

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
7th May, 2025 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room**

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

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 2nd April, 2025 – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Catt Slattery and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Biodiversity Action Plan Update

Ms. Bernadette Moloney was in attendance to provide progress update to members on the Kilkenny Biodiversity Action Plan, which is a requirement under the National Biodiversity Action Plan. The Plan sets out actions to meet commitments already in our County Development Plan in relation to biodiversity and natural heritage and will put plans in place to develop and deliver actions on the ground.

Ms. Moloney outlined the legislative context and the process to date in developing the Plan, including the discussion paper, followed by a number of public consultations, workshops and events in order to get the views of the public and as much input and feedback as possible, all of which fed into the development of the Draft Action Plan. It was noted that the Draft Plan went to public consultation at the end of 2024 and contains 6 broad objectives and 41 actions. Ms. Moloney advised on the consultation process and the establishment of the Biodiversity Working Group which includes representatives from the different sectors, state agencies, community groups and Council officials.

Ms. Moloney outlined objectives contained in the Plan in more detail and advised on actions being taken over the next few months, including provision of training courses, esker and ecology kits for school and community groups, training for Council staff in managing invasive species and public areas, ongoing habitat mapping and monitoring and a range of events happening over the course of biodiversity week. Funding streams to support the work and role of the Biodiversity Officer were noted, through the National Parks and Wildlife Service and The Heritage Council. A number of projects under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2025 were also noted, including a planned ecology survey of the Clover Centre site, to assist with the landscaping plan and to combine biodiversity measures within the overall design for the site.

The following was raised and discussed further:-

- Esker kits and availability of Ecology kits to schools to encourage student engagement
- effects of invasive species on native species, correct management and strategy for treatment of same and collaboration with landowners in this regard
- the importance and value of native hedgerows and maintenance of same
- Barn Owl survey and guidelines from Birdwatch Ireland
- efforts to restore lost biodiversity
- input into the development of the Clover Centre and the possibility of making it a biodiversity project for 2026

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

(b) Monthly Roadworks Update

J. Tennyson 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 N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Carrick Road, North-South Link Road, Abbey Road/Belmont Road upgrades, N29 Port Road upgrade, Piltown RRDF, N25 Speed Camera, N29/R711 Roadside Cleanup and Roundabout Projects.

The following was raised and discussed:-

N24/N25 Upgrades – Cllr Dunphy again expressed his disappointment that no funding was allocated to progress either of these Schemes to the next phase, noting only one scheme for the entire South East Region had received funding this year. In light of the several accidents, deaths and near misses on both of these roads, Cllr Dunphy again called for an urgent meeting with TII and Department officials to discuss

this matter. Cllr Doherty was in support of Cllr Dunphy in this request, noting the number of deaths on the N25 and the loss suffered by their families. In response to Cllr Breathnach, M. Phelan outlined the response received from the Minister with regard to provision of funding, which stated that it was not possible to provide an allocation to all new national road projects in the NDP for 2025, but same will be kept under review for 2026. Members requested that efforts continue to arrange a meeting urgently with TII, M. Phelan agreed to discuss same with Mary Mulholland DOS and revert to members.

Glenmore Bus Stop – Cllr Doherty looked for update for next meeting.

Local MD Grant – J. Tennyson advised Cllr Doherty that a workshop will be arranged to discuss proposals for this funding.

N25 Accident – Cllr Doherty extended thanks to all Council staff who attended the scene and provided assistance with traffic management following the fatal accident on the N25 last week, noting difficulties with diversion routes following such incidents. J. Tennyson advised that he will be meeting with members of An Garda Síochána to formulate an action plan to deal with road closures following collisions on the N25 and will provide members with an update at the June meeting.

Mill Road Footpath – J. Tennyson confirmed to Cllr Catt Slattery that Part 8 planning is anticipated to be lodged by end of Q2 2025.

(c) Piltown Active Travel Section 38

J. Tennyson circulated update report to members in relation to the Piltown Active Travel Scheme, which will consist of pedestrian crossings, speed ramps, junction tightening, footpath improvements and improved pedestrian facilities at Tybroughney Road junction, Power Villas, Belline Way and The Meadows.

It was noted that the consultation period ran from 9th to 30th April, with 10 submissions received, which were generally positive and supportive of the proposed measures. Details of submissions received were outlined to members, along with a summary of the design changes made as a result of those submissions. It was noted that an application will be made to the NTA for increased funding to install a speed ramp on Tybroughney Road as part of the project, J. Tennyson to advise members at the next meeting of the outcome of this application.

J. Tennyson outlined the next steps in the process as follows:-

- Approve the Scheme by order under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act.
- Following approval, a Consultant will be appointed to complete detailed design and tender.
- Subject to final approval by NTA, contractor will commence on site in September, with works expected to be completed by Q1 2026.
- Cllr Dunphy proposed that the scheme be approved as presented, this was seconded by Cllr Catt Slattery.

A discussion followed with regard to holding public consultations on such schemes, J. Tennyson advised that there was no requirement to hold a statutory in-person public consultation in relation to Section 38 traffic calming schemes, however drawings and details for this scheme were made available through the Consult.ie portal and at the Ferrybank Office and all those affected were consulted during the process.

(d) Greenway Update

Apologies were noted from I. Gardner, update report was circulated to members and taken as read.

Cllr Doherty raised a query in relation to unofficial access points to the Greenway and any issues that may arise for landowners with regard to rights of way. J. Tennyson agreed to refer this matter to the Greenway project team.

(e) Clover Centre Update

Apologies were noted from I. Gardner, update report was circulated to members and taken as read.

M. Phelan advised members that Frank Stafford will make a presentation to members on the Clover Centre development at the July meeting.

(f) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

M. Phelan advised that engagement has taken place between Council officials and senior management of Dunnes Stores recently and KCC are now awaiting a response from Dunnes Stores with regard to their proposals for the shopping centre, which will be relayed to members once received. Members welcomed this very positive progress.

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 advised that a response has been received from Bus Eireann, who have agreed to attend the June meeting of the Piltown MD, arrangements to be confirmed with them.

It was noted that the joint MD meeting with Carrick-on-Suir will take place on Thursday, 22nd May, M. Phelan asked members to submit items for the agenda as soon as possible.

M. Phelan advised that an update on Unfished Estates will be provided to members at the June meeting.

7. AOB:

Members meetings calendar – Cllr Dunphy raised an issue with regard to meetings clashing for members, M. Phelan agreed to raise this matter with Corporate section and communicate to all departments to check members calendar prior to arranging meetings, consultations etc.

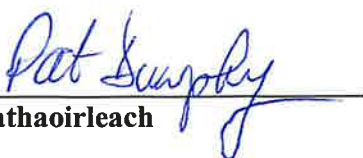
Invasive species – J. Tennyson advised Cllr Doherty that there is a register in place for the Piltown MD and that spraying is carried out twice yearly over a five year period, they are then assessed to ascertain if treatment should continue or cease.

Next Meeting

The next Piltown MD meeting will take place on Wednesday, 4th June, 2025 at 2:00pm.

J. Tennyson suggested holding the workshop to discuss proposals for the local MD fund prior to the June MD meeting, M. Phelan agreed to confirm arrangements with Bus Eireann and revert to members to confirm the meeting schedule for 4th June.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 4/6/25

