



MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
ON MONDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021 AT 2.30 P.M. VIA MS TEAMS

**Chair:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

**Cllrs:** Eamon Aylward, Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, Martin Brett, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ger Frisby, Denis Hynes, Joe Lyons, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Eugene McGuinness & Patrick O'Neill.

**Officials:** Colette Byrne, Martin Prendiville, Mary Mulholland, Tim Butler, Sean McKeown, Frank Stafford, Martina Comerford, Fiona Deegan, Denis Malone, Nicolaas Louw & Anne Maria Walsh.

**1. Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes**

(a) **Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021**

Proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

*"That the Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".*

(b) Ms. Anne Maria Walsh requested approval of Members to an amendment to Minutes approved for 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 due to a clerical error in Item 2 (a) (iii) Disposal of Land at Vicar Street, Kilkenny. The proposer in the Minutes should read Cllr. Pat Millea and not Cllr. Joe Malone.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Cllr. Maria Dollard and agreed by all that the amended Minutes of the Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 be approved.

**2. (b) Aitheasc an Aire Noonan - Minister Noonan's Address**

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness requested Members approval to deal with Item No. 2 (b) at this stage, and this was agreed. He welcomed Deputy Malcolm Noonan to the meeting and congratulated him on his elevation to Minister.

He invited the Minister to address the meeting.

Deputy Malcolm Noonan thanked the Council for the invitation to address the Council. In his address to the Elected Members he referred to the following in detail:

- Covid 19 Pandemic – Role of Local Government Community Call etc.
- Urban Regeneration & Development Fund – Abbey Quarter Developments.
- Sustainable Mobility and Urban Living.
- Technological University for the South East – Third Level Campus for Kilkenny.
- Rural Towns – closure of banks, more services for Post Offices.
- Heritage – Bio Diversity Strategy, Built Heritage & Historic Structures Fund, Community Monuments Fund.
- Electoral Reform – modernisation of Electoral Register, legislate for regulations of online political advertising, voting from age of 16 years.
- Representation of women on Councils and in politics generally.
- Community Supports during Covid – commended the Council, Library Services and Local Enterprise Office.
- Northern Section of Ring Road.
- Support to the Council for funding major Projects.

Members thanked Minister Noonan for his address and welcomed him back to the Council Meeting. Cllrs. Peter Cleere, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Eugene McGuinness, Tomás Breathnach, Patrick O'Neill and Deirdre Cullen made contributions and brought the following issues to the Minister's attention:

- Investment in the Abbey Quarter welcomed.
- TUSE and presence of a significant campus in Kilkenny.
- Northern Ring Road for Kilkenny City.
- Town & Village Renewal funding – develop living villages in the County.
- Promotion of bio-diversity projects.
- Welcome funding under URDF and requested similar funding under RRDF for the towns and villages.
- Built Heritage – need for increased funding – retain farm buildings.
- Closure of Banks – need to have a future use for these prominent buildings.
- Need to have a focus on Regional issues.
- Use of Social Media in Politics – need to legislate.
- Gender balance required in Politics – need to encourage females to participate.

Minister Noonan responded to the issues raised by the Members and advised Members that he will be working for the people of Kilkenny and will support all projects. He advised Members that he will take on board their concerns/issues in relation to all the items raised. He spoke on the idea of a creative Arts Campus for Kilkenny, the established Commission on Electoral Region, barriers for women entering politics, our built Heritage and funding for smaller towns and villages.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked Minister Noonan for his address and stated that we are all very proud to have you here with us today as a Minister.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness wished all a very Happy St. Patrick's Day.

He congratulated Cartoon Saloon on their Oscar Nomination for Wolf Walkers.

He welcomed the announcement of €18m for projects in Kilkenny City under the URDF. Ms. Colette Byrne stated that this is great news for Kilkenny. Funding of €11.46m has been approved for the New Street & Park in the Abbey Quarter. Works on the two Tea Rooms and plans for the Boardwalk under Greensbridge will be progressed with this funding.

€6.64m was approved for upgrading streets and laneways in the City Centre around the Medieval Mile Museum, along with High St, Kieran St and Rose Inn St and the area around the Carnegie Library/Butler Gallery. Works on the new Library at the Mayfair will commence later this year.

Cllrs. John Coonan and Andrew McGuinness contributed and spoke of the exciting projects to be delivered for the City. The proposed works will bring connectivity between all the historic sites and enable people to move around the City with more comfort.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness congratulated the St. Patrick's Day Committee on the proposed virtual events planned for the day. He paid tribute to Marian Flannery, Event Manager on the whole range of events. Mr. Tim Butler shared a number of short promotional videos for some of the virtual events for the St. Patrick's Day Festivals. Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty, Deirdre Cullen and Joe Malone welcomed the events and the greening of the City and towns around the County.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness extended votes of sympathy to the following:

- Fergus O’Hanrahan, IT Department on the death of his Father Michael.
- Family of the late Martin Fitzpatrick, Urlingford [*Former Councillor*].
- Family of the late Teresa Wall, Fatima Place.
- Family of the late Francis Dooley, Russellstown.
- Family of the late William Kelly, Bennettsbridge
- Family of the late Walter Whelan, Mill Road, Mullinavat.
- Family of the late Sean Roche, Tullogher.
- Family of the late Dick Dunne, Kilkenny Association, New York.
- Family of the late Mary Power, Mullinavat.
- Family of the late Kay Lynch, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Maureen Kelly, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Ann Murphy, Tullogher.
- Family of the late Nellie Croke, Slieverue.
- Family of the late Ann Murphy, Tullogher.
- Family of the late Lizzy Sutton, Mullinavat.

Cllrs. Michael McCarthy and Mary Hilda Cavanagh were associated with the Votes of Sympathy to the late Martin Fitzpatrick who was a former Councillor for 20 years. Cllr. Michael McCarthy proposed an adjournment of 15 minutes as a mark of respect. This was seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 3.30 p.m. for 15 minutes.

Meeting resumed at 3.45 p.m.

2. (a) (i) ***Cuid 8: Bithéagsúlacht agus Áineas Chill Chainnigh Páirc Tuaithe***  
**Part 8: Kilkenny Biodiversity & Recreation Countryside Park**

Mr. Frank Stafford, A/Senior Engineer gave a Powerpoint Presentation on the Part 8 Planning process for the Biodiversity and Recreation Countryside Park.

In his presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Background and Proposal.
- Part 8 Planning Public Consultation.
- Submissions Summary – 17 received – undertaking and modification.
- Funding Applications.
- Recommendations – Chief Executive recommends approval of the proposed development.

He referred Members to the Chief Executive Report dated 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 with associated documents.

Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, David Fitzgerald, Maria Dollard, Martin Brett. Pat Fitzpatrick, John Coonan, Patrick O’Neill, Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Joe Malone contributed to this item.

Members raised the following issues:

- Repurposing the Landfill – welcomed Project.
- Walking/Cycling to be promoted.
- Accessible Toilets/Parking Bays.
- Flooding on Bleach Road.
- Need for North Kilkenny Greenway.
- Welcomed Dog Park.
- Community Shop/Café in Dunmore.
- Safety issues if using N77 Road – need for footpath from roundabout to Centre.
- Naming of Park.
- Buses using Bleach Road – extend routes of City Bus to Park.

Mr. Tim Butler responded to the items raised on roads and advised that TII are responsible for the N77 National Secondary Roads. Feasibility Study has been completed. Any works would require land take. Accident data is not significant to justify proposed works and approval of TII would be required together with funding.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. David Fitzgerald and agreed:

*We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves the proposed Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended for the repurposing and development of the now closed municipal landfill at Dunmore, County Kilkenny, into a biodiversity and recreation countryside park, as circulated."*

(ii) ***Cuid 8: The Latrine, Butler Gallery, Evans' Home, Johns Quay***  
***Part 8: The Latrine, Butler Gallery, Evans' Home, Johns Quay***

Mr. Tim Butler presented the Chief Executive's report dated 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 on the Part 8 Planning for development of the Latrine, Butler Gallery, Evan's Home, John's Quay, Kilkenny.

The proposed development is for a small area in the corner of the site to create storage space for the Butler Gallery. There will be no alterations to the heritage wall. The proposed works will be funded by the Butler Gallery. The Chief Executive's Report recommends approval to the proposed development.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed:

*"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves the proposed Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended for the development at The Latrine, Butler Gallery, Evans' Home, Johns Quay, Kilkenny, as circulated."*

(iii) ***Aighneacht chuig an Dréacht Comhphlean Ceantair Áitiúil***  
***Submission to the Draft Joint Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Local Area Plan***

Mr. Nicolaas Louw, Senior Executive Planner presented the Chief Executive's Report dated February 2021 on the Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Draft Local Area Plan 2021-2027.

He advised that Draft Plan was on public display from 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 to 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. 17 submissions were received and details of these are included in the Chief Executive's Report. Online information meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. If Members decide to alter the Draft Plan the proposed alteration would be a material alteration to the Plan and a further period of public consultation is required.

The Chief Executive has recommended that the material alterations outlined in her report be accepted by the Council and published for a period of further public consultation in accordance with the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.

Cllrs. Peter Cleere and Deirdre Cullen acknowledged the work of the Planning Section and the collaboration with the two communities and Carlow County Council in preparing this draft Local Area Plan.

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and agreed that:

*"We the members of Kilkenny County Council having considered the proposal to make a joint Local Area Plan for Graiguenamangh-Tinnahinch for the period 2021 - 2027 under Section 18-20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and having considered the Chief Executive's Report as circulated on the 22nd February 2021 on the written submissions made during the formal consultation period do hereby consider that the proposed Draft Local Area Plan should be altered in accordance with procedures under Section 20(3) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and with our decision made at a meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on the 15th March 2021".*

(iv) **Cúram a dhéanamh ar Eastáit: Bellfield, Ferrybank**  
**Taking in Charge of Estates: Bellfield, Ferrybank**

It was proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed that:

*"That the County Council of the County of Kilkenny, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010, hereby declares the road, listed in the Public Notice and listed below, to be a Public Road"*

**Development: Bellfield, Abbeylands, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny**

**Cúram a dhéanamh ar Eastáit: Banagher Court, Piltown**  
**Taking in Charge of Estates: Banagher Court, Piltown**

It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed that:

*"We, the members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010".*

**Development: Banagher Court, Main Street, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny**

**Cúram a dhéanamh ar Eastáit: The Green, Ballyfoyle**  
**Taking in Charge of Estates: The Green, Ballyfoyle**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney and agreed that:

*"We, the members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010".*

**Development: The Green, Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny**

**Cúram a dhéanamh ar Eastáit: Newpark Crescent, Kilkenny**  
**Taking in Charge of Estates: Newpark Crescent, Kilkenny**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that:

*"We, the members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010".*

**Development: Newpark Crescent, Golf Links Road, Kilkenny**



(v) **Feirm Gaoithe Castlebanny - Forbairt Bonneagair Straitéisigh  
Castlebanny Windfarm - Strategic Infrastructure Development**

Mr. Sean McKeown referred to the proposed Windfarm Development at Castlebanny. He advised that the Members of the Piltown Municipal District has requested a Special Meeting to consider the Strategic Infrastructure Development. The Chief Executive's Report is being prepared and Members are required to consider the report before it is sent to An Bord Pleanála.

It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that a Special Meeting be held on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at 3.30 p.m. to consider the Chief Executive's Report on this Strategic Infrastructure Development at Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny.

(c) (i) **Plean Comhtháthaithe Imirce - Migration Integration Plan**

Ms. Mary Mulholland presented the Kilkenny Migrant Integration Strategy. She advised Members that the Plan has been developed by Kilkenny County Council and a number of agencies working together. Work on the Plan commenced in 2020. Consultants were engaged to develop the Plan and carried out online consultations with the various interests groups. The Plan outlines 5 clear commitments to affirm the rights of all migrants to participate and integrate into Irish society on an equal basis with others.

Chapter 4 sets out individual actions to be implemented by various Lead Agencies. The Plan has been approved by Kilkenny LCDC and Strategic Policy Committee 5.

It was proposed by Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed by all that:

*"That the Migration Integration Plan is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."*

(ii) **Deontais faoin Acht Ealaíon 2021 - Arts Act Grants 2021**

Ms. Mary Mulholland presented her report on Arts Act Grants 2021. She advised that 15 applications have been received for grants. The applications have been assessed and it is recommended approval of €14,194 to 14 applications.

The Council also supports Residency Programmes at an annual cost of €5,400 under the Arts Grant Scheme. She advised Members that the balance of approx. €2,000 would be spent to facilitate displaying of art for our own Council buildings. Members were in agreement with this proposal.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard, seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons and agreed by all that:

*"That Kilkenny County Council approves the allocation of €14,595 to the 15 applicants approved under the Arts Grants 2021, as per report circulated".*

(d) (i) **Dréacht-Rialú ar Fhodhlíthe Capall 2021  
Draft Control of Horse Bye-Laws 2021**

Mr. Frank Stafford, A/Senior Engineer gave a PowerPoint presentation on the draft Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2021. In his presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Background to drafting of Bye-laws.
- Consultation undertaken in 2020: 3 submissions received.
- Outlined the main provision of the Bye-laws i.e. Exclusion Zones.

- Listed the Exclusion Areas.
- Listed the 7 exemptions permitted in the Bye-Laws.
- Summary of key submissions.
- Engagement with Animal Welfare Standards Committee, KTCM, Gardaí, My Lovely Horse and other interested parties.

Mr. Stafford advised that the Chief Executive has recommended that the Draft Bye-Laws be adopted by the Elected Members.

Members in general welcomed the introduction of Bye-Laws. Contributions were received from Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, Joe Malone, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Doyle, Pat Fitzpatrick, Patrick O'Neill, Maria Dollard, Martin Brett, Eugene McGuinness, Deirdre Cullen and John Coonan.

Issues/Concerns raised by Members as follows:

- Setting standards for animal welfare, young children dealing with animals, safety issues.
- Moving horse activities to rural areas.
- Licencing of horses/chipping horses.
- Role of Department of Agriculture.
- Bye-Laws applicable to all horse owners.
- Fines/penalties for contravening Bye-Laws.
- Concerns regarding numerous horrific events involving the welfare of horses.

Cllr. Maria Dollard advised that she is voting against the adoption of the Bye-laws. She stated that the introduction of these Bye-Laws can be perceived as intentional systemic racism linked to a horse culture within the traveller communities.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness completely refuted any accusation of systemic racism. The discussion on the Bye-laws applies to all members of our communities who owns/controls horses. It is about cruelty to animals and taking responsibility for animal ownership and their welfare.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone that:

*“That Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 47 of the Control of Horses Act 1996, hereby makes the Kilkenny County Council Control of Horses Act 1996 Bye Laws 2020”.*

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness advised that he was taking a vote on the adoption of the Bye-laws.

A roll was taken as follows:

*For [20] Cllrs. John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, Peter Cleere, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Doyle, Joe Lyons, Patrick O'Neill, Martin Brett, John Coonan, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Eamon Aylward, Tomás Breathnach, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy & Ger Frisby.*

*Against [1]: Cllr. Maria Dollard (1)*

*Did Not Vote [3]: Cllrs. Denis Hynes, Matt Doran, David Fitzgerald*

Adoption of Bye-Laws was carried by 20 votes to 1 vote.

**(ii) Deontais Reilig - Graveyard Grants**

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that the SPC has recommended the criteria for Graveyard Grants be amended to allow insurance costs to be regarded as an eligible expenditure. It is a matter for the Plenary Council to consider this and approve the change to the criteria for Graveyard Grants Scheme.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed:

*"That the Graveyard Grant Scheme's criteria be amended to include insurance cost as an eligible item of expenditure."*

**(e) (i) Deontais Féile 2021 - Festival Grants 2021**

Ms. Martina Comerford presented the report on the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme for 2021. She advised that a provision of €112,000 was included in the 2021 Budget. Due to Covid uncertainty, €30,000 will be deferred until there is clearer visibility on income streams for 2021. 80% of the Budget will be allocated to Tourism Festival Grant Scheme and 20% to Community Festival Grant Scheme. 11 grant applications were received under the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme. At this time, €65,600 is available for allocation. It is recommended that Festival Grants be awarded funding to a total of €56,500. It is further recommended that the balance of €9,100 be set aside to cover the cost of allowing Community Groups to avail of the Festival Kit purchased in 2020. The cost to be covered relates to transport/set up etc.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Pat Fitzpatrick, Martin Brett and Michael Doyle. Members welcomed any assistance that can be given to Festivals at this time. Issues raised by Members related to the following:

- Supporting local Artists with live streaming and virtual events e.g. equipment and facilities.
- Support the availability of Festival Kit for all groups across the County.

Ms. Comerford responded to the issues raised and advised that the Department of Arts have a live performance fund and local artists may be able to source these funds.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that:

*"That the Festival & Event Grants 2021 totalling €56,500 are hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council, as per report circulated."*

**(ii) Painéal Eacnamaíochta Chill Chainnigh  
Economic Dashboard for Kilkenny**

Ms. Fiona Deegan presented the Economic Dashboard for March 2021. She gave an overview on the following statistics/data for the County and rest of Ireland:

- Labour Market – Labour Force, Live Register, Pandemic Unemployment Payment/Wage Subsidy Scheme.
- Residential Property – for sale, rent, planning approvals etc.
- Business Activity – employment statistics, IDA job announcements, Rates Waiver 2020.
- Investment in schools in Kilkenny City.



Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked Ms. Deegan for the detailed presentation on economic activity in the County.

Queries were raised by Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach and Pat Fitzpatrick in relation to:

- Comparison with other Counties.
- Delays in commencing housing development due to approval of Irish Water required for connections to public systems.

Mr. Tim Butler advised that no project is being delayed due to lack of water connection. Some developments have been granted permission for a temporary private supply.

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that figures are based on existing Planning Permissions and Commencement Notices. Ms. Fiona Deegan advised that she will compare activity with Counties in the South East.

(f) (i) ***Tuarascáil an Choiste Iniúchóireachta 2020 - Audit Committee Report 2020***

Mr. Tim Butler presented the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2020. He advised that the role of the Audit Committee is, as an independent group consisting of 3 external members and 2 councillors, advising on financial reporting processes, internal controls, Risk Management and Audit matters. The report outlines the activities/work of the committee for the year.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed by all that:

*"That the Audit Committee Report 2020 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."*

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness enquired if the Council has made any provision for redress for the Mothers & Babies Home. Mr. Butler advised that this will be dealt with nationally. No provision has been made in the 2021 Budget by the Council.

(ii) ***Cairt agus Clár Oibre an Choiste Iniúchóireachta 2021  
Audit Committee Charter & Work Programme 2021***

Mr. Tim Butler presented the Audit Committee Charter and Work Programme for 2021. The Charter sets out the purpose, functions, compositions and operations of the Audit Committee. The Work Programme sets out the area that will be reviewed by the Committee in 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed by all that:

*"That the Audit Committee Charter & Work Programme for 2021 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."*

(iii) ***Tuarascáil Mhíosúil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh  
Chief Executive's Monthly Report***

Ms. Colette Byrne, Chief Executive presented her monthly Chief Executive Report. She advised Members that if there are any questions she is available by phone.

Mr. Martin Prendiville advised that the Council has received compensation of €2.29 for 2020 from the Department. The Watershed received €200,000. Work is ongoing in finalising the accounts for 2020.

He further advised that online applications are now been accepted for the Small Business Assistance Scheme. The maximum grant available is €8,000. Details are on the Council's website.

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness raised a query in relation to expenditure of €500,000 on homeless services during the pandemic in Kilkenny.

Ms. Mary Mulholland advised that this amount covers the normal provision of homeless services in Kilkenny in any year. It provides for hostel/hotel accommodation, staff delivering HAP services etc.

(iv) ***Deiseanna maidir le Spásanna Allamuigh***  
**Opportunities in respect of Outdoor Spaces**

Mr. Tim Butler gave a PowerPoint presentation of opportunities for Outdoor Spaces. In his presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Dining Street Furniture Scheme for businesses.
- Weatherproofing of public outdoor dining areas.
- Urban Animating Spaces in Kilkenny
- Outdoor Performance Area.

Other matters covered in the presentation included:

- Outdoor Dining Upgrade & Enhancement Scheme.
- Overview of current facilities in Kilkenny City.
- Urban Animation Scheme and proposals from Kilkenny County Council.
- Re-imagining Outdoor Public Spaces.
- Proposal for Outdoor Performance Space adjacent to Watergate Theatre.
- Accelerated Projects under Town & Village funds – projects in progress and proposed projects.
- Projects under RRDF – Callan & Thomastown.
- Other Projects – Active Travel, RRDF Piltown, Pedestrian Bridge Castlecomer, ORIS & KLP.

As the meeting was approaching 6.00 p.m. it was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed by all to suspend Standing Orders to complete Item 2 (f) (iii).

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked Mr. Butler for his presentation and welcomed any funds that will assist in outdoor performances for all artists.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Eugene McGuinness, Pat Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Cullen, Fidelis Doherty and Michael Delaney in relation to the following:

- Outdoor seating areas throughout the City and County towns and villages.
- Walking and Cycling Tracks.
- Town & Village Funds – for the smaller villages in the County.

Mr. Tim Butler responded to the issues raised by the Members and advised that Outdoor Dining Areas/Seating will be facilitated in areas where the space is available. Individual premises can also provide their own outdoor seating licence permitting and subject to compliance with planning if on their own property.

Consideration will be given to more bicycle racks to encourage people to stop at various amenity areas and villages.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness advised that all other items on the Agenda will be deferred to the April Meeting.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**DATE**