

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on
Wednesday, 6th April, 2022 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, Ferrybank Library**

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

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 2nd March, 2022

Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. T. Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – S. McKeown advised that correspondence issued to NAMA seeking clarification in relation to the future security and caretaking services for shared areas within the Centre has been referred to the purchasers of the building for their attention and a response from them is awaited. It was noted that the new owners are expected to issue a press statement shortly with regard to the future of the Ferrybank Shopping Centre.

Motion on setting up of Regional Forum & MASP – following the passing of this motion, S. McKeown confirmed that the Council have written to the Minister with regard to the setting up of a Regional Forum and have also engaged with the Regional Assembly regarding the setting up of the implementation structures for the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP).

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.

With regard to N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme, S. Cullen advised that public consultation sessions for the options selection report will take place from Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th May, details of venues and times were noted.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Cllr Dunphy raised issue of signage at Pedestrian Crossings, Piltown. S. Cullen advised that the necessary signage is now in place.

Cllr. Doherty raised concerns that N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme has gone off the agenda, with planning still in abeyance and safety continuing to be a major issue on this road. She asked what the plan was now for the N25 Scheme and urged that the matter be kept on the agenda in order to progress to the next phase. All the members were in full support of Cllr. Doherty on this matter and it was agreed that a notice of motion would be prepared calling on Minister Eamon Ryan to immediately provide the necessary funding to progress the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Road scheme.

(b) Update South East Greenway

S. McKeown circulated report to members and outlined the following:-

- o **Detailed Design:** Landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 4 – 7 continue to progress. It has been decided to split Lot 5 into two sections of equal length with Lot 5a (Ferrybank to Luffany) to go to tender in May and Lot 5b (Luffany to Aylwardstown South) to go to tender in July.
- o **Construction:** of Lots 1 – 3 is progressing well and are approaching substantial completion. The ramp access to the Greenway from the Abbey Road, Ferrybank is complete. Waterford City & County Council have agreed to widen the footpath at the connection point to the ramp access and are tendering these works. The Greenway Project Office are currently exploring the possibility of opening sections of the Greenway as they are completed. In the meantime the Project Office continues to stress to 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. The Project Office would like to thank all landowners for their continued co-operation with the Greenway Project works.

- **Ferrybank Car Park Option:** following detailed environmental assessments it is most likely that 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 in the coming weeks. The Ferrybank Car Park will be accessed from the Link Road. MWP will prepare a detailed design of the car park which will be a trailhead to include toilets and coach parking.
- **Railway Abandonment:** Kilkenny Co. Co. Roads Section has now completed the detailed mapping of the Greenway lands. These maps will now be forwarded to CIE to facilitate the transfer of the railway lands from CIE to each Local Authority.
- **Links to Slieverue and Glenmore:** Open evenings were held in Slieverue Parish Hall and Glenmore Parish Hall during March, to give the public opportunity to inspect the route options under consideration and to engage with the design team and Council officials. Both evenings were well attended. The information documents were also made available for inspection in the Ferrybank Area Office and Ferrybank Library and also online at www.trailkilkenny.ie and www.southeastgreenway.net. The closing date for comments or observations was 31st March. The submissions are currently being reviewed and will aid in determining the preferred option for each village to progress to Part 8 / Part 10 as appropriate.
- **Other Links:** In a joint initiative with KLP and Trail Kilkenny, the Feasibility Study & Route Selection Report for a further Link to Woodstock Estate, Inistioge is being also explored.
- **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 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 Failte 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 following was discussed and noted:-

- S. McKeown confirmed that positive engagement with CIE is ongoing with regard to seeking an operating licence and the possibility of opening some sections of the Greenway as they are completed. Temporary access and parking facilities will also need to be explored, further update in this regard will be provided at the May meeting.
- It was hoped that the preferred option for links to Slieverue and Glenmore will be known and advised to members at the May meeting, following which the formal statutory public consultation process can commence.
- S. McKeown outlined the long-term ambition for the South East Greenway to link to Dublin and Cork, via existing greenways and walkways and others being developed and stated that according to Failte Ireland there were 1m visitors annually to the South East pre-covid, half of whom want to be able to engage in walking or cycling activities. It was noted that Carlow County Council were currently undertaking a feasibility study for possible link from St. Mullins to New Ross, a presentation on same could be requested once complete.
- The media were again requested to stress that the greenway is currently a construction site and should not be accessed until such time as it is officially opened and safe to do so.
- Car Park at Glenmore – S. McKeown confirmed that the construction of the public car parks to access the Greenway will be tendered as one lot towards the end of the project advised that the site for the Car Park at Glenmore will need to be used as a construction compound in the meantime.
- Members thanked all those who engaged with the consultation process with regard to links to Slieverue and Glenmore, they also thanked landowners involved, Roadplan and Council staff for attending.
- Waterford to Rosslare railway line – S. McKeown confirmed that a national rail review process is currently underway on this line.
- Link Road, Abbey Road to Belmont Road – S. McKeown confirmed that following environmental assessments, a Part 10 planning application will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála and advised that the environmental reports will be available for viewing, as part of the application.

- Concerns were raised regarding impact of the Link Road development on Clover Meadows estate. S. McKeown advised that provision of the link road has been an objective of the Council for some time to open up lands for residential development and this has been an objective of successive Local Area Plans (LAPs) and there has been public consultation on the matter, as part of the preparation of the LAP. It was confirmed that the public will have further opportunity to make submissions under the Part 10 process, which will be dealt with by An Bord Pleanála.
- Fáilte Ireland funding – S. McKeown confirmed that when the animation funding scheme is launched, the project office will submit an application for funding to develop a plan to enhance the visitor experience/attraction of the greenway.

(c) National Road Schemes Update

Update noted under Monthly Roadworks Update, as provided by S. Cullen.

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

(a) Deputation from Grannagh / Ballygriffin Residents

Cllr. Dunphy welcomed the group and invited introductions from all present. The members of the group were James Murphy, Billy Doyle, Anne Hennebry and Lianne Murphy.

James Murphy began, stating that he lived on the N24 at the junction at New Aglish, which is an extremely busy and dangerous junction, with many vehicles and trucks using it on a daily basis.

The following issues were outlined and requests made by the group as follows:-

- Extending the 80km speed limit towards the New Aglish junction and installing a driver feedback sign to help slow traffic and improve safety;
- Trucks using the hard shoulder as a 'slow lane' causing a serious hazard for residents, encouraging overtaking and speeding;
- Currently no safe facility for pedestrians, seeking footpath from New Aglish to Grannagh;
- 26 houses along this stretch of road with insufficient public lighting, upgrade to lighting requested to increase safety for residents, a lot of whom are elderly;
- Several incidents and near misses experienced by residents, with undertaking manoeuvres occurring in the hard shoulder, traffic calming measures requested;
- Speed limit of 80km/h not very visible and not being observed, improvements to signage requested;
- Trees at the New Aglish junction causing a hazard, issue to be examined.

J. Murphy stated that he had spoken to Roadstone Ltd, who give their backing to residents' requests and have indicated their willingness to provide assistance in addressing issues raised.

Cllr. Dunphy thanked the group for their presentation and all the members assured the group of their full support in seeking to address the matters raised. The following was discussed and agreed:-

- Speed limit review currently in progress, this location to be reviewed and raised with TII;
- Matters to be raised with TII at upcoming annual meeting. If area classed as urban, issues of pedestrian facilities and public lighting could more readily be addressed. Balance between safety and efficiency of the network important from TII point of view;
- KCC to liaise with the Gardai in relation to speed checks at this location;
- Notice of motion to be put forward at full Council meeting to call on TII to examine the feasibility and options for safety improvements;
- Short-term measures to be explored regarding speed limit, driver feedback sign and enforcement measures.

The group thanked members and they withdrew from the meeting.

5. Notice of Motion

None.

6. Correspondence

None

7. AOB:

Local Policing Partnership

It was noted that a meeting of the Local Policing Partnership Committee will take place on Wednesday 13th April at 7.30pm in the Piltown Community Centre and invitations have been sent to the relevant parties.

Cllr. Doherty requested an update on the Local Improvement Scheme for the next meeting, noting allocations for 2022 have been notified. **Action SC**

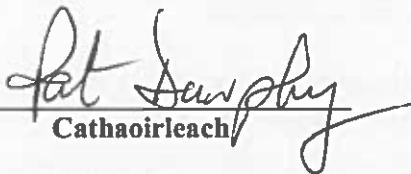
Cllr. Aylward raised the issue of illegal dumping, noting two major incidents occurring recently in the Piltown MD, at Bishopsmountain and Barrabehy, which raises the question of the use of CCTV to tackle these incidents. He asked about use of roaming cameras in the south of the county and if more funding was available to provide for additional cameras. He also raised the possibility of using bar codes from receipts found in an effort to trace the culprits. S. McKeown confirmed that all incidents reported are investigated fully and evidence is needed in order to prosecute those responsible. It was noted that Bishopsmountain had previously been included in an application for funding under the Anti-Dumping initiative and it will be included again in the current year. S. McKeown advised that the Council has 26 cameras for use at its disposal, located mostly at bring bank sites, with a number of covert cameras also operating in the county. However, he said that current data protection issues restrict their use as evidence to prosecute. It was noted that the new Circular Economy Bill currently being brought before the Dáil will give local authorities clarity on powers to use CCTV and other technology to tackle illegal dumping and littering.

Cllr. Dunphy noted damage at Dowling due to flash flooding following recent heavy rains. S. Cullen confirmed he was aware of this issue and that drainage is maintained annually at this location, but the matter will be investigated with a view to installing more substantial drainage pipes under next year's drainage programme.

Cllr. Breathnach asked for update in relation to joint meeting with Waterford. M. Arthurs agreed to follow up the possibility of holding a meeting via teams as soon as possible. **Action MA**

Cllr. Dunphy thanked all for attending. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:


Cathaoirleach

Dated:

