

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR AN GCRUINNIÚ IOMLÁNACH DE CHUID
CHOMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH TIONÓLTA AR AN LUAN,
18 MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2023 AG 3.00 I.N. I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE,
HALLA AN CHONTAE & VIA FOIRNE MS



MINUTES OF PLENARY MEETING OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS

Chair: Cllr. Michael Doyle.

Elected Members: *Council Chamber*

Cllrs. Eamon Aylward, Martin Brett, Tomás Breathnach, John Coonan, Maria Dollard, Michael Delaney, Pat Dunphy, Pat Fitzpatrick, David Fitzgerald, Denis Hynes, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness & Eugene McGuinness.

MS Teams

Cllrs. John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, Deirdre Cullen, Matt Doran, Ger Frisby, Joe Lyons, Michael McCarthy & Patrick O'Neill.

Apologies: Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty.

Officials: Lar Power, Sean McKeown, Tim Butler, Fiona Deegan, Tony Lauhoff, Denis Malone, Mary Mulholland & Anne Maria Walsh.

1. Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes

(i) **Minutes of July Plenary Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:

"That the Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 17th July, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(ii) **Minutes of Adjourned July Plenary Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed:

"That the Minutes of Adjourned Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Friday, 21st July, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(iii) **Minutes of Adjourned July Plenary Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney and agreed:

"That the Minutes of Adjourned Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Friday, 28th July, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved."

Fógraí - Announcements

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Doyle welcomed Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive to the meeting. He wished him well in the role and looked forward to working with him.

He thanked Mr. Sean McKeown for his work as Interim Chief Executive over the last year. Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Andrew McGuinness and Tomás Breathnach were associated with the welcome and thanks.

Mr. Lar Power thanked the Members for their good wishes. He said it was an honour to be ratified by the Elected Members as Chief Executive for Kilkenny County Council. He looked forward to working with the Council for the benefit of Kilkenny.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Doyle congratulated Kate Bergin, Galmoy on her recent success at the National Track & Field Championship. He thanked all the staff involved in the recent Rás na mBan and Cannonball Run in Kilkenny City and also the other agencies - Gardai, HSE etc. Both events were well attended by the public.

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Doyle extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Sinead Falsey, Motor Tax on the death of her father Robert Falsey, Kilkenny.
- Frank Grogan, Housing on the death of his sister Sarah Ryan, Kilkenny City.
- Catherine Cooney, Corporate on the death of her mother Margaret Cooney, Tipperary.
- Joe Hennessy, Nursery Section on the death of his mother Margaret Hennessy, Kilkenny.
- Family of the late Cllr. Damien O'Reilly, Meath County Council.
- Family of the late Ned Kenny, Freshford.
- Family of the late Kevin Brennan, Piltown.
- Family of the late Robby Ryan, Kilmacow.
- Family of the late Mary Culleton, Mullinavat.
- Family of the late Ned Reddy, Kilmacow.
- Family of the late Anne O'Brien, Carrigeen.

2. (a) *Tithíocht & Díuscairt Eile - Housing & Other Disposal*

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed:

"Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest by way of long term lease in Plot of ground at Newpark Close, Newpark Lower, Kilkenny - as identified on the attached map - to Newpark Close Community Development CLG, for a period of 25 years and a rent of €52 per annum, with each party to be responsible for their own legal costs. The plot of ground measures 0.074 hectares. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required."

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:

"Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Foulkscourt, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny - as identified on the attached map - to TJ Maher, Foulkscourt, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 and each party will be responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Area measures 0.28 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required."

- (iii) It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney and agreed:

"Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Twomileborris, Thurles, Co. Tipperary - as identified on the attached map - to Joan Duggan, Twomileborris, Thurles, Co. Tipperary for the sum of €2,000 and the Purchaser will be responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale, including those of Kilkenny County Council. Area combined measures 2.44 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required."

- (iv) It was proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney and agreed:

“Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Dunbell Big, Co. Kilkenny – as identified on the attached map - to Henry Connolly Rice, Oldtown, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 and each party will be responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Area combined measures 0.06 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”

- (v) It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Denis Hynes and agreed:

“Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny – as identified on the attached map - to Per Repts Elizabeth (ors Maura) Hennessy, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00. The purchaser will transfer Plot 523-3 as identified on the attached map to Kilkenny County Council. Each party will be responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Area combined measures 0.16 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”

- (vi) It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed:

“Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Ballylusky, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny – as identified on the attached map - to Brian Conway, Ballylusky, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 and Kilkenny County Council will be responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale. Area measures 0.05 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required. *[Note: The Land Development Agency Act, 2021 requires that the disposal of any relevant public land by a Local Authority be firstly offered to the Land Development Agency for its consideration].*
(Notice sent to Members on the 4th September, 2023).

- (vii) It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward seconded by Cllr. Ger Frisby and agreed:

“Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Ballylusky, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny – as identified on the attached map - to Richard Raftice, Ballylusky, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny for the sum of €1,500 and the Purchaser will be responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale. Plot areas combined measure 1.75 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”

- (viii) It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed:

“Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Scart & Rahard, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny – as identified on the attached map - to Patrick Sutton, Rossinan, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 and each party will be responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Plot areas combined measure 0.26 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”

- (ix) It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy seconded by Cllr. Ger Frisby and agreed:

“Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Dunkitt, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny – as identified on the attached map - to Stephen Kearns, Dunkitt, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 and Kilkenny County Council will be responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale. Plot area measures 0.08 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”

- (x) It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach seconded by Cllr. Ger Frisby and agreed:

“Notice is hereby given, that at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of 10 days from the date of this notice, it is the intention of Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Miltown, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny – as identified on the attached map - to John Williams, Miltown, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 and each party will be responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Plot area measures 0.15 acre. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”

(b) *Pleanail - Planning*

- (i) Consideration of Interim Chief Executive’s report on Draft Abbey Quarter Masterplan User Guide**

Mr. Denis Malone, Senior Planner gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Draft Abbey Quarter Masterplan User Guide. In his Presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Milestones from 2012 to-date.
- List of projects delivered to-date.
- Overview on National/Regional Framework, Policies and Guidelines, Council’s Development Plan, Draft Climate Action Plan and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan.
- Masterplan Area Extension & Review, recognise further design development needed.
- Process undertaken for review - public consultations in 2022 and 2023. 18 submissions received on the Draft Masterplan Guide.

- No significant change to Draft Masterplan Guide Document
- Overview of the main issues considered in developing the Guide Document.

Mr. Denis Malone referred Members to the Interim Chief Executive's Report circulated with the Agenda. The Interim Chief Executive's response is outlined in relation to the 18 submissions. Details of the next steps to approve the Draft Masterplan User Guide as well as the initiation of a variation of the City & County Development Plan to include the User Guide. He referred Members to the high level objectives to be inserted into the Development Plan as outlined on Page 25 of the Chief Executive's Report.

Mr. Denis Malone recommended that the Draft Abbey Quarter Masterplan User Guide for the extended area and report be approved and that the Council proceed to initiate a variation to the City & County Development Plan 2021-2027 as proposed.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. David Fitzgerald, Andrew McGuinness, Maria Dollard, Tomás Breathnach and John Coonan in relation to the following:

- Positive development for the City & County.
- Refurbishment of Vicar Street – timeline.
- Completion of Library in the Mayfair and opening date, naming of new Library.
- Only office space and car parks being provided.
- Development of housing in Sweeney Orchard and other blocks.
- Car Parking – conflicting requests.
- Impact of SUMP on the Abbey Quarter.
- St. Francis Bridge – Safety concerns for cyclists.
- Creation of new jobs, not replacements.
- Feasibility Study on Cultural Centre in the Abbey Quarter.
- Refurbished Tea Houses – when will they come back into use.
- Urban Street – progress on this part of the development.

Mr. Denis Malone, Mr. Tim Butler and Mr. Martin Prendiville responded to the Members issues.

Mr. Martin Prendiville advised the Members that a lot of development has taken place and is planned for this area. It is not only office space, new Library, Skate Park, Tea Houses and Riverside walk have been provided. URDF has been approved for works. Every effort is being made to seek an operator for the Tea Houses.

Mr. Tim Butler updated the meeting on the proposed works at Vicar Street. St. Francis Bridge was constructed in accordance with the standards of the time. SUMP process is well underway and Working Groups will be set up shortly. This plan fits well with the City & County Development Plan and the objectives set out in the Abbey Quarter Master Plan.

Mr. Malone advised that the Environmental Reports will be prepared for the initiation of the variation of the Development Plan. It is expected that this work will be completed by the end of this year.

It was proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed by all that:

"We, the members of Kilkenny County Council, having considered the following:

- *The Draft Abbey Quarter Masterplan User Guide for extended area and review which was placed on public display Friday June 2nd to Friday June 30th June, and*
- *The Chief Executive's Report on Submissions previously circulated.*

Do hereby resolve to approve both the Draft Abbey Quarter Masterplan User Guide and the recommendations of the Chief Executives report and the initiation of a variation of the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027 to include the User Guide.

It is resolved that the following high-level objectives be inserted into the City and County Development Plan 2021 -2027 by way of variation:

- (a) *Development of housing on Sweeney's Orchard*
- (b) *Resolution of and redevelopment of the corner of Vicar Street and Green Bridge Street*
- (c) *Resolution of and redevelopment of the corner of Vicar Street and St. Francis Abbey Bridge*
- (d) *A street linking Green Street and St. Francis Bridge subject to detailed design (Part X to ABP if required subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment)*
- (e) *Car parking on the Sweeney's Orchard Site subject to detailed design (Part X to ABP if required subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment)*
- (f) *Extend the Masterplan boundary in accordance with the User Guide 2023.*

If a conflict arises between the Abbey Quarter Masterplan, the Urban Design Code and User Guide, the User Guide will take precedence."

(ii) Ag Glacadh i gCúram: Taking in Charge: Initiation - Steps into Linear Park at Talbots Inch village (TIC 174)

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett 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: TC174 Initiation - Steps into Linear Park at Talbots Inch Village

(iii) Ag Glacadh i gCúram: Taking in Charge - Final - Lakeside Cycleway (TIC 173)

It was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Eugene 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: TC173 - Lakeside Cycleway

(iv) Ag Glacadh i gCúram - Taking in Charge - Final - Lakeside Estate (TIC 103)

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan 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: TC103 - Lakeside Estate, Kilkenny

(v) Ag Glacadh i gCúram - Taking in Charge - Final - Friars Hill, Graignamanagh (TIC 110)

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Denis Hynes 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: TC110 - Friars Hill, Graignamanagh

(vi) Ag Glacadh i gCúram Taking in Charge - Final - Blackchurch Square, Inistioge (TIC 155)

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael Doyle, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach 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: TC155 - Blackchurch Square, Inistioge

(c) Airgeadas - Finance

(i) Local Government Audit Report & Final Annual Financial Statement

Mr. Martin Prendiville, Head of Finance advised the meeting that the Audit for the Year 2022 is now complete and the Audit Report has been received. There is no change in the Annual Financial Statement as presented earlier in the year.

In the Audit Report a number of issues as follows were raised by the Local Government Auditor and these have been responded to by the Executive:

- Local Authority Companies.
- Voluntary Housing Bodies.
- Fixed Assets.
- Debt Collection.

These are recurring issues from previous years. The Members noted the Local Government Audit Report.

(ii) **Local Property Tax**

Mr. Martin Prendiville, Head of Finance referred to the Interim Chief Executive's Report circulated with the Agenda. He referred to the different challenges in preparing a balanced budget for 2024 which are outlined in the Report. The total preliminary estimated shortfall at this stage is €3.8m. We have a very limited source of income. The baseline funding from the Local Property Tax is being increased in 2024 by €1.5m, giving a revised allocation of €12.1m.

He advised the Members that it is critical that no change is made to the Local Authority Property Tax. 15% increase on the base yields €1.14m each year to the Council. The decision made 4 years ago has contributed to the Council's discretionary spending.

The Local Property Tax was advertised for public consultation in July 2023. No submissions were received by end of August 2023. He outlined the current rates of Local Property Tax applicable to residential properties. 89.8% of properties in Kilkenny are valued at €350,000 or less. The Chief Executive recommends to the Council that the Local Adjustment Factor remain the same as that which applied from November 2022 to November 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council in pursuance of the provisions of Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act, 2012 (as amended), hereby resolve that from the period 1st November, 2023 to 31st October, 2024 the local adjustment factor shall remain the same as that which applied from 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Kilkenny County Council. The invariable rate shall take effect from the liability date in the year in which notification is sent to the Revenue Commissioners."

(iii) **Approve Borrowing for Acquisition of Residential Property**

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael Delaney, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that this item be deferred and a Special Meeting to be convened on Friday, 29th September, 2023 at 4.00 p.m. to deal with this.

(g) **Gnóthaí Corparáideacha - Corporate Affairs**

(i) **Chief Executive's Monthly Report.**

Cllr. Michael Doyle advised that the Interim Chief Executive Report be taken as read and noted. Any queries should be taken up with the Chief Executive.

3. **Comhfhreagras - Correspondence**

Response from Department was noted. Cllr. Tomás Breathnach referred to the response and noted that no additional funding was available. He advised that he will discuss the response at the next SPC Meeting.

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. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed.
6. **Plé ar Thuairiscí agus Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle
Consideration of Reports & Recommendations of Committees of the Council**
- (i) **Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy/Mobility Management & Water Services held on Thursday, 1st December, 2022**
It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Denis Hynes and agreed that Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy/Mobility Management & Water Services held on Thursday, 1st December, 2022 be taken as read and noted.
- (ii) **Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy/Mobility Management & Water Services held on Thursday 11th May, 2023**
It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and agreed that Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy/Mobility Management & Water Services held on Thursday 11th May, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (iii) **Report of SPC 1: Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning & Development Policy held on Thursday, 23rd March, 2023**
It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed that Report of SPC 1: Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning & Development Policy held on Thursday, 23rd March, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
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**
09 (23) Cllrs. Joe Malone & Mary Hilda Cavanagh
It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed that:
“That Kilkenny County Council support the reintroduction of the 9% VAT rate for food related businesses and we are calling on the Minister for Finance to extend the 9% VAT rate to the end of 2024.”
Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Martin Brett and Pat Fitzpatrick spoke on the motion.

10 (23) Cllr. John Coonan

It was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that:

"That Kilkenny County Council advise of the up to date position outlining measures and action been taken to address vacant/derelict sites and buildings in a number of sites in Kilkenny City & County.

Cllrs. John Coonan, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, David Fitzgerald and Maria Dollard spoke on the Motion.

The Members raised concerns on the level of vacant and derelict sites and the need for the Council to actively pursue them and bring them back into use. Queries were raised in relation to residential zoned land tax and illegal dumping. Mr. Denis Malone responded to the concerns raised by the Members.

11 (23) Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed that:

"That this Council requests Transportation Infrastructure Ireland to upgrade the R693 (Urlingford to Kilkenny) to National Road status. Huge investment needed on this road due to increased volume of traffic since M8 motorway opened."

Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael McCarthy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Tomás Breathnach and Deirdre Cullen spoke on this notion.

Concerns were raised in relation to the upgrade of this regional road as it is a direct link between Limerick and the South East. The delivery of the Northern Ring Road is also a priority. The N76 needs to be realigned to cater for the traffic. Increased funding for low cost safety works is essential. Mr. Butler responded to the issues raised by the Members.

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. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed by all that the following Notices of Motion numbered 27 (23) and 38 (23) received from other Local Authorities be taken as read and noted:

27 (23) Mayo County Council

"I respectfully seek the support of my colleagues and Management of Mayo County council to petition the Minister for the Housing, Local Government and Heritage to double the maximum grants for the Croí Cónaithe Scheme from €30,000 for a vacant property and €50,000 recent unprecedented increases in the price of construction materials and the fact that these increases have not yet stabilised. In addition, I respectfully ask for your support to petition the Minister to expand the Croí Cónaithe Scheme to owners who wish to renovate vacant or vacant homes confirmed derelict, subject to conditions that the property is subsequently used for long term occupancy either through a sale or through a long-term lease. Furthermore, that those approved under the existing scheme be included when the changes have been implemented, if they have not yet drawn down their funding."

28 (23) Clare County Council

"That Clare County Council supports the recent Macra na Feirme campaign, entitled "The Rural Revival, Steps for our Future". This campaign was a march that departed Athy, Co. Kildare at 7pm on Tuesday, 25th April marching through the night, physically carrying their message, before arriving at Government Buildings circa 1pm on Wednesday, 27th April. The message is simple, Macra Na Feirme members want to be able to remain at home, working and living in their own communities and the key components of their message are as follows:

- Accessing affordable housing and cumbersome housing planning guidelines.
- Disjointed and scarce healthcare services for rural communities.
- The Government's definition of a family farm as 'average' and typical'.
- No recognition or engagement by Government on a farming succession scheme.
- Lack of planning for the future of our rural communities informed by rural people.
- Imposition of quotas on young farmers availing of grant aid support.
- Lack of public transport for rural Ireland.
- Proposals to rewet large areas of rural Ireland.

I am also requesting that this Notice of Motion be circulated to all other Local Authorities."

29 (23) Wicklow County Council

"That Wicklow County Council write to Minister McConalogue requesting him to contact all Dáil party leaders and MEPs to remind them of their own declarations on the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and their commitment to youth and community groups, made in 2019, and more recently to the 2 Citizens Assemblies (*adult & youth*), regarding the restoration of nature as a matter of urgency, and that consultation takes place with farmers, foresters, community groups and other stakeholders to discuss any issues relevant to them. Furthermore, that Wicklow County Council writes to all party leaders urging them to work together with their MEPS to pass a strong EU Nature Restoration Law without delay. If passed, we request that Wicklow County Council forwards this motion to all City & County Councils without delay."

30 (23) Wexford County Council

"Wexford County council ceases using the term "Halting Sites" in the County and begins renaming with a name more appropriate to the area. The naming should happen following a public consultation process and engagement with the local community."

31 (23) South Dublin County Council

"South Dublin County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. If passed, a letter should be sent to all local Councils and the Minister for the Environment.

32 (23) Leitrim County Council

"That Leitrim County Council write to Bus Éireann to call on them to employ more school bus drivers, as the Bus Éireann system is full to capacity."

33 (23) Clare County Council

"That Clare County Council communicate with both the Taoiseach's office and the office of the Minister for Arts and Culture, to lend support to the application made in July 2022 by Ennis and County Clare Soroptimist International, to have the stained-glass image of St. Brigid created by a prominent County Clare female artist, Catherine O'Brien adopted as the official image of the saint in the context of our new St. Brigid's Day public holiday, which commenced 1st February, 2023."

34 (23) Waterford City & County Council

"Waterford City & County Council recognise and appreciate the positive benefits that have been brought about through Active Travel Funding and would welcome more. However, we also acknowledge that limitations on the Active Travel scheme mean that it is increasingly focussed on larger urban areas and cannot be used for the badly needed maintenance and repair for deteriorating footpaths. In the interests of pedestrians, particularly people with disabilities, we therefore hereby resolve to write to Minister Eamon Ryan to formally notify him that we upon the Department of Transport to provide ringfenced funding (separate from roads funds and also distinct from Active Travel funding) to Local Authorities to assist significantly and substantially with the costs of maintaining and repairing existing footpaths

and to assist significantly and substantially with the costs of providing new footpaths that are not eligible for Active Travel funding. And we further call upon Minister Ryan and the Department of Transport to ensure that Local Authorities would have discretion and autonomy to use such dedicated footpaths funding without having to receive approval from the Department, the NTA, or any other agency, on a per project basis; and to ensure that there would be no other bureaucratic obstacles to the expeditious spending of such urgently needed footpath funding.”

35 (23) Wexford County Council

“Now that we have a prospective opening date to work towards the reopening of the Accident and Emergency at Wexford General Hospital, this Council resolves to congratulate and express our gratitude and appreciation to all the Management, Staff, frontline staff, contractors and workers for their dedication, professionalism, and outstanding efforts for completing the work done in a highly pressurised area.

Furthermore, we resolve to thank all patients and their families for their resilience and patience while the works were being carried out.

Upon passage, a copy of this motion is sent to the Minister of Health, CEO of the HSE, Waterford and Kilkenny County Council for their attention.”

36 (23) Cork County Council

“That Cork County Council write to the HSE and Coillte to request a campaign to raise awareness of the possibility of contracting Lyme disease at parks and walkways and to circulate correspondence to all other local authorities. It was also agreed that a copy of this letter would be circulated to all Local Authorities.”

37 (23) Cork County Council

“This Council requests that the RSA and Department of Transport use every means possible to reduce the totally unacceptable waiting times for driving tests.”

38 (23) Mayo County Council

“Calling on the Department of Housing to increase the build time requirement of the Croí Cónaithe Scheme from 13 months to 24 months. Currently the Scheme requires a derelict property to be brought back into use within 13 months which is, for the most part, unattainable given the works required on these properties.”

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE