

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
3rd May, 2023 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, Ferrybank Library***

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

In attendance: D. Malone, A/Director of Services, S. Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, S. Cullen, Area Engineer, O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Apologies: M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator

Vote of Sympathy

The members all joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to Cllr Breathnach and family on the recent sad passing of his brother Richard. Cllr Doherty also took the opportunity to extend condolences on behalf of the Piltown MD to the family of the late Craig Breen.

Cllr Breathnach thanked the members for their kind words, noting that south Kilkenny has come through difficult times following a number of bereavements and also wished to acknowledge their loss.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 5th April, 2023** – proposed by Cllr Frisby, seconded by Cllr Dunphy and agreed.

Matters Arising

Irish Water – Cllr Dunphy acknowledged the response received from Irish Water, following the invitation to them to attend a meeting of the Piltown MD and expressed his disappointment at the response. Cllr Aylward advised that negotiations are ongoing with Irish Water and AILG with regard to holding more interactive meetings between Irish Water and local authorities. He agreed to revert to members following an upcoming meeting. Discussion followed with contributions from all members regarding the amount of water leaks and lack of investment, particularly in the south Kilkenny area. It was proposed by Cllr Dunphy, seconded by Cllr Doherty and agreed to write to Irish Water again seeking their attendance at a Piltown MD meeting to address their concerns. D. Malone agreed to liaise with Tim Butler in this regard. **Action DM/MP**

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – in response to Cllr Frisby, D. Malone advised that confirmation of ownership has been established and a contact person has been identified, with whom S. Cullen will liaise directly to resolve any issues around daily operations and maintenance. This was noted.

Primary Care Centre – D. Malone advised Cllr Breathnach that no official response has been received but that an update on the proposed visit to the Centre will be provided at the next meeting.

Joint Meeting WCCC – D. Malone confirmed to Cllr. Doherty that an alternative date for the joint meeting will be arranged shortly.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

- (a) ***Update on TII Projects***

Cllr Doherty welcomed S. Kavanagh to the meeting, who provided an update to members as follows:-

- ***N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme*** – The design team is working on corridor options. The Project Liaison Officer (PLO) is continuing to work with landowners to agree access to facilitate the completion of the preliminary ground investigation works. Although investigation works commenced in November 2022, the works were suspended in December 2022 due to saturated ground conditions as a result of consistently poor weather. The works recommenced in March 2023 and are due to be completed in June 2023. The findings of these investigations will input into The Preferred Transport Solution. This is now scheduled to be put on public display in Q4 of 2023. Up to date information can be found on the project website at <http://n24waterford2cahir.ie/contact-us> or alternatively the PLO may be contacted directly. It was noted that of 371 planning applications received, only 21 were deemed premature. And only 6 pre-planning applications out of 29 received were deemed premature.
- ***N24 Tower Road (Safety Scheme)*** – The tender in respect of construction of the scheme was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd, Co. Mayo on the 1st December 2022. Construction commenced on the 16th January and due to positive weather conditions at the start of the year construction is presently marginally ahead of schedule. Substantial completion is expected by the end of 2023.

A road closure will be required in July to lift in beams for the project. Details of the proposed closure will be notified to the public in advance and will take place over a weekend with local diversions in place.

- **N24 Carrick Road** – Simultaneous applications to An Bord Pleanála for 177AE Planning approval and Compulsory Purchase Order Approval were made on the 25th November 2022. The public consultation period for both ran until the 20th January 2023. To note Kilkenny County Council is aware of 5 objections to the Compulsory Purchase Order Approval application. If these are not withdrawn there will be an oral hearing in respect of this scheme. There were also 5 objections to the 177ae planning application. It is a matter for An Bord Pleanála if there is a requirement for an oral hearing. A final decision with or in the absence of an oral hearing is not expected until Q3 2023.

Cllr Dunphy expressed concern regarding the proposed diversion route for the proposed closure on the N24 and the possible effects on minor roads, Cllr Doherty agreed and asked if consideration could be given to a one-way system during this closure. S. Kavanagh agreed that this suggestion will be looked at and confirmed he will be liaising with S. Cullen as to the best solution. It was noted that members of the public will also get the opportunity to make submissions and comment in this regard during the statutory process. In response to Cllr Breathnach's request, S. Kavanagh agreed to circulate members with the proposed route prior to publication.

Cllr Doherty enquired as to the status of the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme. S. Kavanagh advised that this scheme is currently suspended and will remain so until such time as funding is allocated to progress to the next phase. Cllr Dunphy expressed frustration at the lack of progress on this scheme, particularly given the number of fatalities and accidents on this road. Discussion followed regarding meetings with TII and keeping this matter on the agenda. Cllr Frisby suggested that statistics be gathered on an ongoing basis in relation to accidents and near misses on this road and relayed quarterly to TII. Cllr Breathnach asked if a report on the outcomes from previous meetings could be provided to members. S. Kavanagh agreed to follow this up with Tim Butler. **Action SK**

Cllr Doherty noted some deterioration of the surface at Glenmore Roundabout and asked if this could be addressed.

(b) Monthly Roadworks Update

S. Cullen circulated a report outlining works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting under pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Piltown/Fiddown Mobility Management Plan – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that the points raised by NTA will be addressed by the Consultant in the coming weeks.

Footpath, Mill Road – Cllr Aylward noted the continuing lack of progress in delivering this scheme and asked for an update on the current position. S. Cullen advised that the options report initially submitted to NTA has been amended and resubmitted for their consideration. Discussion followed with contributions from all members in relation to Active Travel and lack of funding allocations for rural areas. S. Kavanagh assured members that the scheme at Mill Road, Mullinavat was a priority and the push will continue to get this scheme over the line. D. Malone also reassured members that every effort will continue to be made at executive level to secure funding for rural projects.

(d) South East Greenway Update

D. Malone provided update to members as follows:-

- Lot 5a is currently out to tender and closing date is Friday 5th May. This is a 5 km stretch from Ferrybank to Curramore just north of the Rhu Glenn. Once tenders are closed, they will be assessed with recommendation to TII for approval. The intention is to commence construction later in the summer and the contract duration is expected to be 12 months.

- Work is continuing with land owners adjacent to the Greenway where land owners are impacted by the proposal.
- The car park arrangements at Glenmore and Rosbercon are complete to allow for opening of the practically complete sections. The ducting for the public lighting along the section within New Ross has also been complete.
- Awaiting confirmation of the opening date which is anticipated to be June. There are snagging issues relating to signage and fencing which require completion. This will be confirmed in the coming days.
- The tie in of the greenway ramp to the Abbey Road is progressing. A fee proposal from the consultants has been sought to allow the detailed design and cost estimate to be prepared. This will be submitted to TII for approval.

D Malone responded to queries from members.

Clarification was provided regarding the section of the Greenway to be opened in June, between New Ross and Glenmore. Cllr Doherty asked about access at Rosbercon and safety concerns at busy junctions on the R723, D. Malone confirmed he will liaise with Wexford County Council in this regard.

D. Malone confirmed there is no update on the proposed Rosslare to Waterford Greenway, pending the publication of the national rail review.

D. Malone confirmed that the feasibility study in relation to the proposed link to Woodstock Estate has been completed and sent to TII for approval.

With regard to funding for the links to Glenmore and Slieverue, it was noted that this will be funded by TII under Active Travel.

(e) North Quays SDZ Update

D. Malone provided the following update to members:-

- Newsletter issued by WCCC on the commencement of works on the North Quays setting out the scope of the works involved and with a contact address and the name of the construction liaison officer.
- The current and upcoming works are outlined in the newsletter with the transportation hub and the sustainable transport bridge identified as being early in the delivery programme.
- Recognition that the WCCC along with the main contractor will do all they can to minimise and mitigate disruption.
- The project team are liaising with S. Cullen in the Ferrybank Office to co-ordinate traffic management measures within KCC's administrative area.

D. Malone advised that the developer is expected to lodge a revised planning application in the coming months and confirmed to Cllr Breathnach that the application must be consistent with the original North Quays SDZ Planning Scheme.

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

Letter of response from Irish Water was noted.

Cllr Breathnach referred to a letter received from Carrick-on-Suir Golf Club seeking a meeting with members of the Piltown MD. D. Malone asked that a copy of the correspondence be provided to him and a decision can be made on the request at the next meeting.

7. AOB:

Agree date for AGM.

It was agreed that the AGM of the Piltown MD will be held on Wednesday, 7th June prior to the June monthly meeting.

Cllr Aylward asked if grass cutting could be carried out at Rathkieran Graveyard. S. Cullen agreed to look into this matter and revert to Cllr Aylward.

Cllr Aylward asked if the Council could provide assistance to clean up the litter along the R448. S. Cullen agreed to seek potential funding through the Environment Department to address this issue.

Cllr Doherty thanked all for their attendance. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:

07/06/23