



MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY, 17TH MAY, 2021 AT 2.30 P.M. VIA MS TEAMS

- Chair:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.
- Cllrs:** Eamon Aylward, Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, Martin Brett, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ger Frisby, Denis Hynes, Joe Lyons, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Eugene McGuinness & Patrick O'Neill.
- Officials:** Colette Byrne, Sean McKeown, Tim Butler, Martin Prendiville, Michael Leahy, Annette Fitzpatrick, Kevin Hanley, Fiona Deegan, Frank Dunne, Bernadette Moloney & Anne Maria Walsh.

1. **Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes**

- (a) **Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 19th April, 2021**
Proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere seconded by Cllr. Patrick O'Neill and agreed.
"That the Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 19th April, 2021 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (b) **Minutes of SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 29th March, 2019**
Proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere and agreed.
"That the SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 29th March, 2019 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (c) **Minutes of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 6th December, 2019**
Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan seconded by Cllr. Matt Doran and agreed.
"That the SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 6th December, 2019 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (d) **Minutes of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 6th March, 2020**
Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed.
"That the SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 6th March, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (e) **Minutes of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 10th July, 2020**
Proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney and agreed.
"That the SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 10th July, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (f) **Minutes of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 23rd October, 2020**
Proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed.
"That the SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 23rd October, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(g) **Minutes of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 11th December, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and agreed.

“That the SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 11th December, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

Fógraí - Announcements

- Cathaoirleach Cllr. Andrew McGuinness welcomed the reopening of businesses and urged all to shop local and adhere to all Covid restrictions.
- He also welcomed the opening of the Skate Park and looked forward to the opening of the Riverside Walk.
- He congratulated all the staff on the Council’s Environment Energy Team and 3CEA in achieving the ISO50001 for energy use and consumption management.
- He condoned the vandalism on the new singing bins that were recently installed.

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Andrew McGuinness extended Votes of Sympathy to the following:

- Mary Ellen Morgan & Family, Housing Department on the death of her father Richard Butler.
- Pat Burke, Callan Area on the death of his partner Bridget Hayes.
- Mary Mulholland & Family on the death of her mother Elizabeth Stephenson.
- Family of the late Teresa Dooley, Rosbercon.
- Family of the late Chris Elliott, Waterford.
- Family of the late Kathleen Tynan, Mullinavat.
- Family of the late Peggy Murphy, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Olivia Duggan, Mullinavat.
- Family of the late Nellie O’Connor, Glenmore.

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

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed:

“That, 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 by way of long term lease in Plot of ground at Kilmanagh Village Co. Kilkenny, as identified on the attached map, to Graigue-Ballycallan GAA Club, for a period of 20 years with Graigue-Ballycallan GAA Club being responsible for all legal costs associated with the lease including those of Kilkenny County Council. The area measures 4,259 square metres. The Consent of the Minister of the Environment is not required.”

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:

“That, 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 a site at Hebron Industrial Estate, Hebron Road, Kilkenny, as identified on the enclosed map as Site E, to David Buggy Motors Limited, Unit 27 Hebron Industrial Estate, Hebron Rd, Kilkenny, for the sum of €185,000 (one hundred and eighty five euros). This site measures approx. 2.28 acres. Each party will be responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. The Consent of the Minister of the Environment is not required.”

2. (b) (i) Cuid 8: Stáisiún Dóiteáin Urlingford - Part 8: Fire Station Urlingford

Mr. Frank Dunne, Senior Fire Officer presented the Chief Executive Report on the proposed new Fire Station in Urlingford. He advised the development will consist of a two bay Fire Station including welfare facilities, concrete drill yard, training tower and associated works. The proposed development was on public display in April 2021. There were no submissions. The Chief Executive recommends that Kilkenny County Council proceed with the proposed development.

Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael McCarthy, Michael Delaney, John Brennan and Pat Fitzpatrick welcomed the much needed development. The facilities are needed as the existing building is not fit for purpose.

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

"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves the proposed 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 Development of New Fire Station, Main Street, Urlingford, as circulated."

**(ii) Ag Cúram: Brookfield, Béal Átha Beatha, Co. Chill Chainnigh
Taking in Charge: Brookfield, Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny**

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen 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: TC134 - Brookfield, Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny

**(iii) Ag Cúram: Haven Court, Ballyragget, Co. Chill Chainnigh
Taking in Charge: Haven Court, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy 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: TC146 - Haven Court, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny

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

The Chief Executive presented her monthly Management Report and advised she is available to answer any queries arising from it.

Mr. Tim Butler advised that an allocation of €308,000 has been approved for the Local Improvement Scheme. A list of projects are being prepared and will

be submitted to the Department by 14th June, 2021. He also advised that additional funding has been approved by NTA for Active Travel Measures and Outdoor Seating Area. Proposals to be submitted by end of May.

Ms. Annette Fitzpatrick advised that details of the Community Enhancement Scheme will be circulated shortly.

**(ii) *Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta Beartaithe don Oirdheisceart*
Proposed Technological University for the South East**

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness welcomed Ms. Patricia Mulcahy, President IT Carlow and Mr. Willie Donnelly, President IT Waterford to the Council meeting. He invited them to make their presentation and that there will be time for questions thereafter.

Ms. Mulcahy and Mr. Donnelly jointly presented a PowerPoint presentation. In their presentation they gave an overview on the proposed Technological University of South East Ireland:

- Application submitted to Minister on 30th April, 2021.
- New entity comes into existence on 1st January, 2022.
- Number of enrolments and Graduates for all Universities and Institutes of Technology.
- Provision of multi campus learning environment.
- Aware of objective in Kilkenny County Development Plans.
- Potential for Kilkenny to be an integral part of the TUSEI.
- Centre for Design.
- Kilkenny based company Lifelong Learning Programme.
- Arc Labs – St. Kieran’s College.
- PACE – Digital Innovate Hub.
- Set up of International Peer Review Panel.
- Overview of Steering Group, Leadership Teams and Working Groups.
- Regional Engagement Advisory Group – Terms of Reference.
- Post Designation Date:
 - 1 University
 - 1 Governing Body
 - 1 Academic Course
 - 1 President
 - 1 Plan/Future

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked them for their detailed presentation and overview of the process required to deliver the Technological University for the South East.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Peter Cleere, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Eamonn Aylward, Martin Brett, Deirdre Cullen, David Fitzgerald, Maria Dollard, Ger Frisby, Tomás Breathnach, Pat Dunphy and John Brennan.

Members thanked both Presidents for coming to the meeting to update them on the process and for their work to-date in progressing the TUSEI.

Members raised specific issues as follows:

- Provision of multi-campus to include a significant presence in Kilkenny.
- New Headquarters – is Kilkenny a viable option?
- Capacity of new entity to borrow/overseas investment.

- Range of courses to be offered/attracting international students/cost of accommodation for students is a factor.
- Outreach – Adult Education, springboard companies.
- Digital Hubs for learning.
- Regional concept must commit to all counties in the Region and centres of population in the Region.
- Difference between a University and Technological University.
- Welcomed pathways for Apprenticeships.
- Referenced – “From Charter to Framework” published by Kilkenny County Council.

Ms. Mulcahy and Mr. Donnelly responded to all the queries raised by the Elected Members.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked both for listening to the concerns of all the Members and stated that Kilkenny has a huge amount to offer and want to be part of the Technological University of the South East. He wished them every success in reaching University status.

(iii) *Cur i láthair Eirgrid - Eirgrid Presentation*

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness welcomed Mr. Michael Mahon and his Team to the meeting. He invited them to make their presentation and advised that there will be time for questions later.

Mr. Michael Mahon introduced the members of his team and advised that Mr. Robbie Aherne will give the Presentation. He advised that their presentation to the Elected Members is an important part of the consultation for Eirgrid – “Shaping Our Electricity Future”.

Mr. Mahon and Mr. Aherne jointly gave a presentation and gave an overview as follows:

- Preparing for at least 70% clean electricity by 2030.
- Introduction to Eirgrid and how the grid works.
- Why electricity is a solution to climate change.
- Clean Electricity – part of Climate Action Plan.
- Overview of the electricity grid in the Southern Area of Ireland and Kilkenny.
- Need to carry at least 10 GW more electricity by 2030 [*double 2020 levels*].
- Outlined 4 draft approaches to reach the 70%:
 - Generator – LED
 - Developer – LED
 - Technology – LED
 - Demand – LED
 and how the different approaches compare.
- Changes required to reach 70% by 2030.
- Four draft approaches open for consultation.
- Overview on their plans on public consultation and meeting national groups.
- Specific projects for Kilkenny – Laois/Kilkenny Reinforcement Project and Growth of renewable energy sources.
- Public Consultation – Submissions Closing Date is 14th June, 2021 at 12.00 noon.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked them for the detailed presentation.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Dunphy, Joe Lyons, Eugene McGuinness, Maria Dollard, Michael Delaney, Fidelis Doherty and Mary Hilda Cavanagh. Members thanked them for the detailed overview on moving towards clean electricity.

Specific issues were raised by Members as follows:

- Second power line in County Kilkenny, concerns of more pylons in the South of the County.
- Maps need to be clearer.
- Off shore renewable projects.
- Community based electricity generation, links to the Grid, storage of electricity.
- Power lines overhead versus underground.
- Community acceptance of windfarms.
- Public not aware of consultation.
- Clarify new overhead lines in the South of the County to Great Island.

Mr. Mahon and Mr. Aherne responded to the specific queries raised by the Elected Members. Mr. Mahon advised that Mr. Eoghan O'Sullivan is the Community Liaison Officer for the area. He is available to answer specific questions raised by Members and can give a more detailed overview on the grid in Kilkenny.

Mr. Mahon further advised that there will be proposals to refurbish/upgrade existing lines in Kilkenny. A third supply of electricity will be provided to Kilkenny City. Approximately 158 pylons will also be replaced. Upgrade works were done in 2020 on the Laois/Kilkenny lines and a new sub-station was provided in Ballyragget. There are no proposals for new infrastructure in County Kilkenny.

Mr. Aherne advised that there is a very extensive engagement ongoing. Technical Reports have been published and a summary has been prepared in plain English for the public. Eirgrid would welcome support from the Elected Members to get the message out to communities. Staff are available to answer any questions.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked them for the time given to this matter and advised that Members will be e-mailed with the contact details for Community Liaison Officer.

(d) (i) Deontais Taitneamhachta - Amenity Grants

Mr. Sean McKeown presented the report on the Amenity Grant Allocation for 2021. He advised that the amount allocated to Ballyragget Development Association should read €1,360 and not €1,306. 185 Applications were received for funding. It is recommended that 181 applications are approved for funding totalling €139,938.55 therefore the budget allocated for 2021 at €140,000 is therefore almost fully allocated.

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed that:

"That the Amenity Grants are hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

Cllrs. Peter Cleere and Pat Dunphy welcomed the allocations and spoke of the tremendous work being carried out in all the communities.

(ii) Plean Bainistíochta Bruscair - Litter Management Plan

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that Ms. Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer has presented her draft Litter Management Plan to Members at each of the Municipal District Meetings.

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

"That the Litter Management Plan 2021 - 2023 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

**(e) (i) Scéim Chaipitil Áiseanna Pobail & Cultúrtha / Idirchultúrtha Deonú Leithdháileadh 2021
Community & Cultural/Inter-Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme - Allocation of Grants 2021**

Mr. Martin Prendiville, Head of Finance declared an interest in an application being considered under this item. He withdrew from the meeting.

Ms. Annette Fitzpatrick presented report on the Community & Cultural Grants. The amount of funds available is €250,000. 22 applications were received seeking a total of €725,145. All applications were assessed in accordance with the scheme and it is recommended that 7 applications be grant aided to a total value of €250,000.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness and Mary Hilda Cavanagh requesting that all unsuccessful applicants be advised on their applications and other funding opportunities available. They welcomed all outdoors projects providing much needed facilities during these Covid times.

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

"That the Community & Cultural/Inter-Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme [CCICFCS] - Allocation of Grants 2021 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

(ii) Beartas Bainistíochta Ealaíne Poiblí - Public Art Management Policy

Ms. Annette Fitzpatrick presented the draft Public Art Policy for Kilkenny. She advised that the SPC has recommended the adoption.

It was proposed by Cllr. Patrick O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney and agreed that:

"That the Public Art Management Policy is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

**(iii) Nuashonrú Tithíochta & Seachadadh Caipitil
Short Term Working Capital for Community Projects**

Mr. Sean McKeown advised Members that three projects proposed by Kilkenny County Council in Graiguenamanagh were submitted for RRDF but were unsuccessful. The Community organisations in Graiguenamanagh have now been approved for funding to deliver these projects by Kilkenny Leader Partnership (KLP).

The projects are:

- Access Road to Activity Hub.
- Repurposing former public toilets to a Mens Shed.
- Refurbishment of Abbey Hall as a public recreation area.

He also advised of a further two projects undertaken by Trail Kilkenny:

- Repair Works at Silaire Wood; and
- Feasibility Study for Linkages from the Greenway to Slieverue and Glenmore

. Grants totalling €476,000 have been approved by KLP to the 5 projects listed above. Mr McKeown recommended to Members the approval of a short-term working capital loan facility to assist the community organisations complete the projects. It was noted that each organisation will sign a legal undertaking to pay Kilkenny County Council the amount of grant payable to them by KLP. The balance of the finances for the five projects is being provided by Kilkenny County Council (i.e. 144,000), the local communities and Tomar Trust.

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:

“That Kilkenny County Council approves short term working capital facility in the total amount of €476,000 to Community Organisations in 2021 for 5 specific projects in Graiguenamanagh as outlined at the meeting, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

3. **Comhfhreagras - Correspondence**

(i) **Acknowledgement from Minister Darragh O’Brien in connection with the County Boundary**

Members noted the acknowledgement received.

(ii) **Acknowledgement from Minister Malcolm Noonan in connection with Decarbonisation Zones**

Members noted the acknowledgement for the area designated as the Decarbonisation Zone. Mr. Sean McKeown advised that it was in Kilkenny City – Breagagh Valley and adjoining area. Full details of the areas identified are in the Chief Executive Report.

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) **Fix dates for Special Meetings on draft City & County Development Plan.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed the following:

- Special Meeting: Monday, 31st May, 2021 at 3.00 p.m.
- Special Meeting: Friday, 30th July, 2021 at 3.00 p.m.

(iii) **Schedule of Meetings**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed.

It was agreed to have a Workshop on the Capital Budget on Thursday, 10th June, 2021 at 3.30 p.m.

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

(i) Report of SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 29th March, 2019

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen that report taken as read and noted:

“That Chairman’s Report of SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 29th March, 2019 as circulated with the Agenda be noted and hereby approved”.

(ii) Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 6th December, 2019

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty that report taken as read and noted:

“That Chairman’s Report of SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday, 6th December, 2019 as circulated with the Agenda be noted and hereby approved”.

(iii) Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 6th March, 2020

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Matt Doran that report taken as read and noted:

“That Chairman’s Report of SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 6th March, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be noted and hereby approved”.

(iv) Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 10th July, 2020

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney that report taken as read and noted:

“That Chairman’s Report of SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 10th July, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be noted and hereby approved”.

(v) Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 23rd October, 2020

It was proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan that report taken as read and noted:

“That Chairman’s Report of SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 23rd October, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be noted and hereby approved”.

(vi) Report of SPC 2: Transportation Policy, Mobility Management & Water Services held on Friday 11th December, 2020

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan that report taken as read and noted:

“That Chairman’s Report of SPC 2: Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services Issues held on Friday 11th December, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be noted and hereby approved”.

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**

- (i) **AILG Elected Members Training: “Rural Housing & Development Policy” Webinar**
Elected Members noted this Training Webinar.

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

None.

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

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness invited the Chief Executive to update Members on the proposed closure of the Smithwick’s Experience.

Ms. Colette Byrne, Chief Executive expressed her shock at the announcement of the closure of the Smithwick’s Experience. It is very disappointing that this tourist attraction will close particularly with the history of brewing in Kilkenny. She advised that initial contact has been made with Diageo to understand the challenges in operating the Experience. She asked that Members give them space as they are engaging with other stakeholders.

Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Pat Fitzpatrick also shared their disappointment at the loss of this tourism offering. History of brewing in Kilkenny goes back over 800 years. It is vital that this heritage is kept alive. The Cathaoirleach advised he was aware that Diageo was in discussion with a number of parties and that these discussions be allowed to progress.

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

06 (21) Cllr. Maria Dollard

It was proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed:

“That Kilkenny County Council ask the Government to establish an independent inquiry to investigate and provide answers to questions that have arisen in relation to the recently aired RTE Investigates programme, reporting the building and maintaining dossiers on autistic children and their families who were involved in legal actions against the State. The response should also address issues of concern regarding confidentiality, GDPR, how families/autistic adults establish if they were included, if safeguarding reports to Tusla were included and what steps will be taken to repair confidence in the system of health and education services for children and adults diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Condition going forward.”

Cllr. Maria Dollard spoke on the motion.

As it was approaching 5.55 p.m. it was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Matt Doran to suspend Standing Orders and complete discussions on all Notices of Motion [Items 11 & 12].

07 (21) Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed:

"That we the Members of Kilkenny County Council request that the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan TD prioritises the planning, design and construction of the N24 Waterford to Limerick Corridor road project within the Review of the National Development Plan. This project is critical to the development of the South East region and to the achievement of national targets on addressing regional imbalance by connecting the cities of Waterford and Limerick, the South East, South West and Mid West Regions, Rosslare Europort, the Port of Waterford and existing strategic transport corridors including the M7 (Dublin - Limerick), M8 (Dublin-Cork) and M9 (Dublin-Carlow-Kilkenny-Waterford) motorways. It is further requested that this Notice of Motion be sent to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohue TD and Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath TD."

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness advised that the Notice of Motion has come through the First Citizen's Forum and is circulated to all Local Authorities in the South East.

08 (21) Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed:

"That this Council calls on the Government in the light of Brexit and other market influences to recognise the strategic value of the South-East Ports in Rosslare and Belview, Waterford through:

- *Strategic investment in the Ports, in particular through the purchase of additional land for the expansion of Rosslare Europort and the advance construction of Rosslare Europort Harbour Access Road.*
- *Amalgamation of the ports structure and governance to create a Tier 1 port as a combined entity.*
- *Designation of the combined entity as the service port for off-shore renewables in The Irish and Celtic Seas."*

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness advised that the Notice of Motion has come through the First Citizen's Forum and is circulated to all Local Authorities in the South East.

Cllrs. Pat Dunphy & Fidelis Doherty spoke on the Motion and referred to increase in ferry sailings to and from Rosslare and proposed rail service to Rosslare.

09 (21) Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh

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

"That Kilkenny County Council be allowed to name and shame those caught littering or dumping waste."

Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael Delaney and John Coonan spoke on this motion.

10 (21) Cllr. Pat Dunphy

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council write to the Minister asking him to ensure that Eirgrid do not erect a second line of pylons on the Cullenagh to Great Island line which takes in the districts of Carrigeen, Dunkitt and Slieverue areas in Co Kilkenny. It should be placed on the existing line or underground. Most of this area is classed as an SAC area and it is bad enough having one line of pylons currently without having a second line running close by the first line. It will destroy a scenic area and more thought must be put in to protecting the area and using the line already there by upgrading it to take the extra 400kvs that Eirgrid say are required."

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. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed by all that the following Notices of Motion numbered 31 (21) to 39 (21) received from a number of Local Authorities be taken as read and noted:

31 (21) Roscommon County Council

“To write to the Taoiseach and Minister Heather Humphreys at the Department of Rural and Community Development to immediately establish an Annual Fund for necessary capital works projects at our nations cemeteries to specifically address the deterioration of pavements, boundary walls, overgrown trees and other similar capital works requirements in the interest of health and safety, stimulating local economies, pride of place at these sacred public spaces, but most importantly in deference to the memory of our deceased loved ones throughout the County. It was further agreed to circulate the motion to all Local Authorities.”

32 (21) Sligo County Council

“For this Council to write to the Minister for Finance Paschal Donohue following his recent remarks stating that taxes will rise after Covid and ask him not to increase taxes but instead borrow money to stimulate the economy over the next decade.

History shows that we cannot tax our way out of recession. The ECB are prepared to lend billions to allow the country to get back on track. An infrastructure plan including a massive house building programme should be included. In a decade, taxes will increase incrementally due to job creation therefore strengthening the economy and increasing our ability to repay the ECB”.

33 (21) Sligo County Council

“I propose that Sligo County Council write to An Tánaiste and ask him to intervene on the crisis facing our community sector in relation to insurance.

The community sector is facing so many challenges in re-opening vital programmes and services, and may not be in a position to recover from the impact of Covid-19 unless the cost of insurance is sorted. A review of the Judicial Guidelines has taken place recently. These guidelines control the amount of damages awarded for personal injury claims and hence the cost of insurance. These guidelines only brought damages for minor, fully-recovered injuries down by 52% in Ireland which means that we are still an outlier in Europe. An 80% reduction is required to bring us in line with England and Wales and get insurance costs down to affordable levels, especially for the community sector.

I also ask for this motion to be shared with all other local authorities”.

34 (21) Limerick City & County Council

“That, Limerick City and County Council, recognising the scale of the Housing crisis, reaffirm its commitment to work with Government and all relevant agencies towards delivering new housing units and, in particular, ensuring that sufficient Social and Affordable housing is built for those in need of same.

Recognising, however, its duty to use Limerick City and County Council property in the best interests of society, this Council reject the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021, published by the Government, removing the role of the Elected Members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency.

The Council further agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that Elected Councillors retain the right to control such sales or transfers and be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council-owned lands.”

35 (21) Limerick City & County Council

“That, Limerick City and County Council call on Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to retain the existing policies in relation to one-off rural housing as per the adopted Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (Section 3.9 Rural Settlement Policy and including the Rural Settlement Strategy Map) in the emerging Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.”

36 (21) Clare County Council

“I am asking Clare County Council to write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and the Minister for Social Protection, to prioritise that the carers allowance is no longer means tested after the 2021 budget. Given that the majority of carers are female and the fact that carer’s allowance is means tested a huge amount of women don’t receive any money due to their partners earnings.

This means that women carers are reliant on their husband or partner for financial support with no support from the State. This is a throwback to the 1800’s when women were not recognised by society for their contributions or value to the state. Carers are saving the state millions for this service with no recognition. The carers allowance should be provided to the carer regardless of their partners income, as that is their only means of income.

Why is it that the carers allowance is means tested but the children’s allowance is universal? Is one not as important as the other? I would like the Ministers and the Taoiseach to answer these questions.

I would also like that this motion is circulated to all councils across Ireland to show solidarity and support for all carers.”

37 (21) Clare County Council

“That Clare County Council ask the HSE and the “Connecting for Life” initiative to pilot a Community Psychiatric Car service in the County. This has been successfully piloted by the NHS in London. The Mental Health Joint Response Car (MHJRC) involves having a Community Psychiatric Nurse and Emergency Medical Technician on call 24/7. The rationale is that people in mental health crises in the community do not often require admission to hospital, rather to address their issues with trained personnel in their own homes. Equally the qualified personnel can also make the call if actual hospital admission is warranted. To date, evaluation of the pilot has proven successful in the UK and a further 7 cars are now in operation.

Currently, Goal four of Connecting for Life, Ireland's national strategy to reduce suicide 2015-2020, aims to enhance accessibility, consistency and care pathways of services for people vulnerable to suicidal behaviour. This motion seeks to enact this in real time in our communities. I also ask for the motion to be circulated to every local authority.”

38 (21) Clare County Council

“That Clare County Council write to the Department of Health and to Minister Stephen Donnelly requesting that Victims of Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence have access to free psychological support and counselling during and after the legal process as required. We request this support be provided bearing in mind that convicted perpetrators have access to these services at least over the duration of sentence. If passed we ask that this motion is shared with all other local authorities for support.”

39 (21) Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

That Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today:

- Access to Free Travel.
- Provision of Reasonable Accommodation for State Examinations for students with epilepsy.

The motion to be sent to the Minister for Health, the Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on disability Matters, and to other Local Authorities for correspondence purposes.”

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness concluded the meetings by thanking the Members and Executive for their ongoing co-operation and participation in all the meetings during his term as Cathaoirleach.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE