

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
1st September, 2021 at 10.00am via MS Teams***

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

In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, District Engineer and O. Bannon, SO.

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr. Pat Dunphy took the opportunity on behalf of the Piltown MD members to extend sympathy to Ian Gardner and family on the recent death of his father Paddy Gardner.

Cllr. Doherty also wished to extend sympathy to Tom Roche and family on the recent passing of his mother Joan and also to the family of Alan Byrne, security guard at Ferrybank SC, who passed away recently.

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 7th July, 2021

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

Matters Arising

Irish Water, water outages Piltown MD – Cllr. Dunphy noted continuing issues with leaks and water bursts in the area and asked if there had been any progress with regard to meeting with Irish Water on this matter. M. Arthurs is seeking to arrange for Jim Fitzgerald, Regional Lead with Irish Water, to attend the October MD meeting. **Action MA**

Speed Limit Review – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr. Dunphy that the process was ongoing and would include both National and Non-National Roads, he asked members to make their submissions to him in advance of the October meeting. In response to Cllr. Doherty's query, S. Cullen confirmed that once Draft Speed Limit Bylaws were prepared, these will be subject to public consultation and members of the public will have an opportunity to submit their comments on same. Cllr. Breathnach requested a meeting of the Piltown MD members to discuss this matter prior to public consultation. S. Cullen agreed that a meeting could be held in September with a view to obtaining all submissions from members prior to the October meeting.

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – a change of Management was noted, M. Arthurs confirmed he had contacted Mr. Bernard Hamill with regard to the cleaning of the building and a response is awaited.

Decarbonisation Zones – in response to Cllr. Breathnach, S. McKeown confirmed that each Local Authority has nominated one area within their jurisdiction as a decarbonisation zone (DZ). KCC has nominated Kilkenny City, while Waterford City & County Council has nominated Waterford City Metropolitan Area, which will include the Ferrybank neighbourhood in South Kilkenny. It was noted that the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government are currently reviewing the DZ nominations and no formal response has yet been received from the Department. It was also noted that following the enactment of the Climate Action Bill, each Local Authority will have to prepare a 5-year Climate Action Plan setting out how they intend to reduce the carbon emission associated with delivery of their services by an average of 7% per annum and by 51% by 2030. Mr McKeown said that guidance is awaited from the Department on this process.

Casual Trading Bylaws – in answer to Cllr. Breathnach, S. McKeown advised that the Environment Dept. are currently working on Draft Bylaws and it is hoped to present same to members at the September Council meeting, before going on public display.

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(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.

Updates were also noted in relation to N24 Tower Road Junction Improvement Scheme, N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme, N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme and the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Cllr. Doherty welcomed works progressing at Poulanassy Waterfall and noted there are still a lot of cars and visitors to the area during works. Cllr. Aylward also welcomed progress and asked if additional security and safety measures could be considered for the duration of works. S. Cullen advised that the Contractor is aware of issues on site and will take further measures to ensure the public are aware of the dangers present during these works.

Cllr. Doherty wished all participants of the Rás na mBan the best of luck. Cllrs. Aylward and Breathnach asked if this event and related road closures could be publicised as much as possible. S. Cullen advised that there would be no road closures resulting from the event, but that any related restrictions and possible delays will be well publicised in advance.

Cllr. Dunphy noted there is no timeframe for completion of any of the national road schemes and asked if a request could be made to TII to attend a meeting with Piltown MD to discuss. M. Arthurs agreed to follow up this matter and revert to members. **Action MA**

He also advised that S. Kavanagh, Senior Engineer will endeavour to attend the Piltown MD meetings going forward to discuss these and other matters.

Cllr. Doherty thanked all involved with the ADI funded clean-up at the Pink Rock.

Cllr. Doherty enquired whether any application has been made to install a greyway on the R723 from Glenmore Roundabout into New Ross. S. Cullen advised that no application has been made.

(b) Update South East Greenway

S. McKeown circulated an update report which outlined the following:

- **Detailed Design:** on Lots 1 – 3 have been finalised and accommodation works are being agreed with landowners on the remaining Lots so that detailed design can be finalised.
- **Construction:** The first 3 Lots have been tendered and awarded and construction has commenced and is progressing well on all 3 Lots. Lots 1 and 2 through the urban areas of Ferrybank (c1.2km) and New Ross (c2.8km) are expected to be completed before the end of November and Lot 3 (c5 km) will be completed before year end. The CE Report on the Part 8 for the access ramp from the Greenway to the Abbey Road will be presented to the elected members of the Waterford City Metropolitan Area for decision at their September Council Meeting. 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:** MWP are preparing preliminary design of the car park which will be a trailhead to include toilets and coach parking. A Part 8 planning application will be progressed in the coming weeks. A portion of these lands will also be required for the proposed URDF funded Belmont Link Road that will cross over the Greenway.
- **Railway Abandonment:** Kilkenny County Council (KCC) are leading, on behalf of the 3 local authorities, the negotiations on the formal transfer of the former railway lands to the respective Councils. KCC Roads Section are currently preparing the maps of the lands for transfer for agreement with CIE.
- **Links to Slieverue and Glenmore:** Roadplan will further investigate the potential route options identified during preliminary assessment and will engage with landowners. They will then agree an approach to public consultation.
- **Business Development Officer (BDO) and Engineer:** the BDO namely, Alan Fitzhenry, commenced in his position on 8th June and will be introduced to elected members at today's MD meeting. An Engineer has also commenced work to assist in concluding the landowner agreements on the accommodation works for the remaining Lots, so that we can finalise detailed design and proceed to tender.
- **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.

S. McKeown introduced Alan Fitzhenry, Business Development Officer to the meeting, who was in attendance this morning to give a short presentation and overview of his role to the members.

A. Fitzhenry outlined his role to the members stating that he would be engaging with all stakeholders to identify business opportunities along the Greenway and assisting local communities and businesses to develop projects and business ideas. It was noted that part of his role will include updating the Project Website and marketing of the Greenway. A. Fitzhenry thanked the members and looked forward to working closely with them and all stakeholders involved.

Each of the members thanked Alan for his presentation and looked forward to working with him.

Queries raised by members in relation to the following:-

- Cllr. Frisby stated that there was a lot of interest with regard to casual trading at the Ferrybank Car Park, S. McKeown advised that subject to funding it may be possible to provide a commercial unit at the Ferrybank Car Park, which could be leased out to interested parties and the preference is that in New Ross existing vacant properties might be used by potential businesses seeking to provide services to the Greenway.
- Cllr. Frisby asked if the Council would be looking at possible funding streams now for the links to Slieverue and Glenmore. S. McKeown advised that once preferred routes are identified and planning progressed, the Council would be in a better position to secure potential funding sources.
- Cllr. Frisby stated that the access to Barrow Bridge had recently been closed and asked what the reason was for this. A. Fitzhenry agreed to seek further information on the matter.
- Cllr. Doherty asked for update regarding the Waterford to Rosslare greenway and the proposal to reopen the Waterford to Rosslare railway line. S. McKeown stated that this project is on hold pending the outcome of a national review being undertaken by Irish Rail, which will include the Waterford to Rosslare rail line.
- Cllr. Breathnach asked about the heritage aspects of the Greenway. A. Fitzhenry advised that his colleague in Wexford County Council, Siobhan O'Neill, Tourism Officer was working on the history of the railway line and that the heritage element of the railway would be incorporated into the project.

(c) *Update North Quays*

S. McKeown circulated update from WCCC and outlined the following:-

1. SDZ Developer

Work is ongoing on reappraisal of the proposed North Quays development, with a view to going back into the market-place to secure development partners.

2. Main contract

The main construction tender for the Waterford North Quays (public realm) infrastructural contract, comprising the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works is being finalised for the issue of tender documentation to contractors at the end of September.

3. Planning applications

i) A Part 8 planning application for the Greenway access ramp at the Abbey Bridge has commenced and the CE Report will be presented to the Metropolitan Council for decision at their September meeting on 21st September next.

ii) A planning application for the western flood defence works has been prepared for submission to An Bord Pleanála, and the application is currently being reviewed by Iarnród Éireann.

4. Tender stage - advanced contracts/ enabling works

i) The Tender Assessment Reports for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station and South Plaza enabling works are complete and meetings have been held with each preferred contractor with a view to commencing both contracts shortly.

ii) The tender for the Rock Stabilisation works to the north of Plunkett Station are due to be issued on tenders shortly.

S. McKeown confirmed to members that the public realm works will be delivered in order to ensure the site is commercially viable and Government funding, including under the URDF, is committed for the

completion of these works. It was noted that new planning permission may be required once a new partner is secured, and depending on the proposed phases of development, which will be a matter for WCCC to consider.

Cllr. Frisby asked if there was any update in relation to the Ferrybank Shopping Centre development and the possible opening of same. S. McKeown confirmed that since Cllr. Frisby's Notice of Motion submitted at the Council meeting last October, contact with NAMA in this regard is ongoing and it is expected that the legal action between NAMA and the anchor tenant should conclude before year end.

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

None.

6. AOB:

It was noted that a Climate Action Leadership Training programme will take place for elected members and senior management on Friday. S. McKeown advised that as part of the requirement for Local Authorities to prepare Climate Action Plans, they are required to develop policy locally in line with Government commitments and this training programme will assist in this regard and he encouraged members to attend.

Cllr. Doherty enquired about treatment of Hogweed and if members of the public could deal with this issue themselves. S. Cullen confirmed that Hogweed is an invasive species and requires treatment by landowners. He advised that treatment should be undertaken before plant seeds develop and stated that where we are aware of the presence of Hogweed on public land we will treat same or in the case of private property, letters will be issued to landowners.

Cllr. Doherty raised concerns about the volume and speed of traffic travelling on local roads towards the New Ross Bypass bridge. S. Cullen advised that he had not received any reports or complaints in this regard.

Cllr. Doherty noted some issues recently with regard to rights-of-way being blocked by landowners and stressed the importance of formally registering established rights-of-way with Land Registry before the deadline of 30th November. S. Cullen agreed, stating that where a right-of-way exists over private lands it is up to the user to formally record this with Land Registry.

Cllr. Doherty extended congratulations to all on the recent opening of the Pil River Park and Playground in Piltown.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____