***Minutes of Municipal District of Piltown Meeting held Wednesday, 5th December, 2018 at 10.00am at the Ferrybank Area Office***

**Present:** Cllr. Ger Frisby, Cathaoirleach

Cllrs. F. Doherty, P. Dunphy, M. O’Neill, E. Aylward and T. Breathnach

**In attendance:** S. McKeown, Director of Service, B. Tyrrell, Meetings Administrator, I. Gardner, Area Engineer, S. Kavanagh, Senior Engineer Roads, S. Foley, Senior Engineer Environment, E. Cody, Senior Exec. Engineer Housing and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**

**MDP Meeting 7th November –** Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. O’Neill and agreed.

**Draft Budget Plan Meeting 7th November –** Proposed by Cllr. E. Aylward, seconded by Cllr. P. Dunphy and agreed.

***Matters Arising***

***Naming of N25 Bridge*** – Cllr. Doherty advised that no information would be forthcoming from Wexford County Council following her FOI request seeking the names of those who had made submissions for the naming of the new bridge.

***Flynn Family, Ferrybank*** – Cllr. O’Neill wished to extend congratulations to the Flynn family of Ferrybank, who had recently received a Carer of the Year Award.

***Tower Road Footpath*** – Cllr. Dunphy asked for update. I. Gardner advised that agreement had been reached with landowners regarding boundary setbacks and contract had been awarded for the completion of accommodation works.

***Ferrybank Library*** – Cllr. Doherty extended congratulations to the Library on the sixth anniversary of their opening and commended all on the great service provided to the local community.

1. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**
2. ***N24 Tower Road Junction Improvement Scheme***

John Ryan and Richard Neuling were in attendance from Atkins Consulting Engineers to make a presentation to the members. J. Ryan outlined proposed improvements under the Scheme including the upgrade of the Tower Road junction to a grade separated junction, closure of the Ink Bottle junction, provision of a link road between Tower Road and Ink Bottle junctions and provision of footpaths and cycle facilities. He stated that the scheme when complete will provide a safer junction arrangement at both junctions, with no right turning movements across the N24. It was noted that the Part 8 planning process was expected to commence January 2019 and subject to approvals and funding, it was hoped that the scheme would be completed and open by 2021.

A discussion followed with questions raised in relation to timelines, land acquisition and overall costs involved. It was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be circulated to members. Cllr. Frisby thanked S. Kavanagh, S. Foley and Atkins for their presentation and they withdrew from the meeting.

1. ***Update on Housing Delivery***

E. Cody was in attendance for this item and outlined details of housing units being delivered in the coming years within the Piltown Municipal District. Details were noted.

E. Cody responded to questions raised by members. Cllr. O’Neill welcomed the provision of units suitable for people with disabilities, which was a step in the right direction and in line with the Council’s strategic plan and also welcomed the provision of units in rural areas.

It was noted that the Vacant Homes Officer, Evelyn Graham, had also carried out a survey to identify vacant properties in the County which could be acquired in some areas where additional accommodation was needed, this operated under a separate funding stream. Cllr. Aylward noted progress under this particular programme, however there were a number of issues in some cases, including issues in relation to title.

S. McKeown advised that as part of a pilot initiative within the Council, properties on the derelict sites register were being investigated with a view to establishing if they were suitable for social housing purposes, however this would require additional resources and time.. Cllr. Frisby thanked E. Cody for her presentation and she withdrew from the meeting.

1. ***Monthly Roadworks Scheme Update***

Ian Gardner circulated the report and outlined details in relation to pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works completed.

Cllr. O’Neill welcomed repairs to the Abbey Road bus shelter and drainage maintenance within a number of housing estates. She noted that the Piltown Municipal District did not have its own sweeper and asked that same be provided for next year. S. McKeown acknowledged a request for same from I. Gardner during the budget process in the past couple of years and agreed that same could be considered during the next budget process.

Cllr. Aylward welcomed the return of the bring banks at Bigwood and asked for an update on the ongoing flooding issue at Dunkitt and also flooding issue above the level crossing at Glendonnell. I. Gardner advised that providing a permanent solution to the flooding problem at Dunkitt was the responsibility of the landowner. It was noted that a temporary solution had been provided by KCC, however maintenance was needed and permission to gain access to the lands was proving problematic. He advised that discussions were ongoing with the landowner with regard to this matter.

With regard to flooding above Glendonnell level crossing, I. Gardner advised that despite regularly maintaining the drainage system flooding still persisted. A more permanent solution would therefore be devised to resolve this issue.

Cllr. Doherty asked if there was an update in relation to the meeting with TII. B. Tyrrell confirmed that this was proposed for January with a rep to attend from each MD. Cllr. Dunphy again requested that more representatives be facilitated from the Piltown MD.

1. ***Update on N25 New Ross Bypass***

Report was circulated and noted.

Cllr. Doherty asked for confirmation that the Pink Rock road would be reopened by the end of the year as planned. I. Gardner advised that the contractors had requested a further extension due to some design issues and to cater for removal of the tower crane and also to allow for maintenance required on the road prior to reopening, which has to be agreed.

1. ***Poulanassy Waterfall – Preliminary Options***

I Gardner presented an updated preliminary design, which was a combination of elements included in two of the original design options and outlined costs associated with the development of the parking area, provision of the walkway and land acquisition costs. It was noted that the estimated total cost would be in the region of €215k.

S. McKeown advised that in order to be ready to make a funding application in 2019, it was important to have the Part 8 planning process completed, prior to which there should be sufficient public consultation to advise locals of the agreed proposal. Following discussion, the members agreed the design proposal as presented by I. Gardner and agreed that the Part 8 process should commence as soon as possible, to include public consultation.

1. ***North Quays SDZ***

S. McKeown stated that since the last PMD meeting he had attended 2 meetings of the Steering Committee which had been set up by Waterford CCC to oversee the development of the North Quays SDZ and advised that Rowan O’Donovan Consulting Engineers had been retained by WCCC. He outlined the various works which would be undertaken as part of the development including the construction of the proposed sustainable transport bridge, relocation of the train station, rock stabilisation works and access infrastructure, demolition works on the SDZ, together with Greenway access points. It was noted that WCCC had received an allocation of €6m in funding under the URDF for 2019. A more detailed briefing would be provided to members at the joint meeting with WCCC due to take place in the afternoon.

1. ***Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park***

Claire Goodwin of the Parks Department was in attendance to update the members. She circulated plans outlining all the elements to be included in the development of the park and funding for same, which would be a combination of funding from Kilkenny and Waterford County Council’s and LIHAF funding. It was noted that the process was currently at detailed design stage with tender documents nearing completion, the full cost of delivering the project would be known once tenders had been received. The development of the main playground area would be a priority, with other avenues being explored for additional funding such as the Sports Capital Grant for the pitch/kick-about area and outdoor gym. It was hoped that the project would go to tender in January, with works commencing in spring.

Cllr. O’Neill asked about provision for the disabled and for teenagers and about planting. C. Goodwin advised that the park was accessible in its design and also included elements catering for teenagers such as a climbing wall, amphitheatre and hang out area. She also advised that wildflower meadows would be a feature of the park and the park would be pollinator friendly. All the members were in agreement that the park would be a huge benefit to the area. Cllr. Frisby thanked C. Goodwin for the update and she withdrew from the meeting.

1. ***Kilkenny Greenway Update***

S. McKeown outlined the current position regarding the Greenway. He advised that a very detailed application, led by Wexford County Council, had been submitted for funding of the project under the National Greenway Fund. He said that the development of the c25km Greenway from Mount Elliott, New Ross to the North Quays, Waterford would cost an estimated €13.3m to deliver and that grant aid of €10m had been sought, with works to include removal of tracks, accommodation works, fencing, installation of ducting, provision of picnic areas and four parking areas along the route. He stated that the funding application had also included a comprehensive business plan and a very strong case had been made to the Department in terms of tourism, job creation and economic dividends, not only for Kilkenny but for the South East Region.

He also advised that following the initial invitation to a number of Engineering firms to tender for the detailed design of the project, some revisions had been made and 4 tenders had since been received and were currently being reviewed. It was hoped that detailed design would be completed by mid 2019 and that construction would commence on the project by Q4 of 2019.

During discussion that followed, S. McKeown responded to members questions in relation to provision of services and facilities, policing and anti-social behaviour, funding, tourism and business opportunities.

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

None

1. **Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting**

None

1. **Notices of Motion**

None

1. **Correspondence**

None

1. **AOB**

**Additional items raised by Members:-**

**Cllr. O’Neill**

***Meeting with Gardai*** – Cllr. O’Neill requested that the Gardai be invited to attend a meeting with the Piltown MD. B. Tyrrell advised that the Gardai had indicated their willingness to attend a meeting and suggested that an agenda should be prepared for such a meeting prior to issuing an invitation to them. S. McKeown also advised that Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes had put forward a draft strategy document for Local Policing Partnerships to provide a structure for discussion with the Gardai at Municipal District meetings. He said this was a very welcome development and one issue that needed to be clarified before the document could be finalised is the fact that part of the Piltown MD area is within the remit of the Waterford Gardai district. He said this issue had been raised with Chief Superintendent Hayes and that he had arranged contact with the Waterford District on the matter.

***Meetings with other Local Authorities*** – Cllr. O’Neill expressed her surprise at the fact that the meetings held between the Piltown MD and other Local Authorities were not recorded as official meetings for attendance purposes and asked that this matter be looked at. It was agreed that this matter would be raised for discussion at the next meeting of the CPG.

**Cllr. Dunphy**

***Speeding in Mooncoin Village*** – Cllr. Dunphy expressed concern at the number of complaints he continued to receive in relation to speeding through Mooncoin Village, in spite of surveys and works that had been carried out. He asked if additional signage could be provided on the N24 in the centre of the village. I. Gardner advised that permission could be sought from the TII to perhaps install a driver feedback sign in the village, however he said that enforcement would also help to reduce speeding in the village.

**Cllr. Doherty**

***Ferrybank District Centre*** – Cllr. Doherty asked for update for the next meeting.

**Cllr. Breathnach**

***Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy and M.A.S.P.*** – Cllr. Breathnach asked for update. S. McKeown advised that drafts had been circulated to members at the Regional Assembly, revised draft due to be issued this week. Cllr. Breathnach suggested that a separate meeting of the Piltown MD be held to discuss this as it was of critical importance not just to the region but also to South Kilkenny.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place Wednesday, 9th January, 2019 at 10am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dated:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cathaoirleach**