

## **Minutes of March Meeting of the Municipal District of Piltown**

**Venue:** Meeting Room, Ferrybank Area Office

**Meeting Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at 10:10am

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Ger Frisby

**Present:** Cllrs. Melissa O'Neill, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward and Tomás Breathnach

**In Attendance:** Mary J Mulholland, Director of Services, Kevin Hanley, Meetings Administrator, Ian Gardner, Area Engineer and Oonagh Bannon, Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Cllr. Fidelis Doherty

**Welcome:** Cllr. Frisby welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He welcomed Oonagh Bannon back to her role at the Ferrybank Area Office and wished Laura Murphy well on her return to County Hall.

### **Waterford Boundary Review**

Cllr. Frisby welcomed the announcement by Minister Simon Coveney at recent meeting at the Rhu Glenn that he would not be implementing the recommended changes to the county boundaries and that they would remain as they are. Cllr. Frisby said he now looked forward to getting back to dealing with issues on the ground and working with Waterford to ensure the necessary infrastructure is put in place for the benefit of the whole region, including the improvement of roads infrastructure in the region, upgrading of broadband and securing university status for WIT which he felt would be the catalyst to bring further investment and jobs to the region. He said the development of the greenway and recent announcement to develop the North Quays in Waterford were huge positives and would help the region move forward as a whole.

Cllr. Frisby asked that the North Quays development proposals be included on the agenda for the next joint meeting with Waterford.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of monthly meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017, proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Dunphy and agreed.

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr. O'Neill asked if funding had been put in place for the enhancement of the approach roads to Waterford City. Ian Gardner confirmed that €30,000 funding was in place and that he would look at proposals with Claire Goodwin, concentrating on the Newrath Roundabout area.

**Water Scheme for Ullid, Kilmacow** - Cllr. Dunphy asked for an update. K. Hanley confirmed that correspondence had issued to Irish Water and feedback was awaited.

**Recycling at Ferrybank** – Cllr. Frisby asked for update. K. Hanley advised that the tender is to be advertised this week.

**Flood investigations at Fanningstown & Dungooley** – Cllr. Dunphy asked for update. I. Gardner advised that a workshop had been held at Mooncoin on 15<sup>th</sup> March which was very well attended. Both locations have been looked at in detail to consider potential ways to divert water away from flooding areas and a report is now awaited from Kilgallen and Partners.

**Speed surveys at Tullaghought & Piltown** – Cllr. Dunphy asked for update. I. Gardner advised there had been software issues with downloading same, members would be advised when available.

### **Roadworks Update**

I Gardner circulated an update detailing works carried out over the previous four week period and briefed the members on same. Cllr. Dunphy asked how an area qualified under the CLAR programme and what criteria used. M. Mulholland advised that the 2017 CLAR programme had been announced just last Friday, qualifying criteria being mainly areas of significant depopulation or rural decline. Map of the CLAR areas to be circulated shortly. Cllr. Breathnach added that CLAR areas were identified in terms of DED, with DED population updated following each census, giving a consistent view based on that.

**Driver Feedback Signage** – Ian Gardner circulated report on the provision of driver feedback signage in towns/villages on regional roads. The cost of providing 16 such signs at various locations throughout the district was noted. €20k has already been set aside from discretionary grant funding, leaving a shortfall of €43,200 if all signs were to be provided in the current year. Discussion followed – M. Mulholland suggested that some signs could possibly be provided under CLAR works, depending on location. Following further discussion, it was agreed that I. Gardner would look into this possibility and the matter would be decided on at the next meeting.

### **N25 New Ross Bypass Update**

It was noted there was no further update at present. K Hanley confirmed that a site visit would be possible, date to be agreed.

### **Ferrybank Development Contributions – Proposed Schemes**

A report was circulated to members outlining proposals in relation to Abbey Road and Newrath Roundabout.

#### ***(1) Abbey Road Footpaths, Traffic Calming & Landscaping***

I. Gardner referred to allocation made some years ago for works on the Abbey Road which were never completed. He outlined new proposal for works to include footpaths, traffic calming and landscaping on the Abbey Road from the county bounds at Waterford to the roundabout at Abbey Gate.

In answer to Cllr. O'Neill's query, I. Gardner advised that no contribution had ever been made by WCC for this area. Cllr. Dunphy asked about the Active Travel Strategy for the area and if this would ever come to fruition. I. Gardner advised that as the strategy was never approved no funding had been received.

#### ***(2) Newrath Roundabout – Central Island Footpath***

Details were outlined by I. Gardner for the provision of a footpath on the outer edge of the central island to provide sufficient clearance – to allow maintenance works without having to undertake major traffic management, which is very time consuming. It was noted that these works could be carried out at the same time as landscaping works, for which there was a separate budget.

Cllr. Dunphy asked if a maintenance contractor could be engaged to undertake this work and if quotation could be sought. However, it was noted that they would also have to implement the same traffic management.

Cllr. Breathnach said there should be a vision for the Newrath Roundabout, as it is very unique and given its prominence it should be given an identity.

### **Tourism Strategy**

M. Mulholland stated that following on from the launch of the Tourism Strategy for the County, it is now proposed to commence the process of developing clustered destination areas in the county. Kilkenny City is already a huge tourism product itself, but the aim now must be to keep visitors in the county by promoting additional areas of interest for tourists around the county. To begin this process, it was proposed to hold further public meetings to engage with the relevant stakeholders and M. Mulholland asked the members to consider who should attend this meeting, the purpose of which will be to form a destination group, come up with ideas for destination areas and agree what to focus on. The process will require a lot of engagement with stakeholders.

A detailed discussion followed with input from all members. It was agreed to hold meeting at the Rising Sun, Mullinavat on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm.

It was also agreed to rearrange the joint meeting with New Ross Municipal District on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 4.00pm at the Rhu Glenn.

### **Any Other Business**

***Poulanassy Waterfall*** – Cllr. Aylward asked for update re access. I. Gardner advised that while a broad agreement had been reached regarding compensation, a survey of the area would be required to gauge how much land will be required to provide parking, however no funding was available. I. Gardner to forward details regarding survey and costs to M. Mulholland.

***Naming of New Ross Bypass Bridge*** – Cllr. O'Neill asked if letter had been issued to Wexford regarding presentation to Kilkenny County Council. K Hanley advised no letter had been issued, it was noted that this item had been placed on the agenda for the next joint meeting with New Ross MD.

**Chapel Street safety issues** – Cllr. Dunphy highlighted safety issues for pedestrians on Chapel Street, Mooncoin and asked if footpath could be provided from Polerone Green to Crokes Shop and in the meantime that the bollard be replaced at the ramp. I. Gardner advised that the provision of a footpath has been placed on a list of items for consideration by the members – bollard to be replaced.

**Traffic delays into Waterford** – Cllr. Dunphy raised concerns over increasing delays at Ferrybank and into Waterford from the New Ross direction and he felt this would worsen with the opening of New Ross Bypass. M. Mulholland suggested that this could be put on the agenda for the next joint meeting with Waterford, together with request for presentation on the North Quays development proposals – next meeting to take place 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Junction at Skogh** – Cllr. Dunphy asked if improvements could be made or additional warning signage erected at this junction to improve safety. I. Gardner advised that consideration could be given to a low cost safety scheme at this location, to be placed on a list for future consideration by the members.

**Ferrybank Local Area Plan** – Cllr. Dunphy asked for update. M. Mulholland advised that it was hoped the final draft would be available in the next few weeks. Cllr. O’Neill asked if a copy of the zoning map could be given to members, it was noted this would be available when the plan was finalised.

**Greenway** – Cllr. Dunphy asked for update. M. Mulholland advised that submissions were currently being considered, report to be prepared.

**Joint Policing Committee** – Cllr. O’Neill advised that a public meeting would take place in the Friary Complex, Callan at 6.30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Next Meeting**

The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 10:00am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_