

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
6th May, 2026 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room***

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

With the agreement of all members, the Deputation from R704 Garrandarragh and Ballynooney Residents was taken at the outset.

4. (a) Deputation – R704 Garrandarragh and Ballynooney Residents

M. Phelan outlined information to the deputation with regard to Standing Orders for MD Meetings and the procedures around receiving deputations and their attendance at meetings, this was noted. Cllr Dunphy welcomed the Deputation and following introductions, he invited the group to commence their presentation.

Sean Maher began by introducing himself and his colleagues, Peter McDonald and Orla Dunphy, noting their great interest and involvement in their local community. He outlined the history of the road, stating that traffic had increased dramatically in recent years and he outlined the reasons for their attendance, namely safety concerns due to speeding and the footpath from the M9 to Mullinavat village.

Peter McDonald advised that his mother Tess was part of the deputation who attended 16 years ago and he acknowledged that the 60km/h zone was extended, as requested at that time. He went on to outline residents' concerns, objectives and proposed measures, as follows:

- Introduction – Junction 11, key access point for the R704, Mullinavat village and New Ross – traffic transitioning from high-speed M9 motorway to lower capacity R704, while maintaining excessive speeds, creating risks for local traffic and pedestrians.
- Objectives – ensure compliance with 60km/h speed limit, improve safety and reduce collision risk, create a clear visual and physical transition from motorway to local road network.
- Proposed measures – details outlined, including speed limit signage enhancement, traffic calming measures, speed limit enforcement and public awareness campaign.

In conclusion, Mr. McDonald stated that ensuring vehicles reduce to 60km/h when transitioning from the M9 to the R704 at Mullinavat requires a combination of engineering, enforcement and education and by implementing the measures outlined, the local authority can significantly improve safety, reduce accident risk and create a more appropriate driving environment for a regional road passing through a community.

Orla Dunphy advised that she has been a resident on the road for 20 years, with young children, noting that the road is narrow and she outlined the hazards due to the number of heavy goods vehicles using the road and the danger that presents. She noted several incidents and near misses occurring on the road and stated that it is no longer safe for pedestrians or for the local community to carry out litter picks in the area. She presented photos of some damaged speed limit signage, which have not been maintained and asked for some practical measures to be implemented to improve safety, such as improved signage and road markings. She also requested that the speed limit be further extended for approximately 1km to include more residents within the 60km/h zone and appealed to the members for assistance to improve safety for local residents.

Sean Maher also raised the matter of the footpath from the M9 into the village and the poor condition of same, which is of concern to local residents. He noted mention of funding put in place previously for completion of the footpath and asked that the matter be addressed. Photos and a video were shared with members during the presentation, which were noted.

Each of the members thanked the group for their attendance and acknowledged their efforts to highlight issues of concern on behalf of the local community and assured them of their full support in seeking to address the matters raised. It was noted that a response will issue to the group in advance of the next MD meeting.

The deputation thanked the members and they withdrew from the meeting.

Discussion followed, J. Tennyson advised the following:-

- Traffic and speed survey will be undertaken, concentrating on the Ballynooney/Garrandarragh areas of main concern, within both the 60km and 80km speed zones. Data will be referred to An Garda Síochána, who are responsible for enforcement. It was noted there is no suitable location for go safe van on the R704.
- Various improvements have been carried out on sections of the R704 over the past number of years, with SD works programmed for Ballynooney this year which will improve condition and skid resistance, road lining measures can be included as part of these works.

- Overlay works in 2025 at Ballynooney included additional slow strips and a virtual ramp on the approach to the 60km speed zone.
- A review of all signage will be carried out immediately, to identify possible improvements.
- Consideration can be given to installing a driver feedback sign for the 60km zone at Garrandarragh, under a low cost safety improvement scheme.
- Representations can be made to TII for signage improvements on section from M9 slip road to roundabout.
- Piping of roadside dykes/drains would not be feasible in terms of cost, however road edge lining can be looked at to define the road edge and improve safety.
- Extension to the 60km/h zone requires bye-laws, can refer to Road Design to examine if merited.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 4th March, 2026** – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Frisby and agreed.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

(a) Monthly Roadworks Update

J. Tennyson circulated report outlining details of paving works, discretionary maintenance and other works progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates on the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme, N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme, N25 Safety Improvement Works, N25 Glenmore Rural Bus Stop, N29 Slieverue Roundabout, N24 Rathkieran to Aglish HD28 Scheme, N24 Carrick Road Safety Scheme, North-South Link Road, Abbey Road/Belmont Road upgrades, N29 Port Road upgrade, Piltown RRDF and Urban Speed Limit Review.

The following was raised and discussed:-

N24 Carrick Road Safety Scheme – J. Tennyson advised members that letter has been received from An Coimisiún Pleanála, stating that having regard to the High Court decision the case has been reactivated back to the point in time prior to the Inspector’s memo of 13th November 2023, with any documentation on the file after this point removed. The Commission will in due course give a direction on the holding of an oral hearing in this case or shall invite written submissions from all participants to ensure fair procedures are afforded to all parties. A copy of the letter will be circulated to members.

N25 Speed Camera – Cllr Dunphy asked for update with regard to signage, J. Tennyson advised members that a notice of motion with regard to review of signage by TII should be submitted by members for consideration at the plenary meeting.

(b) Killonerry Bridge Update

J. Tennyson advised that the deadline for ORIS funding applications has been revised to November 2026. Cllr Dunphy noted update provided at the last meeting and asked that efforts be made to progress as quickly as possible. J. Tennyson agreed to refer the matter to the Parks Department, requesting that an application for funding be made as soon as possible.

(c) Greenway Update

Update report was circulated to members, J. Tennyson advised as follows:

Mainline Works

- Minor finishing out works are being finalised on this 6km section of greenway since substantial completion to ready same for opening.
- As previously advised, the opening date is dependent on the completion of an area within North Quay’s development. Once available - the southern end of the greenway can be accessed via the North Quay’s /Abbey Road intersection, and a small temporary greenway trailhead car park will also be made available within the North Quay’s development.
- The Greenway team continue to engage with Waterford City & County Council in relation to a completion date for the above and the most recent advice is that works are now substantially complete with snagging and finishing works on track for completion later this month.

South East Greenway Interpretation Plan

- Failte Ireland, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford County Councils are nearing completion and sign of South East Greenway Interpretation plan.
- Funding for the delivery to of interpretation plan will be presented to Failte Ireland Investment Committee by Q4 2026.

- Failte Ireland will cover all costs of wayfinding and interpretation of South East Greenway.
- The percent for art scheme can be included in application to Failte Ireland and can be used to deliver some animation elements of the scheme.
- The primary theme of “Three Sisters” story has been agreed with some minor changes to be made to secondary themes.

Remaining Lots

Kilkenny

- Detailed design of the remaining section of Greenway between Curraghmore and Ballyverneen (approximately 9km) continues to be progressed by consultants.
- The landowner liaison team continues to engage with affected landowners along this section to agree final design layouts and accommodation works.

Wexford

- The acquisition of land from CIE at the Rosbercon Trailhead is progressing.
- The detailed design of Lot 4 is now being finalised and a peer review is ongoing with the intention to progress to tender in the coming months.
- The masterplan for the Rosbercon Trailhead was submitted for Part 8 planning on Wednesday February 18th, 2026.

Related Schemes

South North Access Road, Ferrybank

- The design team have completed the detail design for both the South – North Link Road and Greenway Trailhead Carpark. Contract documents for construction works are expected to be advertised in the coming weeks.

Greenway Link to Glenmore

- The Design Team have commenced work on the detailed design including procurement of various surveys.
- As the detailed design progresses, discussions with the affected landowners will continue regarding the acquisition of land.

Greenway Link to Slieverue

- Efforts are continuing to identify potential funding streams to advance this project.

Woodstock to South East Greenway Link

- A 2nd Public Consultation on Proposed Route Corridors was held on the 13th of April in Inistioge. The event was well attended and well received.
- Following consultation and landowner engagement, a Preferred Route Corridor Option will be proposed.
- On completion of the above, a further public consultation will be held on the Preferred Route.

Responses were provided to queries raised at April MD meeting, as follows;

Future Status of Temporary Car Park at Curraghmore – The car park at Curraghmore is temporary in nature and facilitates the upcoming opening of the section of greenway between Curraghmore and the North Quays in Ferrybank. On completion of the entire greenway between Waterford and New Ross, permanent trailheads will be available at Rosbercon, Glenmore (already open) and Rathculiheen. Combined, these locations are appropriately sized and spaced to accommodate forecasted greenway users.

Responsibility for Greenway Maintenance – The Greenway will be maintained by Kilkenny County Council Parks Department with funding from the annual budget as agreed by the elected members.

Can a Layout Drawing be Provided for Rosbercon Trailhead – A scheme layout drawing for the Rosbercon Trailhead was circulated to members.

Cllr Breathnach asked if the connection to and history of the railway will be incorporated into the Greenway Interpretation Plan. Cllr Doherty also asked if townlands and place names will be considered as part of the plan. J. Tennyson agreed to relay these matters to the Greenway team.

(d) North Quays Update

J. Tennyson provided update as follows;

- The finishing works on the sustainable bridge are ongoing. It is likely that the specialist final bridge surfacing will proceed in early Summer when temperatures and weather are more suitable. The bridge temporary steel supports have been removed from the river, and the finishing out works for the pier protection system will be completed in the coming months.
- The South Plaza will provide a landscaped public realm area with seating, lighting, green area and bicycle facilities. Works are expected to be complete later this month after which final snagging checks and safety audits will be carried out in advance of the full area being open to the public.
- The final rendered finish to the train station northern lift shaft is now complete and scaffolding has been removed from the northern elevation. Finishing works are continuing to the train station building with testing & commissioning of the various operational systems in the station to commence in the coming months.
- External works to the north of the train station are also being finished out including the Bus Eireann depot, platforms, and the northern plaza and set-down areas. These works include landscaping, lighting, street furniture and bicycle facilities. Surfacing of the western footbridge will also be complete in the coming weeks. Works on the station's southern entrance will commence later this year.
- Iarnród Éireann will complete the installation of new trackside signalling, electrical and telecoms equipment through 2026 and into Q1 of 2027. The completion of these separate works will facilitate the opening of the train station towards the end of 2027. The completion of the railway flood defences (see below) is also required before the station can open.
- All infrastructural works on Dock Road, Fountain Street and Abbey Road are largely complete. The completion of the greenway ramp at Abbey Road will facilitate the potential opening of the 6km section of greenway from Abbey Road to Curraghmore by Wexford & Kilkenny County Council's. The timing of the opening of the greenway will be subject to completion of safety audits, defects check, certification etc.
- Works are continuing on the railway flood defence scheme; the western flood defence scheme is circa 70% complete and is scheduled for completion in Q3 2026. The eastern trackside drainage works are complete, and the contract for the western trackside drainage works is due to be awarded.
- The central flood defence works through Plunkett Station will proceed in 2026. The works are complex and logistically challenging, and the works are being planned to ensure safety while also minimising disruption to rail services and commuters.
- Harcourt Developments continue to liaise with the Land Development Agency on the roll out of the residential development elements of Phase 1 of the SDZ development. A planning application for redesign of the approved residential composition was submitted by Harcourt Developments to WCCC at the end of February. Subject to planning it is anticipated that works will commence on site in the second half of 2026, with the public infrastructure integration works being fast-tracked to facilitate the earliest possible opening of the transport hub and sustainable transport bridge in 2027.

Cllr Doherty asked about provision of parking and capacity at the transport hub. Cllr Dunphy noted previous query raised in this regard and proposed additional parking. Cllr Breathnach asked that information be provided to members with regard to total proposed parking provision at the next meeting.

(e) Extinguishment of Public Right of Way – L34242 Ballyquin, Mullinavat

J. Tennyson advised that, as agreed at the February MD meeting, the proposed extinguishment of the public right of way over L34242 at Ballyquin, for a distance of 776m approximately, has been brought through formal process under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993. Following public consultation, J. Tennyson advised that no submissions have been received and it is now proposed that the public right of way on L34242 at Ballyquin be formally extinguished.

The resolution was proposed by Cllr Catt Slattery, seconded by Cllr Doherty and agreed.

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

(a) Deputation from R704 Garrandarragh and Ballynooney Residents

As discussed at the outset of the meeting.

5. Notice of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

M. Phelan advised that the joint meeting with Carrick-on-Suir MD has been rescheduled for 28th May at 11:30am in Carrick-on-Suir.

7. AOB:

Cllr Catt Slattery asked if an update could be provided on the Clover Centre. J. Tennyson advised that the Part 8 is expected to be advertised this month and the proposal includes an adult sized multi-use playing pitch, accommodating both GAA and soccer. Cllr Dunphy asked if details will be presented to members prior to public consultation, J. Tennyson agreed to raise the matter with Parks Department.

Cllr Catt Slattery asked members and press to share information regarding the Safer Together, Community Safety Information Event organised by Kilkenny Local Community Safety Partnership, being held on Monday 11th May from 6-8pm at the Rivercourt Hotel. There will be lots of information stands covering a wide range of community safety topics and she encouraged all to attend.

Cllr Dunphy raised the upcoming proposed closure of the Ferrymountgarrett Bridge, which is within the Callan-Thomastown MD, stating that some concern has been raised regarding same. J. Tennyson advised that there is a proposal to close the Bridge from 24th June until 28th August, noting that the detours will include the R704 and that details will be advertised to the public in advance of same. Cllr Doherty noted that the closure is a huge inconvenience, given the onerous detour being put in place, however accepted the necessity for works. J. Tennyson agreed to pass on concerns to the Callan-Thomastown MD.

Cllr Doherty enquired about hard surface provision for cars parking at the motorway exit at Mullinavat. J. Tennyson advised that this may fall within the TII jurisdiction, however no formal parking arrangements exist at this location. He agreed to refer the matter to Road Design. Cllr Breathnach recalled a similar request being made previously to TII for parking at motorway junctions, with one location selected on a pilot basis within Kilkenny, he agreed to follow up for the next meeting.

Next Meeting/AGM

Following discussion, it was agreed that the AGM of the Piltown MD will take place on Wednesday, 3rd June at 1:30pm, followed by the June monthly meeting at 2pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cathaóirleach

Dated: 3/6/2026

