

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
6th October, 2021 at 10.30am at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room***

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

In attendance: S. Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, District Engineer and O. Bannon, SO.

Apologies: S. McKeown, Direct of Services

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 1st September, 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed.

Matters Arising

Joint Meetings – M. Arthurs advised Cllr. Breathnach that he had been contact with both Tipperary and Waterford County Councils in order to arrange joint meetings and would follow up on same. **Action MA**

Barrow Bridge closure – Cllr. Frisby asked for update in relation to the closure of Barrow Bridge, M. Arthurs agreed to follow up with S. McKeown.

Rights-of-Way – Cllr. Doherty advised that the original deadline of 30th November for the registration of a right-of-way over private lands, as raised at the September meeting, is now likely to be extended.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

Restoration Improvement Plan 2022-2024

S. Cullen circulated the Schedule and Map for the proposed 3 year Restoration Improvement Plan 2022-2024, which had been discussed in detail by members in advance of the Piltown MD meeting and prepared in accordance with requirements and guidance from the Department of Transport.

It was proposed by Cllr. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Aylward and agreed that the Restoration Improvement Plan 2022-2024 be adopted, as presented.

(a) Update Monthly Roadworks

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

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Cllr. Doherty asked if an application to install a Greyway on the R723 from Glenmore roundabout to New Ross could be advanced, which would link in with the Greenway. S. Cullen agreed that this should be considered given the fact that it would run parallel to the Greenway and he agreed to look at the matter.

Cllr. Aylward asked if works at the Poulanassy Waterfall were on track for completion in October, noting delays there. S. Cullen advised that the Contractor has agreed to put additional resources in place to make up for any time lost and is confident that works will be completed by late October or early November at the latest.

Cllr. Aylward expressed his disappointment at the lack of progress in relation to Mill Road, Mullinavat and asked if the public consultation could be advanced as quickly as possible. S. Cullen advised that accommodation works are currently being agreed with affected landowners and it is expected that the Part 8 will be published by the end of October with the public consultation period running to end December. Cllr. Doherty asked if consideration could be given to a cantilever bridge to form part of the design. S. Cullen advised that this option had been taken into consideration, however due to the nature of the bridge it is more likely that there will be traffic signal controls, which will balance the need for vehicular access and pedestrian safety over the bridge.

Cllr. Dunphy asked if the drainage job on N24 at Ballynamountain could be progressed, this scheme had been on the roadworks scheme couple of years ago but never completed. S. Cullen agreed that this matter can be looked at with a view to completing works. **Action SC**

Cllr. Dunphy raised the issue of access to Granny Castle which has been closed to the public now for some time. He noted a recent request had been made by Minister of State Patrick O'Donovan to the OPW in this regard. S. Cullen stated that no communication has been received from the OPW in this regard but agreed to look into the matter. **Action SC**

Cllr. Dunphy asked for a timeframe for completion of the new pedestrian crossings at Piltown. S. Cullen advised that drainage works were required on the Kildalton side of the National School prior to installation of the pedestrian crossings, but tenders will be sought in the coming weeks with the intention that works will commence on the pedestrian crossings in November.

Cllr. Frisby asked for an update regarding the review of County Safety Scheme for Schools, particularly at Slieverue. S. Cullen advised that surveys had been carried out in this regard and he would seek an update for the November meeting.

(b) Update South East Greenway

The update report was circulated to members, M. Arthurs outlined the following:

- **Detailed Design** Landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 4 – 7 are progressing well and it is hoped that the detailed design on Lot 4 (New Ross to Mount Elliott) and Lot 5 (Ferrybank to Aylwardstown) will be finalised by the end of this month and construction tenders will issue shortly afterwards. Note that since 20th September last, the management and delivery of the National Greenway Strategy is now under the remit of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).
- **Construction:** of Lots 1 – 3 is progressing well and are on schedule for completion before end January next year. The Waterford City Metropolitan Area approved the Part 8 Planning for the construction of the Access Ramp from the Greenway to the Abbey Road at their September Meeting. Agreement has also been reached with Waterford on the connection to their Greenway through the North Quays. The revised expected date for the full completion of the Greenway advised to TII is now Autumn 2023. The Project Office would like to thank all landowners for their continued co-operation with the Greenway Project works. The Project Office continue 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:** The route of the Link Road from the Abbey Road to the Belmont Road has now been confirmed. A Part 8 planning application will be progressed for the Link Road in the coming weeks. The proposed Ferrybank Car Park will be accessed from the new Link Road. MWP are preparing preliminary design of the car park which will be a trailhead to include toilets and coach parking.
- **Railway Abandonment:** Kilkenny CoCo Road Section are currently preparing detailed mapping to facilitate the transfer of the railway lands from CIE to each Local Authority. It is hoped to finalise this in advance of the completion of the construction of the first 3 Lots on the Greenway.
- **Links to Slieverue and Glenmore:** Roadplan will further investigate the potential route options identified during preliminary assessment and will engage with landowners. The Piltown MD members will be briefed on the preferred option before same proceeds to public consultation.
- **Business Development Officer (BDO):** Alan Fitzhenry is the BDO 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.

(c) Update Roads Projects (S. Kavanagh)

S. Kavanagh was in attendance to update members on the major roads projects and outlined the following details in relation to each project:-

N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme

A route corridor has now been selected for the scheme and the Phase 2 Gate Review Statement has been submitted to TII for approval to proceed to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation). Approval to proceed is awaited from TII and its Strategic Planning Unit. The overall outturn cost for

the project is expected to be €90 to €120m. All the information on the scheme is available on the website n25waterford2glenmore.ie

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme

Kilkenny is the lead authority on this project, working in consultation with Tipperary County Council. It is 60km in length and has a projected cost of €600 - €720m. It will link up with the Limerick to Cahir scheme which is a few months further ahead in the process. The consultants are working through phase 2 on this scheme. An options report will be prepared for late 2021 which will go out for public consultation, it is hoped in November. All the information on the scheme is available on the website n24waterford2cahir.ie

N24 Carrick Road Scheme

Following approval of the Preliminary Design Report for the scheme the necessary documentation to make a simultaneous application to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval under 177AE and also Compulsory Purchase Order approval for the scheme is being finalised. It is intended that the applications will be made in Q4 2021. The overall outturn cost for the project is expected to be circa €10m.

N24 Tower Road Improvement Scheme

This scheme is currently subject to final design and tender preparation. Landowner negotiations are on-going. It is envisaged that the scheme will go out to tender towards the latter end of Q4 2021 with a view to construction commencing in Q2 2022. The overall outturn cost for the project is expected to be circa €10m.

Cllr. Dunphy thanked S. Kavanagh for the update and requested that a copy of his report be circulated to members. This was agreed.

Queries raised by members:-

N24 Carrick Road and Tower Road Schemes – in response to Cllr. Aylward, S. Kavanagh advised that these are both safety schemes and that there was no indication that these schemes will not proceed.

N24 Carrick Road, surface water – Cllr. Aylward raised concerns in relation to surface water and asked for confirmation that same will be piped to the river. S. Kavanagh to revert to Cllr. Aylward with confirmation.

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme – Cllr. Breathnach referred to the options report due in Q4 2021, expressing concerns about the timing of public consultations around the Christmas period. He also requested that one of the public consultation sessions should be held at Mooncoin. S. Kavanagh noted concerns about timing of consultations, but that same would be held as soon as possible in order to eliminate any further planning delays. He also confirmed that Mooncoin Community Hall would be nominated as a possible venue for public consultation.

Links to N24 Scheme – Cllr. Dunphy asked if the Carrick Road and Tower Road Schemes would link up with N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme. S. Kavanagh confirmed that these along with other schemes on the route such as Piltown Bypass and Mooncoin Bypass Schemes will all be looked at and will tie in as much as possible to form some or part of the route options.

Carrick Road works – Cllr. Dunphy raised concerns on behalf of a local resident about the possibility of surface water entering property as a result of the works commencing next week on the N24 Carrick Road. S. Kavanagh agreed to relay these concerns to Road Design to ensure no issues arise.

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

M. Arthurs advised that he had been in contact with Jim Fitzgerald, Irish Water with regard to his attendance at a meeting of the Piltown MD and will revert to members once a response is received.

Action MA

6. AOB:

Cllr. Dunphy raised the issue of speeding and stated that he has been receiving many complaints with regard to speeding on local roads in the Piltown MD. While 80kph is the default speed limit on most of these roads, he felt that many of these roads are not suitable for such speed. The fact that there is an increase in the number of pedestrians and cyclists on our roads of late is perhaps the cause of the rise in complaints about speeding, on rural roads in particular. Cllr. Dunphy stated that this growing issue is a national one and appealed to the members of the press at the meeting to relay the message asking people to slow down for the safety of all road users.

Cllr. Dunphy proposed that a letter be sent to the Department of Transport urging that action be taken on the issue of speeding at national level, this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Aylward and agreed.

Action MA

Further discussion followed with contributions from all members, all were in support of and in agreement with Cllr. Dunphy's comments. The following items were discussed / requested:-

- Request to issue to An Garda Síochána representative(s) to attend meeting of Piltown MD to discuss this and other matters, including the use of Go Safe vans at most appropriate locations.

Action MA

- Default speed limit not suitable for a number of narrow rural roads, consider use of alternative sign on some roads to drive with care/caution – national guidelines in place for speed limits, national approach required to amend these.
- Traffic calming measures to be considered at approaches to and in villages, including ramps.
- Meetings of the Local Policing Forum to be resumed.
- Members of the public urged to take part in the Speed Limit Review, when public consultation commences.
- The matter to be placed on agenda for discussion at meetings between Department Officials and TDs.

Other items raised by Members

Cllr. Doherty

- noted the reckless vandalism caused to a large road sign on the R704, which had been cut down and left on the roadside. It was noted that this matter has been reported to An Garda Síochána.
- congratulated all involved in the very successful running of the Rás na mBan.
- asked if the clay on the road at the railway crossing Mullinavat could be attended to as it was causing a safety issue for pedestrians.
- took the opportunity to welcome Michael Wemyss, who had recently joined the crew in the Glenmore area.

Cllr. Frisby

- asked for update regarding the Ferrybank Shopping Centre and asked for the item to be kept on the agenda going forward.

Cllr. Dunphy

- took the opportunity to wish Bobby Aylward a speedy recovery from a recent illness and asked that a letter be sent on behalf of the Piltown members wishing him well in his recovery. **Action MA**
- asked that attention be given to a pinch point on the road from Mullenbeg to Piltown.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____