

MIONTUAIRISÍ DE CHRUIINIÚ IOMLÁNACH CHOMHAIRLE
CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH A TIONÓLADH DÉ LUAIN, AN 17
DEIREADH FÓMHAIR, 2022 AG 3.00 P.M. I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE,
HALLA AN CHONTAE & TRÍ FHOIRNE MS



MINUTES OF PLENARY MEETING OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2022 AT 3.00 P.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS

Chair: Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick.

Elected Members: *Council Chamber*

Cllrs. John Brennan, Michael Delaney, Michael Doyle, Martin Brett, John Coonan, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Maria Dollard, Eamon Aylward, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy.

MS Teams

Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, Deirdre Cullen, Matt Doran, Ger Frisby, Joe Lyons, Michael McCarthy, Eugene McGuinness & Patrick O'Neill.

Officials:

Sean McKeown, Tim Butler, Mary Mulholland, Denis Malone, Martin Prendiville, Fiona Deegan, Declan Murphy, Seamus Kavanagh, Dearbhala Ledwidge, Bernadette Moloney, Noelle Brett & Anne Maria Walsh.

1. *Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes*

(i) **Minutes of September Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council**

Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed.

“That the Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 19th September, 2022 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

Fógraí - Announcements

Cathaoirleach Pat Fitzpatrick extended congratulations to the following:

- Ballyhale Shamrocks on winning Senior Club Hurling.
- St. Martin’s Muckalee on winning U19 Hurling final.
- Bennettsbridge on winning U13 Round C Hurling Final.
- Muckalee Ladies on winning U16 Football Championships.

He congratulated all involved in Kilkenny Day and John “Shark” Hanlon’s Family on local horse that won the American Grand National.

He sent best wishes to Savour Kilkenny as this Festival returns to the Parade after Covid.

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Andrea Middleton, Finance Department on the death of her father Pat Dreeling.
- Martin Egan, Water Services on the death of his sister Lil Horgan.
- Family of the late Matthew Doyle, Carrick-on-Suir [*Pensioner*].
- The Cresslough Community on the tragic accident that resulted in the death of ten people in their community.
- Family of the late Bette Miller, Kilkenny.
- Family of John Maher [*Former Councillor*] on the death of his wife Ann.

All Members were associated with the votes of sympathy.

2. (a) (i) **Cuid 8: Sráid an Droichid & Flaggy Lane Scéim Taistil Ghníomhach Callan
Part 8: Bridge Street & Flaggy Lane Active Travel Scheme Callan**

Mr. Tim Butler advised that Paul Bergin, Kilgallen & Partners will present a PowerPoint Presentation to the Members on the proposed Active Travel Scheme for the centre of Callan.

Mr. Bergin gave an overview on the following in his Presentation:

- Current traffic flows on Bridge Street, Mill Street, Green Street and Flaggy Lane and issues arising for pedestrians, cyclists and parking.
- Objectives of proposed development.
- Details on the proposed flow of traffic.
- Drawings to highlight the proposed changes.
- Works to be undertaken to include surface water, drainage system, public lighting and overhead utilities to be underground where feasible.

Mr. Butler advised that public consultation was undertaken and 16 submissions were received. These are all included in the report. The proposed development has been considered at the Callan/Thomastown Municipal District Meeting. The Acting Chief Executive recommends to the Council that the proposed development proceeds in accordance with the plans made available for public inspection and taking into account the commitments and recommendations as outlined in this Report.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Joe Lyons, Matt Doran and John Coonan in relation to the proposed Scheme which will be a huge improvement for all those using these streets. They asked that work be undertaken immediately for the safety of all road users.

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons and agreed that:

"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended for the proposed development at Bridge Street and Flaggy Lane Active Travel Scheme Callan, as circulated."

(ii) **Ag Dul i gCeannas - Taking in Charge: Initiation
(TC59) The Greens, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny**

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010".

Development: TC59 - The Greens, Jerpoint West, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

(iii) Ag Dul i gCeannas - Initiation - TC101 Whitehall, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010".

Development: TC101 - Whitehall, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny

(b) (i) Saoráid Rótharraingthe Bainc - Bank Overdraft Facility

Mr. Martin Prendiville, Head of Finance advised that the Members are being requested to approve an Overdraft Facility of €20m for the Year 2023. This is the same amount as for the Year 2022. If the Elected Members approve this facility it will be forwarded to the Department for approval.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed that:

"That subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves overdraft borrowings to a maximum amount of €20,000,000 for the full year ending 31st December, 2023."

(c) (i) Cothabháil an Gheimhridh - Winter Maintenance

Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services presented his report on the Winter Maintenance Plan for 2022/2023 and recommended approval by the Elected Members.

He advised that the season will extend from 17th October, 2022 to 30th April, 2023. Priority 1 & 2 road network will be kept frost/ice free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The total length of Priority 1 & 2 routes is 427km. Each Municipal District will consider Priority 3 routes at their Monthly Meetings. These routes will be treated at local discretion.

Mr. Butler further advised that it is the duty of individual road users to ensure that they drive in accordance with prevailing conditions and that no assumption should be made that frost or icy conditions do not prevail on certain areas of the road network.

A full copy of the Winter Maintenance Plan 2022/2023 will be published on the Council's website.

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael Delaney, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and agreed that:

"That Kilkenny County Council approves the Winter Maintenance Plan 2022/2023 as circulated to the Members."

(d) (i) ***Foireann Suas le Glanadh Suas - Team Up to Clean Up***

Ms. Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer gave a presentation on “Lets Team Up to Clean Up”.

In her presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- Project overview.
- Sponsors of the Project - 3 Year period 2023-2025.
- Collaboration with many groups - list of groups given.
- Designated dates for Clean Up dates to coincide with new Bank Holiday 1st February.
- Campaign launched June 2022.
- Media Campaign - target groups and volunteers.
- Online Registration Portal.
- Preparation for events - Health & Safety Assessment, distribution of litter picking packs and flowering bulbs.
- Overview on Pilot event - 9th October 2022.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick thanked her for the Presentation and referred to the pilot event on Kilkenny Day, even though the weather was inclement there was a good turnout. He also thanked the five Sponsors for their committment in this clean up.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. John Coonan, Maria Dollard, Joe Malone, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Andrew McGuinness, Tomás Breathnach, Fidelis Doherty, Martin Brett and Pat Dunphy. Members welcomed this project and encouraged all to get involved and register early.

Queries were raised in relation to the following:

- Promotion of event - letter drop to all households, encourage children to get involved.
- Need for Community Workers in the City and main towns.
- Welcomed the incentive - bulbs for planting.
- Stronger fines and punishment for illegal dumping and littering.
- Concerns regarding Health & Safety and insurance for groups involved.
- Monthly update to be included in CE Report.
- Include the Gaisce Awards for young people.
- Involve Taisce, Keep Kilkenny Beautiful
- Sponsorship is very welcome.

Ms. Bernadette Moloney responded to the issues raised by Members and asked them to promote the event in their communities and on social media. Health & Safety assessments are necessary for all Groups. The project will be kept under review for improvements and for more clean days, if required.

(ii) ***Nuashonrú Cánach Talún Criosaithe Cónaithe***
Residential Zoned Land Tax Update

Mr. Denis Malone, Acting Director of Services gave a presentation on Residential Zoned Land Tax. In his presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Background to the new tax legislation.
- Purpose of the zoned land tax.
- What land is included for the tax.

- Vacant Site Levy will be replaced with this tax and the Revenue Commissioners will be collecting it.
- Areas being included for zoned lands.
- Lands not included and why - criteria is outlined in the legislation.
- Process involved – maps go on public display on 1st November, 2022, Submissions accepted, Right of Appeal to An Bord Pleanála, Supplemental Maps - May/June 2023. Final Maps – December 2023. Tax effective – February 2024.
- Amendments to zoning.
- Interaction with Vacant Site Levy.
- Public Awareness Campaign commencing in November 2022, details on our website.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Malone for his Presentation.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Maria Dollard, Patrick O’Neill, Fidelis Doherty and Tomás Breathnach.

Queries raised by Members are as follows:

- Does the Council receive the Tax collected?
- Zoned lands being farmed - are they included?
- Non service lands.
- Villages that have no development boundary/zoning – what is their status?
- Need for a local awareness campaign.

Mr. Malone responded to the queries raised by Members. There are only five towns selected for this new tax. Towns & Villages that do not have adequate services are not included, serviced lands is only liable for the tax.

(iii) *Nuashonrú ar Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide - Climate Action Update*

Ms. Dearbhala Ledwidge gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Climate Action Update.

She gave an overview on the following:

- Appointment of Climate Action Officer.
- Preparation of Climate Action Plan.
- Details of Climate Action Team and Steering Committee.
- Target – 51% reduction in emissions by 2030.
- Collaboration with other Agencies.
- Implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2023-2028 and role of the Local Authority.
- Process in developing the Climate Action Plan.
- Details of Greenhouse gas emissions share by sector in 2021.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked Ms. Ledwidge for her Presentation. He wished her well in her new role as Climate Action Officer and spoke about the major challenges facing us in reducing emissions.

(e) (i) *Díláithriú na hÚcráine - Ukrainian Displacement*

Ms. Fiona Deegan, Acting Director of Services presented a Ukrainian Monitor outlining statistics in relation to the Ukrainians currently residing in Kilkenny as at 13th October, 2022.

The Monitor outlined the following:

- 1,027 registered with PPS numbers in Kilkenny.
- 14% living in Council managed accommodation.
- 10% living in pledged accommodation.
- 64% living in commercial properties.
- 12% living in private arrangements.
- 60% are female
- 40% are male.
- 37% are children.
- 239 children enrolled in Primary and Secondary Schools.
- 586 adults attending training programmes with KCETB and KLP.
- 12 adults attending training with LEO.
- 30% of adults registered as employed.
- 58 registered Ukrainian Volunteers
- HSE facilitating 80 weekly appointments.
- 4 Local Link Bus Services being provided.
- Interagency Community Forum meet fortnightly.
- Challenges - Shared spaces, school places, transport, Communal living, threat of Covid.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick thanked Ms. Deegan for the detailed overview and acknowledged the work of her team.

Mr. Sean McKeown acknowledged the work of the Interagency Forum and thanked them for their participation.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness and Mary Hilda Cavanagh in relation to misinformation in the public domain that the Council is providing social housing to the Ukrainians. They acknowledged all the work being done to welcome the Ukrainians to Kilkenny and in helping them settle in. They thanked the Agencies for their support in particular the ETB Schools and the HSE for accommodating them with their educational and health services.

Ms. Deegan advised that Kilkenny County Council has not provided any Local Authority accommodation. Vacant/shared houses are being pledged by private owners.

(f) (i) ***Tuarascáil Mhíosúil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh***
Chief Executive's Monthly Report

Mr. Sean McKeown, Acting Chief Executive presented his Monthly Report.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick advised the meeting that the report will be taken as read and noted. Any queries can be raised with the Acting Chief Executive.

3. ***Comhfhreagras - Correspondence***

None.

4. ***Gnó ar athló ó chruinniúroimhe seo - Business adjourned from a previous Meeting***

None.

5. ***Dátaí agus Amanta do chruinnithe a shocrú - Fix Dates & Times of Meetings***

(i) **Schedule of Meetings**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Matt Doran and agreed.

(ii) **Agree dates for Statutory Budget Meeting.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eamon Aylward and agreed that:

"Date of Statutory Budget Meeting to be Friday, 25th November, 2022 at 3.00 p.m."

6. ***Plé ar Thuairiscí agus Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle***
Consideration of Reports & Recommendations of Committees of the Council

None.

7. ***Gnó Eile romhainn i bhFógra reachtála an Chruinnithe***
Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting

None.

8. ***Oideachas agus Oiliúint - Education & Training***

None.

9. ***Gnótha ag éirí as Miontuairiscí - Matters Arising from Minutes***

None.

10. ***Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business***

None.

11. ***Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion***

18 (22) Cllr. John Coonan

It was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed that:

"That we the Elected Members of Kilkenny County Council express our deepest concern at the recent changes made to the delivery of the Citizens Information Services, which includes the exclusion of the in person service provided by volunteers here in Kilkenny & also hundreds of volunteers all across the country."

Cllrs. John Coonan and Fidelis Doherty spoke on this Notice of Motion and asked that a letter be sent to the relevant Minister.

12. ***Fógraí i dtaobh Rúin ó Údaráis Áitiúla eile ag lorg tacaíochta ó Chomhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh - Notices of Motion from other local authorities seeking support of Kilkenny County Council***

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed by all that the following Notices of Motion numbered 36 (22) and 40 (22) received from other Local Authorities be taken as read and noted:

36 (22) Tipperary County Council

“That we, the Members of Tipperary County Council, call on the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform to provide significant additional funding to Local Authorities in 2023 having regard to the unprecedented levels of inflation, in particular, spiralling energy costs, rising construction costs, enhance payroll commitments, impact of the cost of living on other revenue streams such as rents and rates. Such additional funding is crucial to maintaining essential services. Subject to the agreement of the Members this NOM would be also circulated to all other local authorities.”

37 (22) Mayo County Council

“Calling on the Minister for Housing to update the criteria for the first-time buyer’s derelict property grant Croí Cónaithe, to enable derelict properties in rural areas to be eligible to avail of the scheme to help address the critically low supply of house across the country. Currently, only homes available in towns and villages are eligible for the scheme.”

38 (22) Sligo County Council

“For this Council to write to the Minister for Finance to introduce a windfall tax on energy companies’ excessive profits at a time when ordinary people cannot afford to heat their home, and the funds from this windfall tax be ring-fenced for redistribution over the winter to those most in need.”

39 (22) Sligo County Council

“That Sligo County Council carry out a county wide audit of the availability of disabled parking places. This to include all urban areas and tourist amenities. A copy of this motion be sent to all Local Authorities in the state.”

40 (22) Limerick City & County Council

“That, due to the ongoing war in Ukraine and the global grain shortage, that the Minister for Agriculture should, as a matter of urgency, establish an Expert National Review Group on Horticulture to include the main stakeholders and to report back in six months. The purpose of the Group would be to review all food industries under the headings: Food Security; Import Substitution; Employment opportunities. Areas to include – Protected Crops, Fruit Production – Top Fruits (Apples), Soft Fruits and the Seed Potato Sector.”

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE