

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A
TIONÓLADH AN 20th MARTA, 2023

*MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 20th MARCH, 2023 AT 10 A.M.*

Mayor, Councillor David Fitzgerald, Presiding.

Present/ I Láthair:-

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

Apologies:

Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler Director of Services, Ms. Mary Mulholland, Director of Services, Ms. Anne Maria Walsh Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Ian Gardner Senior Engineer, Eimear Cody Senior Engineer, Nicolaas Louw Acting Senior Planer, Seamus Kavanagh Senior Engineer, Alison McGrath Staff Officer.

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 13th March, 2023, 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 10th February, 2023 having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr. John Coonan

Seconded By: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness
And Agreed

"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:

The Members joined with the Mayor in congratulating all those involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Tradfest. The Chairperson Cllr. Joe Malone added his thanks especially to Marian Flannery and the organising committee. Cllr. Eugene McGuinness requested that details of cost of the festival be sent to the members.

Advised that a number of new City Twinning applications have been received. It may be an opportune time to reconvene the Twinning Committee.

3. *Máistirphlean- Loughmacask Master Plan update.*

Nicolaas Louw presented an update on the Loughmacask Master plan. Main issues raised arising from the submissions:

- New housing and traffic impact on Tullaroan Road/Lord Edward Street/Butts Roundabout
- Adding traffic onto the Freshford Road/Dunningstown Road by virtue of new CBS and recently granted permissions.
- The Butts –
 - Traffic (Lord Edward Street, St. Josephs Rd. and rat running)
 - Cantwell's yard (incl Wall)
 - Proposals for housing
 - Development of open space
 - Anti- social behaviour
- The Butts is to be designated as a "Special Regeneration Area"
- Concerns about peak hour school traffic and traffic congestion generally
- Need for connection from the Kilmanagh Road to the Freshford Road (R7) and details on Freshford Road to Loughmacask (R6)

The process for adoption of the plan is subject to the approval of the Elected Members at the Monthly meeting to be held on 20th March, 2023 the plan will go on public display, next steps are:

- Draft Masterplan amendments to go on display in April
- Consultant's Report on traffic impacts will be put on display with the amendments to the plan
- Following the public consultation process the Plan will be presented to the members for adoption with or without amendments

The Members thanked Mr. Louw for the presentation. Contributions were received from Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Cllr Maria Dollard, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Cllr Joe Malone and Cllr. David FitzGerald.

Issues raised by Members as follows:

- Appropriate funding required to progress the plans.
- Update on the Northern Extension and funding.
- A consultative process with residents in the area.
- Consult with Handball Group, Waterbarracks and Fr. McGrath Centre.
- R7 timelines.

- Additional Public Meetings.
- Timelines for the Special Regenerations Area commencement.
- St. Anthony's site development.

Mr. Tim Butler noted the high level of engagement with the public and that further engagement will take place regarding the development of The Butts as a 'Special Regeneration Area'.

Mr. Tim Butler advised that feasibility and environmental studies will commence later in 2023 with regard to the Kilmanagh Road to the Freshford Road connection (R7) This entire process to planning will take 4 years approximately. In the meantime the Council will examine permeability options in the Loughmacask area that may alleviate potential issues in the short-term.

Ms. Mary Mulholland advised that there are no current plans for St. Anthony's site. The first step will be consultation with the residents.

A strategic Assessment Report on the Northern Ring Road Extension was submitted to the Department of Transport in August 2022. A response to queries raised by the Department is currently being prepared.

The Draft Loughmacask Master Plan was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed by all.

4. *Molta Chuid a Ocht-Proposed Part 8 - Lousy Bush Lane Access to CBS Link Road (Presentation)*

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh presented the proposal to create a new link road which will allow Lousybush to become a dedicated active travel route for cyclists and pedestrians and will address the new school accessibility issues.

The Members thanked Mr. Kavanagh for the presentation. Contributions were received from Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Cllr Maria Dollard, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Cllr Joe Malone and Cllr. David FitzGerald.

Issues raised by Members as follows:

- Delays with school development.
- Images of what Lousybush Lane will look like when works are completed.
- Will proposed changes to Active Travel result in increased use of cycling and pedestrian access to the school.
- Artist's impression of completed works.

Mr. Tim Butler noted the delays were as a result of inflation and we were in constant contact with the Departments agents on the matter.

It was proposed by Cllr. Joe. Malone and seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness that Kilkenny County Council write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the delay in funding provision for the new school.

Lousy Bush Lane Access to CBS Link Road was proposed to go on public display by Cllr. David FitzGerald and seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed by all.

5. *Fodhlíthe um rialú páirceála -Parking Control Bye-Laws*

It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

6. *Tithíocht/Housing:*

(i) Housing Delivery Plan (*Presentation*)

Ms. Eimear Cody, Senior Engineer provided an update for the Members on Housing Capital. The report included details on:

- Housing demand in Kilkenny City.
- Breakdown of Tenure Types.
- Kilkenny City Housing Activity-Approved Projects/projects in the pipeline.
- S179A – Planning and Development Act- Temporary Exemption for LA Housing.
- Part V Housing
 - Western Environs
 - Loughmacask
 - Waterford Road
- Infill Schemes- Underused Green Spaces within existing communities.
- The challenges facing housing capital delivery.

The Members thanked Ms. Cody for the presentation. Contributions were received from Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Cllr Maria Dollard, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Cllr Joe Malone and Cllr. David FitzGerald.

At this stage it was proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone and seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness to suspend Standing Orders to complete this item and deal with Item 7 & 8. This was agreed by all.

Issues raised by Members were as follows:

- Welcomed reduction in housing list.
- Concern regarding pipeline of new housing continuing in future years.
- Landlords exiting the market and the resulting demand on housing list.
- Limited lands owned by the Council.
- Masterplan for St. Canice's Hospital-request an update on the plan.
- Level of voids in Kilkenny.
- Lack of available tradespeople.
- One bed versus two bed option.
- Part V available for sale to tenants.
- Available housing for larger families.
- Consideration of apprenticeships in Kilkenny County Council.
- Affordability constraints for housing loans applicants.
- Welcomed the redevelopment of the house on Wolfe Tone Street.

- Eviction ban lifted risks to be considered.
- Urban regeneration key to success
- Protection of 'passive green spaces/sensory spaces.
- Development of derelict sites.
- Number of people on the transfer list.
- Number of people in HAP Scheme/RAS Scheme.

Ms. Mulholland responded to Members and agreed to examine issues raised. She advised that there are 253 housing units in the pipeline with 200 additional to come on stream. The focus is on brownfield sites next to the centre such as the Abbey Quarter. The level of demand for housing from people that are not eligible for social housing may be accommodated through the Affordable Housing or other Schemes. Voids average at between 40-45, at the moment there are 36 voids. Some can take longer due to retrofit problems which are being addressed. Kilkenny County Council have sixteen maintenance crew members compared to some local authorities which have three to four maintenance crew members. The consideration of apprenticeships would be a matter for the ETB. The Department of Housing guidelines set the policies regarding one bed versus two bed properties. Part V, larger units and adapted units are not for sale. Kilkenny County Council has forty-two people in social housing on an NTQ with solutions in place for thirty-six. The HAP Placefinder is working with them to find suitable alternatives. Under 'Housing for All' 40% of social housing is to be provided by Approved Housing Bodies. Ms. Mulholland noted that individuals on the social housing list can confuse need versus preferences. Both HAP and RAS tenants on an NTQ can be transferred to social housing.

Ms. Eimear Cody noted that the Council has started working on CPO's/vacant and derelict sites. Regarding existing green space, the Council is looking at utilisation of the spaces.

7. *Trádáil ócáideach/Casual Trading*

Amendment to trading hours for the May bank holiday weekend was proposed to include the Saturday and Sunday 23th and 30th April was proposed by Mr. Tim Butler as the bye-laws cover from 1st May only.

It was proposed by Cllr John Coonan and seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed by all.

8. *Boithre - Roads*

Road Works Programme 2023 was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan and seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed.

9. *Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion*

It was agreed to defer the Notice of Motions to the next meeting.

10. *Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business*

That concluded the business of the meeting. The Mayor thanked all for attending.

Signed: _____

MAYOR

Date: _____