

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
8th January, 2025 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room***

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

Vote of Sympathy

All the members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending condolences to the Grennan family on the recent passing of Mary Grennan following a tragic accident and acknowledged what is a very difficult and sad time for her husband Paddy and her family.

N25 Upgrade

Cllr Frisby stated that the recent tragic accident on the N25 at the Rhu Glenn again brings to light the need for funding to be allocated to progress the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme as a matter of urgency and it was vital that the elected members continue to do all they can to keep this matter on the agenda to secure the necessary funding. He also raised the suggestion to ban right turn movements exiting the Rhu Glenn and requested that this be raised with TII in the interests of road safety and to prevent further tragedies occurring here. All the members were in support of this proposal.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 4th December, 2024** – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Catt Slattery and agreed.

Matters Arising

LIS Update – J. Tennyson advised that no further clarification had been received from the Department with regard to the qualifying criteria, he agreed to follow up and advise members as soon as same is received. He advised that applications received will be acknowledged and assessed as soon as possible to confirm eligibility under the current criteria. Cllr Breathnach proposed that a motion be brought from the Piltown MD members to the next plenary to write to the Department requesting that the eligibility criteria remain consistent from year to year. This was agreed.

Further discussion followed in relation to the criteria specifically and schemes of a social dimension and of benefit to the community, that these continue to be considered under the Scheme. Cllr Breathnach agreed to prepare the motion and circulate to members for agreement before submission.

Traffic Signals, Abby Road/Fountain St. Junction – I Gardner advised that the maintenance and operation of traffic signals are the responsibility of the Contractor until the works are completed. The traffic signals will not be operating at their optimal until the works are near completion for the following reasons. Firstly, the Dock Road inbound has been reduced to one lane resulting in longer queues back towards the traffic signals. Secondly, the detectors that are required to be placed in the approach roads to ensure optimal operation of the signals can only be provided once all road surfacing works have been completed. In the meantime, the traffic signals are regularly monitored and timings refined to improve capacity. It is acknowledged that there was a particular issue regarding traffic approaching from the New Ross direction but this has been resolved. The period prior to Christmas was also difficult to manage due to increased traffic flows and alternating traffic patterns.

Waterford Airport – it was noted that the notice of motion in relation to funding for Waterford Airport will be brought to the February plenary meeting, M. Phelan is liaising with Mary Mulholland on this matter.

Wall obstructing view of Quays from Abbey Road – I. Gardner advised that the wall along Abbey Road that obstructs the view of the quays from passing vehicles is required due to the significant drop in level on the other side of the wall. The wall is of reinforced concrete construction and it is therefore not practicable to cut holes in it to provide a view as this would impact the structural integrity of the wall.

Traffic Congestion, Ferrybank GAA – J. Tennyson advised that WCCC are currently preparing a taking in charge application for Abbeylands, Ard Daire and Belmont Heights, surveys will be carried out with a view to lodging a formal TIC application in Q1 of 2025. The traffic congestion issue can be looked at following the completion of the taking in charge process. Clarification was provided with regard to funding in the event of any defects or works deemed necessary following inspections.

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 other schemes – N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Carrick Road, North-South Link Road, Abbey Road/Belmont Road upgrades, N29 Port Road upgrade, Piltown RRDF, Rural local roads Speed Limits and the Winter Service Plan.

The following was raised and discussed:-

N25 Speed Camera – The response from the Garda National Roads Policing Bureau regarding the rationale for installing a static speed camera in favour of an average speed camera on the N25 Glenmore was circulated to members. Cllr Frisby felt that an average speed camera should be applied on this section of road, particularly in light of the recent fatality at Luffany and he proposed that we revert to the Policing Bureau to request same as this will slow traffic down on that full stretch of road. Cllr Dunphy agreed and seconded this proposal to seek the installation of an average speed camera. J. Tennyson agreed to write back to the Bureau on this matter. I. Gardner noted that the average speed will only be recorded if the vehicle passes both cameras at the start and finish point and this is something to consider given the number of junctions. J. Tennyson advised members that an LA16 fatal collision report is required to be carried out following the accident at the Rhu Glenn and he will be liaising with An Garda Síochána. This will also be reviewed by Road Design and any modifications deemed necessary at this location will need TII approval. He also advised that there will be a speed limit review undertaken on National Roads in 2025 and the N25 will be looked at under that review.

Cllr Doherty noted that there are 13 junctions in total between Luffany and Glenmore Roundabouts and noted the markings at Curraghmore and Rathinure junctions which provide safe right hand turns. She asked if such markings could be considered at other junctions, Ballinclar and Davidstown in particular.

Traffic Surveys – Cllr Frisby noted that even if funding were to be made available to progress the N25, the likely completion of the upgrade would be a number of years away and felt that something needed to be done in the interim. He asked if the Council could conduct surveys at each of the junctions on this stretch of road in order to have exact data on the numbers using this road and numbers turning at each of the junctions to support and inform decisions. I. Gardner agreed that this could be considered and undertook to liaise with J. Tennyson and raise with Road Design.

Cllr Dunphy also noted incidents occurring on the N24 at Rathkieran junction and right hand turns for Carrigeen and Kilmacow off the N24.

Meeting with TII – Cllr Breathnach requested that we again write to the TII seeking a face to face meeting with them to discuss these issues and to improve the safety on these roads.

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme – Discussion also took place in relation to the lack of funding to progress the N24 Scheme, Cllr Dunphy again stressing the need to hold an online meeting with all TDs and Senators in the South East Region in order to have a strong voice to push this project forward.

Ramps and Lighting at Mullinavat GAA – Cllr Catt Slattery asked that this work be progressed as soon as possible.

Signage Mullinavat – Cllr Catt Slattery asked for signage improvements approaching Mullinavat by Holden's, J. Tennyson agreed to arrange for cleaning or upgrade of these signs if necessary.

ESB Contact – Cllr Dunphy raised the issue of ESB delays with public lighting and asked if there was a contact within ESB to follow up. J. Tennyson advised on the process prior to making applications for new connections, with the only contact being with field agents.

(b) Greenway Update

An update report was circulated to members, I. Gardner advised as follows:-

Mainline Works

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd., commenced works in November 2023 on Lot 5A of the greenway, a 5.5km section, from Ferrybank to Curraghmore, a summary update on progress made is provided hereunder:-

- The final surface layer is now complete while the drainage edge stone is now also 99% completed;
- Fencing works along the greenway continues with the installation of the timber screen fencing along Lot 2 within Ferrybank completed;
- Works are also nearing completion at all level and segregated agricultural crossings;

- Works associated with the provision of public lighting has been completed and connection applications submitted to the ESB;
- The installation of amenity fixtures including picnic benches, benches and bicycle stands is complete.
- This initial stage of landscaping works is now also complete with the exception of a wildflower area at CH2500 and hedging at CH4000;
- Chicane gates are currently being installed at Level Crossing 1 & 2;
- The installation of the safety fence in the permanent greenway carpark at Ballyverneen, Glenmore, was completed in December. A Road Safety Auditor has been appointed and the Road Safety Audit will progress later this month. The public lighting columns have been stood and lighting heads are to be installed shortly.
- Accommodation works required to improve the sight-lines at Level Crossing 1, Rathpatrick, will commence in the coming weeks:
- Once all the outstanding works are completed a safety audit will be conducted, thereafter, any recommendations arising out of same will be assessed and other minor finishing out works will be completed to facilitate the opening of this section of the greenway towards the end of Qtr.1 2025.

Remaining Lots

- 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 last year, continue to advance the detail design on the remaining sections of the greenway.

Related Schemes

South – North Access Road, Ferrybank. A planning application under **Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations** was advertised in September last for the South – North Access Road, the proposal includes the South East Greenway Trailhead carpark at Ferrybank. The Planning Report & Recommendation for same went before Council in December 2024 and was approved.

Woodstock to South East Greenway Link

This Greenway project is currently in Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) stage. In accordance with the TII's Project Management Guidelines, certain deliverables are required at this stage.

- The project outline will be presented to the Callan/ Thomastown Municipal District members on 8th January 2025.
- The project website will be go live after this presentation.
- Public Consultation 1 will commence in early February. Notices will be advertised in local newspapers, a letter drop (via An Post) will also be undertaken within the project study area along with posters erected at public building etc.
- There will be 2 open public consultation events held from 24th to 27th February 2025 at Inistioge and New Ross Golf Club (TBC)

Greenway Link to Glenmore: Last year 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. Tender documentation is currently being prepared to engage the services of a Multi-disciplinary Engineer led Design Team to the advance the project through detail design, tender award and construction stage. This tender competition will be launching in the coming weeks.

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 separate links, the Kilmurray Lane route (the Southern Connectivity Link) and the Luffany route (the Northern Connectivity Link) were the preferred options. 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.

A planning application under **Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations** was advertised in September for the Southern Connectivity Link. The public consultation process under this process has concluded and the final date for submissions was the 25th October. A Planning Report & Recommendation will go before Council for consideration at the January Council Meeting

The following was raised and discussed:-

I Gardner provided clarification to Cllr Doherty in relation to public lighting at Raheen and Ballyverneen Car Park, stating that they will be completed as part of the public lighting contract.

Cllr Breathnach asked that the Piltown MD members be kept informed of progress on the proposed Greenway link to Woodstock.

Clarification was provided to Cllr Doherty regarding South-North access road, I. Gardner advised that it will now proceed to detailed design stage and mitigation measures will be looked at in relation to concerns raised by residents of Clover Meadows.

(c) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

I Gardner advised that Planning have followed up with Dunnes Stores regarding a letter previously sent by the Chief Executive. The letter informed Dunnes Stores that the preparation of the draft Masterplan for Ferrybank/Belview was at an advanced stage and that the Council would like the opportunity to engage with them to brief them on the plan and to ascertain their views.

Since the last MD meeting Dunnes has responded in what is considered a positive manner. Planning will now arrange to meet with Dunnes Stores to discuss the draft masterplan including Dunnes Stores proposals for the Ferrybank Shopping Centre.

Clover Centre Update

I Gardner advised that a competition to engage consultants has been undertaken and a Letter of Intent to award this contract was issued on the 18th December. The preferred consultants under consideration have until the 10th January to submit the additional information sought. Subject to the satisfactory submission of said information it is expected that a Letter of Acceptance, awarding the tender, will be issued mid-January. Once the tender is awarded an initial meeting will be arranged to discuss the delivery programme. The suggested duration of the contract is 8 months, so based on this the initial public consultation, allowing for site surveys etc, would be scheduled for Q2 this year.

Cllr Doherty asked that this report be circulated to 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 Dunphy raised a matter concerning lighting on the Thomas Francis Meagher Bridge which has been turned off since October 2023 and causing visibility issues at the exits either side of the bridge. He understood this to be TII policy, but felt there should be illuminated signage or other measures taken for safety reasons. Cllr Catt Slattery also noted lack of lighting at the Mullinavat exit on the M9 causing similar concern. Cllr Dunphy asked if TII could be written to on this matter with a view to improving visibility and safety.

Glenmore Bus Stop – Cllr Doherty asked for update on relocation of bus stop at Glenmore and raised concerns that buses were not stopping at this location. J. Tennyson confirmed that since the last meeting, a new Safety Engineer has been appointed to the Road Design office and this matter will fall under his remit,

J. Tennyson agreed to follow up with him and revert to Cllr Doherty. He agreed to write to Bus Eireann regarding use of this stop.

Meeting with An Garda Siochana – Cllr Dunphy asked that a meeting be arranged with An Garda Siochana to discuss speeding and other matters of concern within the District.

Bus Eireann – Cllr Dunphy referred to a bus route via Carrick-on-Suir, Portlaw, Whitfield Clinic and UHW which received approval in July 2024 and would be of great benefit to people in the Piltown-Fiddown areas but which has not yet become operational. He proposed that representatives of Bus Eireann in Waterford be invited to attend a meeting of the Piltown MD to discuss these matters with them. This was agreed. Cllr Breathnach proposed that consideration also be given to meeting with other agencies to discuss matters of concern and to build a calendar for 2025/26, which will be of benefit to all concerned.

Hedge Cutting – Cllr Doherty raised the issue of hedge cutting and the responsibility of landowners to carry out works before the end of February. J. Tennyson confirmed that where there are concerns raised, landowners are issued with notices and confirmed that most landowners are compliant.

Next Meeting

The next Piltown MD meeting will take place on Wednesday, 5th February, 2025 at 2:00pm.
The next Joint Meeting with Waterford Metro will take place on Tuesday 18th February at 11:30am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 05/02/25

