

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

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A
TIONÓLADH AR AN 14 Ú MÁRTA 2025 AG 2.30PM**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 14TH MARCH, 2025 AT 2.30 P.M.**

Mayor, Councillor Andrew McGuinness Presiding

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr John Coonan, Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Cllr Seán O'hArgáin, Cllr Joe Malone, Cllr Maria Dollard, & Cllr David Fitzgerald

Also Present:

Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Ms. Margo Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Stan Cullen, A/Senior Engineer, Mr Paul Byrne, A/Executive Engineer, Brendan Sheahan, Senior Executive Engineer, Kevin Pettit, Executive Engineer and Ms. Joanna Pierce, A/Staff Officer.

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 7th March 2025 convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

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

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th February 2025, having been previously circulated, were tabled for confirmation. Cllr Joe Malone requested that an amendment be made to the Minutes to correct that the congratulations expressed at the February meeting were for all newly elected senators, not only Ms. Patricia Stephenson.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin

Seconded By: Cllr. Joe Malone

And Agreed:

“That the Minutes as presented to the meeting be amended and hereby adopted”.

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

Mayor Andrew McGuinness proposed that the meeting will end at 4 p.m. to facilitate a number of guests coming to the meeting. Former Mayor of Kilkenny, Minnesota, Kevin Taffe, will provide a short briefing on the results of the city twinning, and Irish Dance Championship dancer Zahra Khodabacksh will be presented with a Mayor's Award for her outstanding Irish dancing achievements.

Proposed By: Cllr. Joe Malone

Seconded By: Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin

Elected Members asked for an update on the issue discussed during the February Municipal District meeting regarding the Naming Committee and its authority over the naming of housing estates and quality of signage on business premises in the city.

Mr. Tim Butler responded to the query regarding the naming of private estates, stating that the Naming Committee has no authority over the names and that he will provide a further update on the conditions related to this issue. He also advised that resources have been allocated, a new staff member has been appointed to the Signage Enforcement Section, and a proactive approach is already be taken to address this issue.

3. Boithre – Roads Monthly Update.

(i) City Traffic Update

a) Speed Limit Review Presentation

Mr. Paul Byrne presented Elected Members with a pre-draft consultation with an update to Special Speed Limit Bye Laws for County Kilkenny.

- National Speed Limit Review 2023 and change in legislation to apply a default speed limit on certain roads.
- Current speed limits and the proposed speed limits.
- Categories to be introduced in three stages:
 - i. Rural speed limit: 60 km/h
 - ii. Urban speed limit: 30 km/h
 - iii. National secondary roads: 80 km/h
- As part of the consultation, notification letters will be sent to the Local Authorities, TII, public transport, and Garda Síochána, and will also be presented to the elected members.

- Mr. Byrne advised that any submissions received as part of this process will be presented at the Municipal District meeting. This will be followed by draft by-laws which will be sent out for public consultation. The outcome of the public consultation will feed into the final draft, which will be prepared, presented, adopted, and implemented.
- Timelines are dependent on the workshop provided by the Department.

The Members welcomed the updates and thanked Mr. Byrne for the presentation.

Elected members raised the following queries:

- Asked about specific road speed limit changes.

Mr. Byrne responded to all queries raised:

- Speed limit changes will be addressed as per guidelines received during the workshops. Default speed limits will be applied based on the categorization of the roads.
- Mr. Cullen asked Elected Members to advise of any areas they have knowledge that the speed limit should be assessed.

b) Parking Bye-laws - Extents Map

Mr. Stan Cullen spoke about the need to review current parking by-laws. The current by-laws extend to what were the City Borough Boundaries, and there is a much larger demand for parking within the City. Mr. Cullen will issue the proposed extents of the by-laws to the Elected Members with the view to hold a workshop in the coming month in order to proceed to public consultations.

c) HCV Plan Update

Details of the HCV Plan update were discussed at the workshop held on the 14th of March 2025, prior to the Municipal District meeting.

(ii) 2025 Roadworks and Active Travel Programmes

Details of the 2025 Roadworks were discussed at the workshop held on the 14th of March 2025, prior to the Municipal District meeting.

Proposed By: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Seconded By: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness

Active Travel Programmes

Mr. Brendan Sheahan presented the Elected Members with the Active Travel Programme 2025. He also explained what Active Travel is and what measures are being taken by the Council to implement it. He advised the Members on the funding of approximately three million euros received annually from the

Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority and how the budget is managed across projects and schemes on a yearly basis. Mr. Sheahan briefed the Members on the items listed in the Active Travel Measures Allocation for 2025.

The Members welcomed the updates and thanked Mr. Sheahan for the presentation.

Elected members raised the following queries:

- Park and Ride facilities to overcome the parking issues within the city.
- Parking around Presentation School on Parnell Street.
- Bike stand on Callan Road vandalized and subsequently removed.
- Provision for the extension of parking space at Linear Park to prevent parking on footpaths.
- Campervan parking in Riverside Drive causing congestion at the entrance.
- Ring Road crossing at Bohernatounish Rd Roundabout and other sections of the road.

Mr. Sheahan responded to all queries raised:

- Park and Ride facilities are not part of the Active Travel Program; they are infrastructure for walking and cycling. SUMP is a wider plan that includes public transport and park and ride. Mr. Cullen advised that park and ride facilities are being reviewed but are not yet at the stage to present to the members.
- Regarding parking around Presentation School on Parnell Street, the Council is in contact with the school to support them in addressing the parking issues.
- The bike stand on Callan Road will be reviewed by the Area Office.
- The Linear Park parking extension is not currently being reviewed; the focus is on pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.
- The Ring Road is a priority during discussions with TII, including locations such as Bohernatounish Road, Dublin Road, and Waterford Road, followed by Callan Road.
- Campervan parking, a proper signage to be put in place.

(iii) Waterford Road Active Travel Scheme – S38

Mr. Kevin Pettit presented the elected members with a Waterford Road Scheme for Active Travel. He explained the details of the scheme and the location of the roads that the scheme refers to. He presented the current layout of the road and proposed cross sections. Members were presented with drawings highlighting changes at locations from N10 Roundabout to Patrick Street, Bohernatounish Roundabout to N10 Ring Road, the section opposite Lime Tree Dental, and outside Project National School.

The Members welcomed the updates and thanked Mr. Pettit for the presentation.

Elected members raised the following queries:

- Will the bus stop be extended for public use?
- How will the cycling lane be marked on the roundabouts to ensure safety for cyclists?
- Clarification on the surface between pedestrians, cyclists, and car users.
- What is the timeline for the scheme to move to the execution phase?

Mr. Pettit responded to all queries raised:

- The bus stop can be extended for public bus use if future bus routes are in the location.
- There will be a shared surface of the roundabout for cyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, rain gardens will be incorporated to address the issue of seasonal flooding.
- A raised curb will be installed between pedestrians and cyclists, and the road surface.
- The timeline for the project: the tendering process is planned for the end of May 2025, and works will start after the tender is selected. Due to the extent of the works associated with the project, it will continue into 2026.

(iv) 2025 Markets

a) Summer Market Proposal

b) Artists' Market proposal

Mr. Stan Cullen advised the elected members that he intends to advertise the extension of Summer Markets and Artists Market trading by-laws next week in the newspapers. The extension of trading by-laws will be from the 3rd of May until the 28th of September, covering 22 weekends in total. He also advised that in the event where Mayor's Walk is required for a special event, the artists will be reimbursed for the time that the area won't be available to them.

Elected members raised the following queries:

- Canopies for the artists: Council to provide guidelines on the appearance of canopies to maintain a positive visual aspect for the area. Could the Council supply the canopies for the artists?
- Can the Artists Market be extended to include Thursdays, on market days?

Mr. Cullen responded to all queries raised:

- He supports the use of canopies by the artists, suggesting a uniform colour of white. Artists will be informed about the details on their application for trading.
- Extended trading on Thursdays would require amendments to the by-

laws. This matter can be reviewed.

Proposed By: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Seconded By: Cllr. Joe Malone

(v) Monthly Works Update

As it was approaching 4 o'clock, the Mayor requested that the Monthly Work Update report be emailed to the members.

4. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion.

5(25): Proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin

Seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone & agreed:

"An Ghaeilge sa chathair

De bharr Seachtain na Gaeilge a bheith ar siúl faoi láthair, beidh Ceantar Bardasach Chathair Chill Chainnigh sásta an méid seo a leanas a dhéanamh chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn:

a) Labhairt na Gaeilge a spreagadh ag ár gcruinnithe míosúla.

b) Labhairt na Gaeilge a spreagadh ag an Méara, leas-Mhéara agus baill eile tofa ag gach ócáid poiblí.

c) Comharthaí poiblí inár bhfoirgnimh agus sa chathair a bheith dátheangach i gcónaí agus an Ghaeilge a bheith in úsáid ag gnónna an chathair.

d) Comórtas a rith gach bliain chun aitheantas a thabairt d'úsáid mhaith an Ghaeilge a aithint agus a mholadh.

e) Cruinniú dátheangach le córas aistriúcháin chomhuainigh a bheith againn gach Márta."

"The Irish Language in the City

Due to the current Irish Language Week (Seachtain na Gaeilge), Kilkenny City Municipal District will be pleased to do the following to promote the Irish language:

a) Encourage the use of Irish at our monthly meetings.

b) Encourage the use of Irish by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other elected members at all public events.

c) Ensure that public signs on our buildings and in the city are bilingual at all times and that Irish is used by city businesses.

d) Run a competition each year to recognise and encourage good use of the Irish language.

e) Hold a bilingual meeting with simultaneous translation every March."

Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin spoke on his motion.

All members were supportive of the motion. They noted that the motion had been put forward in the past but was not successful. This time, they will do everything in their power to ensure the success of introducing the Irish language.

Motions 4(25) & 6(25) were deferred to the next April Meeting.

5. Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed:

MAYOR

Date:
