

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
2nd September, 2020 at 10.00am in the meeting room, Ferrybank Library.***

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

In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, S. Cullen, Area Engineer, D. Malone, Senior Planner and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Apologies: Michael Arthurs, Meetings Administrator

1. Confirmation of Minutes

MD Meeting 1st July – Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. P. Dunphy and agreed.

2. Agree by Resolution to restrict duration of the meeting to maximum of 1hr 55minutes in compliance with Public Health Guidelines

Proposed by Cllr. T. Breathnach, by Cllr. P. Dunphy and agreed.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update on Preparation of City & County Development Plan

Denis Malone outlined the review process to-date, which commenced in April, 2018 and was suspended in November 2018, pending the making of the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES). The RSES was adopted by the Regional Assembly in January 2020 and the review process resumed in May 2020. DM also outlined some background work in relation to climate change objectives, housing needs demand assessment, rural housing policy, renewable energy, transport plan for the City and aligning Ferrybank/Belview with the Waterford MASP objectives. DM outlined the next steps, stating that it was hoped that a Draft Plan would be ready for consideration by members at the September meeting of the Council and would go on public display from October.

Cllr. Aylward thanked DM for his update. Questions raised by members and responses given included the following:-

- Expansion of Waterford City, influence on number of houses built in Ferrybank/Kilkenny area – DM stated that development will have to be balanced. He said WCCC are also currently reviewing their Development Plan. KCC will liaise with them in terms of allocation of population growth and will align same with LAP. DM clarified that projected growth in Co. Kilkenny is separate to population growth in MASP area.
- Serviced sites, rural housing policy – DM state that first option will be to look at villages and the services available to establish if serviced sites could be considered. However, a process would be needed to activate land and align investment where needs exist.
- Climate Change – DM stated that more significant targets have been set for climate action with measurable objectives. The Development Plan will reflect the significant leap forward in this regard.
- MASP and proposed overseeing administrative structure – DM confirmed same has not been set up yet. He acknowledged there are lots of matters to consider, including potential impact on infrastructure and the knock-on implications in terms of investment.

(b) Monthly Roadworks Update

SC circulated report and outlined details in relation to pavement and surface dressing works, discretionary maintenance and other works progressing in the area.

SC also advised of the allocation for Active Travel and Climate Change measures within the Piltown MD. In answer to Cllr. Aylward, SC confirmed that this included an allocation of €50K for works at Mill Street, Mullinavat. Cllr. Frisby welcomed the allocation, which also included a cycleway from Slieverue to Ferrybank and footpath and lighting at Newrath.

The following items were also raised:-

Flooding – Cllr. Breathnach wanted to acknowledge the work of KCC staff who responded quickly to the flooding as a result of the heavy rains last week. He asked if recent flooding had highlighted problem areas within the Piltown MD. SC confirmed that constraints were identified within some drainage systems and that maintenance will be carried out as required.

Gerry Fogarty, GSS – Cllr. Doherty took the opportunity to welcome Gerry Fogarty, GSS, back to the Piltown MD. It was acknowledged that he has a lot of experience and a wealth of knowledge of the area.

Laneway at Milepost – Cllr. Doherty requested repairs on this laneway – **Action SC**

Bridge repairs at Ballyrower – Cllr. Doherty welcomed repairs to the bridge at Ballyrower.

Anti-Dumping Initiative – Cllr. Aylward asked SC to elaborate on ADI projects. SC confirmed that areas had been identified which are significantly impacted by illegal dumping and funding has been secured for Newrath junction and Abbey Road – works to include clean-up, planting and overall improvement to the appearance of the areas. It was noted funding had also been secured for clean-up on the R448, which is now complete. SMcK advised that the ADI is a national competitive fund, with each local authority putting forward projects for consideration of funding. It was noted that a total of 12 projects were approved in County Kilkenny with 3 in the Piltown MD. In response to Cllr. Aylward, SMcK confirmed that the ADI is an annual initiative and further projects can be put forward for consideration next year.

Cllr. Doherty raised ongoing illegal dumping issues at Bishopsmountain and praised Environment staff for their efforts but asked that measures be looked at to resolve this ongoing problem. Cllr. Aylward asked if the Council are liaising with Coillte, as there is a lot of dumping at this location at forestry entrances. SMcK confirmed that there is a planned inter-agency initiative, including Coillte and the Gardai, to tackle these issues in the coming weeks.

(c) South East Greenway Update

SMcK advised that the detailed design is almost complete and gave the following update:-

- As advised in July, Agronomists have been appointed to explain in detail to landowners the impact of the proposed accommodation works and they have proved beneficial in progressing matters.
- Removal of railway track and sleepers has commenced. Vegetation has been cleared to assist, leaving some areas backing on to residential estates exposed infringing on privacy and giving rise to anti-social behaviour. In this regard, it has been agreed to erect permanent fencing in these areas and the Contractor has been instructed to ensure the site is secured while works are ongoing.
- There are likely to be a number of contracts tendered in connection with the construction of the Greenway. For example, it is likely that the main structures on the Greenway such as the Red Bridge over the river Barrow will be tendered separately.
- Of the 5 proposed car parks along the route, 3 will be located in County Kilkenny. It was noted that 2 of these have progressed to Part 8, namely Ballyverneen, Glenmore and Raheen, New Ross. Briefing has been arranged with elected members after the Piltown MD meeting today.
- Applications have been made to Kilkenny and Wexford Leader Partnerships for funding for signage along the route, both interpretive and directional. A further application will be made to KLP to assist with identifying an access route and to bring forward to Part 8 proposals for same to the villages of Glenmore and Slieverue, in order to maximise the economic dividend that the Greenway can bring to these villages.
- The meeting of the Board of CIE/Irish Rail did not take place in August as expected, but will now take place in September to finalise the abandonment order.
- Greenway Project website is to launch later this month to inform the public on the ongoing status as the project progresses and also on visitor attractions.
- Resident Engineer, Eoin Atkinson, has been appointed to oversee the project and Eoin is available to answer any queries.

Cllr. Doherty raised issues with interference with water pipes and electric fences during clearance works and asked for vigilance to avoid further disruption.

Cllr. Dunphy asked about security on the line and how trespassers are being dealt with. SMcK again noted that the Contractor has been made aware they must secure fencing during works. He also advised that Gardai had been notified of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. Dunphy also asked for clarity in relation to the naming of the Greenway, which was causing confusion. Cllr. Breathnach agreed and noted the importance of linkages and connectivity, stating that once projects are complete there is no reason why visitors arriving at Rosslare cannot travel from there, through Kilkenny and on to Waterford. SMcK stated that as the Greenway is traversing 3 local authority areas, in making the application to the Department for funding it was agreed to use the South East Greenway, which will incorporate the Kilkenny Greenway. It was noted that the signage contract for the route will include signage to welcome visitors to the Kilkenny Greenway when they are entering KCC jurisdiction.

Cllr. Breathnach welcomed the launch of the website and asked that best use be made of same, to broaden information beyond the construction element. SMcK agreed this suggestion would be taken on board.

Cllr. Frisby welcomed progress and the provision of secure fencing to prevent anti-social behaviour, as it was important that residents feel protected. He also welcomed the funding applications for proposed accesses to Glenmore and Slieverue, as it is vital that funding is found now to open up opportunities and rejuvenate these villages. A great example he noted was Kilmacthomas, which benefited hugely from the Waterford Greenway project.

(d) Update on North Quays SDZ Development

SMcK circulated a handout to members, which had been prepared by staff of Waterford City & County Council for a recent briefing with their elected members on the project. He outlined the four key infrastructural elements to the project, namely City Centre Access Infrastructure, Integrated Transport Hub, Sustainable Transport Bridge and serviced land initiatives for Ferrybank/Belview area. He brought members attention to the link to a virtual tour of the SDZ development which is a useful site to visit. The report also outlined progress to-date from planning stages to commencement of enabling works and the proposed timeframe for commencement of construction and completion.

Cllr. Breathnach asked when funding would be forthcoming under the URDF for the 4 projects in Kilkenny. SMcK advised that the funding is part of the URDF application made by WCCC and KCC will be discussing the priority to be given to these projects with them in due course. Cllr. Breathnach noted the high scoring of these 4 projects and hoped this would influence the priority given to them.

Cllr. Breathnach asked that a joint meeting be requested with the Waterford Metropolitan District, he felt it was very important to re-engage with them in light of major developments in the area. Cllr. Dunphy acknowledged the impact of covid on these joint meetings, but asked that a meeting with Carrick-on-Suir MD also be arranged.

SMcK agreed that covid had had an impact, but confirmed that efforts would be made to re-engage with all of the adjoining MDs . **Action MA**

4. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Order or Resolution of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meetings

None.

5. Notice of Motion

None.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. AOB:

(a) Deputation – James Murphy, New Aglish

Cllr. Dunphy outlined the reason for this request, which related to traffic and speeding causing difficulties for residents in the New Aglish and Ballygriffin area

It was proposed by Cllr. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Doherty and agreed that this deputation would be received at the October meeting of the Piltown MD.

Additional items raised:-

Cllr. Doherty

Treatment of Ragwort – Cllr. Doherty noted many locations of Ragwort growing along public roads and asked that the matter be addressed, particularly the New Ross Bypass and Glenmore Hill. SC agreed that a process for treatment would be looked at to address the matter next year.

Action SC

Update on Ferrybank SC – Cllr. Doherty asked for update on the Ferrybank District Centre.

Cllr. Aylward

Invitation to Gardai – Cllr. Aylward asked that an invitation be extended to the Gardai and the Road Safety Authority to attend a meeting of the Piltown MD as soon as possible to address the problem of widespread speeding on regional and local roads in the District, with no enforcement or adherence to rules. He felt the location of go safe vans was not affective and needs to be reviewed. Cllr. Breathnach agreed and suggested the use of mobile speed detection units where there are issues.

Ferrybank Playground and Park – SMcK advised that a snag list was being dealt with at present and it was hoped that same would be addressed in the coming weeks with a view to completing same by the end of September. The official opening of the Park would take place thereafter, once it could be arranged safely within Govt restrictions.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____