

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
4th June, 2025 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room**

Cathaoirleach: Cllr G. Frisby
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, O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Outset

Cllr Frisby welcomed all to the meeting.

It was agreed that the meeting be adjourned, to facilitate holding of the Annual Meeting of the Piltown Municipal District and will resume immediately after the AGM.

On resumption of the meeting, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cathaoirleach, took the chair.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 7th May, 2025** – proposed by Cllr Frisby, seconded by Cllr Doherty and agreed.

Matters Arising:

Glenmore Bus Stop – J. Tennyson advised Cllr Doherty that a recently appointed safety Engineer is dealing with this matter and a consultant is currently being tendered to look at the design of the bus stop, which is at an advanced stage and an appointment is expected in the next month or two.

Unfinished Estates – M. Phelan confirmed to Cllr Doherty that update will be provided at the July Meeting.

N25/N24 Schemes – Cllr Frisby noted that a public meeting has been arranged on the 16th June at 8pm in the Rhu Glenn Hotel to discuss the urgent need for the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme to progress and for safety measures to be provided in the interim. He urged as many as possible to attend this meeting and hoped for a good turnout, with positive discussion and debate that can be brought back to the Minister and TII to fund and progress this scheme and also the N24 Waterford to Cahir scheme, as a matter of urgency. Cllr Dunphy noted that there is a lot of momentum behind these two schemes and it is important that this is maintained in order to achieve a positive outcome to progress both schemes.

Mill Road Footpath – J. Tennyson confirmed to Cllr Catt Slattery that an Archaeological Impact Assessment must first be carried out, following which the scheme can proceed to Part 8 planning.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

(a) 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 and Roundabout Projects.

The following was raised and discussed:-

N24 Carrick Road Safety Scheme – Cllr Dunphy asked for an update and information in relation to the judicial review, J. Tennyson agreed to follow up and revert to members.

N25 Waterford to Cahir Scheme – Cllr Doherty supported the call for all concerned to attend the public meeting on 16th June at the Rhu Glenn Hotel, a very strong working group has been formed to try to deliver a clear message in trying to save lives and seek the funding necessary to progress the scheme.

N25 Speed Camera – Cllr Doherty welcomed the installation of the speed camera and asked if a report and feedback could be provided in relation to its effectiveness in due course. J. Tennyson advised that he will liaise with Jane Humphries, Garda National Roads Policing Bureau, to seek data in this regard.

Roundabout Projects – J. Tennyson confirmed to Cllr Doherty that the sponsorship of the roundabouts will be on a three year term, with the option of extending for a further two years. Cllr Doherty took the opportunity to thank the sponsors for their support on this project, which means a lot to the area and is a great enhancement. Cllr Frisby also welcomed the huge enhancement this project has made on the approaches to Waterford and thanked sponsors, Dawn Meats, Medite Smartply, Mulligans and Port of Waterford, who have made substantial investments and is much appreciated by the local communities. He also thanked John Tennyson, Frank Stafford and his team and all involved in this project.

Abbey Road/Belmont Road Upgrade – Cllr Frisby asked for timelines in relation to design, J. Tennyson agreed to revert to David O’Brien and project team to seek an update. It was noted that the Part 8 for this scheme has already been approved by members.

Roads Programme – J. Tennyson confirmed to Cllr Breathnach that the roadworks programme is still on target, but noted that some delays to surface dressing works have occurred due to poor weather at the start of the schedule. Cllr Breathnach asked if the schedule of planned works can be included on the Roadworks Programme update going forward, this was agreed.

Deer Crossing – Cllr Dunphy asked if ‘deer crossing’ signage could be erected on the Port Road, as this is becoming more of an issue. J. Tennyson advised that delivery of signage was awaited and will be erected once delivered.

(b) Greenway Update

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

Glas Civil Engineering Ltd., commenced works in November 2023 on Lot 5A of the greenway, a 5.5km section, from Ferrybank to Curraghmore. Substantial completion was issued to the contractor as of 20 December 2024.

Recent Progress

- Snagging is ongoing with minor finishing works which includes signage and boundary fencing requirements for opening
- Temporary Trailhead works at Curraghmore are continuing.
- Previously reported that funding was received from Creative Ireland for a wall mural on concrete screen fencing in Ferrybank. The design of the mural is currently under with a view to completion prior to greenway opening.
- 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.
- TII Allocation of €2.5M was received for the South East Greenway.
- The acquisition of land from CIE at the Rosbercon Trailhead is progressing.
- The masterplan for the Rosbercon Trailhead is well progressed and will go to Part 8 shortly.
- Ecological surveys will progress in Q2.
- Cultural Heritage Survey site walkover has been completed.

Summary Overview

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

Related Schemes

South North Access Road, Ferrybank

Consultant continues to work on the 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

- Following a tender process, Kilgallen & Partners have been identified as the preferred consultants to advance the project through detail design, tender award and construction stage. 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

- Efforts are continuing to identify 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
- Previously reported that the first Public Consultation process was completed.
- Constraints and Opportunity Report along with an Agronomy Report are currently with TII for comment.
- Currently finalising the Feasibility Report and investigating possible route options.

- The project website (<https://www.woodstocktosegreenway.ie>) is currently live and is updated with relevant information.

The following was raised and discussed:-

- Cllr Dunphy asked if an approximate timeframe could be provided for completion of the section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore and also for the links to Glenmore, Slieverue and Woodstock.
- Cllr Doherty asked if the temporary car park facility at Curraghmore could remain in-situ on a permanent basis, as it is a very useful facility which would be of great benefit to many people. Cllr Frisby also asked that if there were plans to retain this car park, that discussions be held with the landowners concerned.
- Cllr Doherty asked for engagement to continue with landowners in relation to the link to Glenmore.
- Cllr Frisby asked for an approximate timeframe for the completion of the remaining 10km.
- Cllr Catt Slattery asked for an update in relation to the bridge between Belfield and Fiodh Mor estates.
- Cllr Breathnach asked what the €2.5m allocation from TII will be used for.
- Cllr Breathnach asked for an update in relation to the Cultural and Heritage Strategy for the Greenway, which is an important element of the project.

I Gardner advised that he would bring matters raised back to the Project Team and will revert to members with response.

In relation to the matter raised by Cllr Catt Slattery, J. Tennyson advised that an application will be submitted by the Piltown District Office to Active Travel to install footpaths and lighting between Belfield and Fiodh Mor. It was noted that this will require significant funding and the outcome of this application will not be known until Q1 2026.

(c) North Quays SDZ Update

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

A significant milestone was reached with the arrival of the bridge superstructure by barge from Ghent, Belgium on the 20th May. The installation commenced the following day with all 4 spans installed by the 28th May. The spans were installed by a 75m high floating crane.

An exclusion zone around the operation works is currently in place and the bridge will remain closed until the openings spans of the bridge are tested and put into operation. The bridge finishing works, which includes the final surfacing, lighting, street furniture, and parapet railings, will then commence as well as the installation of the downstream bridge pier protection system.

Harcourt Developments was granted planning permission in April 2025 for phased one, mixed use development on the SDZ site. Construction of this private development is anticipated to commence later this year and it is expected that integration works will be fast-tracked as part of this construction to facilitate the opening of the bridge to the public in Q4 2026.

It is anticipated that roadworks in the Ferrybank area will be completed this summer. A night time road closure for Abbey Road is expected in June to lay the final road surface. Details of the proposed diversion route for this night time period will be communicated directly to local stakeholders and also via local signage, radio and social media channels.

Works are continuing at the Transport Hub, the new drop off facility to the west of the station building is beginning to take shape. It will provide set down, disabled and bicycle parking facilities as well as access to the new southeast Greenway.

Works are continuing on the railway flood defence scheme. In the coming months works will extend through the front of Plunkett Station and upstream of Rice Bridge including the construction of a flood defence wall between the river and the railway tracks. The project team is consulting with Irish Rail on options that would minimise disruption to rail commuters and any impacts on the city centre. This includes exploring potential bus transfers between Waterford & Kilkenny for some scheduled train services but avoiding peak commuter periods.

The following was raised and discussed:-

- Members asked about provision of parking spaces at the station, which they felt may be insufficient given the numbers using the station and asked if clarification could be sought in this regard.
- Cllr Breathnach asked if a date for resurfacing works on the Abbey Road had been scheduled.

- In relation to the flood defence works, Cllr Breathnach noted from the report that works will require a very close interface with the rail tracks and asked if this would also impact that section of road.
- Cllr Catt Slattery asked what the future plan was for the existing railway station building, once the new station was operational.
- Cllr Frisby raised concern with the new traffic light system at the junction of Fountain Street and Abbey Road, which has a huge impact on traffic particularly for Abbey College traffic and asked if the sequencing could be checked as they are causing delays for traffic approaching this junction.

I Gardner advised that he would bring matters raised back to the Project Team and will revert to members with response. In relation to the flood defence works, it was advised that due to the proximity of works to the rail tracks, it will be necessary to shut down some train services in order to facilitate these works, but this will be done during off peak periods to minimise disruption to commuters and may include the provision of bus transfers.

(d) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

I Gardner advised that a pre-planning meeting is being arranged with Dunnes Stores and will take place shortly, which is a very positive step forward. 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:

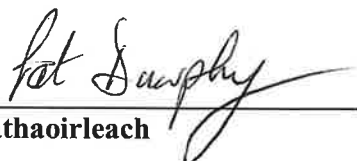
Ferrybank-Belview LAP – Cllr Breathnach asked for an update regarding public consultation in relation to the LAP. I. Gardner advised that the outcome of discussions with Dunnes Stores was awaited in relation to the Ferrybank Shopping Centre, but agreed to seek an update in this regard.

Traffic Congestion Ferrybank GAA Club – J. Tennyson advised Cllr Dunphy that a taking in charge application has not yet been received. Cllr Dunphy asked if correspondence could be issued to WCCC to seek an update on progress with the application, as the parking and congestion remains an issue. M. Phelan agreed to write to Michael Quinn, Director of Services, in this regard.

Next Meeting

The next Piltown MD meeting will take place on Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025 at 2:00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 2/7/25