

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
3rd September, 2025 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room***

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

- 1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 2nd July, 2025** – proposed by Cllr Frisby, seconded by Cllr Catt Slattery and agreed.

Matters Arising:

N24 Carrick Road Scheme – I Gardner advised that a date for Oral Hearing was awaited from An Bord Pleanála.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Affordable Purchase Scheme Update

Cllr Dunphy noted the comprehensive presentation given at the workshop held in advance of the meeting by Ms. Brid Hynes and Ms. Grace Quinn, Housing Capital, providing an update on Kilkenny County Council's Affordable Purchase Scheme, including details of the recently launched scheme at Church View, Kilmacow which will be open to applications on 10th September.

I Gardner advised that KCC have targets to meet in relation to Affordable Purchase, which to-date are being met and will continue as part of the new Housing for All Action Plan. It was noted that under the scheme the Local Authority takes an equity share in the property until such time as the owner is in a position to pay back that equity; the scheme helps to bridge the gap in affordability for those on the middle income range.

(b) Library Development Plan

Ms. Josephine Coyne, County Librarian, was in attendance to make a presentation to members on Kilkenny County Councils Library Service Development Plan 2025-2029, which is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act. Ms. Coyne set out details of the Library's mission statement and core values, which focus on people, accessibility, inclusion and sustainability. She advised that there are currently eight library branches and a mobile library service operating across the county, noting that 24% of the county's population are members of Kilkenny library, making it a very well supported service.

Ms. Coyne outlined some of the main achievements over the past five years, including the Mayfair Library opening, Decade of Centenaries programme, digital transformation and implementing new technology, running a range of national and local programmes and working in partnership with other agencies and organisations. She outlined statistics in relation to usage and engagement, the impact of Covid on the service and efforts to adapt and rebuild the service, with increases in membership and usage noted in the last five years.

Ms. Coyne advised that as part of the preparation of the Plan, a broad consultation took place with key stakeholders, staff and public. She outlined the five strategic objectives contained in the Plan, as follows:-

- User Experience; place people at the heart of what we do by taking a user centred approach to the development of operations, services and programmes.
- Community connectivity and cultural engagement; build and encourage meaningful civic and cultural engagement and participation, offering spaces for people to connect, engage and share.
- Knowledge and innovation; adopt an innovative approach to creating, sharing and using knowledge in an evolving technological environment.
- Literacy and learning; support development of literacy skills including practical, critical and digital skills in line with growing skill and ability demands.
- Sustainability and adaptability; implement sustainability and adaptability measures to ensure long-term resilience and to ensure we meet community needs effectively.

Ms. Coyne stressed that library staff are a key element to achieving these objectives and require continued support and investment in their development and training. She also stressed the importance of securing the necessary funding and increased investment in order to keep pace with demand and to maintain a quality service. She thanked the members for their continued support.

All the members joined in thanking Ms. Coyne for her presentation and praised her and all the library staff for their commitment to providing such a vibrant and valuable service to local communities across the county.

Cllr Breathnach asked that relationships with universities be explored with regard to access and also to look at our approach to and work together on promoting the Irish language.

Cllr Dunphy asked that the link to the newspaper archive be circulated to members. He again thanked Ms. Coyne and library staff and she withdrew from the meeting.

(c) Clover Centre Update Report

I Gardner advised that following on from the initial public consultation event and submissions received, a number of concept plans have been developed and reviewed by the project team. The current concept plan will be displayed at the second public consultation event, that is scheduled towards the end of September. Date to be confirmed in the coming weeks, once a venue has been confirmed. Once all the feedback from this event is reviewed, a presentation can be done to the elected members prior to going to Part 8. Provided no major changes are required and no major objections to the concept plan are received, it is hoped to be able to present an update to the elected members for the November meeting

(d) Monthly Roadworks Update

J. Tennyson circulated report outlining details of pavement works, discretionary maintenance, drainage and other works progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates on N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Carrick Road, N24 Mooncoin Village EPS, N24 Rathkieran to Aglish HD28 Scheme, N25 Glenmore to Waterford Scheme, N25 Curraghmore to Gaulstown HD28 Scheme, N25 and Urban Speed Limit reviews, North-South Link Road, Abbey Road/Belmont Road upgrades, N29 Port Road upgrade, Piltown RRDF and Glenmore Bus Stop. It was noted that supplementary funding has been received from the Department to complete two additional Local Improvement Schemes at Oldcourt and Ballynooney and an RI scheme at Loughcullen.

The following was raised and discussed:-

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme – Cllr Dunphy raised concern following four accidents in the past week on the N24 between Aglish and Mooncoin, he asked that this matter be raised at the next meeting with An Garda Síochána with regard to accident reporting and sharing of information with TII.

N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme – Cllr Doherty welcomed funding to progress the scheme and praised efforts of the local committee, who are meeting with TII next week and she also acknowledged and thanked Council officials involved in trying to progress the scheme.

Urban Speed Limit Review – J. Tennyson confirmed that guidelines are awaited from the Department, following which the process will commence.

(e) Mill Road, Active Travel Scheme

Drawings outlining details of the proposed scheme were circulated to members; J. Tennyson advised that the Scheme comprises shared cycle and pedestrian facilities connecting the R448 at Main Street, Mullinavat to the GAA field, via the Mill Road, Mullinavat. He outlined the proposed plan in detail to members, he also gave a summary of the proposals and responded to questions from members on same.

Cllr Catt Slattery welcomed progress on the scheme, however she raised some concern that the signalised junction with Main Street will cause major delays for rush hour traffic, as it is the busiest junction in Mullinavat. She also noted the lack of provision for safe access between the school, community centre and GAA field.

Following further discussion and input from all members, it was agreed that the Feasibility & Options Report prepared by Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers, would be circulated to members, to allow for further consideration and discussion before proceeding to Part 8. I. Gardner advised members that the Part 8 planning proposal can be modified based on submissions received during the consultation process, however if amendments to the proposal are significant, this may require further consultation.

Based on discussions, J. Tennyson agreed to discuss the matter with the Consultants to delay the Part 8 process, until such time as members have had an opportunity to review the Feasibility & Options Report.

In order to comply with Standing Orders, Cllr Dunphy sought proposer and seconder to extend the meeting:

It was proposed by Cllr Breathnach, seconded by Cllr Doherty and agreed that the meeting would be extended for a further thirty minutes.

(f) Templeorum Village Safety Improvement Scheme

Details and drawings for this scheme were circulated to members; J. Tennyson advised on proposals to improve safety and connectivity within the village as follows:-

- Improvement of traffic calming measures and pedestrian access on the L-1035 connecting the Community Hall and the School.
- Improvement of pedestrian access between the Car Park and the Church/School on the L-7549
- Improvement of the junction at the Church/Car Park (Junction of L-5113 and L-7549)

It was noted that once the Section 38 has been finalised and planning is in place, initial works will include the installation of the footpath outside the Community Hall, along with zebra crossings and school signage, modifications to car park entrance and exit. The remaining works and roadmarkings will be undertaken once resurfacing works have been completed under the Restoration Improvement programme 2027. It was noted that new gateway signs will also be erected at either side of the village as part of the Scheme.

Cllr Dunphy asked that contact be made with members of the Templeorum Village deputation who attended the Piltown MD meeting in 2024.

It was noted that the Scheme has been advertised and is open for submissions until 26th September, 2025.

(g) Greenway Update

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

Mainline Works

- Works continue to be finalized since substantial completion was achieved in December 2024.
- At the Abbey Road where the project ties in with the North Quays there are works ongoing to facilitate access from the Greenway onto Abbey Road. The Greenway team are engaging with Waterford City & County Council in relation to a timeline for completion of these works which would allow opening of this section of greenway.
- The Greenway Mural funded by the Creative Ireland Scheme will be a 160m long public art installation. The mural was designed and painted by Street Art Ink, who took on board feedback from public consultation events with local community groups. The mural captures key landmarks such as the Pope's Tower and Ferrybank Grotto. Photo shows images of the New Mural.

Remaining Lots

- It is intended that the section of Greenway between Curraghmore and Balyverneen will be undertaken as a single construction contract which involves a length of approximately 9km. The Consulting Engineers, Fehily Timoney & Co. Ltd. continue to advance the design.
- 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 in October.
- A number of surveys have been completed for the Red Bridge-Mountelliott Tunnel section which are informing the detailed design.

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

- Kilgallen & Partners have commenced work on the detail design including procurement of surveys. 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
- Public Consultation 1 completed

- Constraints and Opportunity Report along with an Agronomy Report are still 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:-

In response to Cllr Doherty with regard to the opening of the section from Curraghmore to Ferrybank, I. Gardner advised that this is dependent on the ramp connection at Abbey Road, which will take a couple of weeks to complete, followed by snagging and a safety audit will also be required. It was noted no date has been set for the opening of this section as yet.

Cllr Breathnach took the opportunity to thank all involved and those who engaged in the creation of the mural along the Greenway in Ferrybank.

(h) North Quays SDZ Update

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

- The first opening of the Sustainable Transport Bridge took place on Friday 11th July. Works are continuing on the bridge and the final installation of the river pier protection systems and navigation aids is also ongoing. Over the coming six months the bridge finishing works will be completed i.e. parapet railings, surfacing, lighting etc.
- The main road surfacing works on the South Quays are substantially complete while paving works on the new plaza are c. 75% complete. The plaza works are expected to be substantially complete in Q4 2025 and will be opened to the public following snagging and safety audit.
- Works on the train station building and platforms are progressing, including the northern entrance, set-down plaza area, bus & car lay-bys, walkway canopy etc. The western railway footbridge and associated ramp that provides a direct link from Dock Road to the Sustainable Transport Bridge is also taking shape.
- The roadworks and temporary traffic management in Ferrybank is predominantly now focused on Dock Road and Fountain Street to facilitate the final phases of surfacing, lighting, footpaths and traffic signals. The final road surfacing works for Dock Road and Rockshire Road junction will take place from 15th-19th September and will involve night-time closures. Traffic management details will be publicised on radio, via variable messaging signs, WCCC social media channels and local stakeholders will be informed.
- Works at Abbey Road are also nearing completion with permanent lighting, street furniture and greenway access ramps to be finished in the coming weeks. The main works in the vicinity of the two schools have been completed in advance of the new school term. The completion of the greenway ramp as well as snagging checks and safety audits in the Abbey Road area will enable the sectional opening of the 6km section of greenway from Ferrybank to Curraghmore.
- Works are continuing on the railway flood defence scheme with the eastern flood defence works coming close to completion. The western flood defence works commenced on 25th August with agreed bus transfers operating between Kilkenny and Waterford for off peak commuter train services, Monday to Thursday for a 26-week period (excl. December 2025). A Part 8 Planning application for relocation of the flood defence pump stations commenced in July with a decision due later this month. It is anticipated that the railway flood defence works will be completed in 2026 as the final part of the public infrastructure works.
- Harcourt Developments is expected to commence phase 1 of the approved SDZ mixed use development in the coming months. The integration works required at the interfaces with the transport hub, sustainable transport bridge, Abbey Road and Dock Road will be fast-tracked as part of this construction to facilitate the earliest possible opening of the transport hub and bridge in early 2027.

Cllr Dunphy raised concern again in relation to sufficient parking and the possibility of using the car park at Ferrybank Shopping Centre and arranging a shuttle bus service to the station and into the City. I. Gardner agreed to seek clarification on what parking is being provided and use for same.

(i) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

Cllr Dunphy noted planning permission granted last week and the members joined with him in thanking all officials involved for their efforts made over the past number of years in progressing this matter.

I Gardner noted a very positive vibe around the whole development which it is hoped will continue, as Planning Section continue to liaise with the owners of the Centre regarding the Master Plan for the area.

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 An Garda Siochana representatives have confirmed their availability for a meeting at 1:15pm on Wednesday, 1st October, in advance of the October MD meeting.

7. AOB:

Cllr Doherty raised an issue regarding safety on the Glenmore Roundabout, for traffic taking the exit off the roundabout for the Cappagh/Jamestown road and asked if this could be reviewed. J. Tennyson advised that this is a matter for BAM, it was agreed that this matter be referred to them.

MASP – Cllr Breathnach asked if an update on progress could be requested for the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: *Cllr Pat Dunphy*
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 01/10/2025