

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
3rd March, 2021 at 10.00am via MS Teams***

Present: Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs. P. Dunphy, F. Doherty, T. Breathnach and G. Frisby

In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, District Engineer, S. Kavanagh, Senior Engineer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 3rd February, 2021

Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. G. Frisby and agreed.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Doherty asked when an update would be forthcoming in relation to the Incremental Purchase Scheme. SMcK confirmed that units will be advertised in the coming months and that M. Mulholland will provide a progress update at a future MD meeting.

Cllr. Doherty asked for an update in relation to the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme route selection. SC advised that issues arising during review were being worked through, but that an announcement in this regard was expected by the end of March.

In response to Cllr. Doherty's query in relation to treatment of ragwort, SC confirmed that a plan was in place to trial a product to address the issue this spring, which is the optimum time to treat ragwort.

Cllr. Doherty took the opportunity to thank Tidy Towns and all volunteers who recently carried out clean ups and litter picking in their areas.

Cllr. Dunphy enquired if additional warning signage would be erected on the Carrick Road, Mooncoin. SC advised that KCC had liaised with TII and Tramore House on this matter, who have confirmed that additional signage will be put in place travelling from the Carrick-on-Suir direction.

SMcK advised that clarification and legal advice had been sought in relation to the planning application for Castlebanny Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application that has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála and he confirmed that given the nature of the development, it must be discussed at the plenary meeting of the Council. This was noted.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023

A copy of the Draft Litter Management Plan was circulated to members prior to the meeting and Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer, was in attendance. She gave an overview of the Plan, which will go out for public consultation next week for a period of four weeks, following which the Plan will be brought to the members for formal adoption.

Ms. Moloney outlined the contents of the Plan, stating the vital importance of engagement with the public and highlighting in particular the challenges outlined in chapter 6 of the plan in relation to illegal dumping, litter, keeping bring banks litter free, demand and supply of litter bins, dog fouling and unauthorised temporary signage. It was noted that there were 32 objectives set out in the Plan, as listed on Appendix A, the main objectives being in the areas of enforcement, education and awareness, street cleaning and litter prevention and also to promote recycling and recovery.

Ms. Moloney acknowledged the great work by volunteers undertaking clean ups and litter picks in local communities and noted that due to covid restrictions in place, the National Spring Clean this year will cater for family units and individuals only, to stay within the public health guidelines. It was noted that it is proposed to hold an all-county one day clean up event to encourage new volunteers and more people to take part in litter picks in the future.

It was also noted that a new campaign in relation to dog fouling will commence shortly and a pilot project will also be rolled out in 2021 to set up and promote dog friendly walking routes. If this project is successful, then additional routes will be considered.

A discussion followed, all members thanked and complimented Ms. Moloney and the enforcement team for their efforts in tackling issues raised, with particular thanks to David Gallagher for his work in the Piltown MD.

A number of issues were raised and discussed, including the following:-

- Explore the possible use of barcodes on packaging to trace back to those responsible for illegal dumping, as most people now pay for goods using bank cards – it was noted that GDPR rules would be an issue in this regard, the matter would have to be examined at national level.
- Prosecutions are key to act as a deterrent, must ensure that CCTV footage can be used for this purpose and details in relation to prosecutions should be published – it was noted that there is no leniency in relation to fines, which also acts as a good deterrent. An amendment is required to environmental legislation to provide clarity in the use of CCTV and this is being reviewed at national level.
- The initiative in the area of dog fouling was welcomed – suggestion to promote the Greenway, Ferrybank Park and the new Slieverue loop as dog walking routes was noted. The initiative will look initially at routes where bins are in situ.
- Education in schools is vital in teaching responsibility and awareness – the Green Schools programme to continue and will look at establishing a new programme as part of TY in Secondary Schools.
- Issues at bottle banks, bags being left if banks are full – this matter will be referred to Enforcement to ensure emptying schedule is sufficient to avoid this. It was noted that a scheduled maintenance programme is also in place at bring centres to ensure they are kept clean and litter free. CCTV capacity at bring centres will continue to be improved.
- Lack of resources – it was acknowledged that lack of resources is an issue impacting litter management, this matter will need review and consideration by Management.
- There was particular acknowledgement and thanks to Tidy Towns and all volunteers around the county who do lots of great work for the betterment of their communities. It was noted that a webinar is due to take place, aimed at encouraging more involvement and also more participation in the Tidy Towns Competition.
- Consideration to be given to preparing a report at MD level to support and highlight achievements and the work being undertaken by local groups and volunteers in relation to litter management and to promote this locally.

(b) Update Monthly Roadworks

SC circulated report in advance of the meeting, outlining works carried out since the last meeting under the current restrictions. It was noted that only road works of an essential nature will take place in the current restrictions, relating to road safety issues, drainage etc. A list of proposed paving works has been prepared for approval by the Management Team.

The following was raised and discussed:

- Pink Rock – Cllr. Doherty thanked Council staff for work undertaken to reopen the road.
- Ballyrowragh Bridge, timeframe for completion of works – SC advised Cllr. Doherty that planned works are currently being reviewed in context of Fisheries advice. Start delayed due to Covid restrictions.
- Speed limit review – SC advised Cllr. Doherty that this will be completed in 2021, for follow up with Road Design. **Action SC**
- Winter Maintenance, Priority 3 Routes – SC confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that this will be on the Agenda for the April meeting.
- Local Improvement Scheme – SC advised Cllr. Aylward that it is expected that notification of funding will be received by the end of this quarter.

Draft Piltown Municipal District Roadworks Programme 2021

The Draft Piltown Municipal District Roadworks Programme 2021, as presented, was proposed by Cllr. Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Doherty and agreed.

(c) *Update South East Greenway*

SMcK noted some issues with regard to members of the public accessing the railway line following completion of clearance works. He advised that measures are being taken to address this issue with the provision of signage, fencing and security to monitor the area daily, but he asked if members of the press could also assist to remind the public that the Greenway is not yet open to the public and is not safe to access. Some illegal dumping issues were also being monitored.

SMcK circulated Greenway update report in advance of the meeting, outlining the following:-

- **Rail and Sleeper Lifting Contract:** All of the rails and sleepers have now been lifted. Final site clearance work will recommence when current Level 5 restrictions are lifted.
- **Detailed Design:** for the main construction works (i.e. accommodation works, structures, crossing points, etc.) along the route of the Greenway is continuing. Current Level 5 restrictions are also impacting on engagement with landowners.
- **Construction:** the main construction of the 24km Greenway is being awarded in a number of Lots. The first 3 Lots have been tendered and will be awarded shortly. However, these works are proscribed under current Level 5 restrictions. Further contracts will be awarded as the detailed design is finalised and the landowner accommodation works are agreed in each Lot. Planning applications, including to provide temporary construction compounds and accesses to the Greenway will be progressed by Wexford Co. Co. in the coming weeks. The route of the Greenway is a construction site at present and will remain so until it officially opens. As such members of the public are reminded it is not safe to enter/access the lands.
- **Ferrybank Car Park Option:** The public engagement process for the selection of a suitable site for the proposed Ferrybank Car Park has now concluded. A third workshop was held with residents on 25th February last at which they were informed of the preferred site option to be progressed to Part 8 planning. The engagement process facilitated by Connect the Dots (CTD) proved extremely constructive. While there is still further investigative work to be undertaken on the preferred site, it represents an excellent solution. Sincere thanks is due to all those who participated in the process. The Car Park Options Report will now be finalised and CTD will also finalise their report on the process and both reports will be published on the project website. Residents have raised further issues and concerns at the workshops, in particular around anti-social behaviour incidents, that will also need to be resolved.
- **Railway Abandonment:** an initial meeting has been held between the executive of the 3 local authorities and executive from CIE / Irish Rail to discuss commencement of the formal transfer of the former railway lands under Sn 21 of the Transport Act.
- **Links to Slieverue and Glenmore:** The consultant appointed, namely Roadplan, has carried out a preliminary assessment of options. A public consultation (subject to Covid restrictions) will be arranged to discuss these options when they have been further investigated.
- **Business Development Executive (BDE) and Assistant Engineer:** the BDE position was approved by the Dept and the post was advertised last month with a closing date of 24th Feb. Interviews for the position will now be held.
- **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.

SMcK wished to record sincere thanks to Connect the Dots and the residents who engaged with the process to select a suitable option for the Car Park at Ferrybank, all the members joined in thanking all involved in the consultation process, which has reached a successful conclusion.

Some questions were raised by members, to which SMcK responded.

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:

Boundary Review

Cllr. Aylward referred to the motion passed by Waterford City and County Council in relation to the boundary review and expressed his disappointment at their intention to write to the Minister to reactivate this process. He noted many of the joint initiatives and projects which are ongoing in the region at the moment, all of which involve collaboration and co-operation between both local authorities and he did not want to see any division being created as a result of the boundary issue.

Cllr. Aylward proposed that Kilkenny County Council also write to the Minister in this regard, Cllr. Doherty seconded this proposal.

Discussion followed with contributions from all the members. All were agreed that this will be a very costly, time consuming and unnecessary exercise, to which they were all strongly opposed.

SMcK advised that the onus is now on Kilkenny County Council to write to the Minister outlining material reasons why the recommendations of the Waterford Boundary Review Committee should not be implemented. Following discussion, it was agreed that this will be brought to the CPG next week to discuss and act on the matter.

Cllr. Doherty extended congratulations to both St. Patrick's Close, Mullinavat and Bellfield, Ferrybank on their achievement in the Tidy Estates Competition.

Cllr. Doherty noted that the exterior of the Ferrybank Shopping Centre is in need of maintenance and asked that a request be made for the building to be cleaned.

Cllr. Doherty asked for some additional signage to be provided for safety reasons in the vicinity of Tory Hill, which was a very busy spot with lots of walkers in the area. SMcK advised that an ORIS funding application in relation to Tory Hill had not been successful, however the application will be reviewed and resubmitted.

Cllr. Aylward asked that the Technological University for the South East be placed on the Agenda for discussion at the plenary meeting and asked that a report be provided on the current status and progress to-date.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____