is also progressing well, with works continuing on the various bridge structures. The humpback bridge / OBH 127 was demolished in late May to allow for the pedestrian bridge construction. The western access bridge is near completion and the decks for the greenway underpasses are well advanced.
- Traffic management measures continue to be in place, with works continuing along Fountain Street and will be progressing to Abbey Road in July. The installation / upgrading of the foul sewer on Abbey Road necessitates the closure of Abbey Road for a seven week period. This work has been scheduled over the summer months to minimise disruption. Local and pedestrian access to this area is being facilitated throughout the works.

Pump Station

- Uisce Éireann is now operating the new pump station in Ferrybank.

Flood Defence Scheme

- Site investigations and detailed design are progressing well and construction works are programmed to commence in Q3 2024.

(g) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

D. Malone confirmed that he had met with executives from Dunnes Stores, along with CEO Mr. Lar Power, on 17th May last. He advised members that there has been positive engagement with them on the review of the Ferrybank-Belview LAP, Joint Retail Strategy and the future of Ferrybank Shopping Centre and this engagement will continue during the review process. This was welcomed by members.

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 Frisby advised the meeting that a public consultation will commence on 8th July in relation to the National Transport Authorities draft new bus network for the Waterford Metropolitan Area, to extend

and improve public transport in a number of areas including Ferrybank and Slieverue and he encouraged members of the public to engage with the process.

In relation to the proposed visit to the Primary Care Centre, M. Phelan advised that the Centre has not yet officially opened and that the point of contact is the Regional Health Forum, of which Cllr Dunphy is a member. She agreed to revert to members in September with an update.

Cllr Dunphy asked if there was any update in relation to the traffic issue at the Ferrybank Soccer Club. S. Cullen confirmed that Waterford City and County Council intend to submit a Taking in Charge application to Kilkenny County Council for Abbeylands.

Cllr Dunphy raised an issue with lack of parking in some older housing estates, such as Coirceog in Fiddown, where cars are forced to park on grassed areas or on the road, which can cause difficulties for residents and visitors alike. He asked if the Council could provide assistance with removal of grass to allow for additional car parking. S. Cullen advised that this is a matter for the Residents Committee and suggested that this and other issues within the estate could be addressed under the Community Involvement Scheme, if the residents wished to make an application.

Cllr Doherty asked if an update could be provided on the Glenmore bus stop for the next meeting.


Cllr Doherty asked if an update could be provided on the Clover Centre Master Plan. D. Malone advised that Frank Stafford will provide an update for the September meeting.

Cllr Breathnach asked if the next joint meetings with Waterford and Carrick-on-Suir MD's could be arranged, M. Phelan agreed to follow up and revert at the September meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 4th September at 2:00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 4/09/2024

