

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR AN GCRUINNIÚ IOMLÁNACH DE CHUID
CHOMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH TIONÓLTA AR AN LUAN,
16 DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2023 AG 3.00 I.N. I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE,
HALLA AN CHONTAE & VIA FOIRNE MS**



**MINUTES OF PLENARY MEETING OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 2023 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS**

Chair: Cllr. Michael Doyle.

Elected Members: *Council Chamber*

Cllrs. John Brennan, Martin Brett, Tomás Breathnach, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, John Coonan, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Pat Dunphy, Pat Fitzpatrick, David Fitzgerald, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness & Eugene McGuinness.

MS Teams

Cllrs. Eamon Aylward, Peter Cleere, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Matt Doran, Ger Frisby, Joe Lyons, Michael McCarthy & Patrick O'Neill.

Officials: Lar Power, Tim Butler, Sean McKeown, Mary Mulholland, Martin Prendiville, Fiona Deegan, Michael Leahy, David Shortall, Maria O'Shea, Seamus Kavanagh, Stan Cullen, Dearbhala Ledwidge & Anne Maria Walsh.

1. Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes

(i) *Miontuairiscí Chruinniú Iomlánach mhí Dheireadh Fómhair*
Minutes of October Plenary Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed:

"That Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 18th September, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(ii) *Miontuairiscí ar Chruinniú Speisialta Chomhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh*
Minutes of Special Meeting of Kilkenny County Council

Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed:

"That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Friday, 29th September, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(iii) *Miontuairiscí Chruinniú SPC 1 - Minutes of SPC 1 Meeting*

Proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed:

"That the Minutes of SPC 1 Meeting: Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning & Development Policy held on Thursday, 22nd June, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

Fógraí - Announcements

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Doyle complimented all who competed in the National Tidy Towns Competition and thanked all the communities and staff who were involved in improving the standards of all towns/villages.

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Doyle extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Nuala Roche, Library Services on the death of her father Raymond Roche, Dublin.
- Paul & Regina Moran on the death of Paul's mother Ciss Moran, Bennettsbridge.
- Walter Comerford, Kilkenny MD on the death of his mother Margaret Comerford, Kilkenny.
- Jacqueline Byrne, Motor Tax on the death of her nephew Kevin McEvoy.
- Family of the late Bidy Reade, Mullinavat.
- Family of the late Paddy Heffernan, Tullogher.
- Family of the late Mary Rockett, Slieverue.

2. (a) Tithíocht & Díuscairt Eile - Housing & Other Disposal

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle and agreed:

"That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest, in Property at Grenan Mill, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny - as identified on the attached map - to Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board, Seville Lodge, Callan Road, Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required."

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed:

"That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in a plot of ground at Belview, Gorteens, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny - as identified on the attached map - to Store-All Logistics Ltd, Storeall, Kilmurry, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny for the sum of €16,000 with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. The area measures 0.27 acres. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required."

(b) Pleanail - Planning

- (i) **Ag Glacadh i gCúram Taking in Charge [Final]: Abbeygate, Ferrybank**

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, 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: TIC168 - Final: Abbeygate, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny

- (ii) **Ag Glacadh i gCúram Taking in Charge [Final]: Breaghagh Court**

It was proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett 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: TIC106 - Final: Breaghagh Court, Kilkenny

- (iii) **Ag Glacadh i gCúram Taking in Charge [Final]: Patricks Gate, Kilkenny**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. David Fitzgerald 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: TIC088 - Final: Patricks Gate, Kilkenny

(iv) ***Ag Glacadh i gCúram Taking in Charge [Final]: The Belfry, Thomastown***

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, 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: TIC107 – Final: The Belfry, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

(c) **Bóithre - Roads**

(i) ***Plean Cothabhála Geimhridh 2023/2024 - Winter Maintenance Plan 2023/2024***

Mr. Tim Butler presented his report on the Winter Maintenance Plan for 2023/2024. He advised the Members that the service delivery target is to keep Priority 1 and 2 network frost/ice free over the 24 hours/7 days a week. The total length of the network is 427km. Four vehicles are deployed to deliver this service.

Elected Members will be given an opportunity at their Municipal District Meeting to discuss the proposed Priority 3 Routes. These routes will receive treatment during periods of particularly severe weather. Kilkenny County Council also has a Severe Weather Plan in operation for severe weather events. This provides for the pooling of resources with IFA, local schools and other emergency service providers.

Mr. Butler advised that drivers and road users must also take account of prevailing weather in the interest of Road Safety.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty, David Fitzgerald, Eugene McGuinness, Pat Fitzpatrick and Maria Dollard in relation to the following:

- Availability of salt to local communities.
- Salting of footpaths.
- Salting of roads in high areas.
- Removal of fallen boughs

Mr. Tim Butler responded to the queries raised by the Members.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that:

"That Kilkenny County Council approves the Winter Maintenance Plan 2023/2024 as circulated to the Members."

(ii) ***Alt 38 Scéim Feabhsúcháin Sráidbhaile Fiddown 2023***
Section 38 Fiddown Village Improvement Scheme 2023

Mr. Tim Butler introduced Ms. Aideen Curran, Roadplan who will give a PowerPoint Presentation on the proposed improvement works to Fiddown Village.

Ms. Aideen Curran in her presentation gave an overview on the following:

- Existing conditions of the road/footpaths in the village.
- Proposed improvements.
- Relocated Bus Stop.
- Raised Table Crossing/Junction Tightening.

- Benefits of the Scheme.
- Public Consultation – 2 submissions received.
- Informal consultation with local businesses.
- Amendments proposed to scheme as advertised.

Contributions were received from Cllr. Pat Dunphy in relation to safety of pedestrians, improvements to set down for bus and funding.

Mr. Tim Butler advised that funding has been approved for these improvement work.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed that:

“That Kilkenny County Council approves the amended Fiddown Village Improvement Scheme 2023, in accordance with Section 38(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1994, as amended.

(iii) **Alt 39 Scéim Maolaithe Tráchtá Mhullach Bro 2023**
Section 39 Mullinabro Traffic Calming Scheme 2023

Mr. Stan Cullen, Area Engineer gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme at Mullinabro.

In his presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Objective and context of the Traffic Calming Scheme.
- Proposed Works.
- Public Consultations – 5 submissions received.
- Issues raised in the submissions.
- Post Consultation amendments.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Pat Dunphy, Fidelis Doherty, Ger Frisby and Eamon Aylward.

Issues raised by Members as follows:

- Mobility Management Plan for Ferrybank.
- Additional public lights – Mullinabro/Cloone Road.
- Improvements to footpaths, signage required.
- Speed in this location.
- Active Travel measures.

Mr. Cullen responded to the issues raised and advised that the funding in place does not allow for additional public lights. He will consider a Scheme for the Cloone Road and there will be active travel measures undertaken in the future in this area.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed that:

“That Kilkenny County Council approves the amended Mullinabro Traffic Calming Scheme 2023, in accordance with Section 38(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1994, as amended.”

(d) **Airgeadas – Finance**

(i) **Saoráid Rótharraingte a Fhormheas - Approval of Overdraft Facility**

Mr. Martin Prendiville advised the meeting that a facility of €20m for overdraft is being requested for the Year 2024. This is the same amount as approved for 2023. The approval of the Department will be required if the Members approve of the €20m facility.

Queries were raised by Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty, Andrew McGuinness and Eugene McGuinness as follows:

- Interest Rate.
- Need for such a large amount.
- Circumstances where the Council would use facility.

Mr. Martin Prendiville responded to the queries raised and advised that the Finance Team monitors cash flows at all times. There may be a slight time lag between payments and receipts. The interest rate is currently between 5% and 6%.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew Mc Guinness, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that:

"That subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves overdraft borrowings to a maximum amount of €20,000,000 for the full year ending 31st December, 2024."

(e) **Economic Development – Forbairt Eacnamaíoch**

(i) ***Critéir Mheastóireachta Deontas Féile - Festival Grants Evaluation Criteria***

Mr. Sean McKeown referred Members to the Report circulated with the Agenda. He advised that an internal review of the terms and criteria for the Festival and Event Grant Scheme was undertaken. The report circulated outlines four recommendations for consideration and approval of the Members for the Grant Scheme for the Year 2024.

The four recommendations are:

- (i) Funding to be set aside of €2,000 per annum for the Festivals Kit.
- (ii) Fund continues to be split on a ratio of 80:20 for festivals with a substantial tourism impact.
- (iii) Revision to the Evaluation Criteria.
- (iv) Strengthen Terms and Conditions particularly relating to financial risk and public liability.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness and Pat Fitzpatrick in relation to the following:

- Demand for Festival Kit.
- New Festivals applying for funding.
- Civic Festivals – cost of these – separate to Grant Scheme.
- Review of impact that festivals have for Kilkenny.

Mr. Sean McKeown responded to the issues raised by Members.

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

"That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the Terms & Conditions for the Festival & Event Grant Scheme as set out in letter and report dated 10th October, 2023 submitted to the Council."

- (i) ***Scéim Tosaíochtaí Ligin - Scheme of Letting Priorities***
- (ii) ***Ligean Bunaithe ar Rogha - Choice Based Letting [Presentation]***

Cathaoirleach advised that these two items will be taken together.

Ms. Mary Mulholland advised that a PowerPoint Presentation will be given on Choice Based Letting. Choice Based Letting will be incorporated into the Scheme of Letting Priorities and the adoption of this is a Reserved Function.

Choice Based Letting

Mr. David Shortall presented the PowerPoint Presentation and gave an overview on the following:

- What is Choice Based Letting and reasons for implementation.
- Overview of Housing Stock.
- Refusals rate and reasons for refusal.
- Process required for applicants for Choice Based Lettings.
- Procedure to be undertaken in future allocations.
- Properties to be excluded for Choice Based Letting.
- Advantages of Choice Based Letting.
- Assistance to be given.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Eamon Aylward, Eugene McGuinness, David Fitzgerald, Pat Dunphy, Tomás Breathnach, Patrick O'Neill, Deirdre Cullen, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness and Fidelis Doherty.

Issues raised by Members as follows:

- Scheme in operation in most Local Authorities.
- Allocations more transparent.
- Reduce refusal rate.
- Access to Scheme for people with IT difficulties.
- Assistance to Housing applicants to set up log in and password.
- Informing unsuccessful applicants.
- Clarify expression of interest for type of accommodation, 1 bed/2 bed etc.
- Training for Elected Members on the operation of the Scheme.
- Turnaround of vacant properties.
- Update on operation of Scheme to the Council.

Mr. Shortall responded to the Members in relation to the operation of the Scheme. Staff will assist and online tutorials will be available. Applicants will have the facility to view available properties weekly and once allocation is made the property will no longer appear on the system. Availability of houses depend on works being completed. Once keys to house are available the property will be advertised on the system.

Ms. Mary Mulholland advised that work has been undertaken on iHouse to prepare for the implementation. The onus is on the housing applicant to ensure their personal data is updated and information is current. She stated that customers are looking for online solutions and Housing and Library Staff will be available to assist at the start of the implementation. Members will be briefed on the system and be given an opportunity to view the operation online. The system does not currently have an option to notify unsuccessful applicants. The house once allocated does not appear on the system again. This issue will be considered.

Scheme of Letting Priorities

Mr. Michael Leahy advised that the Scheme of Letting Priorities has been amended to include Choice Based Letting, Right to Reside Policy & Succession Policy [*recently adopted by the Elected Members*]. The draft Scheme has been considered by SPC3 and they have recommended that the draft Scheme be adopted by the full Council.

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

"That Kilkenny County Council recommends that Choice Based Letting form part of the Scheme Letting Priorities."

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

"That Kilkenny County Council approves the Scheme Letting Priorities in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and the Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 (S.I. 198 of 2011)."

(g) Pobol Cultúr - Community & Culture

(i) *Dréacht-Straitéis Míchumais - Draft Disability Strategy*

This item was deferred to November Plenary Meeting.

(ii) *Teachta: 1916 – 1921 Coiste Séadchomhartha Bhriogáid Chill Chainnigh* **Deputation: 1916 – 1921 Kilkenny Brigade Monument Committee**

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Doyle welcomed the Deputation Mr. Jim Rowan and Mr. Willie Barron. He invited the Deputation to address the meeting.

Mr. Jim Rowan addressed the meeting. He outlined the purpose and make up of the committee. The aim of the committee is to ensure that a suitable permanent monument is erected in Kilkenny City to commemorate and remember the Old IRA Members from the Kilkenny Brigade who gave their lives to achieve Irish freedom during the 1916-1921 period. The monument will also pay tribute to Cumann na mBan.

The committee requested that the monument be placed in a visible prominent location in the City and suggested to the meeting the Abbey Quarter Area.

The committee requested the following:

- Assistance from Kilkenny County Council for processing planning application and technical assistance.
- Financial assistance from Kilkenny County Council for the monument and seating and planting surrounding the monument.

Cllr. Michael Doyle thanked Mr. Rowan for his address.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, David Fitzgerald, Joe Malone, Eugene McGuinness, Deirdre Cullen, Pat Fitzpatrick, Martin Brett, Maria Dollard, Tomás Breathnach, Pat Dunphy, John Coonan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Joe Lyons, John Brennan and Fidelis Doherty.

Members thanked the Committee for their work in bringing forward the proposal for a monument in the City. They endorsed their support for a fitting commemoration of the 1916-1921 period. They asked the Executive to consider the request and come back with a proposal on location and funding for the monument.

Cllr. Michael Doyle requested permission of the Members to move Item 3 (iii) at this stage. Members agreed to the request.

(iii) ***Athrú ar an bPlean Forbartha Cathrach agus Contae 2021-2027***
Variation to City & County Development Plan 2021-2027

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested support from the Elected Members to request the Chief Executive to initiate a Variation of the City & County Development in relation to the Wind Energy Section of the Plan. She referred to the document which she submitted under Correspondence and circulated with the Agenda. The proposed changes to the text in the Development Plan is highlighted in blue.

She proposed that the Chief Executive commence the process for a Variation.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded the proposal.

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that we need to manage expectations in relation to this proposal. He outlined his reasons for this.

Three elements to issue summarised as follows:

- (i) ***Status of Wind Strategy in our adopted CDP***
 - Kilkenny City & County Development Plan [KCDP] 2021-2027 adopted in September 2021
 - Elected Members amended Wind Energy Strategy of Draft Plan
 - Amendment reduced designated areas “acceptable in principle” on Wind Energy Strategy Map
 - 15th October, 2021, Minister on foot of Office of the Planning Regulator [OPR] recommendation issued notice of intention to issue Direction to Kilkenny County Council [KCC] to reinstate areas excluded by Elected Members
 - Minister has not yet finalised his decision on Direction.
 - We have written to Minister a number of times seeking update.
 - Pending outcome of Direction – 3 Sections of Draft CDP have been suspended.
 - 11.4 + 11.5.1 + Wind Energy Strat Map of CDP - have not come into effect.
- (ii) ***How are Planning Applications for Wind Developments currently handled by Kilkenny County Council?***
 - Planning Applications for wind farms < 50 megawatts must be considered by KCC on case by case basis by reference to National Policy, Ministerial Guidelines, etc.
 - Wind farms > 50 megawatts are SIDs - applications directly to An Bord Pleanála [ABP].
 - First of these in KK was Castlebanny Wind Farm.
 - Only role for Elected Members is advisory – ABP make decision.
- (iii) ***Process to initiating a Variation?***
 - Elected Members can ask Chief Executive [CE] to prepare a report to initiate a variation to CDP.
 - Proposed variation relates to Section 11.5.2 (d) and Section 11.5.3 of Adopted Plan
 - These 2 Sections that have been adopted in CDP.
 - CE must set out rationale for any variation – that is next step in process.
 - CE will revert with a report to Elected Members on whether or not variation can be initiated.

- needs to set out how it will contribute to achieving overall national targets on:
 - renewable energy, climate change and wind energy production
- Notification of any proposed variation must be referred to OPR and Minister
- OPR and Minister are likely to object to proposed variation.
- Any variation - environmental reports (AA; SEA; NIS) - take time to complete.
- period of public consultation (4 weeks)
- Following receipt of submissions CE will need to report to Members, including submissions from Minister or OPR
- So process if proceeds will take circa 3-4 months to complete.
- 3/4 of Elected Members present at Council Meeting must be in favour of variation.
- Minister may decide to issue fresh Direction thereby freezing proposed variation.
- Note in case of Westmeath County Council:
 - their Draft CDP contained setback distances for wind turbines according to height.
 - >150m CDP specified setback distance from 'residential dwellings' - 2 km.
 - OPR considered such mandatory set back distances would severely restrict potential for wind farm development, and contrary to national policy on wind energy.
 - Subsequently Minister issued Direction to remove setback distances from CDP.
- Council must implement any direction issued by Minister.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Martin Brett, Joe Malone, Maria Dollard, Patrick O'Neill, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Michael McCarthy, John Coonan, John Brennan, Tomás Breathnach and Pat Dunphy.

Members supported the proposal and voiced concerns that communities are not consulted in the planning of large windfarms. The scale, size and noise of large turbines are a concern for communities and particularly those living near them. The proposed text will assist in alleviating the concerns for any community where a windfarm development is proposed. Members expressed disappointment in the delay in receiving direction from the Minister, clarity is required as we are currently in limbo on Wind Energy Strategy. These developments should not be close to Urban Areas. Members also referred to lack of engagement with them when planning applications go directly to An Bord Pleanála.

(h) Comhshaol - Environment

- (i) ***Dréachtphlean Gníomhaíochta ar son na hAeráide - Draft Climate Action Plan***
 Ms. Dearbhala Ledwidge referred to Presentation circulated on the draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and asked Members to take note of the timelines listed. She advised that it is intended to publish the Draft Plan this week. There will be Public Consultation over six weeks. Thereafter, the submissions will be considered. Report will then go to the Members. The amended Draft Plan will be listed for approval at the Plenary Meeting in February 2024.

She recommended to the Council that the Draft Plan be advertised.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed that the Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 be advertised for Public Consultation.

(g) ***Gnóthaí Corparáideacha – Corporate Affairs***

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

Cllr. Michael Doyle advised that the Chief Executive's Monthly Report has been circulated and it is being taken as read and noted. Any queries can be addressed to the Chief Executive.

(ii) ***Táscairí Feidhmíochta 2022 - Performance Indicators 2022***

This Item was deferred to November Plenary meeting.

(iii) ***Nuashonrú ar Iontaobhas Cathartha Chill Chainnigh***
Kilkenny Civic Trust Update

Mr. Sean McKeown introduced Mr. Ciaran Conroy, Chief Executive Officer Kilkenny Civic Trust and Mr. Martin Coughlan Board Member to the meeting. He advised that as Interim Chief Executive he has been Chairman of the Board in accordance with the Articles of Association over the last 1½ years.

Mr. Ciaran Conroy gave a PowerPoint Presentation.

In his Presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Establishment of Civic Trust in 1989.
- Three properties held under the Civic Trust, 40 staff employed.
- Operating Medieval Mile Museum on behalf of Kilkenny County Council.
- Vision and Mission of the Civic Trust.
- Board Members.
- Financial contribution to projects over the years.
- Operation of Medieval Mile Museum and development of experience there since 2017.
- Overview of visitors numbers since 2017.

Mr. Sean McKeown gave an overview on the new unified Tourism attraction. Combining the Medieval Mile Museum and Tholsel into new tourism attraction.

- Tholsel to retain civic use.
- Funding from Fáilte Ireland – being reviewed following increased Capital costs.
- Programme for delivery of the new attraction.
- New attraction to be marketed as Museum of Medieval Kilkenny.
- Partnership between Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Civic Trust needs to be reviewed.
- Additional funding will be required in 2024 to market and promote the new attraction.
- Medieval Mile Museum will continue to operate as normal for 2024 in advance of opening new attraction.

As the time approached 6.00 p.m. Cllr. Michael Doyle advised that Standing Orders needs to be suspended.

It was propped by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to complete Item 2(i) (iii) of the Agenda.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Eugene McGuinness, David Fitzgerald, Tomás Breathnach, Maria Dollard and Andrew McGuinness.

Issues raised by Members as follows:

- Ringfenced funding for Museum.
- Operation of Butler House and Design Centre as stand alone entities.
- Non availability of Butler House for Kilkenny Arts Festival and other community events.
- Gender balance on Board.
- Design Centre – leased to Third Parties.
- Protecting the heritage of the buildings.
- Capital sub leases and operating cost of new attraction.
- Long term funding of new attraction.
- Ownership of buildings
- Use of Chamber Pass across the City.

Mr. Sean McKeown, Mr. Ciaran Conroy and Mr. Martin Coughlan responded to the issues raised by Members.

Members were advised that Butler House is breaking even now. The subvention from Kilkenny County Council to the Medieval Mile Museum is ringfenced by the City Trust. The Civic Trust receives no other public funds. All units in the Design Centre Complex are now occupied.

The costs have increased for the new attraction and discussions are ongoing with Fáilte Ireland on Capital Funding. A subvention of €230,000 is currently given to the Civic Trust for operating the Museum and this will need to increase for the expanded tourist attraction in the Tholsel.

3. *Comhfhreagras - Correspondence*

- (i) **Response from Department of Transport in relation to Community Involvement Scheme - Notice of Motion 08-2023**

This Item was deferred to November Plenary Meeting.

- (i) **Acknowledgement from Department of Transport in relation to upgrade the R693 (*Urlingford to Kilkenny*) to National Road status - Notice of Motion 11-2023**

This Item was deferred to November Plenary Meeting.

4. *Gnó ar athló ó chruinniúroimhe seo - Business adjourned from a previous Meeting*

None.

5. *Dátaí agus Amanta do chruinnithe a shocrú - Fix Dates & Times of Meetings*

This Item was deferred to November Plenary Meeting.

6. *Plé ar Thuairiscí agus Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle* **Consideration of Reports & Recommendations of Committees of the Council**

- (i) **Report of SPC 1 Meeting**

This Item was deferred to November Plenary Meeting.

7. ***Gnó Eile romhainn i bhFógra reachtála an Chruinnithe***
Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting

None.

8. ***Oideachas agus Oiliúint - Education & Training***

None.

9. ***Gnótha ag éirí as Miontuairiscí - Matters Arising from Minutes***

None.

10. ***Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business***

None.

11. ***Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion***

This Item was deferred to November Plenary Meeting.

12. ***Fógraí i dtaobh Rúin ó Údaráis Áitiúla eile ag lorg tacaíochta ó Chomhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh - Notices of Motion from other local authorities seeking support of Kilkenny County Council***

This Item was deferred to November Plenary Meeting.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE