

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19th
MAY, 2020 AT 2.300 P.M.**

Mayor, Councillor Martin Brett, Presiding.

Present:

Councillors: Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Maria Dollard, David Fitzgerald,
Eugene McGuinness, John Coonan.

Apologies:

Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Mr. Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer,
Ms. Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer .

Mayor's Summons of Meeting:

Notice dated 13th May, 2020 convening a Special Meeting for this date was read.

Mayor Cllr. Martin Brett opened the meeting at 2.30pm.

It Was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Seconded by: Cllr. John Coonan

And agreed to adjourn meeting for 15 minutes.

Meeting commenced at 2.45pm.

**1. Machnamh a dhéanamh ar chóras sealadach aon bhealach beartaithe i limistéar
lár Chathair Chill Chainnigh.**

Consider proposed temporary one-way system in Kilkenny City core area.

Mayor Cllr. Martin Brett advised special meeting has been convened to consider the proposed temporary one-way system for Kilkenny City core area. He invited Mr. Tim Butler and Mr. Ian Gardner to give an overview on the proposed one-way system.

Mr. Tim Butler advised members how social distancing is now a part of everyday life. To prepare for lifting of restrictions and opening of businesses to trade this is a key factor for consideration in the City Centre. Request have been received from City Businesses to assist in the preparing the streets for the lifting of restrictions.

Mr. Ian Gardner gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed one-way system. In the presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Restrictions for social distancing
- Need to introduced one-way system
- Need to widen pedestrians areas
- Assessments carried out in the City Centre
- 6 scenarios considered that could provide social distancing
- Proposal numbered 2A and 2D are the most preferable
- Proposing Scenario 2A to Members.

Scenario 2A will see traffic movements as follows:

- From John's Bridge up Rose Inn Street and from Parade up High Street
- One-way system in Ormonde Street from Patrick Street to Patrick's Court
- Extend hours for pedestrians in Kieran Street
- Introduce pedestrianisation in James Street
- Increased areas for pedestrian movements on all above streets

Mayor Cllr. Martin Brett thanked Mr. Butler and Mr. Gardner for their work on the proposed one-way system. He stated that the City can't stand still, we must prepare for the lifting of restrictions and assist where we can to encourage business back in the City.

Contributions were received from Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr John Coonan and Cllr. David Fitzgerald. The Members in general were in favour of providing solutions to allow for social distancing, to encourage shoppers into the City and to assist with businesses opening up when restrictions are lifted. The Members agreed that this is a response to Covid 19 and this is a temporary one-way system for a defined period with defined dates for review.

Specific issues were raised in relation to the following:

- Interest of businesses must be considered – their concerns must be taken into account.
- Businesses on John Street have concerns – is there a need to include Rose Inn Street – was inclusion of John Street considered?
- Review period must be defined – possible after 2 months.
- Can decision be reversed if not working – remove one-way system if there is a negative impact on business.
- Consideration given to loading bays, disability spaces and taxi ranks.
- Review car park charges for Wolfe Tone St. Car Park, remove all day parking, introduce hourly parking.
- Provide more bicycles parking in John's Green/Wolfe Tone St. Car Parks
- Measuring success – what parameters will be used?
- Encouraging more cycling, walking and use of City Bus, introduction of additional cycle lanes.
- Consultation with emergency services – Gardai, Fire Services and Ambulance Service
- Provision for waste collection services and deliveries
- High Street proposal acceptable to businesses.
- Rose Inn Street – significant concerns with business owners and need to widen footpath anyway.

- Introduce one-way footpaths on John St – what are the issues?
- Need to give adequate time for system to work.
- Ensure adequate signage is in place to direct people to John Street and other areas.

All Members spoke about the need to provide a safe environment for everyone. Doing nothing is not an option. Any decision taken must be in the best interest of businesses and the public and encouraging back business in the City.

Mr. Butler and Mr. Gardner responded to the individual queries raised by members. They advised that this is a temporary measure. Any permanent change to traffic flows and works on the streets will be subject to Part 8 Process. Public consultation would also be required.

Mr. Butler further stated that consultation has taken place with businesses and the City Task Force and the Gardai. It was noted that the Gardai's preference was for the reversal of the one-way system on Rose Inn St and High St. However, it was considered that the direction as detailed in 2A provides the least traffic disruptions based on turning manoeuvres. Further consultation will take place with HSE and Fire Services. LEO is working with all businesses in given them any assistance needed to open their businesses.

Mr. Gardner advised that a permanent solution might be completely different. Desktop analysis has been carried out to allow for social distancing while minimising impact on traffic. The recommended route is the proposed 2A. Timeframe for introduction of system will be the end of June. Works are required, materials have to be sourced, signage put in place and traffic signals will have to be adjusted. General public will need time to adjust. Full review will be carried out before schools re-open. One-way system on footpaths will only be advisory and cannot be enforced by the Council/Gardai. The Council would be encouraging cycling/walking and use of public transport. Cycling Officer is employed at the moment.

Mr Butler advised that a report on the car park on Wolfe Tone Street will be brought to the June meeting. Review of parking bye-laws is also underway. He further advised the members that implementation of parking bye-laws on the streets will recommence on 2nd June 2020. Charges in the public car parks will recommence before 29th June 2020.

Cllr David Fitzgerald requested more litter bins in the City centre. He requested that a number of people be used as street ambassadors to help people with the new system and handout leaflets with the one-way system illustrated. Mr. Gardner advised that he litter bins are not at capacity at the moment and this it is being kept under review with restrictions being lifted.

Mr. Butler agreed to consider an information campaign. Mayor Cllr. Martin Brett advised that all issues have been considered. Issues/concerns raised have been dealt with by the Executive. It was now a matter for the Elected Members to consider their position on the introduction of the one-way system.

It Was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Malone
 Seconded by: Cllr. John Coonan

And agreed that the members of Kilkenny City Municipal District approve the introduction of a temporary one-way system in the Kilkenny City core area.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald requested that it be noted that he was not in favour of including a one-way system on Rose Inn Street.

Mayor Cllr. Brett thanked the members for their consideration on this proposal. He thanked the Executive for the work done in assessing the optimum solution. He thanked the LEO staff for assisting businesses at this difficult time. He also thanked the media both written and orally for keeping the people informed and up to date on all issues relating to Covid 19 and what is happening throughout the City and County.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked Mayor Brett on his year in office and for the work he has done as Mayor of Kilkenny.

Mr. Tim Butler, on behalf of the Executive, thanked the Mayor also for representing the City as Mayor for the last year and his leadership and guidance with the meetings.

The business of the meeting then concluded.

Signed:

MAYOR

Date:
