

Minutes of March Meeting of the Municipal District of Piltown

Venue: Meeting Room, Ferrybank Area Office

Meeting Date: 1st March, 2017 at 10:10am

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Ger Frisby

Present: Cllrs. Melissa O'Neill, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward, Fidelis Doherty and Tomás Breathnach

In Attendance: Mary J Mulholland, Director of Services, Martin Mullally, Senior Executive Officer, Margaret Newport, Senior Social Worker, Kevin Hanley, Meetings Administrator, Ian Gardner, Area Engineer and Laura Murphy, A/Staff Officer

Welcome: Cllr. Frisby welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of monthly meeting held 1st February 2017, proposed by Cllr. Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Aylward and agreed.

Matters Arising

Taking-in-charge of O'Connor's Lane, Milepost – Cllr. O'Neill welcomed the taking-in-charge of O'Connor's Lane and expressed her delight for the residents that this process is now concluded.

Main Routes into Waterford City - Cllr. O'Neill asked for an update regarding funding to carry out improvements to the approach roads into Waterford City and queried where these monies will be spent. IG replied that official confirmation of funding has not been received as yet, however once same is received, he and Claire Goodwin, Landscape Architect will look at this. MJ Mulholland recommended that a programme for enhancement should be put together in consultation with the local community. Cllr. Breathnach advised that the Ferrybank Tidy Towns Committee had applied to KCC for an amenity grant; their application includes proposals for enhancing the approach roads.

Water Scheme for Ullid, Kilmacow - Cllr. Dunphy asked for an update and queried if correspondence issued to Irish Water regarding same. MJ Mulholland confirmed that this matter is on a list of items to be raised with Irish Water. K Hanley will follow up with Water Services.

Deputation from Owing National School – Cllr. Dunphy asked if a response had issued to the Deputation. I Gardner said upon approval of draft Roadworks Scheme 2017; he will then be in a position to inform the Delegation of planned works to assist with road safety in the vicinity of Owing National School.

Taking-in-Charge of Sinnott's Cross Monument - Cllr. Dunphy asked if the Naming and Commemorative Memorial Assessment Committee had met and if there was any update regarding the taking-in-charge of this monument. Cllr. O'Neill queried why the proposal had to go before the NCMA Committee. MJ Mulholland said that the broader context needed to be considered, including implications for the Council if the monument is taken in charge. She further advised that KCC propose to carry out an inventory of monuments across the county – this will correspond with consideration of proposal to take-in-charge Sinnott's Cross Monument.

Level Crossing at Garrandarragh – Cllr. Aylward welcomed recent improvement works carried out at this location.

Recycling at Ferrybank – Cllr. Frisby requested an update. K Hanley advised the tender process will be recommencing shortly.

Glenmore Bus Stop – Cllr. Doherty asked when works are expected to be completed. I Gardner did not specify a completion date however outlined the remainder of works to be carried out.

Housing Report

M Mullally, with reference the Housing Report 2016 circulated to members, gave a detailed account on housing matters to year end 2016 and plans going forward. Main points covered included the following:

- KCC's Housing Strategy will be more targeted towards new builds and derelict/unfinished estates in 2017.

- Statutory three year Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) was completed on 21/9/2016 – this assessment will be replaced by an Annual Assessment to be carried out in May 2017. A demand for 1 and 2 bed units was identified.
- Approved housing applicants as at 31/12/2016 totalled 2,059 – this figure was 2,744 at year end 2015.
- KCC's existing Tenant Handbook is currently being reviewed. A revised handbook is due to be completed by end of first quarter 2017 and will be circulated to all tenants.
- An updated submission on KCC's draft Disability Strategy has been made to the Housing Agency – this submission will be included in the National Disability Strategy.
- An overview of the Housing Capital Programme at Piltown Municipal Level was outlined and included capital projects and acquisitions delivered, those currently in progress and projects proposed.
- Mention was given to the increased activity in Housing Loans; 98 applications received with 42 approved.
- It was noted that inspections of private rented accommodation poses a challenge, however it is intended to significantly increase the number of inspections for 2017.
- Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/12/2016 numbered 349. A breakdown of number of males, females and children was detailed along with accommodation provided during 2016. It was noted that the challenge going forward is to address the Minister's direction that children should not be housed in emergency accommodation.

Members thanked M Mullally for his report, requested further information and clarification on a number of points covered and raised the following:-

- Consequences for tenants who damage their rented properties – KCC has a Tenant Liaison Officer who investigates these occurrences. Regarding anti-social behaviour, these cases may result in tenant(s) being evicted. The tenant(s) may also become liable for costs associated with eviction.
- Increased demand for 1 and 2 bed units identified under the HNA, how does the Council propose to provide these units – KCC can incorporate specific unit types on schemes being designed, where there is a demand and housing need for same while also taking cognisance of future need.
- Housing loans approval rate considered low – applicants have to satisfy criteria that they can afford and sustain loan repayments.
- The need for KCC to address issues identified from private rented accommodation inspections with landlords.
- Under the Capital Assistance Scheme, there is a need for more accommodation for the elderly to address rural isolation. - Qualifying criteria for CAS schemes is set by the Department. Local authorities will evaluate proposals based on housing need in an area.
- Consideration should be given to provide suitable units for disabled and homeless in future/proposed 'retirement villages'.

M Mullally thanked members for their input and comments.

Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

M Newport updated members on the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2014-2018 in particular, recent statutory review completed in 2016. MN told the meeting that a full and comprehensive consultation was carried out with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee on TAP. Two main issues identified within the MDP are 1) difficulties in securing accommodation to meet the needs of families in South Kilkenny and 2) roadside parking in Ferrybank. Since 2014, 45 families have been accommodated out of 65 families originally identified which is in line with KCC's targets. It was noted that the number of Traveller families in Kilkenny City and County has increased as a result of new family formations within the existing community as opposed to new families moving to Kilkenny from other counties. MN outlined some of the challenges going forward which included identifying and acquiring appropriate accommodation to meet the needs of young families and providing these families with the necessary support. Members were also told that Travellers are not in favour of transient site accommodation. MN said that the statutory review of the TAP is now complete and no amendment to the existing programme was required. Members requested clarification on some points and thanked M Newport for the update.

Roadworks Update

I Gardner circulated an update detailing works carried out over the previous four week period and briefed the members on same. Members requested clarification on some items and raised the following:-

- Workshop re flood investigation works at Dungooley & Fanningstown – Cllr Dunphy suggested Mooncoin as a venue for workshop. IG will look into this.
- Traffic survey at Owing – results of traffic survey was discussed. IG noted that driver feedback signs and improved road markings could have a positive effect on road safety at this location.
- Litter picking – Cllr. Doherty enquired if there is a possibility for local persons to carry out this work. MJ Mulholland explained that this service is operated by a contractor on a county-wide basis. MJM said that resources are being used on enforcement and maximising awareness of litter prevention. MJM mentioned the upcoming National Spring Clean initiative where the emphasis will be on local communities to engage in this process.
- Outdoor staffing levels – IG advised each General Services Supervisor will have 6 General Operatives once new staff are appointed. It was noted that in the early 2000s, each GSS had 10 General Operatives.

Roadworks Scheme 2017

The Draft Roadworks Scheme 2017 for the Municipal District of Piltown was proposed by Cllr. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Breathnach and agreed.

N25 New Ross Bypass Update

K Hanley circulated a report received from Sean Dobbs, Public Liaison Officer, N25 New Ross Bypass detailing current progress on the New Ross Bypass Bridge project. K Hanley told the meeting that S Dobbs is available to attend the April monthly meeting, if required. Cllr. Breathnach asked if it would be possible to visit the site. KH will refer this request to S Dobbs.

Cllr. O'Neill with reference to presentation made by Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services, Wexford Co Co at joint meeting with New Ross MD in November last regarding the naming of the New Ross Bypass Bridge, asked if KCC would arrange for the same presentation to be given to the full Council meeting. K Hanley will refer this matter to Tim Butler, Director of Services, KCC.

Taking-in-Charge of Road off Owing Hill, Piltown

I Gardner told Members a request was received to dedicate road at Owing Hill, Piltown as a public road and outlined the basis for the request. He then asked members if they were in agreement to proceed with the taking-in-charge process. This was proposed by Cllr. Dunphy and seconded by Cllr. Aylward.

Waterford Boundary Review Report

MJ Mulholland told the meeting that KCC has formed a Boundary Review Steering Committee who will prepare two bodies of work; 1) A report for Minister Coveney and 2) A submission for the National Planning Framework. It is intended to finalise correspondence to Minister Coveney over the coming weeks. Members briefly discussed this issue – further discussion to take place at the Boundary Review Steering Committee meeting this afternoon.

Update on Ferrybank District Centre

MJ Mulholland clarified the current position regarding the Ferrybank Shopping Centre, and told the meeting that judgement issued by the High Court in December related to costs. She further advised that KCC's involvement is as a Planning Authority only. MJM confirmed that KCC received a planning application relating to the building and change of use of some units. Further information on this application was requested on 23rd February last.

Any Other Business

- a) **Deputation from Listerlin Area** – L Murphy told the meeting that request for reception of deputation at the Municipal District Meeting has not been received as yet. This matter was therefore unable to be considered at this time.

K Hanley told members that consultants engaged by Sports Partnership intend holding a 'Parklife' day on the proposed park site at Aylesbury, Ferrybank on Saturday 11th March. Details of this event will be circulated to members once finalised.

Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5th April 2017 at 10:00am.

Joint meeting with New Ross Municipal District has been rescheduled for Wednesday, 5th April 2017 at 2pm in the Rhu Glenn Hotel.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____