

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,  
3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024 at 10:00am at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room.***

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr G. Frisby, Cathaoirleach Cllrs P. Dunphy, E. Aylward, T. Breathnach and F. Doherty
<b>In attendance:</b>	Stan Cullen, Area Engineer, M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator, O. Bannon, Staff Officer
<b>Apologies:</b>	S. McKeown, Director of Services

### **Condolences**

The members all joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Dick Dowling, former Member of Kilkenny County Council. They each paid tribute to Dick, who dedicated his life to serving the local community and the people of County Kilkenny, noting his long and active life in politics, teaching, his involvement and keen interest in GAA and who will be sadly missed by all. The members extended their deepest sympathy to Dick's wife Máirín and the Dowling family.

1. **Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024** – proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Aylward and agreed.

### **Matters Arising**

**Tower Road Junction** – Cllr Dunphy raised concerns regarding the new arrangements and exits onto the N24 at the Tower Junction, noting recent accidents at this location and asked if the safety audit process had been completed. S. Cullen advised that the safety audit, which is an independent process, was completed in February and should identify any issues to be addressed. He also advised that traffic management has now been removed and no further incidents have been noted since, but the matter will be kept under review.

Cllr Dunphy also raised concerns over the tightness of the Ink Bottle junction, particularly for larger vehicles and also the roundabout nearest to the Tower. S. Cullen advised that the central island of the roundabout provides an overrun area for larger vehicles to manoeuvre. Any other issues around these junctions may be identified by the safety audit. S. Cullen agreed to enquire if a copy of the safety audit report can be provided to members.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

#### ***(a) Monthly Roadworks Update***

S. Cullen, Area Engineer, circulated report outlining pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates on major schemes – N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Tower Road, N24 Carrick Road and Belmont Link Road/Greenway Connectivity.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

**Mullinabro Traffic Calming** – in response to Cllr Dunphy, S. Cullen confirmed that a speed survey will be carried out once the lining has been completed.

**N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme** – Cllr Dunphy noted and welcomed the meeting planned for this afternoon between the Cathaoirligh, Mayors and CEOs of Kilkenny, Tipperary and Waterford, along with Oireachtas members and impacted MD Cathaoirligh and Mayors, to get this Scheme back on the agenda to progress through planning and implementation. He urged that the same attention be given to progressing the N25 Scheme, which is reported to be one of the worst roads in Ireland for fatalities. Cllr Frisby agreed to raise the N25 Scheme also if given the opportunity.

**N24 Tower Road, Memorial Plaque** – S. Cullen informed Cllr Dunphy that arrangements will first be made for the official opening of this TII scheme, following which consultation will take place with the local community in relation to the erection of a memorial plaque.

**N24 Option Selection Report** – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Breathnach that this will be a compilation of existing information in report format, scheduled to be published in June 2024.

**Belmont Link Road/Greenway Connectivity** – S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Breathnach following the review of the screening report, the documentation is ready to proceed to planning, depending on whether Part 8 or Part 10 process is appropriate and this is currently being assessed by Planning Dept.

**N25 Glenmore Hill** – Cllr Doherty raised concerns at the number of accidents continuing to occur at this location and asked what measures can be taken to improve safety. S. Cullen confirmed that he has

been in contact with Road Design to see if the arrangement at that location can be reviewed considering the level of accidents happening there, to flag the various hazards and improve safety.

**(b) North Quays Update**

M. Phelan gave the following update to members, as provided by the North Quays Project Team, Waterford City & County Council:

- It is a year since ground was broken on the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project, funded under the URDF. Since then works have advanced significantly and are progressing well. The substructure works for the Sustainable Transport Bridge is continuing, with works advancing on all four of the bridge piers while the steel deck superstructure is being fabricated off-site in Belgium. The pile support slab for the South Plaza is also 50% complete.
- All piling for the Transport Hub building concourse, platforms and the southern support walls for the station concourse and columns are now substantially complete. Work is also progressing on the support walls to the northern side of the railway. Irish Rail is continuing to install a new rail track to the south of the existing rail track. The road and access infrastructure is progressing well, with works continuing on the various bridge structures.
- Kilkenny County Council is progressing detailed design on the Belmont Link Road - Access Road to support Housing Activation (one of the 4 sub-projects in Belview-Ferrybank area funded under the North Quays URDF Scheme.) A decision will be made shortly as to whether a Part 8 or Part 10 planning application will be required.

**(c) Greenway Update**

M. Phelan provided the following update to members.

**Mainline Works**

- Glas Civil Engineering Ltd., commenced works on Lot 5A (c.5.5km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore) in November and works continue to advance to schedule. Works have now also recommenced at Glenmore carpark and fencing has also started along the site. Works at a number of agricultural crossing locations are also underway and the anticipated contract completion date remains the end of this year.
- The Project Landowner Liaison Officer is continuing to engage with landowners adjoining the greenway in relation to boundary treatment and crossing points. The parameters for these discussions are set out within the Charter for South East Greenway Accommodation Works.
- The Project Team had to re-run tender for the provision of Technical Services for a multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy to complete all remaining phases of the Greenway, utilising the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Framework. The return date for tender submissions has been extended to 8<sup>th</sup> April. It is expected to have a technical advisor appointed in May.

**Land Acquisition from Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE)**

- Legal contracts are now finalised and signed by the Local Authority and returned to CIE to conclude the acquisition of the lands along the abandoned rail corridor.

**Related Schemes**

- **Greenway Link to Glenmore:** We await a decision on the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) funding application, submitted in February, to advance this project, which incorporates the provision of a new Pink Rock Cycle Loop, to detail design, land acquisition and construction stage.
- **Greenway Link to Slieverue:** The Feasibility and Route Selection Report are completed. Consultation is ongoing with the TII Structures Section prior to commencing the planning process.
- **Woodstock (Inistioge) to South East Greenway Link:** RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd., who were awarded the technical consultancy services brief in February, to identify and progress a route to planning, have now commenced works on same.

**(d) Ferrybank Shopping Centre**

M. Phelan confirmed that correspondence has been received from the Management of Dunnes Stores, who have suggested an initial meeting with the executive of Kilkenny County Council and arrangements are being made in this regard. The members welcomed progress on this matter.

**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**

M. Phelan confirmed that she is still in communication with the HSE in relation to the proposed visit to the Primary Care Centre and she will endeavour to secure a date before the end of May.

**7. AOB:**

Cllr Dunphy advised that a delegation from a residents' group in Templeorum wish to attend a future Municipal District meeting to discuss some issues in their local area. This was noted and agreed.

**Clover Centre Update**

M. Phelan provided an update to members as follows:-

- The Clover Centre Social Club agreed at their EGM held last year to transfer the lands to KCC. The legal transfer of the lands is currently being finalised. The lands are currently zoned Active Open Space. KCC do not have any intention of changing this land use zoning.
- A draft masterplan for the lands was prepared by KCC Parks Section more than 10 years ago in consultation with the local community. It is considered that this masterplan is no longer valid given the range of recreational infrastructure that has been delivered since then, including the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park. KCC have agreed to prepare an updated masterplan of the lands, with a focus on recreational use and in this regard will make an application under ORIS Funding when the next call for applications is opened later this year. KCC will engage with the local community through a public consultation process on the masterplan.
- KCC will also engage with the local community on these lands through the review of the Ferrybank-Belview Local Area Plan process, which will get underway shortly.
- The former social club building on the lands has been the subject of a number of arson attacks in the past 12-months. In this regard, the Area Office has secured the building.

It was agreed that this item be kept on the Agenda, with updates on progress provided to members. Some clarification was also provided in relation to ORIS funding and the application process.

Cllr Dunphy raised the matter of maintenance and signage at roundabouts on the approaches to Waterford, S. Cullen confirmed that cleaning and maintenance has recently been carried out to signage in the Ferrybank area and was not aware of any issues, but agreed to look at the matter.

Cllr Doherty asked if an update could be provided on the National Broadband Plan, it was agreed to place this item on the Agenda for the May meeting.

Cllr Doherty sought an update on Glenmore bus stop and weighbridge and if there will be any progress made on this matter. S. Cullen referred to the update on this matter at the MD meeting held at Belview Port in September, 2023 at which time it was proposed to relocate the bus stop and confirmed that a design for an alternative location will progress this year. It was noted that the weighbridge will not be included in this design and its use or otherwise is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

**Next Meeting**

The next joint meeting with Carrick-on-Suir MD is scheduled for Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am.

A date is awaited for a joint meeting with Waterford Metropolitan District.

The next meeting of the Piltown MD will take place on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024 at 10am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:   
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 11/5/24

