

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
2nd June, 2021 at 10.00am via MS Teams***

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

In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, District Engineer, A. Fitzpatrick, A/SEO, Community Section and O. Bannon, SO.

Apologies: Cllr. Ger Frisby

Cllr. Dunphy welcomed all to the meeting, acknowledging the difficulties posed by the Covid pandemic over the past year and more recently the HSE hacking incident and he wished to thank everybody for their efforts working on our behalf during a very difficult time.

Cllr. Dunphy also acknowledged a number of retirements of staff in the Piltown MD over the past year, including more recently Seamus Holden, Liam O’Keeffe, John Quilty, Michael Freiberg and Richard Dunphy, all of whom have been with KCC a long time and are very experienced people and will be badly missed in the area, and he wished them all the very best in their retirement. Cllr. Dunphy proposed that a letter be sent to these retirees on behalf of the Piltown MD members to express thanks and gratitude for all their work, effort and commitment over their years of service, this was seconded by Cllr. Doherty and agreed. **Action MA**

Cllrs. Breathnach, Aylward and Doherty wished to be associated with Cllr. Dunphy’s remarks, good wishes and thanks to all for their contribution to the Council over the years.

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 5th May, 2021

Proposed by Cllr. E. Aylward, seconded by Cllr. T. Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

- S. McKeown gave an update in relation to littering and dumping on the River Barrow at Pink Rock and confirmed that a successful application has been made for funding under the Anti-Dumping Initiative towards the clean-up costs. It was noted that 9 projects in total have been successful under the ADI, 3 of which are in the Piltown MD – the location of the other 2 projects being Chapel St, Mooncoin and Bishopsmountain.
- S. McKeown advised that Tim Butler has been in contact with Irish Water with regard to the number of water outages in the Piltown area and they have asked that KCC prepare a list of locations where outages have occurred, the number of call outs, burst mains etc over a period of time. This is currently being prepared, following which discussions will be held with Irish Water in order to determine if works are required to resolve issues arising.
- S. McKeown confirmed that KCC have formally written to Waterford City & County Council (WCCC) to ask that they include representation from Kilkenny County Council in their implementation structure and plans regarding their Decarbonisation Zone, which will include the Ferrybank area. It was noted that a formal response has been received from Fergus Galvin to confirm that WCCC will engage with KCC once feedback has been received from the Department in relation to their proposed DZ.
- Cllr. Doherty sought an update with regard to cleaning of the Ferrybank SC building. M. Arthurs advised that correspondence had issued to Derry McPhillips on the matter, a reply was received on 17th May confirming that he is no longer involved with NAMA and separate enquiries are now being made to progress the matter. **Action MA**
- Cllr. Doherty welcomed the announcement of the preferred route for the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme.
- M. Arthurs confirmed that he is seeking to arrange a coordination meeting with the Gardai and will have confirmation of this for the next meeting. **Action MA**
- Cllr. Dunphy asked for an update in relation to the Carrick Road, Mooncoin and Piltown Bypass projects and to include this on the Agenda going forward.
- Cllr. Dunphy asked that Eirgrid be invited to a meeting of the Piltown MD. **Action MA**

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) *Town and Village Renewal (T&VR) Scheme 2021*

Annette Fitzpatrick, Community Section, circulated a report in this regard and advised that the T&VR Standard Scheme was announced on 4th May. It was noted that the focus this year is on projects that support and promote remote working, enhancing town centre living and addressing vacancy and

dereliction in our towns and villages. The closing date for submission of applications to the Department is 16th July. It was noted that up to 8 applications can be submitted and these will be 90% funded, and at least 2 applications must be made in respect of areas that have not previously received funding. KCC have advertised for expressions of interest, the closing date for which is the 18th June – the delivery of successful projects under the scheme must be delivered within an 18 month period.

It was noted that new this year under the T&V Renewal Scheme is the Connected Hubs Call, which is intended to develop and leverage the capacity and quality of existing remote working facilities and which must be delivered by the end of 2021 – applications for this funding must be for BCPs or existing private hubs. KCC will submit applications for upgrades to the 6 approved BCPs, these are made directly to the Department, the closing date for which is 17th June, 2021. It is hoped that an additional BCP will be approved for Glenmore prior to the closing date and if so an application for funding will be submitted for Glenmore also. The types of works eligible for funding under this scheme was noted, including the provision of desks and chairs, printing facilities, access codes, overhead projectors and screens, depending on the existing facilities at each hub.

A. Fitzpatrick responded to queries raised by Members, the following was noted:-

- No expressions of interest were required under the Connected Hubs fund for BCPs, F. Deegan, Head of Enterprise, KCC to prepare application to the Department in this regard.
- Applications can be made by private existing hubs under the Connected Hubs fund, to upgrade existing facilities only, funding applications for new hubs must be made under the standard T&V Renewal Scheme and expressions of interest must be submitted in this regard.
- Cllr. Doherty wished to thank Steve Coverdale for his work in relation to submission of an application for a new BCP for Glenmore. S. McKeown confirmed that approval from the Department of Communications was awaited in this regard.

Cllr. Dunphy and members thanked A. Fitzpatrick for her presentation and she withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Update Monthly Roadworks

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

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Poulanassy Waterfall – S. Cullen confirmed letter of acceptance has issued, Contractor has indicated a start date in July, SC will continue to engage with the Contractor to commence as soon as possible. Cllr. Aylward noted the timing will likely add to difficulties during peak season and asked that the Contractor engage with residents and ensure proper traffic management be put in place to minimise disruption. SC confirmed that the Contractor will consult and engage with residents to ensure their needs are met over the course of construction.

S. Cullen confirmed he will be liaising with the new Executive Engineer who has been assigned to progress and deliver the Active Travel schemes across the County, including the Mill Road, Mullinavat and provision of the three pedestrian crossings in Piltown along with other projects.

Tower Road – ground investigation and surveys are being carried out at present and will continue over the next few weeks to finalise design and accommodation works, tender documents are expected to be completed by July, Department approval is required before going to tender.

Staffing – Cllr. Dunphy queried the length of time taken to fill vacancies in the area. M. Arthurs acknowledged delays in filling positions but confirmed that General Operative positions will be filled shortly. He also confirmed that the Clerical Officer competition was underway and it is hoped to have new staff appointed shortly.

Retirement – Cllr. Doherty wished Liam O’Keeffe well in his retirement, who is due to finish up with the Council on Friday. Liam was always the first port of call at the area office and always of great help. S. Cullen took the opportunity to acknowledge Liam O’Keeffe and John Quilty who are due to retire shortly and also Seamus Holden who had recently retired from the Council, all of whom were stalwarts of the area for a long time and will be very hard to replace, particularly Liam who during the course of his work came in contact with elected members, members of staff, public and contractors all of whom have a lot of admiration for him and he will be sorely missed in the Ferrybank Office and he wished him the very best in his retirement.

(c) **Update South East Greenway**

S. McKeown circulated report and outlined the following:

Detailed Design: for the main construction works (i.e. accommodation works, structures, crossing points, etc.) along the route of the Greenway is continuing and engagement with landowners has resumed following lifting of Level 5 restrictions. Landowner accommodation works drawings have issued to a number of landowners in recent weeks.

Construction: the main construction of the 24km Greenway is being awarded in a number of Lots. The first 3 Lots have been tendered and 2 of these (i.e. Lot 1 urban section through New Ross and Lot 2 urban section through Ferrybank), have now been awarded to the successful tenderer, namely *Glas Civil Engineering, Clonmel*. The contractor has commenced on site in Lot 1. It is a condition of grant-aid that the urban sections of the Greenway are delivered first. A number of planning applications are being progressed to facilitate construction. These include:

- Part 8 planning for the temporary construction compound for Lot 2 (urban section through Ferrybank). The period for public submissions on same ends this Fri 4th June, and it is hoped to have the CE Report for consideration by the elected members at the Council Meeting in June; and
- Waterford City & County Council are progressing a Part 8 planning application for the access ramp from the Greenway to the Abbey Road.

It is important to note that the route of the Greenway is a construction site at present and will remain so until it officially opens. As such members of the public are reminded it is not safe to enter/access the lands.

Ferrybank Car Park Option: The Car Park Options Report undertaken by Malachy Walsh & Partners (MWP) along with the Connect The Dots (CTD) process on public engagement will be published on the project website shortly. MWP are preparing preliminary design of the car park which will be a trailhead to include toilets and coach parking.

Railway Abandonment: following the initial meeting held with CIE / Irish Rail, Kilkenny County Council will lead, on behalf of the 3 local authorities, the negotiations on the formal transfer of the former railway lands.

Links to Slieverue and Glenmore: The consultant appointed, namely Roadplan, has carried out a preliminary assessment of a number of options in the case of each village. Engagement with landowners and relevant stakeholders will now commence to be followed by a public consultation (subject to Covid restrictions) on these options when they have been further investigated.

Business Development Officer (BDO) and Engineer: the BDO namely, Alan Fitzhenry, will commence in his position on 8th June and it is proposed to invite him for introduction to the elected members at the July Meeting of Piltown MD. An Engineer will also be recruited in the coming weeks, in particular to assist in concluding the landowner agreements on accommodation works.

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.

Queries raised by members in relation to the following:-

- In response to Cllr. Dunphy's query, S. McKeown advised that Alan Fitzhenry will now be the first point of contact for anyone wishing to explore any business idea or opportunity, he will also be able to assist with regard to planning. It was noted that a number of planning queries have already been received relating to both existing and new business proposals along the Greenway. S. McKeown also advised that queries have been received regarding casual trading or mobile enterprise on the Greenway, this will be looked at as part of a review of the Casual Trading By-laws.
- S. McKeown confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that part of the Business Development Officer's role will be to keep the project website up-to-date.
- In relation to the formal transfer of railway lands, S. McKeown confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that lands within each jurisdiction will be vested in the relevant Local Authority.
- With regard to Cllr. Breathnach's query in relation to the heritage element of the former railways, S. McKeown advised that the Tourism Officers are currently working on a visitor destination plan which will include a heritage element and once finalised arrangements can be made for this to be presented to members.

(d) **Update North Quays SDZ**

S. McKeown circulated report and outlined the following:-

Update on Commercial Contract: Waterford City & County Council (WCCC) issued a detailed statement on 17th May that included the following:

- Falcon Real Estate Development has not demonstrated it has fulfilled its contractual conditions. As a consequence, WCCC will not be extending the contract further.
- While this position is regrettable it is by no means the end of the project. The Council's position remains the same: it is fully committed to the development of the North Quays and it is their intention to immediately go back into the market-place to secure other development partners.
- All land ownership and title issues are secured and remain in the ownership of Waterford Council, and the government funding under the URDF for the North Quays and City Centre regeneration remains secure.
- A fundamental reappraisal of the North Quays Scheme will be undertaken and a revised proposal will be put forward in the coming weeks. A Request for Tender will issue shortly for a commercial property adviser(s) to assist in reengaging with the marketplace.
- A revised planning permission will only take three months to complete once ready given the SDZ designation. It is their clear objective to be at market by September and they now targeting development commencement in Q2, 2022.

Main contract

- The main construction contract for the Waterford North Quays infrastructural works (i.e. the URDF funded projects), comprising the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works is progressing. Tender documentation is complete and will be independently reviewed.
- The successful / qualified submissions based on the Independent Assessment Board's recommendations have been informed that they have been shortlisted.

Planning applications

- A planning application for the western flood defence works has been prepared, to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in June 2021. KCC approved a Section 85 agreement to enable WCCC to undertake those elements of the works that are located in County Kilkenny.
- KCC is continuing with preparatory works for those elements of the URDF funded project located in County Kilkenny, including: the upgrade of the approach roads to the North Quays (i.e. the Abbey Road and Belmont Road); the delivery of the Belmont Link Road from the Belmont Road to the Abbey Road; and upgrade of the N29 Port Road.
- A Part 8 planning application is being progressed by WCCC for the access ramp from the Greenway to the Abbey Road.

Tender stage - advanced contracts/ enabling works

- Tenders received for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station are currently being reviewed and assessed.
- Tender documents for the South Plaza Enabling Works were issued on tenders on 12th May with a return date of 17th June next.
- Rock Stabilisation tender to be issued imminently.
- Transport Hub Independent Design Safety Certification by a Notified Body (NoBo) and Sustainable Transport Bridge Cat 3 Independent Design Check contracts are progressing, both due to be completed shortly.

Questions followed from members. S. McKeown provided clarification in relation to planning stating that once a new development partner is secured, the development will be subject to a new planning application, however the core elements of the development will remain. It was also confirmed that the URDF funding is secure, which will fund all the public realm projects as outlined earlier, including the four projects located within County Kilkenny.

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:

Cllr. Doherty noted increased activity on roads at the moment with movement of large agricultural machinery and asked that people slow down and take care on narrow rural roads in interests of safety.

Cllr. Dunphy referred to the communications on the N24 project. He said that while he knew information had been put out on paper and social media there is still a large number of people not aware of the project, and he suggested that perhaps a leaflet-drop to those within the study area giving more information in relation to consultations etc could be made. S. McKeown indicated that this is a matter for TII and he agreed to relay Cllr. Dunphy's request to T Butler.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____