

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA gCRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH A THIONÓLADH AR AN 12th FEABHRA 2021 A BHEIDH AR MS TEAMS. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON, 12TH FEBRUARY 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 Executive Engineer, Mr Dermot Donovan Roadplan, Ms. Teresa Mahon, Staff Officer

Mayor's Summons of Meeting:

Notice dated 5th February, 2021, convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

It was Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Seconded by: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness
And Agreed

“That the Members would go into Committee to discuss the matter of use of amenity lands for a building”.

The meeting resumed at 3.15pm.

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

Minutes of monthly meeting on 8th January 2021, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

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

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

Mr. Butler informed Members that the minutes could not reflect every item mentioned at the meetings, if a Member had any queries with the recording of an item the subsequent meeting is the appropriate forum to raise it.

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness requested an amendment to the minutes as follows:

It was Proposed by: Cllr Eugene McGuinness
Seconded by: Cllr Andrew McGuinness
And agreed

“ That the Christmas lights remain on the Parade until the end of the January”

It was agreed that the amendment would be made to the minutes.

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness requested that the Media accurately report details from the meeting published by the press.

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

The Mayor:

- Congratulated all involved in Kilkenny’s recent success in the IBAL awards.
- Acknowledged the generosity of the public for their contributions to the Mayor’s Christmas Fund.
- Congratulated Cartoon Saloon on their recent nomination for a Golden Globe
- Condemned the recent attacks on the City Bus Services and confirmed that An Gardai Síochána are reintroducing their Bus Safe Initiative.
- Reminded all that Covid is still with us and requested the public to continue to adhere to public health requirements.

Votes of Sympathy

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

Private Mark Mahon, Ballyhackett, Tullow, Carlow stationed at James Stephens Barracks.

Mr. Ray Nolan, Bohergloss, Freshford, Kilkenny.

Mrs. Kitty Guidera, Assumption Place, Kilkenny.

Mr. John L. O’Sullivan, Dominic St. Kilkenny.

3. Staidéar Rothaíochta Chathair Chill Chainnigh.

Kilkenny City Cycling Study – Presentation by Dermot Donovan. Roadplan

Mr. Tim Butler introduced Mr. Dermot Donovan to the Members explaining that Roadplan had been appointed by Kilkenny Leadership Partnership in association with Kilkenny County Council to prepare a report on cycling in the City Centre. The NTA has sought funding applications from Local Authorities in respect of walking & cycling funding. They are also funding 2 staff to implement the plan.

Mr. Donovan gave the Members an overview of the Kilkenny City Cycle Study. The study focuses on proposals to improve and encourage cycling in the City. He provided details on the cycling measures that could be introduced into the City to make it a cycling friendly environment including:

- Changes to Core City Streets – traffic volume reduction, traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds, junction treatment and traffic management and redistribution of carriageways.
- Provision of cycleways from cardinal points – eastern cycleway from Fairways to Lady Desart Bridge, northern cycleway from Talbot’s Inch to Lady Desart Bridge, southern cycleway from Ossory Bridge to Lady Desart Bridge and western cycleway from Western Environs to Lady Desart Bridge.
- Nore River Crossings- northern crossing at Mount Brilliant and southern crossing at Lacken.
- Inner Ring Cycleway – cycleways on Inner Ring northern section, Inner Ring eastern section and Inner Ring southern and western sections.
- Segregated cycle tracks on radial routes.
- Ring Road – create gaps at intervals in the fencing to provide increased connectivity, reduce community severance and encourage use of sustainable transport.
- Park and Pedal, Cycle Parking, Speed Limits.
- Other selected cycle links – Castlecomer Road to Linear Park, City Walls cycleway, Dean Street.
- Junction Upgrades- priority junctions, roundabouts, traffic signals and crossings.
- Traffic Management – point closures, exemption for the cyclist, school streets, low cost & free car park, removal of on street parking.
- Permeability- removal of barriers to movement.
- Wayfinding- signage and apps.
- Bike hire scheme.

Mr. Donovan described how in Holland a quarter of all Journeys are by bicycle. In Ireland in 1986 7% of journeys were by bicycle and that had reduced to 3% by 2016. We are along way off the National Planning Framework 2020 target of 10%. The biggest barriers stopping people from cycling is fear and vulnerability and these can be removed through introducing a comprehensive City Cycling Plan.

The Members thanked Mr. Donovan for his detailed presentation and raised the following queries/questions

- Linking Dunmore Biodiversity Plan with the City.
- Ensuring that there are plans for future increase in population in Western Environs.
- Segregation of cycles lanes – kerbing v bollards.
- Narrow boardwalks unable to facilitate 2-way traffic.
- Mount Brilliant crossing logistics.
- Permeability create rat runs in Estates.
- Completion of Ring Road.
- Abbey Quarter Car Park – traffic impact assessment.
- Problems with crossings on the Dublin Road.
- City cycling links to proposed north south greenway Castlecomer to Inistioge
- Timeline for the opening of the River Bank Walk through Abbey Quarter.

Cllr David Fitzgerald formally proposed that this report be included in the City and County Development Plan and adopted as policy. Cllr John Coonan seconded the proposal.

As the time approached 4.30pm

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

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

Mr. Tim Butler, Mr. Dermot Donovan and Mr Ian Gardner responded to Members. Mr Donovan explained that the study only looked at the City Area and had geographical limitations. Dunmore and the Western Environs will feed into the study/plans but were not included. He described how kerb segregation is preferable to bollards but it was also much more expensive. In the short-term bollards can be used to take the road space and encourage people to use it especially around schools as has already been proven in Loreto and St. Canices National School. Kerb segregation should be look at as part of any street urban area enhancement and can be used by everyone.

He agreed that the boardwalks were too narrow especially for cycling and they were also slippery. The design of these will have to be reconsidered. He concurred that the crossing at Mount Brilliant could be challenging but all considerations will be taken on board before choosing the exact location. In regard to traffic in the Abbey Quarter, this should be considered with regard to the positive impact this may have on visiting street network. Crossings on the Dublin Road are essential but building bridges might not be the best solution. Other options need to be considers including new speed limits and pedestrian crossings.

Mr. Gardner informed Members that the Engineer for the Abbey Quarter has indicated that once the Contractors are back on site the timeline for completion for the River Bank Walk should be 4-6 weeks.

Mr. Butler agreed to consult with the Senior Executive Planner Mr. Denis Malone and report back to the Members regarding the inclusion of this study in the City and County Development Plan. Mr. Gardner suggested that the study could feed into the City Mobility Plan and be incorporated into the Development Plan. Mr. Butler confirmed that consultants have been appointed to examine the link underneath Green’s Bridge and a report will be bought to Members when completed. A parking assessment was prepared in 2017 to review the parking need required to facilitate the Abbey Quarter development.

The Members agreed that they needed to read the study in detail and asked that this item be including on the agenda for the March 2021 MD meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
MAYOR

Date: _____