

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A TIONÓLADH AR
AN 20 MÉAN FÓMHAIR 2024 AG 2.30PM

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 20th September at 2.30 p.m.

Mayor Councillor Andrew McGuinness Presiding

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr John Coonan, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr Eugene McGuinness & Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin,
Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler Director of Services, Ms Annette Fitzpatrick Senior Executive Officer, Mr Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer & Ms Martina Walsh, Staff Officer

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 13th September, 2024 convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

1. **A dhaingniú Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe - Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting:**
(i) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th July, 2024 having been previously circulated were tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr Eugene 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:

- Sympathy was extended to the following:
Cllr Seán O'hArgáin on the recent death of his mother, Mary .
Martin Morris, Corporate Services, on the death of his mother, Mary.
- The Mayor spoke of his recent visit to Minnoesta to deepen the relationship between the twinned Kilkenny, Minnesota & Kilkenny City. He advised of his intention to hold a Presentation to update Members on Twinning events.

3. THRIVE Presentation

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick presented an update on Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme . (THRIVE). This Scheme is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027. She informed the Members that Kilkenny County Council has been awarded funding of €200,000 to create an Urban Design Strategy for John's Quay/John Street area.

Under Strand 1 of the Scheme three heritage buildings were identified to be included, Carnegie Library, Meubles and Co Hall forecourt. Consultants have been appointed and a number of public consultation meetings are being held and engagement with relevant Stakeholders . The timeline for completion and submission of the Strategy is 4th November 2024. Subject to approval Part 8 planning process will commence and by January 2025 Strand 2 application process begins for funding.

The Members welcomed the Scheme and thanked Ms Fitzpatrick for her presentation and commented:

- If the proposals for the John Street Urban Design Strategy will be incorporated in this Scheme.
- Does the scheme include Co Hall building.
- If Bateman Quay is included in the plan.
- If the Scheme protects listed buildings from being demolished.

Ms Fitzpatrick responded that the areas designated cannot be amended and that Bateman Quay and County Hall (apart from John St entrance) is not included as buildings must be vacant. Funding up to a value of €7 million can be awarded but not every application will be successful.

Ms Fitzpatrick assured the Members that Heritage revival was a core element to this Scheme and that Protected Buildings would be enhanced but not demolished. She reiterated the importance of consultation with the public and relevant stakeholders to put forward the best possible plan for approval.

4. Bóithre- Monthly Roads Update.

Mr Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer gave a presentation to the Members on Road Works undertaken since the July Meeting as follows:

- Radestown lane & Newtown lane resurfacing works.
- Granges Road & Freshford Road Safe Route to School Works.
- Ballyfoyle Road Culvert to alleviate flooding.
- Pockocke & Loughboy Active Travel Improvement Works.
- Lacken Boardwalk Improvement Works.
- Linear Park Maintenance - Skate Park & Riverside Gardens.
- Ramp at the Closh.

Other works included power washing , pavement repairs, traffic signal maintenance, grass cutting and vegetation maintenance.

Mr Gardner updated the Members on the Parking Amendments as follows:

- 15 minutes free park reintroduced.
- Limited stay periods removed except for 1 hour stay areas.
- Maximum parking charges at St Canices , Dean Street, Abbey Square & Gaol Road car parks reduced to €3.
- Extended free period of 30 minutes provided at Cathedral Square Carpark at school drop/pick up times.

The Members thanked Mr Gardner for his presentation. Tributes were paid to him as this was Mr Garner's last Kilkenny Municipal District Meeting.

All the Members acknowledged the excellent work and commitment he brought to the role as Senior Engineer for Kilkenny City. They wished him well in his new role as Acting Director of Services for Housing, Community and Piltown Municipal District.

Issues raised as follows:

- Completion date for boardwalk
- Litter problem especially in Market Yard area.
- Dog Fouling.
- Provision of Pedestrian Crossing at Pockocke to Garringreen junction.
- Provision of "Sunflower Bays" for the elderly .
- Single lane traffic at Blackquarry Hill causing conjection.
- Provision of a traffic signal light for cyclists on Contraflow cycle lane at the Courthouse to access High Street.
- Possibility of 2 way cycle lane on High Street.
- Possibility that Lacken Boardwalk be made fully wheelchair accessible.
- Safer pedestrian crossings on Dublin Road.
- Insufficient signage and traffic management for recent Kilkenny Medieval Marathon.
- Parking on cycle lanes at Granges Road Safe Route to School.

Mr Gardner thanked the Members for their good wishes and paid tribute to Mr Tim Butler for all his cooperation and support to him in his role as Senior Engineer for Kilkenny City. He wished Mr Butler all the best in his new Directorship.

The Lacken Boardwalk will be complete in November this year. He commented that a full loop of Lacken Board Walk would be very costly but that there was a possibility it could be looked at under the St Canice's Master Plan.

With regard to the litter problem in the Market Yard, Mr Gardner informed the Members that tenders have been issued for a new design of Market Yard which would remove the benches in the seating area which should alleviate the litter problem.

With regard to the problem of Dog Fouling he advised the issue be raised with Environment section. He also highlighted the “Team Up to Clean Up” Campaign in collaboration with Community Groups and schools which is ongoing.

He advised that a ramped Pedestrian Crossing would be installed at Poccoke to Garringreen Crossing in 2025. A proposal has also been sent to the National Transport Authority for four new Pedestrian Crossings on the Dublin Road.

With regard to the provision of “Sunflower Bays” he advised that this would require an amendment to the bye-laws and Cllr. Andrew McGuinness requested that it be placed on the Agenda for next Meeting.

Mr Gardner advised that Active Travel are looking at safe access for cyclists from Parliament Street to High Street and that High Street is not wide enough to facilitate a two-way cycle lane.

Mr Gardner also advised that the Kilkenny Medieval Marathon was not a Council run event and that the organisers would be advised that future events would require improved traffic management.

5. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion

14(24): Proposed by Cllr. Seán O’hArgáin.

Seconded by Cllr. Maria Dollard & agreed:

“ That Kilkenny Municipal District of Kilkenny County Council will seek a meeting with Transport for Ireland to discuss the expansion of Kilkenny City’s Bus Service, including the following priorities:

1. An expansion of the number of routes in the service to include more areas of the City.
2. That these services would include pick-up and drop-off facilities for residents of the Hebron Park/Kieran’s Crescent/Millennium Court area and Seville Lawns/Margaret’s Field areas and other residential areas, where residents are currently forced to walk over a kilometre to access the existing routes.
3. That these services would also service important retail and employment areas, including Kilkenny Retail Park and Purcellsinch Business Park. 4. That these services would service medical facilities at Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital and nursing homes including Archersrath and Drakelands nursing homes.”

As it was approaching 4.30 p.m, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness proposed extending the time allowed in the Standing Orders to complete this Motion. This was seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed.

Cllr Seán O’hArgáin spoke on his motion .

All Members agreed with this motion and noted that this issue has been raised at previous meetings.

Mr Gardner advised that Meetings have been held with the National Roads Authority and that 5 new routes have been suggested. He also advised that it would not be possible to have Bus Stops within housing estates but they would be located within a short walking distance.

Motions 15(24) & 16(24) were deferred to the next October Meeting.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

MAYOR

Date: _____