

## **Minutes of Special Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd July, 2014 at 3.00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr. P. Millea

**Cllrs:** M.H. Cavanagh, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, P. Fitzpatrick, M. McCarthy, M. Doyle, P O'Neill, P Cleere, B. Gardner, D. Kennedy, A. McGuinness, M. Doran, D. Fitzgerald, K. Funchion, J. Malone, P. McKee, M. Noonan, E. Aylward, T. Breathnach, F. Doherty, P. Dunphy, G. Frisby, M. O'Neill.

**Officials:** J. Mulholland, P. O'Neill, J. McCormack, M. Prendiville, S. Walton and A.M Walsh.

Cllr. P. Millea stated that this meeting has been convened to consider and review the decision by An Bord Pleanala to grant Kilkenny Northern Ring Road and to consider the current position of the Central Access Scheme having regard to the deputation received from the group opposing the CAS on Monday 21.07.2014.

Cllr. M.H. Cavanagh requested that the Council hold Special Meetings in the future for important issues such as the Central Access Scheme. Discussion at the Monthly Meeting prevented a number of items listed on the Agenda from being dealt with.

Mr. J. Mulholland advised the members that this is an emergency meeting and members cannot reach any decisions as the meeting has not been convened in accordance with the Standing Orders approved by members. The Notice of Motion cannot be taken at this meeting.

Mr. J. Mulholland reiterated to the members information that the Council will apply all resources to allow the Northern Ring Road to proceed. Members will be provided with draft capital budget in September for consideration. The projected cost for the construction of the Northern Ring Road is €15m. It is hoped that progress can be made in a much shorter period. It is a matter for members to take any Resolution and/or Notice of Motion at another meeting convened in accordance with Standing Orders.

Contributions and queries were raised by Cllrs. M.H. Cavanagh, P. Fitzpatrick, A. McGuinness, D. Kennedy, P. McKee, J. Malone, B. Gardner, M. Noonan, K. Funchion, J. Brennan, P. Dunphy, M. Shortall and T. Breathnach. Clarification was requested by members in relation to works to be completed in Phase 1 and proposed deferral of what works for Phase 2 of the Central Access scheme.

Queries were raised in relation to the following:-

- Time frame for works on the Northern Ring Road
- Location of 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge over the river Nore
- Connection of CAS bridge from Diageo site into city centre and Castlecomer Road
- Status of C.P.O.
- Traffic Management Plan and increase of traffic into the city centre
- Archaeology report on houses in Vicar Street

- Date for possession of Diageo site
- Access for cyclists/walkers if bridge does not go ahead
- Public consultation is not working – there should be more meaningful consultation
- Cost of project to date – how will this be funded if work stops?
- Funds to complete the CAS and Northern Ring Road
- Clarify why members cannot vote at today's meeting
- Contractor' position if the work is stopped.

Mr. Mulholland responded to the queries raised as follows:-

- Consecutive Development Plans approved by the elected members included a proposal for a new bridge over the River Nore in the city. Mr. J. Mulholland stated that he does not have a mandate to change the decisions of the elected members
- Diageo Site:- It is expected that the ownership of the site will be completed by the end of 2014. This site will be the focus for development over the next 50 years. A masterplan for the Diageo site will be the subject of a lot of discussions with the elected members and the public.
- Traffic Management Plan:- There is no approved plan at this stage. It is a matter for the Kilkenny City Municipal District members to approve a Traffic Management Plan.

CAS:- Phase 1 will consist of construction of bridge. Phase 2 will be the construction of road from bridge to Castlecomer Road through Padmore and Barnes and Mart sites. There will be no traffic from this Road onto Wolfe Tone Street.

Notices to Treat under the C.P.O process has been served on all land owners. This enables Kilkenny County Council to enter onto lands for works. The final archaeology approval has not yet been received from National Monuments. Report was sent on 16.04.2014. The proposal includes an interim provision for cyclists/walkers. Greensbridge is not suitable in the long term for traffic, cyclists/walkers. There has been a number of accidents and near misses on Greens bridge. The CAS has cost the Local Authority €2.5m to date. Lands were purchased in the 1980's. The first C.P.O. was in 1988 and a second C.P.O. was also approved. Notice of Treat binds the Local Authority into compensation for the land. Contract for the bridge has also been entered into. The legal position is that full compensation will be due to the contractor if works stops..

A number of members raised the concerns of the public against the CAS scheme and the demolition of the houses at Vicar Street. The proposals outlined at the weekend were not acceptable to the protest group and the protest group wants the work on the new bridge stopped until the Northern Ring Road extension is built.

The meeting was advised that 10,000 signatures have been received to prioritize the ring road over the construction of the CAS.

Councillor M. Noonan stated that the Notice of Motion was placed on the monthly agenda in June and still has not been taken. He requested that the Northern Ring Road be prioritised and the CAS works deferred. He requested the terms of reference for a review to be prepared.

Councillor K. Funchion sought clarification on why the Notice of Motion could not be taken and requested that works cease while the members are considering the alternative proposals outlined by the executive.

Mr. J. Mulholland advised members that a date for a further meeting can be agreed to discuss the Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors M. Noonan and K. Funchion. The members cannot legally make any decisions today and cannot make any proposals in relation to cease works on site.

Following a discussion with members it was agreed that a Special Meeting would take place on Saturday 26.07.2014 at 11.00 a.m. to discuss the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs. M. Noonan and K. Funchion.

Cllr. O'Neill extended a vote of sympathy to the people of Gaza. Members observed 1 minute silence as a mark of respect.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**