

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA gCRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH A THIONÓLADH AR AN 12th IÚIL 2019. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON, 12TH JULY 2019.

Mayor, Councillor, Martin Brett, Presiding.

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr .Joe Malone, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness

Apologies: Cllr. Malcolm Noonan

Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Ms. Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Simon Walton, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Teresa Mahon, Staff Officer.

Mayor's Summons of Meeting:

Notice dated 5th July, 2019, 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 14th June 2019, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. John Coonan
Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Malone
And Resolved

“That the minutes as presented to the meeting be and are hereby adopted”.

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 14th June 2019, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. John Coonan
Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Malone
And Resolved

“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 acknowledged the following Projects/Events which he attended/will attend:

- Fashion show by the Presentation School for transition year law team.
- Opening of offices for Arts Week.
- Kilkenny's human chain for Chernobyl.
- John Edward Nolan, Ambassador for relay for life at Rugby Club.
- 125 Years of the Home Rule Club.
- Lyme Disease Awareness Kilkenny.
- Medieval Mile Museum 3 Lives – 3 Deaths
- War Memorial Commemoration
- Best wishes to both the Kilkenny Senior and Minor Team for Sunday.

The Mayor wanted it noted that both visitors and others in the City were concerned that no chemist shop opened in the City after 6pm.

The Mayor also raised the subject of noise pollution in the City and the possibility of introducing bye-laws to deal with the matter. Many Members agreed that certain premises around the City were playing very loud music particularly on a Saturday afternoon. It is not the image that is wanted for the City. Mr. Simon Walton, Senior Engineer, explained that bye-laws could be adopted by the Municipal District to regulate noise from street busking. However, loud music emanating from private premises comes under the issue of environmental nuisance and noise pollution and has be dealt with by the Planning or Environment Departments or civil action. Cllr. Malone proposed that the relevant member of staff from these departments attend the September meeting. Members agreed that busking in general should be encouraged in the City but the use of full amplifier kits on streets was too much. Cllr. Fitzgerald suggested the Council contact Dublin City Council regarding the specific set of guidelines they have for Dublin City.

Votes of Sympathy

The Members joined with the Mayor in offering a Vote of Sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

Cllr. John Bailey Dunlaoghaire Rathdown County
Cllr. Oliver Tully Louth County Council
Cllr. Noel Whelan, New Ross County Council.
Cllr. Manus Kelly Donegal County Council.
Katy Kearney, 14 Larchfield. Kilkenny.
Nancy Prendergast, Tinnahinch, Kilkenny.
Bobby Gibbs, Greensbridge, Kilkenny.
Mick Bergin, Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny.
Dominic Power, 120 Newpark Close, Kilkenny.
Phil Lenahan, Freshford Rd., Kilkenny.
Christine Phelan, 1 St. John's Court, Kilkenny.
Adrian Murphy, Maudlin Street, Kilkenny.
A minute silence was held for all.

3. Nuashonrú ar thionscadail bóithre.

Update on Road Projects

Mr. Simon Walton provided an update to Members on various works and road issues in Kilkenny City including traffic calming in residential estates, road safety at key City junctions and the Kilkenny City bus service.

(a) Traffic calming in residential estates. Mr. Walton provided a table showing the current position in respect of requests to the Council for the introduction of traffic calming measures. The 2019 roadworks programme adopted in March provides for €10,000 to fund the introduction of traffic calming measures and reminded the Members of the three estates prioritised for works costing €6,750. Speed surveys have either been carried out or in the process of being carried out on 19 Estates and the cost of providing traffic calming measures is estimated to be around €60,000. However, some of the surveys show that introduction of measures is not warranted. In those circumstances road signage could be used.

(b) Road Safety at Key Junctions. Mr. Walton listed the 3 Junctions that been allocated funds by the Department under the Low Cost Safety Scheme. He explained that the funds will enable some safety enhancements at the Junctions but the funds must be spent before the end of November 2019.

(c) Kilkenny City Bus Service. Mr Walton detailed the works that were in progress or due to commence in respect of the new bus service. He confirmed the NTS had completed the process for the appointment of an operator for the service. The service is likely to become operational before the end of 2019

Members thanked Mr. Walton. They welcomed the news about funding for safety issues and the bus service. They raised the following queries/questions/observations in relation to the above and other road issues :

- Rosewood - proposed signage instead of speed ramps.
- Conflict with Residents re the introduction of speed ramps.
- Specific plans for works at Hebron Road and Gaol Road in light of the limited budget.
- Traffic issues near Nolan Park on match days, including health & safety concerns, people confined to their homes, access for emergency services, new car park or park and ride facilities.
- Long term plans to address issues at Junctions.
- The issues of Creches in Residential Estates and policies int the Development Plan.
- Larchfield not appearing on list for traffic calming/speed ramps.
- Request for update on the LIHAF scheme.
- Update on parking bye-laws.
- Request for white line from Glendine Road between bridge to golf club and for the Council to look at issues at the old Bonnettsrath Road .
- Importance of a promotional campaign for the New Bus Service.

Mr Simon Walton and Mr. Tim Butler responded to the Members. Mr. Walton referred Members to his table and the results of the speed survey particularly in the Rosewood area.

The actual percentage of speed violations in the Rosewood/Lawn/Hill areas are very low and along with details on maximum speeds in these Estates, new signage would be the most cost-effective method to get motorists to slow down. Mr. Walton stressed that speed limits are not a target and Motorists are socially responsible to take care while driving. The traffic calming plan is a 5-year plan with limited funding and it is up to the new Council to deciding going forward which Estates to prioritise and which Estates can be best served by signage. He agreed that in some cases ramps etc are not welcomed by residences due to noise levels.

Gaol Road Junction - Mr. Walton explained that the junction will be moved out and footpath pushed back to enable visibility on to Stephen Street. He agreed that €30 thousand euro for the Hebron Road junction is not sufficient to address the issues in the area but it does provide for the introduction of some enhanced safety measures. The whole area will have to be looked at again including discussion with local land owners, possibility of O'Loughlin Gales opening another entrance, one-way systems, no left/right turn for vehicles and proposed planning application in the areas. He addressed the issues of traffic around Nolan Park on match day. In his opinion a new car park in the area would not make any difference to the people who seem to abandoned their cars all around the Park on match days. There are many car parks near Nowlan Park which are regularly below capacity on match day. In terms of a park and ride facility, Kilkenny does not have the population to sustain such a facility. Mr. Butler said ideally people should walk or cycle to the Park and bring fewer cars into the City. There will always be individuals who will park indiscriminately but the Council will continue to work with the Gardai and the GAA to address this matter over the coming weeks.

Creches in Residential Estates - They are specifically commercial entities operation in residential developments and are permitted under the Development Plan. Any changes going forward for new estates/ planning applications would need to be backed up by traffic counts etc and could be addressed as part of the planning application process.

Mr. Butler explained that the LIHAF scheme was slow to start but he will be happy to bring a progress update to the next meeting in September.

Mr. Walton expects to have the preliminary report on the draft set of proposal to include parking bye-laws available for the September meeting. He advised that land is required around Bonnettstown Road to facilitate widening of the footpaths etc.

4. Ceapachán comhaltaí don Choiste Casctha

Appointment of Members to Twinning Committee

Mr. Butler explained that the Twinning Committee would require a permanent Chair, the sitting Mayor and at least 2 other Members. The Committee would expect to meet on a quarterly basis and would include outside members. The exact makeup of the Committee is up to the Members of the Municipal District but it is important that there are enough Members.

It was Proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone

Seconded by Cllr. David Fitzgerald

And agreed;

“That Cllr. Andrew McGuinness would be Chair of the Committee”.

Cllr McGuinness stated that he was delighted to be chair of the committee. He explained that the Committee was set up in 2015 to establish further connections and engage in positive projects with the towns that Kilkenny have been twinned with. The Mayor changes every year and in order for many projects to be seen through the Chair should be appointed for the length of the Council and not just one year.

All the members can be part of the Committee but it will normally be around 3 members.

**5. Fógra Foriarratais in ainm an Comh. David Fitzgerald dar dáta 10 i mblina, 2019.
Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. David Fitzgerald received 10th June, 2019**

"Following the closure of Willoughbys, Dubray books, Kings shoes and multiple other shops this motion calls on Kilkenny MDC to immediately establish a cross-party City centre task force to address the crisis in the commercial heart of our City Centre following recent business closures with multiple vacant shops by reducing the cost of doing business and by developing new ideas to encourage shoppers in to Kilkenny to protect jobs and the unique retail core of our City"

Cllr. Fitzgerald explained that his motion was intended to try and encompass the scale of shop closures in the City. In recent months he described the significant shop closures that had taken place and his fears in relation to the City centre.

It was Proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald
Seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

And agreed;

“That a cross party task force similar to the new homes taskforce be established”.

The terms of reference, remit and operation of the Committee will be agreed once the Committee is established. In terms of formation Cllr. Fitzgerald envisages (a) an all-party group (b) meeting and establishing terms of reference and formulating a framework and (c) identifying the key stakeholders, including businesses, individuals, Kilkenny Tourism, LEO, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr. Coonan, while supporting the motion has concerns. There have been some closures but Kilkenny is still a vibrant business centre and this is the message that must be sent out. Cllr. Brett will agree a date to begin the process and circulate information to members.

Mr. Butler said that the proposed make-up of the Committee will have to be clarified but it was a good idea.

**6. Fógra Foriarratais in ainm an Comh. John Coonan dar dáta 27 i mblina, 2019.
Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. John Coonan received 27th June, 2019**

It was Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan

Seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone

And Agreed:

“That Kilkenny City Municipal District give positive consideration to a much needed traffic management system for the area of Coach Road, Loreto View, and Church Lane”

Cllr. Coonan explained that during his recent election campaign people had concerns about the increase in traffic in the area of Coach Road, Loreto View, and Church Lane. He suggested the introduction of a traffic management system. Cllr Malone while seconding the motion asked if Blackmill street could be included.

Mr Walton explained that there was a scheme under way for Vicar Street and after the results of the traffic count there is a possibility Vicar Street could become one way. This would have an impact on the areas mentioned above. This motion however will not cover Blackmill Street.

**7. Fógra Foriarratais in ainm an Comh. Joe Malone dar dáta 27 i mblina, 2019.
Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Joe Malone received 27th June, 2019**

It was Proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone
Seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

And Agreed:

“That the Kilkenny Area Office develops a condition rating system for public footpaths in Kilkenny City and provides the details to the Kilkenny City Municipal District Committee in order for the Committee to develop a 5-year funded programme of footpath enhancement”.

Cllr. Malone explained that he had put forward this motion to try and get a system similar to the roads resurfacing programme for footpaths in the City. Cllr. Coonan queried if it was possible to apply for a block grant for footpaths. Mr. Walton explained that block grants to Urban Authorities have been abolished. There is approximately €2 million available under the Road Works Scheme but only €340,000 available for footpaths.

**8. Fógra Foriarratais in ainm an Comh. David Fitzgerald dar dáta 17 i mblina, 2019.
Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. David Fitzgerald received 17th June, 2019**

It was Proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald
Seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

And Agreed:

“That Kilkenny Municipal District draw up plans to develop a coach park to facilitate tourist set down and parking including secure overnight parking bays for coaches in our City”

Cllr. Fitzgerald explained that at the moment there is no secure overnight coach park for buses in the city and recently there has been thefts from some of the buses.

Mr. Butler explained that 20% of our tourist came to the city on buses and a certain % of these stay overnight. It has been proposed to have a temporary coach park at the brewery site but this had run into difficulties. A strategically placed coach park could help to get tourist down town.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
MAYOR

Date: _____