

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR AN GCRUINIÚ IOMLÁNACH DE CHUID  
CHOMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH TIONÓLTA AR AN LUAN, 16  
NOLLAIG 2024 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, 16 DECEMBER, 2024 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS

**Attendance**

**Chair:** Cllr. Michael McCarthy.

**Elected Members: *Council Chamber***

Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Ger Frisby, Andrew McGuinness, John Coonan, Joe Malone, Jenny Catt Slattery, Stephanie Doheny, Fidelis Doherty, David Fitzgerald, Patrick Dunphy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Eugene McGuinness, Seán Ó hArgáin, Joe Sheridan and Maurice Shortall.

***MS Teams***

Cllr. Joe Lyons.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Michael Doyle, Maria Dollard and John Brennan.

**Officials:** Lar Power, Martin Prendiville, Mary Mulholland, Fiona Deegan, Ian Gardner, Seamus Kavanagh, Dearbhala Ledwidge, Seán Tyrrell and Catherine Cooney.

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

Miontuairiscí Chruinniú Iomlánach mhí na Samhain - Minutes of November Plenary Meeting Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Ger Frisby and agreed:

“That Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 18 November, 2024 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

**2. Fógraí - Announcements**

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael McCarthy extended congratulations and best wishes to:

St. Lachtain’s GAA Junior Hurling Team, Freshford, on winning the All Ireland Club Semi-Final and best of luck in the final on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

All winners at the Kilkenny Chamber Awards and to those who were nominated.

All involved in the recent launch of Yulefest Kilkenny and the switching on of the Christmas lights. Best wishes to the festival over the coming weeks.

Economic Development Team on the recent launch of the Kilkenny Photobook which is a collection of images which reflects our community, our countryside, our crafts and our culture and what makes Kilkenny so special.

## **Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy**

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

John Coady, Water Services Section on the passing of his father, Thomas (Tommy) Coady.

Former Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes on the passing of his father, William Lowry Family, Greenshill, Kilkenny on the passing of Jim Lowry (Irishtown and Greenshill, Kilkenny).

Hogan Family, Goresbridge, Kilkenny, on the passing of Michael (Mick) Hogan.

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

It was proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed:

*“That, Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, 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 derelict dwelling at 20, Vicar Street, Kilkenny, Folio KK1498F (as identified on the attached map) to Mr. Darragh Martin and Mrs. Aoife O’Connor, 33 Larchfield, Kilkenny, for the sum of €143,000 (one hundred and forty three thousand euro) with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the transfer. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”*

## **(b) Pleanáil - Planning**

### **(i) Cuid 8 Pleanáil – Proposed South North Access Road, Ferrybank, County Kilkenny.**

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, gave a presentation to the meeting on the proposed South North Access Road at Ferrybank outlining the following:

- Statutory Objectives of the Project.
- Public Consultation process and Route Selection.
- Additional benefits of the Project.
- Submissions received during public consultation process.
- Recommendation from Roads Section.

Elected Members thanked Mr. Kavanagh for his presentation and expressed their approval for the proposed development. Elected Members raised the following queries:

- Thanked local residents for getting involved in the process and asked that there would be continued communication with local residents – Cllrs. Ger Frisby, Pat Dunphy, Tomás Breathnach, Fidelis Doherty and Jenny Catt Slattery.
- Requested that a traffic survey be carried out in the New Year – Cllr. Ger Frisby.
- Access issues from the residents of Clover Meadows Housing Estate – Cllr. Fidelis Doherty.
- Inclusion of new link road in new speed guidelines – Cllr. Tomás Breathnach.

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh responded to all queries raised and advised that a Traffic Survey will be carried out in the New Year.

It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Ger Frisby  
Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Dunphy  
And Resolved

“that We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, to the proposed South-North Access Road Scheme, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny.”

**(i) *Glacadh i gCúram - Taking in Charge: [TIC186] Housing Estate at Ladyswell, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.***

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and resolved 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 and Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act 2010, hereby declares the road listed in the Public Notice and listed below, to be a Public Road:

**Development: TIC186 – Housing Estate at Ladyswell, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.**

**(c) Tithíocht – Housing.**

**(i) Clár Cóiríochta don Lucht Siúil 2025 - 2029 – Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 to 2029.**

Seán Tyrrell, Housing Section, gave a presentation to the meeting on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme under the following headings:

- Legislation and Guidelines underpinning the Plan.
- Review of previous Traveller Accommodation Plan.
- Assessment of existing need.
- Assessment of projected need.
- Public Consultation process.
- Implementation measures.
- Mid Term review.
- Alternative Housing Options.

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness raised a query in relation to traveller specific accommodation and if locations have been identified within the plan for this type of accommodation.

Sean Tyrrell responded advising that there are no specific locations identified within the plan.

It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Malone  
Seconded by: Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin  
And resolved that:

“We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council hereby adopt the Kilkenny County Council’s Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029, as presented.”

## **(d) Bóithre – Roads**

### **(i) Alt 85 Comhaontú – Section 85 Agreement between Tipperary and Kilkenny County Council.**

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh explained that as Tipperary County Council are the lead authority for the role out of the strategic plan for ZEV (zero emission Vehicle Infrastructure) for the region, it is required that a Section 85 Agreement between both local authorities be put in place.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach asked at what stage the local communities can get involved. In response, Seamus Kavanagh stated that he will be coming back to each of the Municipal Districts with further information as the project progresses.

It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Tomás Breathnach

Seconded by: Cllr. John Coonan

And resolved:

“Kilkenny County Council enters an agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 with Tipperary County Council who are managing the formulation of a comprehensive Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy for the region [Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Tipperary]. The Regional Strategy will form the basis for Infrastructure Planning and Implementation Plans in each Local Authority and across the region.”

## **(e) Timpeallacht – Environment**

### **(i) Renew Commitment to the EU Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy.**

Dearbhala Ledwidge, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, gave a brief presentation on the initiative which is voluntary initiative of local governments around Europe to commit to implement EU climate and energy objectives.

Following the presentation and a short discussion, it was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness

Seconded by: Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin

And resolved:

“that Kilkenny County Council hereby renews its commitment to the EU Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy.”

## **(f) Gnóthaí Corparáideacha – Corporate Affairs**

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

Cllr. Michael McCarthy advised that the Chief Executive Report will be taken as read. Any questions can be taken up with the Chief Executive.

### **(ii) Dréachtphlean Corparáideach – Draft Corporate Plan**

Mary Mulholland gave a presentation outlining the following in relation to the preparation of the Plan:

- Local Government Core Principles
- Mission Statement
- Kilkenny County Council’s core Values
- Consultation Process
- Kilkenny County Council’s Supporting Structure, Strategic Objectives, Services and Supporting Strategies.

Elected Members thanked Mary Mulholland for her presentation and it was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Eugene McGuinness

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

And resolved that:

“We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, having considered Kilkenny County Council’s Draft Corporate Plan 2024 to 2029 prepared in accordance with Section 134 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001, hereby adopt Kilkenny County Council’s Corporate Plan 2024 to 2029.”

### **3. Comhfhreagras - Correspondence**

- (i) Response from Minister Alan Dillon in relation to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021 to 2027 [Notice of Motion 09-2024] was taken as read and noted.
- (ii) Acknowledgement from Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D., in relation to the Community Involvement Scheme was taken as read and noted.
- (iii) Acknowledgement from Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development in relation to the Local Improvement Scheme was taken as read and noted.

### **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**

#### **(i) Sceideal na gCruinnithe - Schedule of Meetings**

Schedule of Meetings circulated with Agenda was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and agreed.

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

None.

### **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**

Schedule of Conferences circulated with the Agenda was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed.

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

None.

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

### **Housing Adaptation Grants – Revised Regulations**

Cllr. Joe Sheridan raised an issue in relation to the new revised regulations for the processing of Housing Adaptation Grants. These regulations will cause some difficulty for some applicants who are looking to replace their fossil fuel boilers with a new fossil fuel boiler. Replacement of fossil fuel boilers with a new fossil fuel boiler is not covered under the terms of the new regulations. Replacing a fossil fuel boiler with a sustainable heating system can involve significant additional works and costs compared to the relatively straight forward replacement of a like for like boiler.

Mr. Ian Gardner, A/Director of Services, Housing Department, advised that the Housing Department are conscious of the issue and stated that sustainable heating systems require an air tight property with a low BER rating to ensure that they work efficiently. Where a property has a low BER rating it would therefore require a retrofit to improve the BER rating such that the use of a sustainable heating system is viable. Such a retrofit might involve the replacement of windows and doors and providing improved insulation costing well in excess of the grant available.

A further discussion took place during which Cllr. Sheridan requested that the Council contact the Department in relation to this issue. He was supported by all Members present.

Mr. Ian Gardner agreed that the Housing Department will prepare a report on the impact that this is likely to have on applications under this scheme and will liaise with the Department on this matter.

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

None.

## **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**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Joe Sheridan and agreed by all that the following Notice of Motion numbered 18 (24 be taken as read and noted:

18 (24) Kerry County Council

“That we write to the Minister for Finance seeking that the 31 Local Authorities across Ireland would be provided €2 million of discretionary funding from the €14 billion surplus as a result of the Apple Tax ruling”.

That concluded the business of the meeting and Cllr. Michael McCarthy wished the Members and Staff of the Council and their families and the people of Kilkenny City and County a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**DATE**