

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 4th November, 2013

Chair: Cllr. P. Dunphy

Councillors: M. H. Cavanagh, P. Millea, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, C. Connery, J. Coonan, M. Fitzpatrick, M. Brett, P. Cuddihy, M. Noonan, D. Fitzgerald, M. Doran, W. Ireland, T. Maher, P. Crowley, J. Moran, T. Prendergast, M. O' Brien, S. Treacy, C. Long, T. Breathnach, A.M. Irish, E. Aylward, F. Doherty.

Officials: J. Crockett, J. Mulholland, S. Walton, F. Stafford and A.M Walsh.

Cllr. P. Dunphy welcomed the members to the Special Meeting to discuss one item – Thomastown Urban and Village Renewal Project.

1. Part 8 Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001-2013 Thomastown Urban and Village Renewal
Mr. J. Mulholland referred to the Part 8 Planning Report circulated today in relation to the Thomastown Village Renewal Scheme. He advised that a lot of submissions have been received mostly in relation to parking issues. Funding from Leader has been secured and a decision of the Council on the planning process is required to progress the project.

Mr. S. Walton updated the members on the detail of the scheme. He outlined that this project is been undertaken in co-operation and consultation with Kilkenny Leader Partnership and Thomastown Tidy Towns Committee. The estimated cost of the project is €663,000. Funding of €500,000 is being provided by the Leader Partnership €135,000 from Kilkenny County Council and €33,000 from local funding. He outlined a brief description of the works to be undertaken and the benefits from the proposed works. Full details are contained in the report. The Part 8 approval will cover works in 4 streets – Market Street, Pipe Street, Logan Street and Low Street. However due to the constraints on funding works in Logan Street these will not be undertaken at this time. Extensive consultation was held with the traders in Thomastown and other statutory and non statutory agencies were also consulted. Main concerns relate to parking issues, all day parking and turn around of parking spaces. There will be an overall loss of 2 car park spaces in the 4 streets.

The approval of the Thomastown Urban and Village Renewal Scheme is recommended.

Contributions were received from Cllrs J. Moran, S. Treacy, P. Cuddihy, M. Noonan, M. Shortall, T. Maher, T. Prendergast, M. O' Brien, P. Dunphy and P. Crowley.

Members welcomed the proposed scheme and the funding of €663,000 for the works. Specific queries arose in relation to the following:-

- Eliminate illegal parking
- Provision of 1hr/2hr periods for parking.
- Encourage all day parking to the car parks on the Quay
- Provision of parking for residents and people with Disabilities.
- Option for introduction of Bye Laws and paid parking - trial basis/enforcement of bye-laws
- Provision of bus shelter - relocation of bus stop
- Provision of plaza at Sessions House
- Timescale for proposed works and minimise disruption for the traders and the community.
- Provision of defibrillator.
- Lessons learned from traffic management and parking in Castlecomer and Callan.

Mr. Mulholland and Mr. Walton responded to all the issues that arose.

Mr. Mulholland advised that consideration is being given to developing a local code of practice. Bye-laws might damage the trade in the town centre. Enforcement of bye-laws might also be an issue. Encourage local self enforcing is the way forward and advisory signs will be provided as part of the scheme.

Mr. Walton outlined that tenders have been sought for the work on Market Street, Pipe Street and Low Street and we will be in a position to appoint contractor soon. Work will commence in early 2014 and will be for 6 month duration. Disruption will be confined and limited to areas. He outlined alternative proposals for parking/plaza layout at the Sessions House in Logan Street. These works will be carried out at a later stage subject to funding being received. It was proposed by Cllr. M. O' Brien, Seconded by Cllr. J. Moran and agreed.

“That we the members of Kilkenny County Council approve Thomastown Urban and Village Renewal Scheme as set out in the County Managers Report dated 4th November, 2013 subject to the reconsideration of the parking/plaza in the area immediately adjacent to the Sessions House/Old Courthouse on Logan Street, Thomastown”.

2. Any Other Business

Mr. Crockett updated the meeting on the draft development contribution scheme. He advised that this has been deferred due to transfer of function to Irish Water and the uncertainty in relation to development levies for water and waste water. It is now anticipated that the Local Authority will not have to levy for water and waste water as and from 1st January, 2014. Legislation is expected to be published shortly and it may be possible to bring a revised contribution scheme before the members in December, 2013.

Business of the meeting concluded at 3.15p.m.

Signed:_____

Cathaoirleach

Date:_____