

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A
TIONÓLADH AR AN 8 Ú SAMHAIN 2024 AG 2.30PM

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER, 2024 AT 2.30 P.M.

Mayor Councillor Andrew McGuinness Presiding

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Cllr Seán O'hArgáin, Cllr Joe Malone, Cllr David Fitzgerald & Cllr Maria Dollard

Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Mr. Stan Cullen, A/Senior Engineer, Ms. Regina Fitzpatrick, Heritage Officer Ms. Annette Fitzpatrick, Town Renewal Officer Regeneration Officer and Ms. Joanna Pierce, A/Staff Officer.

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 1st November 2024 convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

- 1. A dhaingniú Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe - Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting:**
Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th October, 2024 having been previously circulated were tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Seconded By: Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin

And Agreed:

"That the Minutes as presented to the meeting be and are hereby adopted".

- 2. Cúrsaí thabhairt ar aghaidh ordú ón Méara - Matters brought forward by direction of the Mayor:**

The Mayor brought forward the following:

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked Ms. Regina Fitzpatrick for her help and support with Kilkenny's Toil & Trouble Festival and praised the high level of execution of the event.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness expressed well wishes to the three General Election candidates present at the meeting.

3. Kennyswell – Enhancement of Access and Interpretation of 2024

Ms. Regina Fitzpatrick presented an update on the plan committed for this year for the enhancement of access and interpretation of Kennyswell.

In 2024 Kilkenny County Council was awarded €30,000 under stream 3 of the Community Monuments Fund to prepare a plan for Kennyswell Project. The project is one of 12 projects that were awarded to Kilkenny County Council in 2024. Total award of over €572,000.

Ms. Fitzpatrick presented on Kennyswell historical background, its social and cultural significance, and its considerable architectural, historic, and archaeological importance, as outlined in Kennyswell Conservation Management Plan. Ms. Fitzpatrick explained the current state of Kennyswell and the damages it has experienced over the years.

Specifications of the repair works required for the stabilisation of the structural issues were prepared by David Kelly Partnership for the Heritage Office in 2019.

The Conservation Management Plan prepared for the Heritage Office in 2021 outlines the recommendations required to conserve the site for the future.

Canice's Architects, in partnership with Abarta Heritage, were awarded the tender to prepare a plan for the enhancement of access and interpretation of Kennyswell, which was delivered in August 2024.

The plan set out the following potential works, subject to funding:

- Restore the site as a place of gatherings for the community.
- Further archaeological investigation is required for the Well House.
- Site design and landscaping to enhance the natural setting and access to the site.
- Enhancing the entrance to the site and the profile of the stepped access, including age-friendly seating and amphitheatre-like seating arrangements to cater for social events and religious services.
- Introduction of a pedestrian wooden bridge across the Breaghagh River.
- And other detailed recommendations listed in the Master Plan.

Canice's Architects are engaged to prepare more detailed design with specification and costing to inform a funding model for the project.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that limited works can be eligible for Heritage and Conservation Funding stream and alternative sources of funding may be required.

The Members welcomed the Plan and thanked Ms. Fitzpatrick for her presentation.

Elected Members raised the following concerns and queries:

- Monitoring the area once developed in regards to antisocial behaviour,
- Communication to residents in relation to how it will be managed,
- Expressed support in securing the national funding to put the project in place,

- Safety regarding flooding, and how to mitigate flooding risk,
- Specific funding requirements,
- Requested an update on traffic management in the area
- History Board to “tell a story of Kenny’s Well”

Ms. Regina Fitzpatrick responded and advised that:

- There is no specific figure for the execution of the entire project. The only aspect of this plan that is costed is the removal of debris from the River Breagagh, which has been estimated at €25,000.
- Next phase of the Kenny’s Well restoration project will include gathering historical information for the area, which will be included in online information for the site.

Mr. Tim Butler thanked Ms. Fitzpatrick for her presentation and praised the work carried out to-date, stating that it provided a blueprint for future works. He also advised that the works on the Dean Street roundabout are planned not to impact the water barracks and soccer pitch in regards to floods. Mr. Butler also mentioned a plan for one-way traffic for HGVs in Q1 2025.

4. Kilkenny Municipal District – Works Update

Mr. Stan Cullen presented an update on works completed at a number of location across the City:

- Loughboy Park Active Travel improvement works,
- Rath Ullard and Breagagh Court – road surfacing, lining and fencing,
- Castlecomer Drainage Works and other drainage repairs,
- Glendine, Circular road traffic calming,
- Active travel shared space from Dean Cavanagh Place to Fatima Place.

Mr. Cullen spoke about the ongoing maintenance works, including street sweeping, cleaning, grass cutting, and the removal of flower baskets. He presented examples of signage and signal maintenance, renewal of road markings, and gully cleaning.

Mr. Cullen advised on the progress of Cootes Lane bridge and plans to complete the scheme before Christmas and open the facility in the New Year.

Lacken Boardwalk improvements are due for completion by the end of the year.

Mr. Cullen commented on the very successful Savour festival and advised that the City is now preparing for the Yulefest festival.

The Members welcomed the updates and thanked Mr. Cullen for the presentation.

Elected Members raised the following queries:

- Concerns over a significant number of leaves and debris on the road caused by the weather. It was advised that the Elected Members would report specific locations to the area office.
- Traffic congestion and parking issues outside Model School & Kilkenny College.

- Signs to be added in the area where Kilkenny County Council completes works should indicate positive message/finding.
- Focus on the tidiness of the City and work towards winning Tidy Town in 2025.
- What are the plans for a safe crossing of the Ring Road?
- Speed limit for the traffic coming from the Ring Road towards Waterford Road and Castlecomer Road.
- A lot of damage to litter bins in several areas across the City.

Mr. Stan Cullen responded and advised that:

- The best way to ensure that issues around the City are addressed (*bins, leaves, and debris*) is to contact Kilkenny Municipal District kmd@kilkennycoco.ie.
- Model School is being examined at and will continue to be reviewed.
- The crossing on the Ring Road is being reviewed with TII regarding the crossing points, but there is no clear timeline on it.
- In relation to bins, Mr. Cullen advised that Kilkenny County Council doesn't want to have bins in inaccessible areas where they can't be maintained regularly, as it causes additional problems.

5. THRIVE Update

Ms. Annette Fitzpatrick presented update on the THRIVE Strand 1 Application. Workshops, public survey, Co-Creation Workshops held in September and October to review the opportunities for the John Street and John's Quay area. The feedback received during the consultation included positive, negative, and opportunity highlights during breakout discussions which informed the Urban Design Strategy.

The Strategy will support a funding application under Thrive Strand 2. The project identified, is Carnegie Library. Ms. Fitzpatrick listed the identified use for Carnegie as a Cultural Hub providing a space for a number of public services.

The Elected Members were informed that Kilkenny County Council will be commencing Part 8 Planning for the Carnegie Library before year-end. Ms. Fitzpatrick also informed that the Strand 2 THRIVE application process for funding will open in early 2025.

The Members welcomed the updates and thanked Ms. Fitzpatrick for the presentation. Elected Members raised a number of queries particularly in relation to future projects that may follow the Report.

Mr. Butler highlighted that the Strategy is not a statutory plan and that future projects will be required to go through a formal Planning Part 8 process. The Elected Members approval is required to the Draft Strategy prior to submitting to the Southern Regional Assembly for approval. The approval of this Strategy document will enable the Council to submit an application under Strand 2 in early 2025.

It was:

Proposed by: Cllr Andrew McGuinness,

Seconded by: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness

And Agreed

"That the proposed plan for the Carnegie will go to the next stage."

6. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion

17(24): Proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard

Seconded by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin & agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council prepare a management plan for Newpark Fen. This plan must be developed in consultation with Kilkenny County Council Biodiversity Officer, National Parks & Wildlife and in line with the principals of the Biodiversity Action Plan and relevant legislation. That the plan be made available for the public."

Cllr. Maria Dollard spoke on her motion, and all the Members supported it. Mr. Stan Cullen responded that Kilkenny County Council's Management Strategy for Newpark has been in place since 2005, and Kilkenny Municipal District will continue to maintain the paths. He explained that the works carried out in the summer during the nesting season should not have happened and will not happen again.

18(24): Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan

Seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone & agreed:

"That a presentation on the up-to-date progress on the restoration and refurbishment works at Kennyswell be presented to Kilkenny City Municipal District"

9. Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business.

Parking on John's Quay area Mr. Tim Butler explained that more appropriate parking regime is planned for the area and it will discourage anyone other than residents parking in the location. This would be addressed via the Parking Bye-laws in 2025

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed:

MAYOR

Date:
