

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

Present: Cllr F. Doherty, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs Pat Dunphy, T. Breathnach, G. Frisby and E. Aylward
In attendance: M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator and O. Bannon, Staff Officer
Apologies: D. Malone, A/Director of Services, S. Cullen, Area Engineer

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 5th October, 2022

Proposed by Cllr Frisby, seconded by Cllr Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

MASP – M. Arthurs confirmed that D. Malone had been in contact with David Kelly, Director of the Southern Regional Assembly about progress in relation to the implementation of the MASP and he relayed progress as provided by D. Kelly, which was noted by members. Following discussion, it was agreed that clarification be sought from D. Kelly with regard to the report as outlined and to request that he attend a meeting of KCC. The members all expressed their interest in having more input into the MASP process and would welcome that opportunity. It was also agreed that this item be included on the Agenda for the upcoming joint meeting with Waterford Metropolitan District. **Action MA**

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – Cllr Frisby asked for confirmation that further communication has been sent to NAMA to seek more information about the owners and the future of the centre. M. Arthurs agreed to follow up and revert to members. **Action MA**

An Garda Síochána – Cllr Doherty congratulated An Garda Síochána on the recent centenary celebrations, commemorating 100yrs of their commitment and service to the public.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Monthly Roadworks Update

M. Arthurs circulated report prepared by S. Cullen outlining works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including pavement works, discretionary maintenance. Updates with regard to the N24 Tower Road, N24 Carrick Road and Belmont Link Road were also noted.

The following items were also raised and discussed:-

Public lighting at Listerlin – Cllr Doherty noted ESB connection was still awaited and urged that this be followed up and prioritised.

Flooding – all the members thanked the outdoor staff for their hard work and efforts during the current wet spell, which is very much appreciated. Cllr Dunphy noted a number of bad flooding events and the damage caused by same. He urged that solutions be looked at in order to prevent future occurrences of such events and asked that this matter be placed on the agenda going forward to discuss how best to deal with this matter.

Kilmogue Dolmen – Cllr Aylward welcomed works at Harristown Lane leading to the Dolmen and thanked S. Cullen for his efforts to secure funding to facilitate these works.

Major Schemes Update – Cllr Breathnach asked that Seamus Kavanagh be invited to the Piltown MD meeting in January to provide an update on the major schemes, including the assessment of improvements along the N24 from New Aglish to Grannagh. This was agreed. **Action MA**

Meeting with TII – it was noted that Cllrs Frisby and Dunphy had attended the recent meeting with TII and they provided a summary of items discussed. It was confirmed that TII took on board the concerns raised regarding safety and delays in progressing the N25 and N24 Road Schemes and agreed to consider additional calming measures and look at more appropriate locations for go safe vans to improve safety in the interim.

Cllr Dunphy expressed his disappointment that the Agenda for the meeting was limited, which in his view did not allow sufficient time to discuss the N25/N24 schemes. It was agreed to follow up with Tim Butler on his report following the meeting and to arrange the next meeting with TII in person. Cllr Doherty thanked Cllrs Dunphy and Frisby for their update and confirmed that members will await report from T. Butler for further discussion.

Serious Flooding/Drainage Programme – Cllr Dunphy asked that S. Cullen provide a report for the next meeting on serious flooding across the area and discuss drainage schemes for inclusion under the next roads programme. This was agreed. **Action SC**

(b) South East Greenway Update

M. Arthurs circulated report to members and outlined the following:-

Detailed Design: landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 1 – 7 continue to progress.

It was decided to split Lot 5 into two sections of equal length comprising Lot 5a (Ferrybank to Luffany) and Lot 5b (Luffany to Aylwardstown South). In early October, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) requested that a third party due diligence check be undertaken on the Lot 5a tender documents prior to the advertisement of same. The Project Team are liaising with Tramore House Regional Design Office on this matter and it is expected this final check will be completed over the month of November. The review of the design to rock cutting faces for Lot 5b in accordance with TII specifications is ongoing.

The option of combining some of the remaining Lots is under consideration by the Greenway Project Office and the TII.

Construction: of Lots 1 and 3, Glenmore and New Ross, is now substantially completed and during the month of October parapet railings were installed at the railway bridges. Lot 2, Ferrybank, is also substantially completed and the ramp access to the Greenway from the Abbey Road is also complete.

The Greenway Project Office are exploring the possibility of opening sections of the Greenway as they are completed. A mini-tender is currently being prepared for carpark works at Rosbercon and Glenmore to facilitate the opening of Lot 1 & 3 in early Qtr. 2 of next year.

Ferrybank Car Park Option: following detailed environmental assessments, a Part 10 planning application to An Bord Pleanála will now be progressed for the new Link Road from the Abbey Road to Belmont Road. The Ferrybank Car Park will be accessed from the Link Road and will form part of the overall project. The tender to procure consultancy services to develop the design and documentation for this scheme has been advertised by the Road Design Office.

Railway Abandonment: Kilkenny Co. Council, Road Design Office, has completed the detailed mapping of the Greenway lands. The associated documentation is being provided to CIE to facilitate the transfer of the railway lands from CIE to each Local Authority

Links to Slieverue and Glenmore: Following confirmation of the preferred routes in July 2022, the preliminary design and initial environmental assessments proceeded. The consultants intend to submit updated design information for comment in early November 2022 and a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit will also be undertaken. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken in August 2022 the conclusion the ecologist reached was that an Appropriate Assessment is not required. The next step is for the competent Authority, the Planning Authority, to review same and subject to this review it is anticipated that proposals will proceed to design without an application of specific environmental mitigation measures. The preliminary design of the route includes for the assessment of all interfaces between the route and existing roadways, footways and private lands to determine the specific and appropriate measures to be implemented. The preliminary design drawings will indicate the following:

- The extent of the route utilising existing roadways and footpaths, and the extent to be routed off-road.
- Locations where existing roadways and footpaths are to be modified to accommodate the route, including modifications to safety barriers and fencing.
- Locations where existing roadside vegetation will need to be trimmed to provide adequate sightlines for road users.
- Proposed modifications to existing road crossings and proposed new road crossings.
- Indicative road markings and road surface modifications proposed to identify the route to road users.
- Proposed fence line locations and extents of land acquisition in off-road areas.
- Indicative design of the proposed bridge over the N29 on the Slieverue link.

- Proposed interface between the Waterford to New Ross Greenway and the proposed Greenway links.

Other Links: in a joint initiative Kilkenny Co. Council with Kilkenny LEADER Partnership and Trail Kilkenny, engaged the services of Punch Consulting Engineers to prepare a Feasibility Study & Route Selection Report to develop a Link between the South East Greenway (SEG) and Woodstock Estate, Inistioge. The Feasibility Study for the proposal was completed in October and the consultants concluded that the Woodstock SEG Link was feasible in meeting the objectives of the brief. The Project Office and Parks Section have since engaged with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to determine if same could be considered within their current Greenway project portfolio as an extension to the SEG.

Business Development Officer (BDO): Alan Fitzhenry, vacated the position of SEG Business Development Officer in September and has been replaced by Jill Kelleher, contact details for Jill are provided hereunder:

Email: Jill.Kelleher@wexfordcoco.ie Mobile: 0873737951

Project Website: www.southeastgreenway.net.

Resident Engineer: Eoin Atkinson is the Resident Engineer on site 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 Fáilte 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.

The members noted progress and thanked M. Arthurs for the update.

Cllr Dunphy noted progress on the Carrick-on-Suir to Kilmeaden Greenway, connecting the Suir Blueway to Waterford Greenway and the lack of communication with KCC on this matter, given that the study area extends into County Kilkenny. He suggested that a request be made to Tipperary County Council to ask that KCC be kept informed of progress.

Cllr Breathnach felt it would be beneficial to take a regional approach in relation to Greenways and to perhaps arrange a meeting where an overview on the provision of greenways in the south east region could be provided and to also include the railway heritage aspect.

(c) North Quays SDZ Update

M. Arthurs provided the following update to members:-

Waterford City and 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:

- The Final Business case for the North Quays project has been submitted to Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage for cabinet approval as part of the Public Spending Code Gateway 3 approval and also to the NTA. WCCC is engaging with the Dept and addressing any queries being raised.
- Suir Plant Civil Engineering Ltd is expected to complete the South Plaza Enabling works by end of October 2022.
- Rock Stabilisation contract - Works ongoing by Cumnor Construction Ltd to be completed by February 2023.
- Abbey Road footpath widening contract - Mallwood Construction has been appointed and plans to commence works in October 2022.
- Pump station contract - David Walsh Civil Engineering has been appointed and proposing to commence works in October 2022.
- Tenders for Water Sampling Contract were returned, Tellab Ltd has been appointed to carry out water sampling in the River Suir for a six month period prior to main construction works.

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

None

7. AOB:

Cllr Doherty

Ferrybank Shopping Centre entrance – Cllr Doherty noted the entrance to the Centre is very tight and difficult to manoeuvre, she asked if enquiries could be made to revert to the original entrance/exit arrangements.

National Biodiversity Action Plan – Cllr Doherty noted the closing date for submissions on 9th November and encouraged public participation.

Cllr Breathnach noted Dearbhala Ledwidge had taken up her new role as Climate Action Officer and suggested that an invitation be extended to her to attend a meeting of the Piltown MD in the new year to give an overview to members, once she has settled into her new role.

Meetings Schedule

M. Arthurs outlined details to members as follows:-

Local Policing Partnership Committee Meeting – scheduled for Monday 21st November at 1pm in Glenmore Community Centre.

Joint Meeting Waterford Metropolitan District – scheduled for Wednesday, 23rd November at 11am in Ferrybank Library meeting room.

Joint Meeting Carrick-on-Suir MD – scheduled for Wednesday, 7th December at 12noon at the Rhu Glenn Hotel.

Meeting with Garda Reps – a meeting with Supt. Anthony Farrell and Supt. Anthony Lonergan has been agreed for Wednesday, 4th January, 2023.

M. Arthurs asked members to submit items in advance of these meetings for inclusion on the agenda.

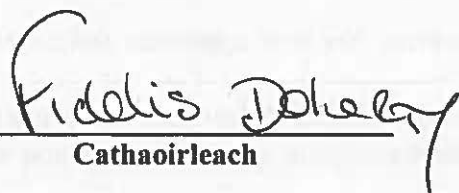
Broadband Workshops

Cllr Doherty noted a number of workshops taking place across the County to encourage communities to consider setting up their own community owned and operated broadband network, an initiative which is being supported by Kilkenny Leader Partnership (KLP) to help boost remote working opportunities and promote rural enterprise and she encouraged any community who may be interested to attend these workshops.

It was noted that KLP have already helped the Piltown/Fiddown community to deliver their own broadband network, which will be transformative for their communities. Members noted that while this is a wonderful initiative and great success has been achieved in Piltown/Fiddown, it is a huge undertaking and will require lots of determination, commitment and buy in from the whole community.

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

Signed:


Cathaoirleach

Dated:

