

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA gCRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH A THIONÓLADH AR AN 11th MEITHEAMH 2021 A BHEIDH AR SIÚL I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, HALLA NA CATHRACH MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON, 11TH JUNE 2021 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL.

Mayor, Councillor, John Coonan, Presiding.

Present Via Teams / I Láthair via Teams:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr David Fitzgerald

Apologies: None

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

Mayor's Summons of Meeting:

Notice dated 4th June, 2021, convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

It was :

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Seconded by: Cllr. Martin Brett
And Agreed by all:

“ that the meeting would finish at 3.30pm to allow for a break before the Annual Meeting”.

1. A dhaingniú Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe.
Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting:

Minutes of monthly meeting on 14th May 2021, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Seconded by: Cllr. Martin Brett
And Resolved:

“That the minutes as presented to the meeting be and are hereby adopted”.

2. Cúrsaí thabhairt ar aghaidh ordú ón Mhéara Matters brought forward by direction of the Mayor.

The Mayor:

- Thanked Cllr. David Fitzgerald for deputising at the May meeting and proposing his notion of motion on the closure of the Smithwick's Experience which Diageo are now re-examining.
- Reminded all to continue to follow the health guidelines.
- Congratulated all involved in the Riverside Garden and Skatepark which forms part of the overall Abbey Quarter Development.
- Commissioned an open certificate in the Council Chamber to honour all the Frontline workers and Volunteers for their efforts and sacrifices that they have made and continue to make during this pandemic.
- Gave recognition to the Amber Refuge for the "Stars to End Violence Exhibition" which ran in Kilkenny Castle from May 16th to June 7th.

Votes of Sympathy

The Members joined with the Mayor in offering a Vote of Sympathy to the family of the recently deceased:

Sam Oakes, Talbot's Inch, Kilkenny.

3. Boithre/ Roads

(a) Roads Update

Mr. Gardner provided a report for Members detailing road work updates for June. The report included information on pavement maintenance works, road resurfacing, footpath repairs, safety works, public lighting, new signage in housing estates, flower planting throughout the City and outdoor seating works & applications.

(c) Climate Adaptation/Resilience Funding (DTAS)

Mr. Gardner advised Members that funding has been provided under the Climate Adaptation Programme to Kilkenny County Council to fund schemes aimed at alleviating flooding to roads, bridge strengthening, embankment stability measures to protect the road and prevent slippage and other works to mitigate flooding and reduce road closure frequency. The works already carried out or scheduled to be carried out under this scheme include Dunningstown drainage works, Ballyfoyle drainage works, Kells Road drainage works, Waterford Road drainage works, O'Loughlin Road drainage works, College Road drainage works, Beech Park and Gaol Road drainage works.

(d) Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund (NTA)

Mr. Gardner informed the Members that additional funding has been allocated to Kilkenny County Council by the NTA for Active Travel Measures on the route from North Western City

Environs to City Centre. Further funding has also been allocated to facilitate outdoor dining in Kilkenny City.

The Members thanked Mr. Gardner. They raised the following:

- Courtesy pedestrian crossings at top of Patrick Street and Bateman Quay.
- Further development of John Street to facilitate businesses.
- Update on Ormonde Street and the removal of trees.
- Possibility of having more pollinator friendly flower pots around City.
- Lacken Drive steps, Irish Rail and the accumulation of rubbish.
- Unkept area in front of MacDonagh Junction.
- Update on works at Newpark.
- Update on LIHAF scheme, Rosehill Court to Whitesbridge traffic, lights at Teehan's Cross and the Kennyswell Road.
- Update on car park in Abbey Quarter.

Mr. Gardner and Mr. Butler responded to Members. Mr. Butler advised that temporary planning permission for the car park at the Abbey Quarter has been recently granted by An Bord Pleanála. The permission allows for 7 bus parking area's and car parking spaces for the employees working on site and will remain for the duration of the permission. The LIHAF scheme is progressing as planned. The link from Rosehill Court to Whitesbridge was not part of the original plans but will now be examined. There has been no significant increase in traffic in the area but it will be continuously monitored. The traffic light arrangement at Teehan's Cross will remain but there will be some adjustment to the kerbs. The alignment of the Kennyswell's Road will be explored but the adoption and implementation of the HGV Plan for the City along with the introduction of Active Travel Measures should address most of the traffic concerns raised by the Members. The review of speed limits and the use of parking Bye- Laws will also contribute to better road usage in the area.

Mr. Gardner agreed that courtesy pedestrian crossings can be confusing at times and the crossing at Bateman Quay will shortly be converted to a zebra crossing. He advised that John Street is included in the Traffic Management Plan and options are being examined. He will approach MacDonagh Junction regarding the front of the Centre. The improvement works on Ormonde Street should commence in September and businesses have been consulted. The trees on the street are not suitable and are being replaced with more appropriate planting. The request for pollinator friendly flower pots will be discussed with the Nursery staff. He is still awaiting a response from Irish Rail in relation to Lacken Drive steps. Works at Newpark will be completed before the end of the year.

(b) Proposed Part 8 Outdoor Performance Area.

Mr Butler gave a presentation to the Members on the proposal for an Outdoor Performance Area adjacent to the Watergate Theatre, Abbey Quarter and proposed City Library. Funding for the Watergate Urban Park has been made available by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media. The Urban Park would form a link between the Abbey Creative Quarter and City Centre. The park would consist of a set of flexible spaces that can be configured according to events or day to day use. The furniture would be selected to enhance the association with the site's history as a timber yard and a Canopy erected to provide shelter and protect performers equipment. He explained that with Members agreement it was the Council's intention to prepare a detail design of the Urban Park and proceed to Part 8 planning permission.

The Members welcomed the proposal . Mr Butler addressed their queries in relation to Bye-Laws for the area, safety measures and consumption of alcohol. Members agreed that the proposal should proceed to Plenary.

4. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Secinded by: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness
And proposed:

“ That the Residents Association in Robertshill be facilitated in securing a space in their housing scheme to locate a shed to store their lawnmower and maintenance equipment. The residents do a fantastic job in maintaining their estate and simply need a location for their shed to store their equipment safely.”

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness explained that the residents of Robertshill had received grant aid from the Council to purchase gardening equipment for the upkeep of their estate. They are now asking the Council to provide a place to store this equipment. Other Members confirmed they had also been approached by residents to try and provide a solution to the problem.

Mr. Butler agreed to talk to the Planning Department to see if they could include a storage space for communal equipment in planning conditions of future estates. In relation to Robertshill, the availability of a location for a storage shed is unclear but he confirmed he would discuss with the Parks Departments

5. Aon Ghnó Eile.

Any Other Business

None

The Mayor thanked all for attending.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

_____ **MAYOR**

Date:
