

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
5th March, 2025 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room***

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

Congratulations

All the members joined with Cllr Catt Slattery in sending best wishes and congratulations to John Tennyson and his wife Rebecca on the birth of their baby boy.

- 1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 5th February, 2025** – proposed by Cllr Dunphy, seconded by Cllr Catt Slattery and agreed.

Matters Arising

Bus Eireann – Cllr Doherty asked if any response had been received from Bus Eireann in relation to their attendance at an MD meeting. I. Gardner confirmed that response was awaited in this regard.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Speed Limit Review – Pre-draft Consultation

Mr. Paul Byrne, Executive Engineer, Roads, was in attendance to make a presentation to members in relation to the speed limit review. He advised that the National Speed Limit Review in 2023 resulted in a change in legislation and changes to default speed limits on certain categories of road. It was noted that these changes are being implemented in 3 stages:-

- Rural Speed Limits – 60km/h default – this change has now been implemented and commenced on 7th February 2025
- Urban Speed Limits – 30km/h default – currently underway – urban areas based on CSO urban boundaries
- National Secondary Roads – 80km/h default – to be undertaken later in 2025 by TII

Mr. Byrne advised that current Kilkenny Special Speed Limit Bye Laws adopted in 2023 must now be amended to take account of the change to urban default speed limit, but will remain in effect until such time as the new Bye Laws have been adopted. He outlined the process for review, stating that as part of the current pre-draft consultation, notification letters have been sent to surrounding local authorities, An Garda Siochana and TII. Submissions received during this process will be compiled and presented to members. The new Draft Bye Laws will then be prepared and open for public consultation. Following the public consultation, a report will be prepared for members consideration. A final draft of the Bye Laws will then be prepared and put before the full council meeting for adoption and implementation.

Mr. Byrne advised members that submissions can be made either through the Area Office or to him directly by the 21st March.

The following was raised and discussed:-

S. Kavanagh confirmed to members that submissions can be made by the Piltown members in relation to urban areas within CSO urban boundaries, the R723 old N25 into New Ross and some small settlements currently contained in the existing bye laws. It was agreed to circulate details of boundaries to members.

While Department of Transport Guidelines are in place to ensure consistency and give guidance to local authorities in setting appropriate speed limits, all urban areas based on the CSO boundaries are open for review.

The review later in the year by TII is not expected to include national primary routes, however it was noted that Road Design are currently carrying out studies and speed surveys on the section of the N25, Ballinlaw junction to Luffany Roundabout, which can feed into the review later in the year. It was also confirmed that a ‘no right turn’ sign has been erected at the exit to the Rhu Glenn in an effort to improve safety at this location. S. Kavanagh also advised that the Director of Services has written to TII on behalf of Kilkenny County Council to have the Waterford to Glenmore Scheme included for funding this year, which would address the safety issues on this stretch of the N25.

Cllr Frisby thanked Paul Byrne for his presentation and he withdrew from the meeting.

(b) County Kilkenny Heritage Strategy Discussion Paper

Ms. Regina Fitzpatrick, Heritage Officer, was in attendance to make a presentation to members on the development of a new County Heritage Strategy 2026-2030. She outlined her role as Heritage Officer, to manage a strategic heritage service for KCC, including developing partnerships, raising awareness, providing advice, developing and implementing policy at local level and promoting best practice to safeguard our heritage. It was noted that the role is co-funded under the Heritage Council.

Ms. Fitzpatrick also gave an overview of the works programme of the Heritage Office, funding streams and the various projects undertaken across the County, along with outreach and engagement with local communities. She advised that the Heritage Office is supported by the Heritage Forum, which is a non-statutory advisory group established by the local authority to provide observations and advise on the preparation and implementation of the Heritage Plan and is comprised of various stakeholders across the County. Ms. Fitzpatrick continued, outlining the importance of protecting our heritage which includes the built, natural and cultural heritage, all of which will be strongly promoted in the Heritage Strategy. She outlined the process and timelines for the development and delivery of the Strategy, noting that a discussion document has been published on consult.ie, inviting submissions until 28th March and encouraged as much feedback and engagement in the process as possible.

The following was noted:-

- Submissions can be emailed to heritage@kilkennycoco.ie or via Kilkenny Consult platform at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en/consultation/kilkenny-county-heritage-strategy-2026-30>
- Venues for public consultation events were noted and will be finalised and confirmed in due course.

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

(c) Monthly Roadworks Update

S. Kavanagh circulated report outlining details of 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, Rural local roads Speed Limits, N25 Speed Camera and Waterford Public Infrastructure Project.

The following was raised and discussed:-

S. Kavanagh noted the recent regional meeting in relation to the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme and correspondence sent to the Department on behalf of Kilkenny, Waterford and Tipperary County Councils in this regard. He confirmed that a response has been received from Minister O'Brien stating that he is currently looking at funding for 2025 schemes and it is hoped a positive response is forthcoming.

Cllr Catt Slattery asked if there is any timeline in relation to the Mill Road footpath design, S. Kavanagh advised that it will likely be mid 2025 before the scheme will proceed to planning.

In relation to road closure on Abbey Road, it was noted that traffic management will be in place and works will take place at night, which will minimise disruption to traffic.

Cllr Doherty asked if some remedial works could be considered for a section of the N25 near the old picnic area at Curraghmore, which is in poor condition. S. Kavanagh noted that surveys have been carried out at this location and agreed to revert to Cllr Doherty with update.

Cllr Doherty noted that the public light at the Glenmore Hall car park is still not operational.

Listerlin Improvement Design – Cllr Doherty noted the fantastic turnout at the recent public information evening and asked if update could be provided when proposed design is available.

Cllr Breathnach complimented the works carried out in relation to the implementation of the rural roads speed limit, which came into effect recently.

(d) Roadworks Programme 2025

S. Kavanagh outlined the final draft of the Roadworks Programme 2025 to members, with a total budget of €4.2m for the Piltown Municipal District, which he presented for formal approval by members.

Cllr Doherty asked that consideration be given to carrying out remedial works on the Wood Road, Tullogher, which she had requested be included in the roadworks programme. S. Kavanagh advised that this road falls between the Piltown and Callan-Thomastown Districts and that the District Engineers have

discussed the matter with regard to seeking additional funding to carry out some remedial works later this year.

The Roadworks Programme 2025 for Piltown MD, as presented, was proposed by Cllr Frisby, seconded by Cllr Catt Slattery and agreed.

(e) Greenway Update

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

Glas Civil Engineering commenced works in November 2023. The contract consists of;

- 5.5km section of greenway from Ferrybank to Curraghmore (Lot 5A)
- Screen fencing and public lighting works at Ferrybank (Lot 2)
- Permanent car park at Glenmore (Lot 3)
- Public lighting works from Rosbercon to Raheen

Progress since previous update in February

- Minor fencing works along the scheme continue.
- Works nearing completion at all level and segregated agricultural crossings.
- Works associated with public lighting have been completed with connection applications submitted to ESB – awaiting ESB response.
- The installation of amenity fixtures including picnic benches, benches and bicycle stands has been completed.
- Landscaping works are nearing completion.
- Chicane gates have been installed at Level Crossing 1 & 2.
- Accommodation works to improve visibility at level crossing 1 at Rathpatrick are continuing and are well progressed.
- The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit was completed in January. The recommendations arising from the report were assessed and actioned. Other minor finishing out works will be completed to facilitate the opening of this section of the greenway towards the end of Q1, 2025.
- Boundary fencing requirements for opening continue to be assessed with a temporary trailhead design progressing.

Remaining Lots

Engagement continues with landowners adjoining the greenway with regard to boundary treatments and crossing points. The parameters for these discussions are set out within the Charter for South East Greenway Accommodation Works.

The Consulting engineers, Fehily Timoney & Co. Ltd. continue to advance the design of the remaining sections of the greenway.

Related Schemes

South North Access Road, Ferrybank

Consultant is working on final design drawings for road and trailhead carpark. Preparation of land acquisition / CPO drawings is progressing and once finalized, further engagement will take place with affected landowners.

Greenway Link to Glenmore

- A Tender was advertised on the 20th January to engage the services of a Multi-disciplinary Engineer led design team to advance the project through detail design, tender award and construction. The tender deadline was extended by 2 weeks to 28th February with 5 tenders returned by the deadline with the tender assessment process now underway. 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

- A Part 8 planning application for the Southern Connectivity Route via Kilmurray was approved by elected members in January. Efforts have now turned to identifying 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
- The project website (<https://www.woodstocktosegreenway.ie>) is currently live and will be updated with relevant information prior to the first public consultation event in February.
- Public Consultation events took place on Tuesday 25th February, in Rosbercon Community Centre and Thursday 27th February, in Cois Abhainn, Inistioge with both events well attended.

Cllr Frisby noted the fantastic works carried out on the section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore and looked forward to the official opening in the coming months. I Gardner agreed to revert to members in relation to the timeframe for completion of the remainder of the project.

(f) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

I Gardner advised that a meeting is due to take place between KCC and Dunnes Stores in the coming weeks to discuss the draft Masterplan for Ferrybank/Belview, including proposals for the Ferrybank Shopping Centre and further update will be provided at the April MD meeting.

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

The date for the joint meeting with Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District was noted for 22nd May at 11am in the Carrick-on-Suir District Offices.


7. AOB:

I Gardner confirmed that the Ferrybank-Belview LAP was currently at Draft stage and will revert with timeframe for completion of the draft plan.

Next Meeting

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 2/04/25