

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA gCRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH A THIONÓLADH AR AN 9th AIBREÁN 2021 A BHEIDH AR MS TEAMS. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON, 9TH APRIL 2021 VIA MS TEAMS.

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. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Maria Dollard.

Apologies:

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 1st April, 2021, convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

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

Minutes of monthly meeting on 12th March 2021, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Martin Brett
Seconded by: Cllr. Maria Dollard
And Resolved:

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

Cllr. Joe Malone proposed that the scheduled presentation from Cois Nore be moved forward to 4pm and requested his proposal to be seconded. Ms Anne Maria Walshe advised that the representatives from Cois Nore had been notified to join the meeting at 4.15pm.

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

The Mayor:

- Welcomed the approval of the Dunmore Biodiversity and Recreational Countryside Park and the possibility of Transport Ireland extending the City Bus Services to the proposed Park.
- Pleaded with the public not to breach security fencing around the Skate Park in the interest of safety.

Votes of Sympathy

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

Ruth Butler, Dukesmeadows, Kilkenny.
 Brendan Reidy, College Road, Kilkenny
 Ailish Stafford. Cottage Row, Graiguenamanagh, Kilkenny
 Josie Cummins, Irishtown, Kilkenny.
 Canon Norman Lynas, former Dean of St. Canices Cathedral
 Angela Kearney, Smithlands Court, Kilkenny.
 Ruth Doherty, Parnell Street, Kilkenny
 Seamus O'Connor, Granges Road, Kilkenny.

3. Fodhlíthe trádála ócáideacha Casual Trading

Mr. Tim Butler reminded Members that the Casual Trading By-Laws had been adopted on the 12th March 2021 and come into effect on the 12th April 2021. The Bye-Laws include details on the designated trading areas, the number of bays, trading days, times and fees that apply. Any changes to trading days, times and fees must be by resolution. Following discussions by the Elected Members:

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
 Seconded by: Cllr. Maria Dollard
 And Resolved:

“ that Saturday Trading be allowed on the Parade from May – September 2021”.

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Martin Brett
 Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Malone
 And Resolved:

“ that a licence fee of €200 apply to food traders and €150 to craft traders from May – September 2021”.

4. Córas Aon Bheatach One Way System.

Mr. Ian Gardner advised the Members that social distancing measures were introduced in Kilkenny City between 19th and 26th June 2020 to facilitate social distancing during the pandemic and minimise any negative impact of vehicular traffic flow as a result of the measures. The current statutory road closure facilitating the measure expires on the 19th June 2021.

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Malone
 Seconded by: Cllr. Martin Brett
 And Resolved:

“ that the social distancing measures continue to June 2022”.

It was agreed that this arrangement could be revisited depending on the progress of the pandemic. Mr. Gardner assured Members that Traders on John Street had been consulted and they also have members on the City Task Force. Mr. Butler advised that the Road Closure Notice will be advertised shortly and anyone can make observations during the statutory period of the notice.

5. Boithre/ Roads

(i) NTA Active Travel/URDF

Mr. Gardner advised the Members that two tranches of funding has been made available to Kilkenny - URDF and Active Travel.

The URDF funds regeneration and rejuvenation projects in our cities and large towns. In July 2018, the Department made a call for proposals for funding and Kilkenny was successful in receiving funding for several projects including the Abbey Quarter, Medieval Mile and Vicar Street. In January 2020, the Department issued a second call for proposals and funding for phase 2 of the Abbey Quarter (11.46 Million) and Kilkenny City Centre Enhanced Liveability Project (6.64 Million) was approved.

Mr Gardner provided the Members with details of the City Centre Enhanced Liveability Project - the proposed improvement and upgrading of High Street, Rose Inn Street, Ormonde Street, St. Kieran’s Street, Carnegie Plaza, Barrack Lane and St. Mary’s Precinct. He gave details on the estimated costs, the URDF funding and the match funding that is required to complete the projects.

Mr. Gardner advised that the Active Travel Fund is administered by the National Transport Authority to support walking and cycling as a mode of travel in urban areas. Funding of €1.873 million was announced in March for the following projects: City Traffic Management Plan, Parliament Street improvement, Cootes Lane to Ring Road, public lighting improvements, St. Kieran’s Street, St. Mary’s Lane, Carnegie Plaza, Barrack Lane, Laneways and Street Network west of City Centre, Safe School Zones, City Demarcations, Gateways, Greens Bridge Boardwalk, Radial Cycle Routes Improvements, New River Nore crossings (design), Inner Orbital Cycling Route (design), Ring Road cycle facility upgrade (design), Linear Park ancillary improvements (design), ancillary cycling facilities, light segregation cycle schemes and low cost permeability measures.

The Members thanked Mr. Gardner and raised the following queries:

- Lacken Walk extension, the boardwalk width and the timeframe involved.
- Erosion of river banks, access to the river and over hanging trees.
- St Fiacres Place
- City Bus Service.
- Cobble stones on St. Kieran’s Street.
- Hebron Road - difficulty in accessing Estates and St Kieran’s Cemetery.
- Car Roads in the City.

- Upgrade of Greens Bridge.

Mr. Gardner responded to Members. He confirmed that the widening of the Lacken Boardwalk is under consideration. The design process will identify if some trees need to be removed but it is hoped that this can be kept to a minimum. It will be a number of weeks before a timeframe for delivery can be given. Any new structures will not be affected by erosion. St Fiacres Place will be addressed under a future Roads Programme. Funding under URDF will go towards renewing pavement on St. Kieran's Street. A presentation on Car Roads will be given later in the year. Hebron Road and Greens Bridge will be considered under the Radial Road Improvement Schemes. Concerns in relation to the City Bus Service were acknowledged. The Council will continue to engage with relevant agencies in this regard.

ii) Roads Update

Mr. Gardner provided a report for Members detailing road work updates for January to April. The report included information on pavement maintenance works, road resurfacing, major patching works, reinstatement works, footpath surface repair, drainage maintenance works, tree pruning and the trialling of a range of pay & display machines.

The Members thanked and complimented Mr. Gardner and the Staff of Kilkenny County Council. They raised the following:

- Footpaths in the Butts.
- Lacken Drive Steps and Irish Rail.
- Ponding in Ashfield Estate.
- Stephen Street – pathway being undermined by trees.
- Bins on the Parade.
- Pay and display machines – timeframe for new machines.
- Irish Water – Restoration of footpaths in St. Teresa's Terrace.
- Footpaths in St. Fiacres Place.
- Pedestrian steps & rails on the Ballyfoyle Road.

Mr. Gardner responded to Members. He advised that the footpaths in the Butts will be addressed in the Works Programme. A letter will be sent to Irish Rail concerning the Lacken Drive Steps. He will look into ponding in Ashfield and he asked Members to send in photos of ponding in Estates. Funding has been allocated for Stephen Street. He explained he is trialling 3 different types of pay and display machines and it is hoped to replace the machines to coincide with the updating of the On-Street Parking Bye-Laws. The procurement process will determine which machines are chosen. Card payments, parking apps and other ideas are being considered for the payment of on-street parking. Irish Water have confirmed that they will fully restore footpaths after completing works. Mr. Gardner advised that extra bins have been provided around the City and are emptied more frequently. An application for funding has been made to address problem with the steps between the Ballyfoyle Road and Ring Road and we are waiting for a response.

6. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion

It was	Proposed by:	Cllr. Martin Brett
	Seconded by:	Cllr. David Fitzgerald
	And Resolved	

“That Kilkenny Municipal District formulate a plan to alleviate traffic from Blackmill St. on to Dominic St. “ 2(21) Martin Brett

Mr. Gardner advised that this area had been looked at in the past and traffic studies have been carried out but there is no easy solution. It will be considered under a general Traffic Management Plan for this area but this is likely to be dependent on the provision of a new link connecting the Waterbarrack Roundabout to the Circular Road.

It was Proposed by: Cllr. David Fitzgerald
 Seconded by: Cllr. Martin Brett
 And Resolved

“That Kilkenny MDC prepare a plan to install a footpath from the new LIHAF scheme on the Ballycallan Road to the Drakelands housing estate to include a connection to Drakelands Nursing home” 3(21) David Fitzgerald

Funding would not be available for such works through the Road Works Programme. Mr. Gardner agreed to look into future funding through the low-cost works programme and Active Travel.

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
 Seconded by: Cllr. Maria Dollard
 And Resolved

“That Kilkenny Municipal District pursue all avenues to provide lighting on the footpaths at Brooklawn “. 4(21) Martin Brett & Andrew McGuinness.

Mr. Gardner advised that he was seeking funding for this project.

It was Proposed by: Cllr. John Coonan
 Seconded by: Cllr. Martin Brett
 And Resolved

“ With the roll out of the vaccination programme and the number of cases of the virus reducing we can look forward to the phased re-opening of society. In order to put our best foot forward I suggest that property/business owners within the city centre be contacted with a view to encouraging them to carry out works to improve the appearance of their properties including painting and maintenance/repair of gutters and downpipes etc”. 5(21) John Coonan

It was agreed to bring this motion forward at the next City Task Force meeting.

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness
 Seconded by: Cllr. Maria Dollard
 And Resolved

“That Kilkenny County Municipal District would ask the NTA to alter an existing bus route or establish a new route which would accommodate residents of the Dublin Road/Shandon Park/Altamount Park area of the City. Residents in any of these areas, particularly the elderly or those with disabilities, have no access to public transport as crossing a busy ring road is not an option. With the real possibility of lands in the area being developed in the near future, including

that of St. Canices Hospital, it is imperative that the necessary public transport infrastructure be installed without delay to cater for the existing and future needs of the area”. (6)21 Eugene McGuinness

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness confirmed that this issue had been raised previously and a letter was sent to the NTA. Cllr Eugene McGuinness asked that they be contacted again.

7. Cur i láthaire - Cois Nore

Presentation - Cois Nore

Dr. Bill Cuddihy, Dr Miriam O’Connor, Mr. Brian Tyrrell and Ms. Mary Dolan joined the meeting on behalf of Cois Nore

Dr. Bill Cuddihy , Chairperson of Cois Nore, gave a presentation on Cois Nore, the cancer support centre in Kilkenny. He provided background to the service and gave the rational for the need to expand the services to assist the people in Kilkenny and their families to live well with a cancer diagnosis. He gave examples of cancer support services in other Counties, custom-built premises and the positive impact that has had on the numbers using the service. The objectives of Cois Nore are in accordance with the City and County Development Plan core strategies. He asked that the Council consider providing a suitable site free of charge to enable Cois Nore to advance their purpose.

As the time approached 4.30pm

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Martin Brett

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Malone

And Agreed

“ To extend the standing order to finish dealing with the current item”

Dr. Miriam O’Connor, Consultant Medical Oncologist at University Hospital Waterford, spoke about the National Cancer Strategy and how psychological care is critical to the recovery and support of cancer patients and their families. Custom-build centres like the Cuisle Centre in Laois and the Solas Centre in Waterford have the facilities to support more families and patients and this is proving to be very successful. She supported Cois Nore request for a custom-built centre in Kilkenny.

The Mayor and Members thanked Dr. Cuddihy and Dr. O’Connor for their presentation. They acknowledged the great work of by Cois Nore and offered their support to the Centre.

Mr. Butler thanked Cois Nore. He advised that further discussions will be held and the Council will revert back in due course.

The Mayor thanked all for attending .

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

MAYOR

Date:
