

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
7th September, 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: D. Malone, A/Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, District Engineer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Welcome

Cllr Doherty noted that Maria Grace, Ferrybank Library, would soon be retiring from Kilkenny County Council after many years of service. She took the opportunity to thank Maria for her dedication and commitment to the community and all the members joined in wishing Maria well in her retirement.

Vote of Sympathy

The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to Cllr Aylward and family on the passing of Bobby Aylward, former TD and Councillor for the Piltown area. The members all paid tribute to Bobby, a friend to all and a true gentleman who dedicated his life to public service and who worked hard for his constituents and the people of Kilkenny. The members extended their deepest sympathies to Bobby's wife Helena and the Aylward family. Cllr Aylward also paid tribute to his uncle Bobby, acknowledging what has been a very difficult time for his family and he thanked the members for their vote of sympathy. D. Malone extended his sympathies on behalf of the executive of Kilkenny County Council.

The members also joined with Cllr Doherty in extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late John Cody, former KCC staff member in the Piltown area. The members all paid tribute to John and acknowledged his hard work and many years of dedicated service to Kilkenny County Council and wished to extend their deepest sympathies to all his family.

A minute's silence was observed by the meeting.

Cllr Frisby took the opportunity to wish Claire Goodwin well in her new role with Wexford County Council. All the members joined Cllr Frisby in thanking Claire for all her help and advice, the huge contribution she has made and all the great work she has done during her time with Kilkenny County Council.

Cllr Doherty noted the recent opening of the BCP at the Community Centre in Glenmore which she said is a great initiative and will be of great service to Glenmore and the wider community.

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 6th July, 2022

Proposed by Cllr G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr P. Dunphy and agreed.

Matters Arising

Access to Grannagh Castle – in response to Cllr Dunphy, S. Cullen advised there had been no further communication regarding this matter from the OPW since the last meeting.

ESB connection Piltown Pedestrian Crossings – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that ESB connections are complete and final commissioning of the lights is awaited.

Primary Care Centre, Ferrybank – Cllr Frisby noted the opening of the Primary Care Centre and looked forward to full services being up and running at the Centre, which will be a great asset to the area. Cllr Doherty asked if it would be possible to arrange for members to visit the Centre. D. Malone agreed to contact the HSE in this regard.

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – Cllr. Frisby asked if there was any update on Ferrybank Shopping Centre. D. Malone advised that correspondence has been issued to NAMA, however no information has been received with regard to ownership of the building. Cllr Frisby asked that a further letter be sent to NAMA in an effort to get clarification with regard to ownership and what proposals were for the possible opening of the centre, this was agreed by members.

Link Road, Abbey Road to Belmont Road – D. Malone advised Cllr Doherty that design is progressing. It was noted that a Part 10 application will be made directly to An Bord Pleanála, which will require a more detailed design and the Ferrybank Car Park will be incorporated into the design. The process is expected to take around 6 months to complete and members will be briefed before the application is lodged with ABP.

Speed Limit Review – S. Cullen advised that submissions received were under review and that a report had been sent to TII and response was awaited. It was noted that the timeframe for preparation of Draft Bylaws will rely on response from TII.

Meeting with TII – M. Arthurs confirmed that T. Butler, DOS is currently preparing an agenda for a meeting scheduled with TII in the coming weeks. It was noted that 2 representatives from each MD will attend this meeting.

Meeting with Gardai – M. Arthurs confirmed that Supt. Anthony Farrell has taken over the role from Supt. Colin Furlong at the Thomastown Garda Station and he will be in contact with him shortly to arrange a meeting with members. Cllr Doherty requested that a note of thanks be sent to former Supt. Furlong on behalf of the members. M. Arthurs also agreed to request that the Local Policing Partnership Committee meetings be resumed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update Monthly Roadworks

S. Cullen circulated report and outlined works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including pavement works, discretionary maintenance and updates with regard to the national road schemes at N24 Tower Road and N24 Carrick Road.

S. Cullen highlighted that comment had been received from the NTA on the Draft Ferrybank Mobility Management Plan stating that they had indicated it would be premature to proceed pending completion of the WMATS and Ferrybank-Belview LAP review. Cllr Frisby asked if members could receive a synopsis of the comments from NTA in this regard, S. Cullen agreed to follow up on this.

The following items were also raised and discussed:-

N24 Carrick Road – S. Cullen advised that he did not foresee any delay with the application to An Bord Pleanála and once the application is lodged the timeframe will be within their remit. It was noted that each stage will require TII approval. The delivery of the N24 Carrick Road will be taken into account in the development of the N24 Waterford to Cahir scheme.

Ballinaboley Bridge – S. Cullen confirmed that the three piers are severely scoured and are likely to be replaced with a new single span bridge deck. which will improve the flow capacity there.

Greyway, Slieverue to Ferrybank – S. Cullen advised that he had received confirmation that this scheme can proceed and same will now be progressed. He confirmed to Cllr Frisby that the scheme will incorporate lining at junctions on the route.

S Kavanagh, Reports – S. Cullen agreed to speak with S. Kavanagh regarding the provision of monthly or bi-monthly reports at the MD meetings on the various major road schemes and projects currently progressing in the Piltown MD.

N25 traffic calming – Cllr Doherty asked if traffic calming measures would be considered on the N25 to improve safety, in the absence of progress on the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme. S. Cullen agreed to bring this matter to Road Design for consideration.

Ragworth – Cllr Doherty asked that ragwort along the M9 be treated. S. Cullen agreed to bring the matter to the attention of the M9 operator.

(b) Update South East Greenway

D. Malone circulated report to members and outlined the following:-

- **Detailed Design:** landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 1 – 7 continue to progress and a number of agreements have been signed over the summer months.

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). Transport Infrastructure Ireland have undertaken a final review of the tender documentation for Lot 5a and it is anticipated that the works tender will be advertised in the coming weeks. The review of the design to rock cutting faces for Lot 5b in accordance with TII specifications is ongoing

- **Construction:** of Lots 1 – 3 are substantially completed. The ramp access to the Greenway from the Abbey Road, Ferrybank is complete. Waterford City & County Council received tenders to widen the footpath at the connection point to the ramp access and a Letter of Intent has issued to the preferred contractor for these works.

The Greenway Project Office are exploring the possibility of opening sections of the Greenway as they are completed.

- **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. Consultant procurement is being progressed by the Road Design Office, to develop the design and documentation for the scheme.

- **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:** Preferred options for both links have been identified. The Consultants are engaging an Ecologist to undertake Appropriate Assessment Screening on both links, which will determine the planning process to be followed.
- **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 and Woodstock Estate, Inistioge. Works have been progressing over the summer months and it is anticipated that the draft Feasibility Study will be ready in September.
- **Business Development Officer (BDO):** Alan Fitzhenry is the BDO and continues to be 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 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.

In addition to the above, Wexford Co. Council, having secured €20k under the Creative Ireland fund has commissioned a team of visual artists to work with the community on a public art commission along the South East Greenway, specifically the 5km stretch from New Ross town centre to Shanbogh.

The focus of this commission is to think about *Connections - the way back to our roots & routes* working through the themes of biodiversity, place names and the many bridges along the 5km stretch of the Greenway. The intention is to work with the community, to design and develop a series of art or sculptures along this length of the South East Greenway. A series of six workshops on the Greenway will be held and the public are invited to participate in one, some or all of the workshops. The purpose of the workshops is to gather information and stories about the locality and develop a vision and co-design the piece or pieces for the new Greenway.

The first of these workshops will be held on site, meeting at the New Ross boat yard entrance (beside the Gala petrol station) on Tuesday the 13th of September @ 11.30am. The workshop will include a walk and cycle along the greenway to research ideas and opinions.

The following was also discussed and noted: -

Cllr Dunphy made reference to the naming of the Greenway. D. Malone advised that a naming strategy has been agreed and could be referred to as the Kilkenny Greenway as part of the South East Greenway. The members were all agreed as to the importance of the Greenway to tourism in Kilkenny, to attract more visitors and encourage them to stay longer in the county.

Cllr Doherty asked if there had been feedback from Roadplan regarding the ecological studies for the Glenmore Link to the Greenway. D. Malone agreed to follow up for next meeting.

Cllr Doherty asked that the feasibility study for a possible Greyway on the R723 be followed up and if it might come under active travel for possible funding. S. Cullen agreed to follow up.

Cllr Breathnach enquired about the Greenway connection at Inistioge, the nature of study and what it contains. D. Malone advised that it will look at connecting the Greenway to Woodstock, look at potential route options and then look at how to plan for it, source funding and see what is possible. Other routes can be explored also, to build a regional network.

Cllr Aylward stated that the key part in these developments is connectivity and should be looked at like the road network with as many links being explored as possible, the ultimate aim being to connect off road from Dublin to Rosslare and beyond. Cllr Breathnach also noted the local impact of greenway development and how it will integrate into daily life.

Cllr Frisby noted the recent reopening of the shop in Slieverue and wished the owners well in their new venture. He looked forward to the opening of the Greenway and link to Slieverue, which will breathe life into the village and help local businesses like this.

Cllr Doherty brought attention to the workshop taking place on Tuesday 13th September at the New Ross boatyard entrance and encouraged people to attend.

(c) Update North Quays SDZ

D. Malone gave a brief update to members on progress since the last meeting, stating that facilitation works for the pedestrian bridge were progressing and detailed design was underway. Progress on the link between Abbey Road and Belmont Road was noted, which forms part of the URDF application and ties in with the North Quays development.

Cllr Breathnach asked what the timeline was for completion of the sustainable transport bridge, D. Malone advised that facilitation works are continuing for relocation of infrastructure and works on the detailed design are ongoing, he agreed to seek further update for the next meeting.

(d) Joint Retail Strategy and Review/Update of Ferrybank-Belview Local Area Plan

D. Malone advised that an objective of the Kilkenny City & County Development Plan is to commence the review of the Ferrybank/Belview Local Area Plan within 6 months of the Plan coming into effect and to incorporate the LAP into the City & County Development Plan. However, he stated that the Joint Retail Strategy must first be prepared and it was noted that Waterford City & County Council have been in contact with KCC in this regard and initial discussions have taken place. The importance of aligning projects taking place in both jurisdictions was noted.

Cllr Dunphy enquired about progress with the MASP and why there was such a delay in putting structures in place, he asked that representatives of the Regional Assembly be invited to attend an MD meeting. D. Malone noted this request and agreed to raise the matter with the Management Team.

In response to Cllr Breathnach, D. Malone confirmed that the Joint Retail Strategy will primarily cover the Waterford/Kilkenny areas, but will have a regional dimension having impact on the wider region. It was noted that adjoining local authorities in the region will be consulted during the process.

D. Malone confirmed to Cllr Breathnach that the Ferrybank-Belview LAP will have regard to the Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (WMATS) stating that the WMATS has been committed to at national level, with each city to have its own Transport Strategy, to provide for more sustainable transport options, taking account of land use and improvements to safety and the environment and KCC will have regard to these objectives ...

Cllr Breathnach emphasised the need for setting up of formal structure at regional level to assess and inform all plans relevant to south east region.

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:**

Pride of Place – Cllr Aylward referred to the nomination of Mullinavat to represent the county in the National Pride of Place competition, noting that the judges had been down to visit the area last month. He praised local group Mullinavat Matters for their hard work and commitment, Ronan Ryan in the Council’s Community Section for his support and efforts and also thanked S. Cullen and staff for the works carried out in and around the village and everyone involved in preparing for the competition. Both Cllrs Aylward and Breathnach commented that regardless of the outcome of the competition, Mullinavat have already achieved success.

Pre-planning – Cllr Dunphy asked if there are any plans to resume face to face pre-planning consultations and when this might happen. D. Malone agreed to look into this matter and revert to Cllr Dunphy.

N24 at Grannagh/Ballygriffin – Cllr Dunphy stated that while an upgrade of this section of the N24 is the preferred option, there is one pinch point which needs attention in the meantime to improve safety, at the former Croke’s shop where traffic turning right at this junction towards Ballygriffin are followed by speeding traffic that encroach on the narrow hard shoulder rather than slow down, creating a hazard for pedestrians and cyclists. S. Cullen noted the difficulties with the current arrangement, however widening of the hard shoulder may lead to higher speeds and increased risk of accidents, but he agreed to explore options.

Ploughing Championships – Cllr Doherty noted the upcoming Ploughing Championships taking place from 20th to 22nd September, wishing it every success and good luck to all taking part.

Iverk Show – Cllr Doherty congratulated all those involved in the Iverk Show, which had a very successful return.

Waterford to Rosslare – D. Malone advised that the proposed Waterford to Rosslare Greenway is still on hold pending the outcome of the national rail study currently underway and he agreed to seek an update on this for the next meeting.

Waterford Proteins, Christendom – Cllr Doherty raised an issue concerning smells from vehicles transporting offal etc to and from the Waterford Proteins plant and the affect this is having on the local residents in that area. She noted that they are currently in the process of seeking to renew their licence and encouraged anyone affected by their activities to make a submission. D. Malone stated he was aware of the renewal application and that KCC have made a submission to that process, but highlighted that it was the EPA who would be making the decision on the licence renewal. He advised anyone who has concerns regarding the activities of the plant to make this known directly to the EPA. Cllr Breathnach noted comprehensive report prepared by KCC Environment staff, which informed the submission made by the Council.

Joint Meeting Waterford Metropolitan MD – M. Arthurs advised that WCCC have suggested 23rd or 28th November for the next joint meeting. Following discussion, the members agreed on Wednesday 23rd November, M. Arthurs to confirm with WCCC and revert to members.

National Biodiversity Plan – Cllr Doherty noted a new Plan being prepared by the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which is seeking feedback on the draft plan from the public. She encouraged everyone to take part in the consultation process and noted 9th November as the deadline for submissions.

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

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 5/10/22

