

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
4th September, 2024 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room.**

Present: Cllrs J. Catt Slattery, P. Dunphy, F. Doherty, T. Breathnach
In attendance: D. Malone, A/Director of Services, S. Cullen, Area Engineer, M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator and O. Bannon, Staff Officer
Apologies: Cllr Ger Frisby

1. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 26th June, 2024** – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Dunphy and agreed.

Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 3rd July, 2024 – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

N24/N25 Projects – Cllr Dunphy requested that an online meeting be arranged to discuss the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme, inviting the relevant TDs in the South East region, to make efforts to progress this scheme to the next phase and keep it on the agenda. D. Malone stated that as the N24 project is a regional objective, he suggested that it might be best to raise the matter through the Regional Assembly, giving the matter cross-county support. Following further discussion, it was agreed to follow up both options in order to strengthen the case in progressing both N24 Waterford to Cahir and N25 Waterford to Glenmore schemes. D. Malone agreed to liaise with Tim Butler on the matter and revert to members.

Vote of Sympathy – The members all joined with Cllr Doherty in extending sympathy to Gerry Fogarty, GSS and his family, on the recent passing of his wife Noleen, a huge personal loss to Gerry and his family and to the wider Glenmore community.

Parking issue, Ferrybank FC – S. Cullen advised that the Taking in Charge application has not yet been received from WCCC in relation to Abbeylands.

M.A.S.P. – D. Malone confirmed that no significant progress has been made in relation to MASP, but he noted recent changes in personnel in both WCCC and KCC and advised that a meeting is planned for mid-September to discuss and progress the matter further. Cllr Breathnach suggested bringing forward a motion in this regard to the full Council meeting, this was agreed. D. Malone stated that it was important to note the considerable level of cooperation between Waterford and Kilkenny County Councils, both on planning and engineering matters, which is increasing all the time, but acknowledged the need for certainty around MASP and a formal structure to be put in place.

Kilmacow Masterplan – D. Malone advised that the closing date for receipt of submissions had passed on 30th August and that approximately 70 submissions had been received, the subject of most relating to traffic circulation in the village. He also advised that a public meeting had been held in the Community Hall, Kilmacow on 7th August, which was well attended. It was noted that Arlene O'Connor will now prepare a report on those submissions for members to discuss and approve at the next Piltown MD meeting. Cllr Breathnach took the opportunity to compliment planning staff and the representative from Turley's who were in attendance at the public meeting and noted the positive engagement from all those who attended.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

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

D. Malone advised members that the review process for the LAP is ongoing, noting the non-statutory consultation process and information event held over the summer. He advised that submissions received are being reviewed and the LAP is being looked at in terms of its ambition for the Ferrybank area and its contribution to the wider Waterford City area and he noted a number of challenges to be addressed in the plan in relation to densities, transportation, connectivity and recreation. It was noted that a briefing on the Draft LAP will be arranged for members at the end of September, before the Draft proceeds to statutory public consultation in early October.

Cllr Dunphy raised an issue regarding ongoing anti-social behaviour at Belfield estate and asked if the access here could be closed. D. Malone advised that connectivity and creating a walkable neighbourhood is an important element of the plan and he would not propose to close this type of access but rather supervise and manage it appropriately. Cllr Catt Slattery asked what measures could be taken to help with this issue in the meantime. S. Cullen advised that a private security company is currently engaged to keep gates locked at night time and manage the access, but noted a few incidents

over the summer period. He advised that with proper facilities, installation of public lighting etc, would improve the situation and make the area less attractive for anti-social activity.

Cllr Breathnach enquired whether the Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy, Retail Strategy and Mobility Management will form part of the LAP review. D Malone confirmed that all are included in the plan.

(d) Monthly Roadworks Update

S. Cullen, Area Engineer, circulated report outlining details of pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates on other schemes – North-South Link Road, Abbey Road/Belmont Road upgrades, N29 Port Road upgrade and the N25 Bus Stop.

Cllr Catt Slattery asked for an update on the ramps at Mullinavat GAA Club. S. Cullen advised that no progress has been made on the design as yet.

In response to Cllr Dunphy, S. Cullen advised that Active Travel funding had been secured to bring the Mill Road footpath scheme through planning and it was noted that a consultant will be appointed shortly to begin the process.

S. Cullen advised Cllr Doherty that the issue with a public light at Glenmore Car Park has been logged.

Cllr Doherty noted update in relation to the N25 Bus Stop at Glenmore and asked what the plan is for the weighbridge structure already in place. S. Cullen advised that this will likely be removed or will be fully inaccessible and confirmed that the area will be appropriately secured following review on what is required.

S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Doherty that treatment of Ragwort in the vicinity of Glenmore roundabout towards New Ross will be included for treatment under next year's programme of works and will be carried out at the appropriate time of year.

Cllr Dunphy noted that there was no update provided on Major Schemes, N24 and N25 and he asked if these items could be kept on the monthly report going forward. This was agreed.

Cllr Dunphy noted the attendance of a deputation from residents on the N24 at Ballygriffin in 2022 and their request at the time for provision of safe pedestrian facilities along this stretch of road and address the pinch point at Croke's Shop. S. Cullen advised that proposals for any such work would need TII approval, however he felt it may prove difficult to secure funding to deliver a scheme on this stretch of road in the short term and that any significant improvements may have to be looked at as part of the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme, for which there is currently no funding. Cllr Breathnach suggested following up on meeting with TII and include this item on the agenda, requesting that this section of road be addressed in the interests of safety for the people living there. This was agreed.

Cllr Doherty again raised the issue of delayed planning and development due to the hold on the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme, S. Cullen confirmed that until such time as the scheme progresses to the next phase, there will be no change for those landowners within the route corridor.

(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 works on the permanent greenway carpark at Ballyverneen, Glenmore have advanced near completion, the remaining works, which includes the installation of a perimeter railing and public lighting, when complete will facilitate the full opening of this 39 bay carpark. Significant progress has also been made along the main-line with some 85% of the 5.5km now ready to receive the final surfacing layer. Works are also progressing at all agricultural crossing locations. The Kilmurray Lane access ramp has also advanced and public lighting columns from Ferrybank to the access ramp have now been installed. The boundary screen fencing and general fencing along the line is also nearing completion. The programme remains on track for the works contract to be completed by the end of the year,

thereafter, this section of greenway will be subject to a safety audit and minor finishing out works to facilitate the opening of same to the public in the Qtr.1 2025.

- 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.
- Fehily Timoney and Company Ltd., the multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy team engaged in May this year, continue to advance the detail design on the remaining sections of the greenway.

Related Schemes

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 they're currently working through the feasibility phase of the brief.

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: The Route Selection & Design Options Report to provide a connectivity link between Slieverue village and South East Greenway was completed in 2023. During this process 5no. route options were considered and it was concluded that a looped route formed by a combination of two sperate links, the Kilmurray Lane route (the Southern Connectivity Link) and the Luffany route (the Northern Connectivity Link) were the preferred options. In that this overall looped route would best accommodate active travel by locals using the greenway and would provide the best facility to attract tourists to the village and tourism related activities in and around the locality. It is proposed to initially seek planning consent under the Part 8 Planning process for the Southern Connectivity Link and the public consultation process for same will commence this week. To this end, the following dates should be noted:

- Planning documents will be available for inspection from **Friday the 6th September, 2024 to Friday the 11th October 2024 inclusive;**
- Submissions on the proposed scheme will be accepted until **Friday the 25th October, 2024.**

The statutory notices will be advertised and displayed and it is also intended to hold an information evening in Slieveure, in early October, whereby officials will be available to explain and answer questions on the proposed project.

A copy of the Part 8 planning documents will be circulated, electronically, to the Elected Member of the Piltown Municipal District this week.

It is intended that the Northern Connectivity Link from Luffany, will be the subject of a separate future planning process and discussions are ongoing with Transport infrastructure Ireland pertaining to same.

Cllr Doherty welcomed progress and complimented the magnificent car parking facility being provided at Ballyverneen. She asked about the provision of dog fouling bins, signage and toilet facilities. D. Malone agreed to relay these matters to the design team and provide update to members at a future MD meeting with regard to provision of toilet facilities. Provision of signage to be dealt with separately.

(g) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

D. Malone confirmed that a meeting took place with executives from Dunnes Stores earlier in the year at which they were informed on the LAP and Joint Retail Strategy and there has been positive engagement on same. Since then, D. Malone confirmed he has been communicating with their property section to continue this engagement in the planning process and encourage commitment to the future opening and use of the centre.

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 informed members that a joint meeting with Carrick-on-Suir MD has been agreed for Wednesday, 6th November at 11:30am at Rhu Glenn Hotel. Following discussion, it was agreed to change the time of this meeting to 3:30pm, with the agreement of Carrick-on-Suir MD members, M. Phelan to confirm in due course.

With regard to the joint meeting with Waterford City MD, a date of 2nd October has been suggested to them and M. Phelan will revert to members with confirmation of same or alternative dates in October.

It was noted that the Deputation from Templeorum who were unable to attend the MD meeting today have requested to attend at the October meeting instead, this was agreed.

M. Phelan noted progress made by Cllr Dunphy with regard to the proposed visit to the Ferrybank Primary Care Centre and confirmed to members that a visit has now been arranged directly after the MD meeting on 2nd October at 4:30pm. This was noted.

7. **AOB:**

S. Cullen – Cllr Catt Slattery noted that this will be Stan Cullen's last meeting as Piltown MD Engineer and she took the opportunity to thank him for all his help, support and patience shown to her during her short time as an elected member and wished him all the best in his new role. Cllr Dunphy wished to be associated with Cllr Catt Slattery's comments and wished Stan well in his new position in Road Design. Cllr Doherty stated that Stan has been a good servant to the area, most agreeable and easy to get along with and wished him all the best in his future role. Cllr Breathnach thanked Stan and noted the level of knowledge he built up very quickly on South Kilkenny since he began in 2019, his courtesy at all times was greatly appreciated and he acknowledged the huge level of work done in the area during Stan's time as Piltown District Engineer and he wished him well in his new position.

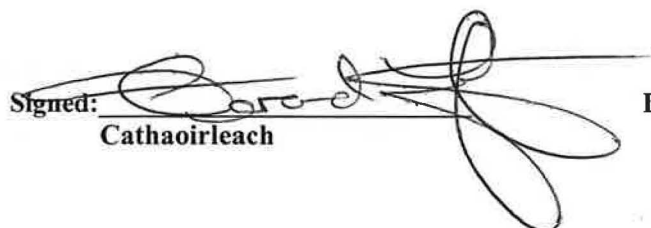
S. Cullen thanked all the members for their cooperation and courtesy and acknowledged what has been a very challenging but rewarding and enjoyable role and he thanked members for their professionalism and friendship over the last five years, which is very much appreciated.

North Quays – Cllr Doherty acknowledged ongoing works and the additional time needed to address the Abbey Road, which is working well.

Signage Rhu Glenn – Cllr Doherty asked about the possibility of having signage for the Rhu Glenn Hotel included on signage at the Luffany Roundabout, if not on statutory brown signage then stand alone directional signage. S. Cullen advised that signage for commercial enterprise would require a sign licence which must not lead to clutter or interfere with other statutory and warning signage. As this location is part of the Waterford Bypass, KCC would not have the opportunity to seek any changes to signage, this may need to be raised directly with TII.

Green Oaks Estate, Ferrybank – Cllr Dunphy noted that this estate has been taken in charge and outstanding works to be undertaken within the estate and asked about the issue of speeding in and out of the estate, which has been raised with him. S. Cullen advised that a list of works have been agreed with the developer and some surfacing works will be carried out shortly. With regard to speeding, S. Cullen agreed to arrange a speed survey to determine what action is required within the estate.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 2/10/24