

# **CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH** **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA gCRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH A THIONÓLADH AR AN 13<sup>th</sup> DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2021.**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021.**

**Mayor, Councillor, Andrew McGuinness, Presiding.**

**Present/ I Láthair:-**

**Councillors/Comhairleoirí:** Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. John Coonan.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Maria Dollard

**Also Present:** Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Mr. Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer, Ms. Una Kealy, Administrative Officer, Mr. Alan Hyland, Executive, Engineer, Ms. Teresa Mahon, Staff Officer.

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## **Mayor's Summons of Meeting:**

Notice dated 1st October, 2021, convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

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

Minutes of monthly Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness  
Seconded by: Cllr. John Coonan  
And Resolved

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

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

The Mayor offered his sympathies to Cllr. Martin Brett on the passing of his brother Eugene Brett. The Municipal District meeting on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October was adjourned as a mark of respect to Cllr. Brett and his family.

Cllr. Brett thanked all for their sympathy and acknowledged the kindness and support given to his family over the last few weeks.

Cllr. Joe Malone called for the Skatepark to be closed until CCTV cameras are installed. Cllr. Andrew McGuinness advised that the Gardai have a policing plan to deal with any anti-social behaviour in and around the Skatepark. He stressed that only a small cohort were involved in anti-social behaviour and the vast majority of Skatepark users are genuine skateboard fanatics. Mr. Tim Butler advised the Members of the process involved in providing 20 new CCTV cameras around the City of which one will be located at the Skatepark

The Mayor:

- Congratulated Marion Flannery and her team, council staff, musicians and all involved in the successful Kilkenny Day.
- Welcomed the announcement from Diageo regarding the reopening of the Smithwick's Experience. He commended Mr. Anthony Morrison, from the Vintners Association, Kilkenny Chambers, Diageo Executives, council staff and all involved in its reinstatement.
- Thanked the Kilkenny Welcome Team, who have been acting as guides and information disseminators to both visitors and locals around the City.
- Advised all to be vigilant and report any dangerous fire work incidents to the Gardai.
- Announced the date of the Mayor's Christmas Concert for the 8<sup>th</sup> December with the Kilkennys as the headline act. More details will follow.

### **Votes of Sympathy**

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

Billy Dalton, Freshford Road, Kilkenny.  
Colette Dalton, Springfield, Kilkenny.

Tribunes were paid to Colette Dalton for her work with Cois Nore and Kilkenny Paddlers. Members offered their condolences to Cllr. David Fitzpatrick on the loss of his two Aunts.

### **3. Naushonrú ar Estáit Tithíochta - Pleanáil** Housing Estates update – Planning

Ms. Una Kealy and Mr. Alan Hyland gave the Members an update on the taking in charge applications in the City and their progress.

Members thanked Mr. Kealy and Mr. Hyland and raised the following:

- Payment for public lighting in estates where the developers are no longer around.
- Estates where new developers have replaced other developers and their responsibilities.
- Timeline for taking in charge for some estates.
- Resurfacing of roads in Rath Ullord.
- Engagement with residences in Lakeside.

Mr. Hyland responded to Members. He advised that the Council can only pay for public lighting and upgrades to roads in estates that have been taken in charge by the Council. New developers

in estates inherit all the responsibilities of previous developers and must bring everything up to standard before the estate is taken in charge. He agreed to come back to Members with timelines on estates mentioned once the taking in charge process is commenced. The residences in Lakeside have stalled the taking in charge process and the Council is awaiting their response. Mr. Hyland advised the Members that they can email him with queries regarding the taking in charge of estates,

Cllr. David Fitzgerald stated that the taking in charge procedure was a statutory process and residences in an estate should not be able to hold up progress. He suggested that Kilkenny County Council involve their Solicitor to address this issue

#### **4. Athbhreithniú Ar Luasteorainn** Speed Limit Review

Mr. Ian Gardner gave Members an update on the Speed Limits Review which is currently in progress. Members were asked to submit any speed limit proposal changes they have before the October meeting of their Municipal District. No proposals have been received but the process is still opened. The proposed speed limits changes will be circulated to the Garda Commission and Area Offices. Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws and maps will be prepared between December and February 2022 and public consultation will be in March 2022. Submissions and objections will be considered and Draft Speed Limits and Bye-Laws should be available by quarter three 2022 and adopted before year end 2022. The revised Speed Limit Bye-Laws will then be published and implemented in August 2022.

Mr Butler advised that the last time the Speed Limit Review took place was in 2015 and implemented in 2017. There are Speed Limit Review Guidelines in place. Cllr. Andrew McGuinness reminded Members to email Mr. Gardner with any proposed changes.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald raised the problem of speeding in housing estates and especially estates that have creches. He called for a review on the policy of locating creches in estate. Mr. Gardner informed Members that a speed limit review of estates had taken place and all now have a speed limit of 30km. The Council is not responsible for enforcing the speed limits but can and have applied for low cost improvement works funding to provide ramps and other speed reducing measures where required.

#### **3. Nuashonrú ar thionscadail bóithre.** - Update on Road Projects

Mr Ian Gardner, provided a report for Members detailing road work updates for October. The report included information on pavement works, pedestrian access works, footpath remedial works, outdoor dining facilitation, the Ormonde Street improvement works and miscellaneous works happening in or scheduled to commence in October. He also advised Members about the maintenance works on the Black Ferren Gate, replacement of toilet doors on the Parade, new payment machines and new and under construction public lighting.

The Members thanked Mr. Gardner and praised the staff on the quantity and quality of works around the City. They raised the following:

- Public lighting at Pococke.
- River Linear Walk and a River Management Plan.
- St. John's Church and gate from Maudlin Street.

- Kissing gates at Broguemakers Hill and St. Kierans Crescent.
- Uneven surfaces on High Street.
- Public toilets in Market Yard - Abbey Quarter Area.
- Steps on the Ballyfoyle Road and provision of public lighting.
- Type of paving being used on Ormonde Street.
- Continuation of footpath to Dunmore.
- Joint operation with Callan/Thomastown MD to construct footpath and provide public lighting out the Waterford Road to Foulkstown.
- Lighting on John's Bridge and John Street.

Mr. Ian Gardner and Mr. Butler responded to all the Members queries. Mr. Gardner advised that the provision of public lighting is dependent on the ESB and the appointment of Contractors. The process can be time consuming. He is hopeful that public lighting at Pococke will be completed by the end of the year. A River Management Plan would involve a number of organisations such as the OPW, National Parks and An Taisce. For now Mr. Gardner agreed to identify areas around the river that can be trimmed back and an inspection of benches for repair or replacement.

Mr Butler confirmed that the issue of anti-social behaviour at the steps of St. John's Church has been raised previously and a plan to erect a gate from Maudlin Street and close same at strategic time is being progressed. Our understanding is residences have been consulted.

He advised that the Cycling Officer was compiling a report on obstacles to cycling in the city and the kissing gates at Broguemakers Hill and St. Kierans Crescent will be examined.

Mr. Gardner acknowledged that he was aware of issues with some of the surfaces on High Street and it is being addressed. He confirmed that the Council is examining the idea of providing public conveniences in the Market Yard area but many factors must be considered. Contractors have been appointed for works on the steps on the Ballyfoyle Road and also for the provision of the public lighting. He advised that better standard material has been sourced for the paving in Ormonde Street and he is confident it will stand the test of time.

In relation to the Castlecomer Road out to Dunmore Mr. Butler confirmed that he has met with residences and discussed the issues with the road. He confirmed that it would be unlikely that TII would provide a footpath without realigning the entire road. A consultant is being appointed to examine the ring road footpaths and cycle tracks and their brief will include the Castlecomer Road to Dunmore.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald requested an update on the Kennywells Road and the link from the Waterbarracks.

Mr. Gardner agreed that the flowers on John's Bridge could have obscured some of the public lights. The bridge is included in the feature light project for the City and once installed the lighting will improve. Mr. Butler advised that the Council were looking at the design of the public lights on John Street and reminded Members that they can report any non-working public lights on the Council website.

Members raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour at the public conveniences on the Parade. Mr. Gardner assured the Members that the toilets are cleaned twice daily, are shut at night time and the lighting on the Mayor's Walk has been improved to address problems.

### Review of temporary one-way system to facilitate social distancing

Mr. Butler reminded Members that they had requested a review of the one-way system at the previous Municipal District meeting. Social distancing measures were introduced in Kilkenny City in June 2020 and extended in June 2021 to facilitate social distancing during the pandemic. It also important to minimise any negative impact of vehicular traffic flow as a result of the measures. From 22<sup>nd</sup> October all restrictions are due to be lifted. Going forward restrictions will be replaced with guidance and public health guidance will remain important for some time . Much discussion has taken place around the one way system and a further survey will be conducted this week to get both the business and public views. Any permanent City Traffic Management Plan will require public consultation and planning, the decision at present is whether to retain the one-way system until the pandemic is over or to revert back to the old scheme.

Mr. Gardner provided further detail on the one-way system including its five original objectives. A comprehensive City Management Plan with the goal to ease traffic in Kilkenny for the next 20 years and beyond should be the objective for all. However for now the pandemic is still with us and leaving the one-way system in place for the next few months could be justified.

The Members debated the issue and agreed to wait until the results of the survey are known and the Government plans on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October are published before deciding on the temporary retention of the one way system. It was agreed that a workshop would be arranged in three weeks to discuss the findings of the survey and the one-way system will be on the agenda for the November Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness agreed to defer his notion of motion 13(21) asking for the reverting back to the pre-covid traffic system in the City until the results of the survey are revealed and the Government Guidelines are known.

#### **4. Dáta socraithe do chruinniú Budget dúiche barasach Chathair Chill Chainnigh.**

Fix date for Municipal District of Kilkenny City Budget meeting

Mr. Tim Butler proposed that the MD of Kilkenny City Budget meeting take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm prior to the November monthly meeting. The Members agreed and Mr. Butler confirmed that this date will have to be brought to the full Council October meeting for ratification.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked for a financial statement to be produced for the budget meeting on the parking income generated in the Municipal District of Kilkenny City which is shared with the whole County. Mr. Butler agreed to provide this information but reminded Members of the former County Charge that was levied pre-2014 for all the services provided by the County Council to the City such as, fire services, library services etc.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

**Signed:**

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**MAYOR**

**Date:**

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