

# CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A  
TIONÓLADH AN 9 MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2022

*MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING  
HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT 2.30 P.M.*

Mayor, Councillor David Fitzgerald, Presiding.

Present/ I Láthair:-

*Councillors/Comhairleoirí:* Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness.

*Apologies:* Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

*Also Present:* Mr. Tim Butler Director of Services, Mr. Ian Gardner Senior Engineer, Ms. Anne Maria Walsh Senior Executive Officer, Tony Lauhoff Senior Executive Officer, Andrew Wall, A/Staff Officer.

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## MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, 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 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation.

It was:

**Proposed By:** Cllr. Joe Malone

**Seconded By:** Cllr. John Coonan

**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 Mayor**

**The Mayor:**

- Held a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the late Kieran Crotty who served as a TD from 1969 to 1989 and was elected as Mayor of Kilkenny 6 times and to Queen Elizabeth.
- Creation of 800 jobs at Abbott's new state of the art manufacturing facility in the city. Wonderful opportunity for the city's economy, conscious of the new infrastructure needed within the City and Environs such as housing and roads to facilitate the new demands.

- Attended a public consultation meeting on the draft masterplan for the Loughmacask area at the Dickborough Club. The Mayor requested an update from the Planning Office at the next meeting.
- Attention to be given to the infrastructure of the City in order to cope with future expanding growth.
- Due to the increase in energy costs the local authority need to be aware of their energy usage throughout all offices.

### **3. Conaire Braille - Braille Trail (Kilkenny Access Group)**

Rob Tobin Architect gave a presentation to the meeting on universal access to be included in the Abbey Quarter Masterplan Development. In his presentation he gave an overview on the following:

1. Who we are and who we represent.
2. Our group's engagement with the Abbey Quarter Masterplan.
3. Universal Access and the Abbey Quarter Masterplan.
  - a. Planning background
  - b. Submission of Access Statement (Sep 2021)
  - c. Submission in response to Watergate Urban Park consultation (Nov 2021)
  - d. Current Masterplan site strategy
4. Relevant precedents and exemplars
  - a. Linear Parks
  - b. Sensory wayfinding and placemaking
  - c. Braille Trails and Assistive Technologies
5. Future of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan
  - a. Masterplan review - brief to consider Masterplan scope, extension of site boundaries
  - b. Ensuring Universal Access in all Phases of the Abbey Quarter Development
  - c. Permeation from Abbey Quarter to the wider City - opportunities and challenges

The Members welcomed and thanked the NCBI Kilkenny Access Group for the informative presentation and apologised to the group for lack of accessibility to the building but advised that upgrade works will be undertaken shortly to bring the building up to current standards.

Mr. Tony Lauhoff (Project Officer) Abbey Quarter welcomed and acknowledged Mr. Rob Tobin's presentation and the contributions that have been incorporated into the design detail of the Abbey Quarter. Mr. Lauhoff added that he is looking forward to working with NCBI and the Kilkenny Access Group over the coming months.

Contributions were raised by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. Joe Coonan, Cllr. Maria Dollard & Cllr. David Fitzgerald.

Mr. Rob Tobin, Paul O'Rahilly, Geraldine Coyle, and Mr. Tim Butler and responded to the contributions raised by the Members.

#### 4. Nuashonrú ar Bhóithre - Roads Update

Mr. Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer provided a report for the Members detailing works undertaken throughout the City and Environs. The report included a list of works undertaken in the Municipal District of Kilkenny City:

- Pavement Improvement Works
  - Mayfield/The Paddocks resurfacing (500m)
  - L6647 Poulgour surface dressing (R.I)
  - James's Park Car Park surface dressing (4,000m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Old Golf Links Road cul-de-sac surface dressing
  - Patching works at 35 locations
    - Newpark Drive, Lovers Lane, Hebron Road, Aughmalogue, New Street, Stephen Street & Dominic Street
- Footpath Improvement Works
  - Parnell Street footpath improvements
  - Dean Cavanagh footpath improvements
  - Newpark Drive footpath improvements
  - Ring Road tree removal - Dublin Road to Hebron Road
  - Ormonde Road build-out for bus shelter
  - Shared surface at Drakelands - phase 1 commenced
  - Minor footpath repairs at various locations
- Drainage Improvement Works
  - Beech Park drainage improvement
  - Glendine Court soak-away improvement
  - Rosehill court drainage improvement
  - Dunmore Village soak-away provision
- Public Lighting Works
  - New light provided and energised at Ring Road steps to Ballyfoyle Road
  - Ballyfoyle Road lighting energised
  - Pockocke Park lighting energised
  - Lane from Gaol Road to St. Rioch's Street lighting energised
- Other Information
  - Drainage maintenance following recent thunderstorm
  - Significant renewal of road markings
  - Active Travel - appointment of consultants
    - Ring Road Active Travel Improvement Scheme - Initial meeting with Consultants
    - Inner Orbital Active Travel Route Scheme - Consultants appointed
    - Greens Bridge Improvement Scheme - Consultants appointed
    - Lacken Boardwalk Improvement Scheme - Consultants appointed
    - Laneways to West of City Centre Feasibility Study - Consultants appointed.

The Members thanked Mr. Ian Gardner, Contributions were received from Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr Maria Dollard, Cllr John Coonan, and Cllr. Joe Malone.

Issues raised by Members as follows:

- Active Travel funding.
- Ormonde Street works completion date.
- Flooding mitigation at Michael Street.
- Lighting of building throughout the City and energy costs.
- The financing of tree removal (path and road damage).
- St. Fiacre's Place footpath repair delays.
- William Street - street repairs (poor surface) and drainage.

Mr. Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer and Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Service responded to the contributions raised by the Members.

## **5. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion**

### **(6) 22 Cllr. John Coonan**

"That Kilkenny County Council carries out an audit of all illegal/unauthorised signage in Kilkenny City Centre including shop fronts, sandwich boards, commercial signage etc.,

With a view to ensuring that all such signage conforms with adopted policies and/or licence requirements"

Cllr. John Coonan spoke on his motion.

The motion was carried, seconded by Cllr. Maria Dollard.

## **6. Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business**

Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer advised that a twinning request was received from the Mayor of Margny-lès-Compiègne in France. However, the twinning sub Council decided not to enter into any further twinning agreements at this time. Ms. Walsh recommended that at present we need to strengthen the ties between the 4 Cities/Towns that we are currently twinned with.

Members agreed no to enter into a twinning agreement with Margny-lès-Compiègne in France.

Cllr. John Coonan expressed serious concerns regarding the future of the Citizens Information Service across the County, changes by the National Citizens Information Board resulted in the closure of offices across the County. Cllr. Coonan suggested that the Municipal District should write to the Minister and the Citizen Information Board to express our dissatisfaction at the current strategy and the future of the service.

Cllr. Coonan advised the Members that he will bring the matter forward as a Notice of Motion at next month's meeting.

Cllr. Martin Brett expressed his concern regarding safety access to the Ring Road especially with the new manufacturing facility at Abbot's which is currently proposed. Mr. Brett sought an update on the matter.

Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer responded and advised that a Consultant has been appointed to review all access/junctions/traffic flow on the Ring Road and to carry out an extensive safety audit.

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness conveyed the need for the adoption of the River Management Plan for the upkeep/maintenance of our River banks.

Tim Butler Director of Service advised that the maintenance of River banks is under the remit of LAPRO, Parks and Wildlife and National Waterways Ireland. Mr. Butler will link in with the responsible bodies to seek a resolution.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald invited the members to meet the Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland, Ms. Larysa Gerasko will be attending a meeting in City Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

The Mayor thanked all for attending.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_