

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA gCRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH A THIONÓLADH AR AN 11th NOLLAIG 2020 A BHEIDH AR MS TEAMS. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON, 11TH DECEMBER 2020 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, Ms. Teresa Mahon, Staff Officer.

Mayor's Summons of Meeting:

Notice dated 4th December, 2020, 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 14th February 2020, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Martin Brett
Seconded by: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness
And Resolved

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

Minutes of the Annual Budget meeting held on 13th November 2020, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Seconded by: Cllr. David Fitzgerald
And Resolved

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

Minutes of monthly meeting held on 13th November 2020, having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation. It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Seconded by: Cllr. Martin Brett
And Resolved

“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:

- Thanked all involved in showcasing Kilkenny to Minister Burke on his recent visit to the City.
- Acknowledged the opening of a virtual experience Yulefest by Cathaoirleach Andrew McGuinness.
- Mentioned the free carparking in the City and encouraged all to shop local this Christmas.
- Welcomed the Part 8 planning proposal for Kilkenny Biodiversity & Countryside Park Dunmore.
- Asked all to continue to be Covid compliant as the County reopens under Level 3

Votes of Sympathy

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

Liam Leydon, Purcellsinch, Kilkenny.
Michael Slattery, Willow Close, Ardnore, Kilkenny.

3. Nuashonrú ar Thionscadail Bóithre.

Update on Road Projects.

Mr. Ian Gardner, Senior Executive Engineer provided a report for Members detailing road work updates for December. The report included information on improvement works, pavement works, maintenance works, road markings, tree pruning and Christmas lighting. Contracts have been awarded for the Bateman Quay Crossing and Keatingstown Safety Improvement Scheme and Consultants have been appointed for the Maudlin Street Design. The car roads report is ongoing and he confirmed that he has received the Consultants Traffic Report on Upper Patrick Street. Members thanked Mr. Gardner and the staff of Kilkenny County Council for the all the beneficial works carried out this year. The Members raised queries in relation to:

- Traffic calming on Nuncio Road.
- Timeline for installation of lighting on laneways.
- Possibility of Council liaising with Gardai regarding horses crossing main road at the Hebron Road Roundabout.
- Poor state of footpaths in the Butts.
- Works needed on footpaths in the Butts, Dukes Meadows, Hebron Ind. Est, O’Loughlin Road, Assumption Place and St. Fiacre’s Place.

- Speeding at the roundabout at Lord Edward Street
- Flooding at O'Loughlin Road.
- Problem with scaffolding erected by Irish Rail and subsequent dumping.
- Possibility of another speed ramp in Cashel Downs.
- Pruning of trees around the City.
- Lights on the Parade
- Firework display on New Year's Eve.
- Opening date for the Circular Road.
- Dumping at Scouts Den
- Cycle track from Dunmore to Castlecomer Road.
- Antisocial behaviour around Mulhall's shop in Newpark
- Naming of Estates
- Newsletter produced by Kilkenny County Council.

Mr. Gardner and Mr. Butler responded to Members. Mr. Gardner advised that works on Nuncio Road will not help with traffic calming but a recent traffic survey in the area confirmed that people were keeping within speeds limits. Provision of lighting for some of the car roads will commence in the New Year after ESB works are completed. Mr. Gardner confirmed that he would liaise with Gardai regarding horses crossing at the Hebron Road Roundabout. All works required on footpaths etc will be listed in the 2021 works programme and prioritised according to available budget. He agreed to carry out a traffic survey at the Lord Edward Street Roundabout, investigate flooding at O'Loughlin Road and contact Irish Rail regarding the scaffolding and dumping. The lighting programme is due to go to tender in March 2021 but the lights on the Parade are remaining and belong to the City. He advised Members that the Council does have the power to issue notices to landowners if overhanging trees are dangerous and he asked that the Members contact him if they are aware of any such hazardous around the City. He will contact the Environment Section regarding the dumping at the Scouts Den.

Mr. Butler advised that he had already responded to the request about a fireworks display in which he gave details on possible costs involved, safety issues and the need for engagement with the Gardai. The Council could look at providing a contribution but it would be a St. Canice's Cathedral event. The Dunmore Road is a National Road and therefore falls under TII control. Kilkenny County Council is preparing a Walking and Cycling Strategy for the City. Grant funding is available for Non-National Roads only.

Kilkenny County Council is the lead Authority for Region 2 of the National Public Lighting Upgrade and intends to retrofit the balance of the lighting stock through the National Upgrade Scheme. The proposal will go before the Members to look for planning permission in 2021 and then the tender process will begin.

The Circular Road is due to open before Christmas. Mr. Butler confirmed that there is a committee for the naming of structures such as bridges but Estate Naming is normally a housing/planning function. A meeting of the Naming Committee will be convened in the New Year. He agreed to contact Housing in relation to the antisocial behaviour around Mulhall's in Newpark. In relation to the Newsletter he thanked the Chief Executive Colette Byrne and Ms. Catherine Cooney for all the work on this. It may become an annual publication but on a much smaller scale.

**4. Fógra Foriarratais in ainm an Comh. Eugene McGuinness data 25th November 2020
Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Eugene McGuinness received 25th November 2020**

That Kilkenny City Municipal District would provide appropriate infrastructure for walkers and cyclists linking the Linear Park with the Canal Square and Canal Walk. With the Abbey Quarter under construction consideration should be given to making greater use of the river bank along Bateman Quay and John's Quay. I would furthermore suggest that a boardwalk be provided along the river on the John's Quay side to provide segregated pedestrian access from John's Bridge to the footpath at the Lady Desart Bridge. This boardwalk could also serve as a much-needed outdoor seating area, ideally situated as it is, in the shadow of Kilkenny Castle.

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness stated that the river bank is underutilised all around the City and the provision of more walking and cycling infrastructure along with further strategic seating areas would be of great benefit to all. Members were in agreement with Cllr. McGuinness but agreed that this motion should form part of an over all Area Plan for the River Nore.

It was: Proposed by: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness
Seconded by: Cllr. Maria Dollard
And agreed by all

“ that an Area Plan be drawn up for the River Nore”.

Mr. Gardner agreed that there was great merit in what the Members had proposed but the river holds many barriers to infrastructural modifications and there are conservation/environmental restrictions . At present the Abbey Quarter is being developed and this will utilise much of the surrounding river area. The Walking and Cycling Strategy for the City is also being drafted and this will incorporate river surroundings. With all these current and proposed work strategies it could be sometime before an overall Area Plan for the river is drawn up. Mr. Butler confirmed that at present the feasibility of a river hub is being investigated and if this proceeds it will feed into the over plan for the river.

**5. Fógra Foriarratais in ainm an Comh. Eugene McGuinness data 25th November 2020
Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Eugene McGuinness received 25th November 2020**

That Kilkenny City Municipal District would consider redesigning the junction on the Hebron Road at Kieran's Cemetery/ Hebron Park to alleviate serious traffic congestion and address the serious safety issues for traffic exiting from O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club, Hebron Park and an ever-expanding Hebron Industrial Estate. The proposed building of a Hotel at this junction and continuing development along the Hebron road will further exacerbate an already serious traffic situation. Allowances will have to be made in any such redesign for the free flow of articulated trucks, which use this industrial estate on a daily basis.

Cllr Eugene McGuinness described how the increase in traffic congestion in the Hebron Road area is causing safety concerns. Further development in this area will also increase the dangers. Members agreed with Cllr. McGuinness but understood that there is an Urban Design Plan in place for the Hebron Road and welcomed an update.

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

And agreed by all

“ that the Urban Design Plan for the Hebron Road be revisited”.

Mr. Gardner confirmed that there is an Urban Design Plan for the Hebron Road but part of the plan involved securing land from landowners. Mr. Butler confirmed that the plan is being reviewed but funding to implement the whole design is not currently available. A piece meal approach might be the way forward for now.

6. Aon Ghnó Eile

Any Other Business

The Mayor, Councillor John Coonan on behalf of the Members thanked the Executive for all the help and assistance provided during the year. He thanked Ms. Anne Maria Walsh, Mr. Tim Butler, Mr. Ian Gardner, Ms. Teresa Mahon, Ms. Phil Costigan and all the staff of Kilkenny County Council and wished all a Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

MAYOR

Date:
