

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR AN GCRUINNIÚ IOMLÁNACH DE CHUID
CHOMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH TIONÓLTA AR AN LUAN,
15 MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2025 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, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS**

Chair: Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh.

Elected Members: *Council Chamber*

Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, Jenny Catt Slattery, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Michael Doyle, Patrick Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Joe Lyons, Eugene McGuinness, Joe Malone, Seán Ó hArgáin, Joe Sheridan & Maurice Shortall.

MS Teams

Cllrs. Brian Cleere, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Ger Frisby & Michael McCarthy.

Officials: Lar Power, Tim Butler, Martin Prendiville, Mary Mulholland, Fiona Deegan, Seamus Kavanagh, Michael Leahy, Josephine Coyne, Seamus Foley, Seamus Kavanagh, Jan McIntyre, Gerry Tyrrell & Brenda Kelly.

Apologies: Cllrs. John Coonan, Stephanie Doheny and Andrew McGuinness.

Meeting commenced at 2.15 p.m. to allow Presentation from Macra Na Feirme. Members of Macra Na Feirme, Joanne Cushen, Jimmy Lynch, Patrick Walton and Fabian Jacob gave a Presentation to the Elected Members and updated them as follows:

- Macra is a vibrant youth organisation based in towns and villages across Ireland.
- Over 10,000 members in over 150 Clubs.
- Clubs are organised at County level and supported by Regional Executives.
- Existing clubs in Kilkenny: Callan, North Kilkenny, Crossvalley, Kilkenny City and Kildalton College - Interested in expanding clubs in South and East Kilkenny.
- Key Activity Areas:
 - Agriculture
 - Travel & Social
 - Community Involvement
 - Performing Arts
 - Public Speaking & Debating
 - Sport
 - Mr. Personality Contest
- Access to healthcare is a major issue.
- Growing concerns over mental health in young people in rural areas.
- Changing rural landscape requires continued investment.
- Only 4.3% of farmers are under 35.
- Seeking investment in targeted succession schemes and funding for Land Mobility services.
- Lack of septic tank grant funding.
- Need for annual entry allowances in schemes for young farmers.
- Housing & Planning is a major concern for members.

Macra members were looking for support and funding to help with Mr. Personality Festival and also funding for research for mental health supports.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Dunphy, Maurice Shortall and Pat Fitzpatrick. They thanked the members of Macra for their Presentation and were supportive of the good work carried out by the Committee.

Fógraí - Announcements

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh congratulated:

- Cllr. Stephanie Doheny on the birth of her son.
- Mags Kirwan on winning a gold medal at the World Transplant Games.
- Peter Lynch on competing in the World Championships in the Dusseldorf Marathon.

The Cathaoirleach conveyed her best wishes to the following:

- Clodagh Brennan, Castlecomer Area Office who is getting married next week.
- Meg Molloy, Housing Department who is getting married in October.

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Cllr. Joe Lyons on the passing of his mother Mona Lyons.
- Cllr. Maria Dollard on the passing of her uncle Con White.
- McNulty Family on the sudden passing of work colleague Noel McNulty.
- Michael Pyke on the passing of his wife Brigid.
- Chris Byrne, Kilkenny MD on the passing of his brother David [Doc] Byrne.
- Anne Delaney, Finance Department on the death of her mother Betty.
- Martin O'Shea, Castlecomer Area Office on the passing of his brother Patrick (Pa) O'Shea.
- Kelley Murphy, Community Department on the passing of her mother Bernie O'Neill.
- Family of the late Agnes Keoghan, Tullaroan.
- Family of the late Luke Harney, Tullaroan.
- Family of the late Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy, Elected Member with Cork County Council.

A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect to all the deceased.

Cllr. Joe Lyons thanked everyone for their messages and personal condolences.

1. Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of July Plenary Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed:

"That Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 15th July, 2024 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(ii) Minutes of SPC 2 Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Maurice Shortall, seconded by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin and agreed:

"That Minutes of SPC 2: Transportation Policy/Mobility Management & Infrastructure held on Friday, 14th March, 2025 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(iii) Minutes of SPC 3 Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed:

"That Minutes of SPC 3 Housing Meeting held on Thursday, 12th June, 2025 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(iv) Minutes of SPC 4 Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Joe Lyons, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed:

"That Minutes of SPC 4: Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy Meeting held on Thursday, 6th March, 2025 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

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

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. John Brennan, seconded by Cllr. Micheal 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 a plot(s) of land at Danganbeg, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny - as identified on the attached map - to John O’Farrell, Kilcurl, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny for a nominal sum of €1, with Kilkenny County Council being responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale/exchange. Plot(s) measures 0.75 acres (3035 m²).”
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, 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 land at Highrath, Maddoxtown, Co. Kilkenny to Denis and Theresa Guilfoyle, Highrath, Maddoxtown, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10 (ten euro) with the purchaser being responsible for their own legal costs and the legal costs of Kilkenny County Council associated with the sale. Site area measures 0.0571 ha (571 m²). The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”
- (iii) It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:
- “That, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, to dispose of its interest in land at Ballylarkin, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny to Mr Gerard Doheny, Ballylarkin, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of ten euro (€10) with each party responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. The land area measures 1.71 acres (0.69 Ha). The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.
- (iv) It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:
- “That, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, to dispose of its interest in a house and site at Ballylarkin, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny to Patrick and Elizabeth Butler, Ballylarkin, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of ten euro (€10) with Kilkenny County Council responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale. The land area measures 0.72 acres (0.29 Ha). The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.
- (v) It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, 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 land at Main Street, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny to Ms. Philomena Carroll for a nominal sum of €10 (ten euro) 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.”
- (vi) It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed:
- “That, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, to dispose of its interest in two derelict properties being sold as one at Dunkitt, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny to CULMC Construction, Bridgefield, Tramore, Co. Waterford for the sum of two hundred and thirty five thousand euro (€235,000)

with each party responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. The combined site area measures 1.01 acres (0.41 Ha). The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required."

- (vii) It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy 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 land at The Nite Cap, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny to M & F Molloy Holdings Limited, Wildflower Cottage, Boley Hill, Fethard On Sea, Co. Wexford for the sum of €153,000 (one hundred and fifty-three thousand euro) with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Site area measures 0.28ha. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required."

- (viii) It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Sheridan, seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons 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 Roscon, Windgap, Co. Kilkenny - to Michael Gerard Landy, Seskin, Windgap, Co. Kilkenny for the sum of €30,000.00 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."

2. (b) *Pleanail - Planning*

- (i) ***Cuid 8: Comharthaíocht Sheachtraí don Leabharlann i nGailearaí Thomastown***
Part 8: External Signage for Thomastown Library

Mr. Seamus Foley provided an update on the signage at the Thomastown Library.

In his Presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Modifications to previous building.
- Provision of backlit signage.
- Style and size of proposed signage.
- Public Consultation – No submissions received.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Eugene McGuinness and Seán Ó hArgáin in relation to the following:

- Queried zones of Archaeological Potential and any implications.
- If Backlit signage conforms with general lighting regulations.

Mr. Seamus Foley responded as follows:

- No implications for this development.
- No archaeological issues on the building.
- Backlit signage is to make building more visible and more attractive as it is in a dark area and complies with regulations.
- Report being finalised and will be available when complete.

Cllr. Sean O' hArgáin sought clarity on the policy in relation to issues of lighting at shop fronts.

Mr. Lar Power and Mr. Tim Butler responded.

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle and agreed that:

"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 for the proposed amendment to include External Signage at the Redevelopment of Thomastown Community Centre for partial change of use to Library and refurbishment of existing sports hall at Marshes Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny."

(i) **Cuid 8: 18 & B 20 Sráid an Chabáin Uachtarach, Ceallan, Co. Cill Chainnigh**
Part 8: 18 & B 20 Upper Bridge Street, Callan, Co. Kilkenny

Ms. Jan McIntyre provided an update on 18 & 20 Upper Bridge Street, Callan. In her Presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- Housing demand in Callan Area.
- Proposals for 18 Upper Bridge Street [Powers]
- Proposals for 20 Upper Bridge Street [Lynches]
- Public Consultation Evening.
- No valid submissions received.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Joe Lyons, Deirdre Cullen & Maria Dollard as follows:

- Welcomed initiative to utilise over the shop accommodation.
- Car Park needed.
- How is insurance managed on buildings due to floodplain.
- Lighting up the Lane.
- Any future plans for other areas in Kilkenny County in terms of over the shop accommodation.
- Consideration of businesses that are centered around circular economy, leaning into climate action or reducing the carbon emission.
- Proposal for Arts Shop on ground floor – work with KCAT.
- Queried position in relation to accommodation over Patrick Street.

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Maria Dollard and agreed that:

"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 for the demolition of existing single storey side and rear extensions (approx. 18.5sqm), the demolition of a shed to the rear of the site (approx. 34sqm) and the construction of a new part 2 storey, part single storey extension (77sqm) to provide a 4-bedroom house with an accessible ground floor bedroom, bathroom & living accommodation, a new Domestic waste water treatment system and percolation area with all associated site works at 18 Skeagh, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, R95 A9X8."

(ii) **Glacadh i gCúram -Taking in Charge: (TC 167) Fiodh Mor & Leaca Ard, Ferrybank**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, 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: TC67184 Fiodh Mor & Leaca Ard Ferrybank, Kilkenny

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh read out the following statement on behalf of the Elected Members:

As Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, representing all the Elected Members, Kilkenny County Council unequivocally condemns the recent racist attacks targeting members of the Indian community, across our Country. These acts of hatred and intolerance have no place in our society and stand in direct opposition to the values we hold as a community and as a Local Authority.

We extend our solidarity and support to all those affected, and we reaffirm our commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for everyone regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or background.

Racism, in any form, whether directed at individuals or communities, is unacceptable and must be challenged wherever it arises.

Kilkenny is a County enriched by the diversity of its people. We proudly welcome individuals and families from all over the world who choose to make Kilkenny their home. Their contributions, social, cultural, and economic have enriched the fabric of our community and our economy and help build a more vibrant and compassionate society.

As a Local Authority, we are guided by a values system rooted in inclusion, dignity, and mutual respect. We remain committed to working with residents, community groups, and organisations to promote understanding, celebrate diversity, and ensure that Kilkenny remains a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive.

Together, we stand against racism and bigotry to build a better Kilkenny."

(c) **Bóithre- Roads**

(i) ***Nuashonrú ar Athbhreithniú ar Úsáid Luaíochta N25 Glenmore go Luffany***
Update on N25 Glenmore to Luffany Speed Limit Review

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer gave a PowerPoint Presentation on N25 Glenmore to Luffany Speed Limit Review.

In his Presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Proposed Speed Limit Change on N25 to be implemented as an amendment to the Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws.
- Draft N25 Speed Limit Proposal.
- Implementation of speed limit reduction from 100km to 80km.
- Public Consultation Process.
- Regulatory Body Approval.
- After consultation with TII and An Garda Síochána new distance of 250m was approved.
- Work with TII in relation to signage.

Contributions received from Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty and Tomás Breathnach. They acknowledged the huge body of work and thanked the team and all the bodies involved.

Ms. Mary Mulholland, Director of Services thanked Seamus Kavanagh, Paul Byrne and all the staff for their work.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, hereby adopt the Special Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2025, as circulated."

(d) **Pobal & Cultúr – Community & Culture**

(i) **Plean Forbartha Leabharlainne - Library Development Plan**

Ms. Josephine Coyne, County Librarian gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Library Service Development Plan 2025-2029.

In her Presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- Vision for Libraries over the next 5 years.
- Mission & Values of Plan.
- Consultation carried out with both internal and external stakeholders.
- Significant increase in engagement with Libraries.
- Rebuilt and adapted service due to Covid.
- Strategic Objectives – user experience etc.
- Implementation and evaluation.
- Ensure that investment in service is yielding results and impact.
- Current expenditure is 3.6% of overall budget.

Ms. Fiona Deegan, Director of Services acknowledged the work of Josephine Coyne and all staff involved.

Contributions received from Cllrs. John Brennan, Seán O'hAráin, Joe Malone, Maria Dollard, Eugene McGuinness & Fidelis Doherty in relation to the following:

- Congratulated staff on work involved in the Plan.
- Complimented staff for outstanding Library service provided.
- Need to increase funding for Book Fund.
- Suggested that Ciorcal Comhrá be expanded.
- Libraries are an invaluable resources for those who don't have somewhere to study or access to WIFI.
- Programme of Exhibitions in Mayfair is exceptional – showcasing Artists work.
- Carnegie Library – crucial to the built heritage of Kilkenny - Local Studies Proposals.
- Enquired about extending opening hours in Libraries in City and across the County for exam students.
- Fantastic to see kids reengaging with Library.
- Library Service helping to build communities.
- Suggestion that informative presentation on smartphone usage be delivered to Elected Members to enhance awareness and understanding.

It was proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed that:

"That the Library Service Delivery Development Plan 2025-2029 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

(e) **Airgeadas – Finance**

(i) **Tuarascáil Iniúchta Rialtais Áitiúil agus Ráiteas Airgeadais Bliantúil
Local Government Audit Report and Annual Financial Statement**

Mr. Martin Prendiville advised the meeting that the Audit for the Year 2024 had now been completed by the Local Government Auditor and was circulated to the Members. There was no change to the Annual Financial Statement [AFS] following the audit.

Martin Prendiville confirmed that the expenditure for the year was €312.4m which was €21.3m higher than the adopted budget. The surplus for the year was €31,775. Mr. Prendiville referred Members to Page 24 of the AFS which outlined details of the expenditure variances for each Service Area along with the relevant income streams.

Mr. Prendiville also presented the Local Government Auditors Report to the Members. He outlined the topics reported on by the Auditor and the replies provided by Management on those topics.

Contributions received from Cllrs. Maria Dollard, Eugene McGuinness, Seán Ó hArgáin, Pat Fitzpatrick & John Brennan in relation to the following:

- Loan Financing.
- Funding of the Capital Account.
- Delays on the PLEEP Project and implications of same.

Martin Prendiville and Tim Butler replied to the queries.

Mr. Prendiville advised that the sources of funding for all Capital Projects has to be identified in advance of committing to a Project. He advised that some loan finance would be drawn down before the year end to fund the PLEEP expenditure and for match funding for other capital projects. The Members have already approved their loans.

Tim Butler provided an update on the PLEEP Project. Kilkenny is the head authority on this project for a total of nine counties. A Section 85 Agreement is in place with the other eight Local Authorities.

Delays have been encountered and Kilkenny County Council is working towards completion of the project in a timely manner.

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

"That the Local Government Audit Report is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Michale Doyle and agreed that:

"That the Annual Financial Statement 2024 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

(f) Gnóthaí Corparáideacha – Corporate Affairs

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

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh advised that the Chief Executive Report will be taken as read. Any questions can be taken up with the Chief Executive.

(ii) Ciorclán LG 06/2025 - Circular LG 06/2025

Circular LG 06/2025 in connection with increase in the Annual Remuneration of Elected Members was noted as read.

3. Comhfhreagras - Correspondence

Notice of Motion 12-2025 regarding funding of heating under the Housing Adaptation Grants

Cllr. John Brennan noted response. He complimented staff in Housing and noted lack of funding available. He asked that a letter be written to Department immediately to ensure that €12.5m extra is made available in the Budget to cover the cost of grants needed.

Acknowledgement received from Minister's Office in relation to Notice of Motion 17-2025 regarding IPAS Centres

Noted.

Amber Women's Refuge CLG Annual Report

Ms. Mary Mulholland, Director of Services highlighted the vital work carried out by Amber in Kilkenny and Carlow and expressed her appreciation for the dedication and commitment shown by the team in delivering these essential services.

Cllrs. Sean O'hArgáin & Maria Dollard agreed that it was important to support Amber as it provides a crucially important service to all in Kilkenny and Carlow.

Response from Minister's Office in relation to Notice of Motion 14-2025 regarding the situation in Gaza.

Response noted.

Responses from Minister's Office in relation to:

- *Notice of Motion 03-2025 regarding increased funding for Uisce Éireann's Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme*
- *Notice of Motion 13-2025 regarding Wind Energy Development Guidelines*
- *Notice of Motion 15-2025 regarding grant assistance for testing of radon gas.*
- *Notice of Motion 09-2025 regarding improving access to quality and affordable Early Learning & Care.*

Elected Members are not satisfied with responses received from Ministers.

Following issues were raised:

- General frustration among Members regarding the quality of responses.
- Lack of detail and substantive information in responses.
- Emphasised the importance of receiving meaningful responses as Notices of Motion are submitted in the name of the Council collectively.
- Suggestion to meet more frequently with Oireachtas Members and provide them with Notices of Motion to bring to relevant Departments.
- Questioned whether focus should move to more local issues.
- Recommendation to raise issue with Task Force on Local Government, AILG & LAMA.

It was agreed by all Members that the matter would be brought to the next CPG meeting for further discussion. It was agreed to draft wording for a letter to be issued to the Taoiseach and An Tánaiste, to formally outline the concerns raised and bring back to the Members for discussion.

A number of Elected Members wanted to speak on responses received from Ministers. However, the Cathaoirleach advised that it was agreed at CPG that all responses would be circulated to Members for their information and due to time constraints it was not feasible to allow further discussion on these items. It was suggested that the matter could be revisited in six months by submitting a new Notice of Motion for inclusion on the Agenda.

A proposal was made to review Standing Orders and it was agreed to list it for the next CPG 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*

- (i) ***Sceideal na gCruinnithe - Schedule of Meetings***
Noted and agreed by all.

(ii) **Agree dates for Budget Workshops**

It was agreed by all to hold Budget Workshops on the following dates:

- Monday, 6th October, 2025 at 3.00 p.m.
- Monday, 13th October, 2025 at 3.00 p.m.
- Tuesday, 21st October, 2025 at 3.00 p.m.

It was also agreed to hold the Statutory Budget Meeting on Monday, 3rd November at 3.00 p.m.

Development Contribution Meeting

Development Contributions meeting with Party Whips to take place from 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 6th October, 2025. Cllr. Tomás Breathnach asked that consideration be given to allowing each group to nominate two representatives to attend the Development Contributions meeting. This was agreed by all.

Special Meeting – Presidential Candidates

Margo Hayes outlined the nomination process for candidates. It was agreed that a list of candidates, along with relevant information would be circulated to all Elected Members.

Seán Ó hArgáin proposed that any individual seeking to address the Council and request its support should be formally proposed and seconded by at least two Members. He also expressed surprise at the limited engagement from candidates with Elected Members.

Ms. Mary Mulholland, Director of Services explained that there is no set process for candidate nominations and each Local Authority has developed its own approach. It was agreed at CPG that the objective is to support the democratic process by providing an opportunity for as many potential candidates as possible to be heard and considered by the Chamber. A number of meetings have been scheduled on different dates, with decisions made on a County by County basis. The Council decided not to limit attendance to be fair to all.

Ms. Mulholland agreed to circulate a list of candidates to allow Members time to review in advance.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach suggested that this matter should be reviewed when looking at Standing Orders and put a process in place for future.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Mary Hilda left meeting and Cllr. Fidelis Doherty took over as Chair.

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

(i) **Report of SPC 2 Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Maurice Shortall, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed:

“That Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy/Mobility Management & Infrastructure held on Friday, 14th March, 2025 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

(ii) **Report of SPC 3 Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed:

“That Report of SPC 3 Housing Meeting held on Thursday, 12th June, 2025 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

(iii) **Report of SPC 4 Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons and agreed:

"That Report of SPC 4: Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy Meeting held on Thursday, 6th March, 2025 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

Cllr. Maria Dollard requested a more detailed Chairpersons Report.

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty advised that Chairpersons Report is a bullet point version of Minutes.

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**

(i) **Schedule of Conferences**

Noted and agreed by all.

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

None.

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

- Cllr. Fidelis Doherty wished all involved in the Ploughing Championships in Tullamore the very best.
- Cllr. Doherty advised of the awareness of the Asian Hornet and the potential for disaster.
- Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick queried the water pressure in Hebron Industrial Estate.

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

18 (25) Cllrs. Michael Doyle, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Dunphy, Fidelis Doherty, Joe Lyons, David Fitzgerald and John Brennan

Proposed by Cllr. Michael Doyle, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed:

"In the context of the lack of necessary municipal wastewater infrastructure in the vast majority of our towns and villages across the county we call on Kilkenny County Council to accept the principle of developer led modular wastewater plants in towns and villages where there is a demand, desire and need for development.

We further call on Minister for Housing, James Browne to direct Uisce Eireann to support the local authority in overseeing and ensuring the treatment systems are of acceptable standard, have acceptable maintenance plans and will be constructed in a manner whereby full connection will be possible to municipal plants when delivered."

Cllrs. Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, Maria Dollard, Seán Ó hArgáin, Jenny Catt Slattery & Deirdre Cullen spoke on this motion. Issues raised as follows:

- Biggest issue in rural Ireland is lack of development.
- A lot of funding has been given to Towns & Villages and CLÁR and while villages are looking well there is nobody living in them.
- Requested Department to come up with a plan to deliver necessary infrastructure to allow for rural development.
- Going to lose services that a rural Parish needs.
- Way of life in rural Ireland will be gone.
- Call on Executive to consider how the Council can deliver a solution for these areas.
- Serious issue with current waste water system.
- Variation proposed in the County Development Plan
- Concerns that the Council would be exposed to costs.

A discussion took place in relation to Members speaking on Notices of Motion.

Ms. Mary Mulholland referred to Standing Orders and advised that there would not be multiple speakers on Notices of Motion. She advised that Standing Orders clearly state that the Proposer and Seconder would speak on Motion with no other speaker facilitated. Other speakers allowed only if there is an amendment to Motion.

If members want to change the process it can be brought to CPG and is a matter for members to decide.

Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services replied as follows:

- 4 water supply schemes in County that do not have capacity for any additional houses.
- 15 small towns and villages which do not have capacity for any additional connections to those supplies.
- Significant environmental issue in Kilmanagh.
- Developer led infrastructure in Hugginstown causing significant environmental issues.
- 15 wastewater supplies that do not have capacity.
- Variation 4 brought to the Members early this year and submitted to Office of Planning Regulator who advised of significant impact on environment and question of who is going to maintain it.
- If that falls back on Local Authority it will have significant funding implications.
- As a Planning Authority we will go back to the OPR to see if we can agree a certain wording in relation to a developer led infrastructure – if this is to happen we would have to know that it is not going to have an impact on the environment, that the developer will maintain. And that in time Uisce Eireann will take it in charge.

a19 (25) Cllr. Brian Cleere

Proposed by Cllr. Brian Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Joe Sheridan and agreed:

"To introduce a 'Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme' to Kilkenny. This scheme will provide financial assistance to communities and local resident groups who wish to undertake overhanging trees and hedge cutting for safety reasons, and will also assist landowners to comply with their responsibilities under Section 70 of the 1993 Roads Act."

Cllr. Brian Cleere & Cllr. Joe Sheridan spoke on the Motion.

Ms. Mary Mulholland, Director of Services advised that responsibility for landowners to ensure that roadside hedges on private property are trimmed is listed in the Act as the responsibility of the land owner. She advised that to propose the Notice of Motion would be contrary to our responsibilities under the Act and it would be difficult to make provision for it under our Roads Programme or to fund it from 2026 Programme.

Ms. Mulholland advised that this would have a huge impact on the Rural and Local Roads Budget and where this is happening in other local authorities they are providing funding from their Roads Programme annually.

20 (25) All Elected Members

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed:

"To ask the Minister for Arts, Media, Communications, Culture and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan, to provide the €15 million (current annual funding is €10 million) €5 million increase sought by the Irish Postmasters Union to safeguard the Post Office Network. This support is vital to keep Post Offices, key community and financial service hubs, open, as the current model is unsustainable. A recent Grant Thornton report warns that without this funding, up to one-third of rural post offices could close by 2026."

Cllrs. Pat Dunphy & John Brennan spoke in support of this Motion.

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 agreed by all that the following Notice of Motion 17(25) be taken as read and noted:

17 (25) Waterford City & County Council

"Carers Allowance and Benefit Reform

That the Members of Waterford City and county Council call o the Minister for Social Protection Mr. Dara Calleary, to abolish means testing for Carers Allowance in Budget 2026. We further call on the Minister to introduce a fair and adequate payment for recipients of Carers Allowance and Carers Benefit one which truly reflects the time, dedication and compassionate care that carers provided everyday across Ireland."

Cllr. Michael Doyle sought clarification in relation to his Motion. It was agreed to defer Notice of Motion 18(25) and discuss it at the next CPG Meeting.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE