

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
2nd April, 2025 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room***

Present: Cllrs J. Catt Slattery, P. Dunphy, F. Doherty and T. Breathnach
In attendance: I. Gardner, A/Director of Services, J. Tennyson, District Engineer, M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator and O. Bannon, Staff Officer
Apologies: Cllr G. Frisby

Cllr Catt Slattery, Leas Cathaoirleach, chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Frisby, Cathaoirleach.

- 1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 5th March, 2025** – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Dunphy and agreed.

Matters Arising

No right turn, Rhu Glenn – Cllr Doherty referred to new signage in place at Rhu Glenn, but noted traffic leaving the Rhu Glenn continues to turn right onto the N25. In light of the recent announcement that there will be no funding allocated to progress the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme in the current year, Cllr Doherty asked that whatever measures possible be taken to improve safety at that location.

Cllr Catt Slattery agreed with Cllr Doherty, asking that this matter be followed up with TII, to implement a ‘no right turn’ on exiting the Rhu Glenn. J. Tennyson confirmed that Road Design section have brought this to TII requesting that this junction be reviewed and are awaiting response, but agreed to ask Road Design to raise the matter further with TII in light of no funding allocation to progress the N25 Scheme.

N24/N25 Schemes – Cllr Dunphy expressed his disappointment that no funding was allocated to progress either the N24 Waterford to Cahir or the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Schemes, in spite of the case made and meetings held with the Minister in this regard with local authorities in the South East Region. He urged that this matter be kept on the agenda in both the interests of road safety and to help landowners impacted in terms of planning and development.

Cllr Breathnach asked if the Council could write to the Minister asking that allocations be reviewed in relation to the N24 and N25 Schemes. I. Gardner agreed that correspondence can sent to the Minister expressing the members disappointment at this decision and asking that consideration be given to funding, should additional allocations become available.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Monthly Roadworks Update

J. Tennyson circulated report outlining details of discretionary maintenance and other works progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates on N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Carrick Road, North-South Link Road, Abbey Road/Belmont Road upgrades, N29 Port Road upgrade, Piltown RRDF, 2025 Grant allocations for National Roads and N25 Speed Camera. Details were noted of the sponsorship agreements recently entered into with local companies to roll out a significant landscape and enhancement programme, which focus on the four roundabouts at R448 Newrath, N29 Slieverue and R711 Belmont and Belfield.

J. Tennyson to circulate details of restoration improvement works carried out to-date.

The following was raised and discussed:-

- Clarification was provided to Cllr Dunphy on the location of the static speed camera, past Ballinclar junction, which will be live by the end of the month.
- It was noted that the Luffany and Quarry roundabouts are maintained as part of the Waterford Bypass contract and not included under the sponsorship agreements.
- Cllr Doherty noted the light at Glenmore Hall car park not yet operational, J. Tennyson to follow up.
- Cllr Doherty asked about the redundant pole near the shop in Listerlin, J. Tennyson advised that this will be addressed as part of planned works at Listerlin Village.
- J. Tennyson agreed to seek advice and revert to Cllr Doherty in relation to planning applications within the preferred route corridor for the N25 Waterford to Cahir Scheme.
- Cllr Dunphy asked if feedback could be provided to members on the outcome of the recent meeting chaired by Mary Mulholland in relation to the N24 and N25 Schemes. I. Gardner agreed to follow up.

- Cllr Catt Slattery asked for clarification in relation to the planning process for Mill Road footpath, J. Tennyson confirmed a Part 8 public consultation will be held in due course.
- Cllr Doherty asked that sufficient notice be given to locals prior to the next public meeting in relation to the Listerlin Improvement design.

(b) Piltown Active Travel Scheme

Details of the Active Travel scheme for improvement works in Piltown was circulated to members, which includes traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, footpath improvements and junction tightening. J. Tennyson advised that the NTA gave approval recently to progress this scheme to planning and notice of intention to carry out these works under Section 38 will be published next week and will be available from 9th April on the website at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie> allowing for submissions to be made for a 3 week period. It was noted that at present, it is not a statutory requirement to hold an in-person public consultation meeting, however J. Tennyson agreed to relay this request to the Active Travel team and revert to members. Details of the scheme to be circulated to members via email.

The members welcomed the scheme and the improvements it will bring in terms of pedestrian safety, slowing traffic and enhancement of the village.

(c) Greenway Update

Update report was circulated to members, I Gardner advised as follows:-

Progress since previous update in March

- Minor fencing works along the scheme continue.
- Works nearing completion at all level and segregated agricultural crossings.
- Previously reported that works associated with public lighting have been completed with connection applications submitted to ESB – awaiting ESB response.
- Landscaping works are nearing completion.
- Accommodation works to improve visibility at level crossing 1 at Rathpatrick are substantially complete.
- The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit was completed in January. The recommendations arising from the report were assessed and actioned. Other minor finishing out works will be completed to facilitate the opening of this section of the greenway.
- Boundary fencing requirements for opening are being actioned
- Quotation sought for temporary Trailhead at Curraghmore. Vegetation clearance was completed ahead of bird nesting season commencing on March 1st.
- Requirements for additional fencing at the Ferrybank bridge are being assessed.
- Creative Ireland funding received for a wall mural along concrete screen fencing in Ferrybank.
- Opening this phase scheduled for Q2 2025

Remaining Lots

- Engagement continues with landowners adjoining the greenway with regard to boundary treatments and crossing points.
- The Consulting Engineers, Fehily Timoney & Co. Ltd. continue to advance the design of the remaining sections of the greenway.
- Topographical surveys on the remaining sections have been completed.
- Structural surveys on the Carrickloney and Red Bridge have been completed.
- The tender for the geotechnical site investigations have been received.
- Ecological surveys will progress in Q2.

Summary Overview

- Of the 24kms of greenway some 14kms are now completed or substantially completed.

Related Schemes

South North Access Road, Ferrybank

Consultant is working on final design drawings for road and trailhead carpark. Preparation of land acquisition / CPO drawings is progressing and once finalised, further engagement will take place with affected landowners.

Greenway Link to Glenmore

- A Tender was advertised on the 20th January to engage the services of a Multi-disciplinary Engineer led design team to advance the project through detail design, tender award and construction. The tender deadline was extended by 2 weeks to 28th February with 5 tenders returned by the deadline with the tender assessment process is being finalised. As the detailed design progresses discussions, with the relevant parties, will recommence regarding the acquisition of lands required to deliver the project.

Greenway Link to Slieverue

- A Part 8 planning application for the Southern Connectivity Route via Kilmurray was approved by elected members in January. Efforts have now turned to identifying potential funding streams to advance this project through detail design, land acquisition and construction stage.

Woodstock to South East Greenway Link

- Currently at Phase 1 – Concept & Feasibility Stage
- The project website (<https://www.woodstocktosegreenway.ie>) is currently live and is updated with relevant information.
- Public Consultation 1 expired on 14th March and currently compiling a report on submissions and finding.
- Constraints and Opportunity Report along with an Agronomy Report are currently with TII for comment.
- Currently preparing the Feasibility Report and investigating possible route options.

The following was raised and discussed:-

I Gardner confirmed that the second section of the Greenway is expected to open late May, pending completion of access ramps being completed under the North Quays project.

Cllr Doherty raised a query with regard to responsibility for repair and maintenance of over-bridges along the Greenway, referring to the bridge at Forrestalstown which has been hit a number of times. I. Gardner agreed to seek clarification on this matter. J. Tennyson advised that the road at Forrestalstown is on this years roadworks programme and access to the bridge will be examined with a view to possible widening.

Cllr Dunphy expressed concern in relation to delays on the Greenway scheme and rising costs. Cllr Breathnach also noted the change from a tourism project to a transport project, under TII, with different specifications and requirements.

I Gardner confirmed to Cllr Doherty that a CPO is being undertaken to facilitate the link to Glenmore which provides more certainty to the scheme, engagement and negotiations with landowners will form part of the process.

(d) North Quays SDZ Update

Update report was circulated to members, I Gardner advised as follows:-

The North Quays infrastructural works are well advanced and certain elements will be substantially complete before the end of this year. The bridge substructure is complete and awaiting the delivery of the bridge superstructure, which, subject to final inspections, checks and certification, will be transported from Belgium to Waterford in May. The superstructure will be in six sections and these will be lifted into position over a four-day period.

Drainage work has commenced on the South Quays. The works extends onto Meagher's Quay and does require, in consultation with key stakeholders, the temporary closure of footpaths, cycle lanes and single traffic lanes as well as the relocation of the bus stop. Deep excavation work is required for one phase of these works, necessitating the temporary closure of the inbound lane at Meagher's Quay. To minimise disruption and ensure the safety of road users and site staff, the temporary

closure of the inbound lane is proposed to take place from 8pm on Saturday 12th April until 6am on Monday 14th April. Details of the weekend diversion route will be communicated to the public in advance of the works and all road users are asked to adhere to all local traffic management and follow directional signage for the duration of the works.

The final road surface has been laid on Fountain Street and extending to Abbey Road, with the provision of a greenway access link, drainage works and installation of services, footpaths, lighting, signage, etc. Similar works are continuing on the inbound lane on Dock Road. It is expected that the new junction at the entrance to the Ard Ri/North Quays construction site will be operational in early April.

Works are continuing on the train station building, platforms and internal layout, while the northern entrance and the planters that bound the external stairs are emerging and now visible. A decision on the Part 8 planning application for the southern entrance/access to the new train station is expected in April.

Works have commenced on the railway flood defence scheme, the sheet pile wall has been installed to the west of the transport hub. Sheet piling works to the west of Rice Bridge are anticipated to commence in May. Subsequent phases of the flood defence system will include trackside drainage, flood defence barriers at Plunkett Station, pumping stations and outfalls.

Harcourt Developments submitted further information in respect of their planning application for Phase 1 of the North Quays SDZ development. A planning decision is due on the proposed development by the 10th April 2025.

(e) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

I Gardner advised that a date for the meeting between Dunnes management and Council officials has been fixed for further engagement with Dunnes in relation to the further uses in the district centre and this will feed into the preparation of the plan for the Ferrybank Area.

(f) Ferrybank-Belview LAP Update

I Gardner advised that the preparation of a Draft Plan has continued, in particular with further engagement with the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Department of Housing. The preparation of the revised National Planning Framework has been signed off by Government and its publication is imminent. It must pass before the houses of the Oireachtas before publication. Having regard to this consultation and the prospect of increased housing targets for the Waterford MASP area, it is considered prudent to await publication of the revised NPF figures and integrate these into the draft plan before publication.

It was noted that the new Planning Act is about to be enacted and briefing has taken place on the timeline of implementation. The section of the legislation that deals with plan making and variations to Development Plans will be the first section to be implemented. Clarity is being sought from the Department that if we commence the plan process under the current legislation that the process can continue unimpeded on commencement of the new legislation later in the year. The plan will be published following publication of the NPF and clarity on the legislation.

I Gardner advised that the Draft LAP is expected to be finalised before the June MD meeting.

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:

(a) Belfield/Fiodh Mor, Ferrybank

Cllr Catt Slattery advised that she attended a recent meeting with Gardai and residents of both Belfield and Fiodh Mor housing estates in Ferrybank, at which they relayed their stories and experiences of continuous anti-social behaviour in the area around the bridge between these estates and the detrimental impact it is having on many residents in the vicinity. She noted security arrangements which had been in place on the gates at night, but ceased due to health and safety concerns. She asked that other options be explored to come up with a solution to help residents who find themselves in this situation through no fault of their own. She also raised concern about the impact this anti-social behaviour may have on the Greenway.

Cllr Doherty agreed with Cllr Catt Slattery noting this is an ongoing issue causing great difficulty for residents and stating that while development of the Greenway and long-term plans may help resolve the issue, she supported the call for a solution to help residents in the short term.

Cllr Dunphy agreed, however he noted anti-social behaviour is primarily the responsibility of the Gardai and perhaps additional resources for a short period of time might prove effective.

J. Tennyson outlined proposed modifications to the bridge as part of the Greenway development. He advised that other long-term options are being explored in terms of public lighting and footpaths, which will require significant funding and could be put forward under an active travel scheme. He also advised that possible installation of CCTV at the bridge is being explored by the Greenway project team.

In response to Cllr Catt Slattery, J. Tennyson advised that alternative security arrangements are currently being looked at to resume closure of the gates at night time.

I Gardner noted the many genuine users of this access and would be in support of keeping the access open with proper infrastructure put in place, including footpaths and lighting which would increase footfall and provide passive surveillance to deter anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Breathnach agreed with the other members, also noting the many positive things happening in the Ferrybank area at the moment, but agreed that it was important to find a solution for residents on this matter and suggested that a further meeting be held to discuss ideas and possible solutions. This was agreed, M. Phelan to arrange meeting with Gardai also in May.

Unfinished Estates – Cllr Doherty asked if an update could be provided at the next MD meeting.

Clover Centre – Cllr Doherty asked if an update could be provided at the next MD meeting.

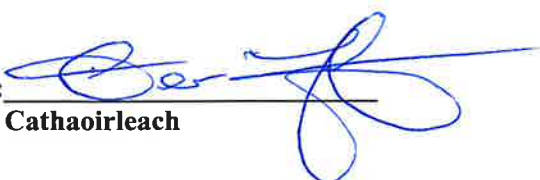
Paperless Meetings – M. Phelan advised members that it is proposed to resume paperless meetings in line with agreed policies and climate action and that all documentation will be included on Decision Time for members to access. This was agreed.

Time for MD Meetings – Cllr Catt Slattery thanked members for accommodating a request from her to change the start time for MD meetings, stating that her circumstances have now changed, if members wished to resume the 10am start time. I Gardner also requested that, if possible, meetings be changed to a different day. Following discussion, it was agreed to amend MD meeting day to the first Thursday of each month at 10am to commence in June. M. Phelan agreed to check members meetings calendar to ensure this does not clash with other meetings.

Next Meeting

The next Piltown MD meeting will take place on Wednesday, 7th May, 2025 at 2:00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:  Dated: 07/05/25
Cathaoirleach

