

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on
Wednesday, 2nd March, 2022 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, Ferrybank Library**

Present: Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs. F. Doherty, E. Aylward and T. Breathnach
In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen,
District Engineer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer
Apologies: Cllr. Ger Frisby

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 2nd February, 2022

Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. E. Aylward and agreed.

Matters Arising

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – in response to Cllr. Doherty, S. McKeown advised that there is no further update to report on this matter since the last meeting. However, it was noted that correspondence has issued to NAMA seeking clarification in relation to the future security and caretaking services that will apply to shared areas within the Centre and response is awaited.

Speed Limit Review – S. McKeown advised that the draft Speed Limit Review will go out to public consultation this month. Update will be provided to members at the May meeting.

New Ross Bypass – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr. Doherty that a five year defects period applies and will expire early 2025.

Roadmarkings N25 – in response to Cllr. Doherty, S. Cullen stated that the deceleration lanes that were in place at some junctions along the N25 no longer comply with current TII standards and the current arrangements in place completed as part of the recent pavement works on the N25 comply with the current standards and TII are actively removing deceleration lanes where they currently exist on the network.

N24 & 25 Schemes – Cllr. Dunphy referred to the meeting held on 7th February with Oireachtas members and confirmed that arising from that meeting, Minister Eamon Ryan has agreed to meet with Oireachtas members of the South East Region on Friday 4th March and an update will be provided to members following same. Cllr. Doherty noted that this matter is also being raised with Oireachtas members at the First Citizens Forum meetings.

Motion on setting up of Regional Forum – Cllr. Breathnach confirmed that the motion with regard to the setting up of a regional forum was brought to the February Council Meeting and was passed unanimously and as agreed, it incorporates the request to the Minister and Director of Regional Assembly that they would expedite the setting up of the implementation structures for the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for the greater Waterford area.

Joint Meetings – M. Arthurs confirmed that Waterford City & County Council's CPG agreed that all meetings are to continue to be held remotely, with no change expected until May. Following discussion, it was agreed that a joint meeting with Waterford members be arranged as soon as possible by way of MS Teams. **Action MA**

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update Monthly Roadworks

S. Cullen circulated report and outlined works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Cllr Aylward noted completion of traffic calming works at Mullinabro and requested consideration be given to provision of ramps at Cloone Road. S. Cullen confirmed that legislation requires that ramps be placed within 5m of public lighting and confirmed that the matter will be kept under review and he would seek opportunities for funding to progress a traffic calming scheme for Cloone Road.

Cllr Doherty raised concern with regard to kayaking activity at Poulanassy Waterfall during recent heavy rains and requested if appropriate warning signage could be erected.

In response to Cllr. Dunphy, S. Cullen confirmed that works will commence at Mooncoin Church Car Park in the next two months.

(b) Roadworks Programme 2022

S. Cullen circulated the Draft Piltown Municipal District Roadworks Programme 2022 to members and outlined details and funding allocations received. The members thanked S. Cullen and staff for the work involved in the preparation of the programme of works for 2022.

The Piltown Municipal District Roadworks Programme 2022, as presented, was proposed by Cllr. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Doherty and agreed.

(c) Update South East Greenway

S. McKeown circulated report to members and outlined the following:-

Detailed Design Landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 4 – 7 continue to progress. In preparation for the award of the Lot 5 contract a Part 8 planning application is being prepared for a temporary construction access road and compound. It may also be decided to split Lot 5 into two sections of equal length.

Construction: of Lots 1 – 3 is progressing well and are approaching substantial completion. The erection of public lighting columns and heads is nearly completed in the urban sections at Ferrybank and New Ross. The ramp access to the Greenway from the Abbey Road, Ferrybank is almost complete. Waterford City & County Council (WCCC) have agreed to widen the footpath at the connection point to the ramp access. The Project Office would like to thank all landowners for their continued co-operation with the Greenway Project works. The Project Office continues to remind the public that the Greenway is a construction site at present and as such it is not safe to enter/access the lands until it officially opens.

Ferrybank Car Park Option: As advised at the February Council Meeting, a Part 8 planning application will be progressed for the new Link Road from the Abbey Road to the Belmont Road in the coming weeks. The Ferrybank Car Park will be accessed from the Link Road. MWP will prepare a preliminary design of the car park which will be a trailhead to include toilets and coach parking.

Railway Abandonment: Kilkenny CoCo Road Section have now completed the detailed mapping of the Greenway lands. These maps will now be forwarded to CIE to facilitate the transfer of the railway lands from to each Local Authority.

Links to Slieverue and Glenmore: Open evenings have been arranged to share with the public the proposed route options from the Greenway to each village as follows: Slieverue Parish Hall – Tues 8th March from 4-7pm; Glenmore Parish Hall - Thurs 10th March from 4-7pm. Both events will be advertised in local newspapers and details will also be made available on the project website. Submissions will then be accepted from the public up to 31st March next and will aid in determining the preferred option for each village to progress to Part 8 / Part 10 as appropriate.

Business Development Officer (BDO): Alan Fitzhenry is the BDO and continues to be available to advise anyone with a business idea along the Greenway, and he can be contacted at 087 3737951.

Project Website: www.southeastgreenway.net.

Resident Engineer: Eoin Atkinson is the Resident Engineer and he can be contacted at 087 188 4342 with any queries in connection with the Greenway. A Senior Resident Engineer, Patrick O'Connor has also been appointed and he can be contacted at 087 927 2796.

Greenway Animation: The Project Office still awaits the launch of the Failte Ireland funding scheme to assist local authorities developing Greenways funded as part of the National Greenway Strategy to develop Interpretation/Animation Plans aimed at enhancing the visitor potential/attraction of their Greenways.

In response to Cllr. Dunphy, S. McKeown confirmed that it is anticipated that the Link Road from the Abbey Road to Belmont Road, subject to planning, should be completed by mid 2024 and that the planning for delivery of the car park to access the Greenway in Ferrybank would proceed in the coming weeks, with construction estimated to be completed, again subject to planning, by mid 2024.

In answer to Cllr. Doherty's query with regard to the possibility of some sections of the Greenway being opened in advance of the official opening, S. McKeown advised that the current licence from CIE was for construction of the Greenway only and not for the operation of the Greenway. However, he said that the Project Office had recently written seeking permission from CIE in this regard and response is awaited.

S. McKeown confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that the purpose of the open evenings arranged for the Links to Slieverue and Glenmore is to engage with the local community and fully inform them of the options as investigated by Roadplan, in order to get as much feedback as possible before selecting the

preferred option in each case and proceeding to the next stage. He also confirmed that the delivery of the car parks will be the final part of construction of the Greenway, which is anticipated to be fully completed by Summer 2024.

(d) Update North Quays SDZ

S. McKeown circulated report to members and outlined the following:-

SDZ Developer:

- Waterford City & County Council is in active dialogue with potential developers, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) and the Land Development Agency in respect of the North Quays SDZ site and intends to progress a proposal to conclusion in the coming months.

Contracts:

- A contractor has been appointed for the South Plaza Enabling Works and works are due to commence mid-March.
- The main construction tender for the infrastructural works is currently being tendered, this includes the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works. The tender period has been extended to 8th April.
- Tenders for Rock Stabilisation works to the north of Plunkett Station are being assessed by Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers.
- Tenders for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station have been received and are currently being assessed by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consultants.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Order or Resolution of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meetings

None.

4. Notice of Motion

None.

5. Correspondence

None

6. AOB:

Agree nominees for TII Annual Meeting

It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach of the Piltown MD would attend the meeting with one other member from the MD. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Aylward and agreed that Cllr. Ger Frisby would attend this meeting with Cllr. Dunphy.

Cllr. Dunphy:-

- Request for deputation to be received at the next Piltown MD meeting from New Aglish/Grannagh Action Group, as agreed in 2020 prior to covid restrictions. Following discussion, it was agreed to facilitate the deputation at the April meeting, on the condition that the number attending would be limited to three. **Action MA**
- All the members joined with Cllr. Dunphy in condemning the war in Ukraine and what is being inflicted on the people of Ukraine due to what is a needless war, it was agreed to write to the Russian Ambassador condemning the war and calling for immediate withdrawal. **Action MA**
The members also complimented the local communities, groups and organisations who have all responded so quickly and positively in arranging collection of essential supplies and donations.

Vote of Sympathy

The members joined in extending a vote of sympathy to Colette Byrne, CEO of Kilkenny County Council on the recent sad passing of her brother Larry Whelan and also to Tony Walsh, former Director of Services, on the death of his mother, Annie Walsh.

Cllr. Doherty also took the opportunity to wish Colette Byrne, CEO the very best for the future as she will soon leave her role as CEO with Kilkenny County Council. All the members joined Cllr. Doherty in thanking her for all her work in County Kilkenny and praised her for her very fair, inclusive and thorough approach in all that she has achieved for the County and noted the many projects that she has helped bring to fruition during her time in Kilkenny.

Presentation – Part 8 Piltown Garda Station

Cllr. Dunphy welcomed Ms. Annette Fitzpatrick, SEO, Community Section and invited her to commence her presentation on this item. She advised that the Part 8 planning process is currently underway for the proposed refurbishment of the Garda Station at Piltown and confirmed that funding of €500k has been announced under Town & Village Renewal for the redevelopment of the Garda Station, to include a remote working hub and also for the continued use of the building as the local Garda Station. She outlined the history of the building, stating that it is a protected structure originally constructed in 1825, but has fallen into disrepair in recent years and will require significant refurbishment to bring it back into modern use. The timelines for the Part 8 planning process were noted, which is currently on public display and submissions can be made on same until 8th April, following which it will go before the full Council Meeting in April for approval.

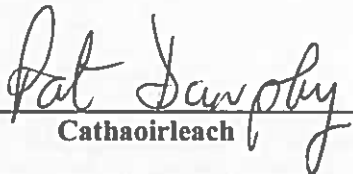
A Fitzpatrick responded to queries raised by members as follows:-

- The project is expected to take approximately 18 months to deliver and is being developed in partnership with the local community, An Garda Siochana and Office of Public Works.
- It was noted that the project has been re-costed since the original application, with any shortfall being funded by contribution from the OPW.
- Consideration to be given to seek funding under TVRS for similar project at Glenmore, given its proximity to the Greenway, to encourage connectivity and economic development – will await call for funding and examine what specific criteria may apply when the Scheme is published in 2022.

Cllr. Doherty took the opportunity to thank A. Fitzpatrick and staff and to congratulate all involved in the recent Community Awards Night held in Kilkenny, which was a lovely celebration and paid tribute to community groups in recognition of their hard work and all they have achieved. She congratulated the winners in the Piltown MD under the Tidy Estates category, Shamrock Grove, Kilmacow and St. Patrick's Close, Mullianvat.

Cllr. Dunphy thanked all for attending. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:


Cathaoirleach

Dated:

