

These Minutes are edited for Data Protection purposes because in effect putting them on the Internet is publishing them. An unedited paper copy is available on request.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KENMARE HELD IN THE POBALSCOIL INBHEAR SCÉINE, KENMARE, FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2020

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH NEIDÍN A THIONÓLADH I POBALSCOIL INBHEAR SCÉINE, NEIDÍN, AR AN hAOINE 12Ú MEITHEAMH 2020.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen
Cllr. J. Healy-Rae
Cllr. D. McCarthy
Cllr. N. Moriarty
Cllr. J. F. Flynn

ABSENT / AS LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

Cllr. M. Cahill

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Mr. M. O' Donoghue	Delegated Executive Kenmare MD
Mr. P. Corkery	Meetings Administrator
Mr. P. Teahan	M.D. Engineer
Ms. S. Griffin	M.D. Officer
Ms. C. Fitzgerald	S.O. Corporate Services

The meeting commenced at 10.44 a.m.

Cathaoirleach D. McCarthy took the chair.

Mr. M O' Donoghue proceeded to read out the Protocol for Municipal District meetings during COVID-19 and asked all in attendance to ensure that they had completed the COVID-19 Questionnaire.

20.06.12.01 To note the 'Safe Streets and Safe Destination Program.'

Mr. M. O' Donoghue advised the members that the purpose of the "Mobility Plan" was to accommodate the reopening of businesses within the Municipal District in accordance with the safety guidelines issued by the Government and to promote the county as a "Safe Destination". To accelerate the reopening of businesses, the council commenced the development of a "Mobility Plan" given the level of traffic movement and size of footpath space in each town. The plan is being developed to remind people of the guidelines. The council developed this plan as a support to the businesses and to facilitate the public adhering

to the public guidelines set out by the Government. The council has been very clear from the start of this process that if current Government Guidelines or the Road Map changes then this mobility Plan could and would change in response to any such changes

In addition, Mr. M.O' Donoghue advised Members that the Plan does not have a statutory footing, such a process would consist of a lengthy timeframe to adopt and would not allow changes to be made for the summer of 2020. This is a temporary solution in place until the end of August and as additional businesses open the council will work with them and modify the plan to attempt to accommodate all businesses.

Mr. P. Teahan went through the Plan which was circulated to the members.

Critical to the effective implementation of this approach is active engagement with businesses both in advance of reopening and throughout further Reopening Phases thus enabling a holistic approach on managing social distancing.

The approach taken to arriving at a set of principles that could be thereafter applied countywide, where required, was to firstly examine the main street/ footpaths. In doing so, thus requirements to facilitate the safe movement of people in the respective town centre was determined. The level of footfall for each street was then reviewed and areas where footpaths were substandard in terms of width in order to achieve the 2-metre distance requirements were examined and categorised as follows

Footpath Width	Low Footfall	Medium Footfall	High Footfall
Greater than 2.5m	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3
Less than 2.5m	Cat 4	Cat 5	Cat 6
Pedestrianised Areas		Cat 7	

Having regard to the current public health guidance, a footpath width of approximately 2.5m is assumed to be required in urban centres to facilitate social distancing, where there is a high level of footfall, significant level of vehicular traffic flow and increased potential for close contact.

Fundamentally the safe and free movement of pedestrians is critical to the successful reopening of business and society. With this in mind and with a view to defining the areas of concern the following categories of intervention are proposed.

Category 1: Low Footfall with footpaths widths greater than 2.5m

Proposed Interventions:

Signage and Stencilling as appropriate.

Category 2: Medium Footfall with footpaths widths greater than 2.5m e.g. Main St. Kenmare.

Proposed Interventions:

Signage and Stencilling as appropriate.

Category 3: High Footfall with footpaths widths greater than 2.5m

Proposed Interventions:

Signage and Stencilling as appropriate.

Category 4: Low Footfall with footpaths widths less than 2.5m e.g. Main St, Killorglin.

Proposed Interventions:

Signage and Stencilling as appropriate.

Category 5: Medium Footfall with footpaths widths less than 2.5m e.g. Henry Street, Kenmare.

Proposed Interventions:

A: Signage and Stencilling as appropriate.

B: Consider removing car parking if present

Extent of car parking removal, if any, to be determined having first considered the following

- a. Extent of existing parking
- b. Traffic volumes,
- c. The availability of off-street car parking locally, and
- d. The nature and range of business along the street.

C: Localised provision of street furniture only and no sandwich boards allowed where carparking cannot be removed.

Category 6: High Footfall with footpaths widths less than 2.5m

Proposed Interventions:

Proposed Interventions:

A: Signage and Stencilling as appropriate.

B: Consider removing car parking if present

Extent of car parking removal, if any, to be determined having first considered the following

- e. Extent of existing parking
- f. Traffic volumes,
- g. The availability of off-street car parking locally, and
- h. The nature and range of business along the street.

C: Traffic lane to be closed / one-way traffic system/ street closure where suitable detour is available.

Category 7 Pedestrianised Areas e.g. Killorglin

Proposed Interventions:

A: Signage and Stencilling as appropriate.

(where removal of parking is proposed-should have the following caveats

- Parking as prescribed time is permitted for deliveries

- Some limited short-term parking may be facilitated for access to critical services (e.g. medical facilitated) for the elderly and vulnerable persons

Interventions

Signage and Stencilling

With a view to standardising the approach to communicating advice to members of the public, the following options are proposed:

1) Stencilling and Pavement Markers

Suitable for various functions, these provide a low cost means of:

- Providing gentle reminders throughout the public realm to maintain a safe distance from others.*
- Designating the orientation and spacing of queues.*

2) Signage

Traditional signage and banners are more suitable at entry or arrival points to busier areas, however they should not in themselves become an obstruction.

Examples of such locations would include the following where deemed appropriate.

- Town Centre Areas*
- Exit points from carparks.*
- Entry points to pedestrianised areas.*

Mr. P. Teahan advised that in line with the document the council has held extensive discussions with the Businesses. The majority of the works will involve stencilling and signage. The only exception in the Kenmare Municipal District is Henry Street, Kenmare where it is been proposed to remove 17 car park spaces to accommodate table and chairs. Since the introduction of the Casual Trading Bye-laws an arrangement has been in place with the businesses in Kenmare to allow tables and chairs on the street and to facilitate this request in accordance with the safety of pedestrians and people with mobility issues, the only option was to remove a number of car park spaces.

Mr. M. O' Donoghue acknowledged that some businesses have not yet opened and as they reopen and the streets become busier, the council will work with the businesses to allow a safe passage for pedestrians and people with mobility issues. This is a very temporary solution and as the Road Map by the Government changes we will adopt our plans accordingly. He also stressed that Kenmare Town needs to promote itself as a "Safe Destination"

Cllr. J. F. Flynn welcomed the document and thanked the council for the detailed discussion on the Plan, a lot of work has gone into compiling this document. He asked that the council introduce a campaign to highlight issues currently been experienced by people who are visually impaired. There are a number of people who are visually impaired and find it very difficult to social distance and asked that the public would be mindful of this.

He requested that the Roads Department would organise for the road sweeper to visit every town within the Municipal District in conjunction with Tidy Town groups.

In conclusion he thanked the Principal of Pobalscoil Inbheár Scéine, Kenmare Mr. Dermot Healy for the use of the facility. He also thanked the media for their continued coverage of the MD meetings and for keeping the public informed during this pandemic.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen thanked all involved in compiling the plan. The plan has a huge significance to this Municipal District as it is on the Ring of Kerry. The area is hugely dependent on Tourism and it is hopeful that we can salvage some part of the tourist season. The opening of businesses in the town is essential, with the safety of people being paramount. He said that concerns had been expressed by the public in Kenmare regarding the width of the footpaths. He welcomed the consultation with the Businesses and said that it wasn't an ideal scenario to remove 17 car park spaces but acknowledged that table and chairs could not be facilitated without the removal of the spaces. He asked that management would do all it could to secure additional car park spaces in the town and that the council would allow for flexibility if the plan needs to be reviewed.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae acknowledged the work in compiling the document but noted that members had no vote in adopting the plan. In regard to Kenmare he said he appreciated that the council are trying to assist the businesses, but he didn't believe the plan is warranted, people are aware of the protocol and if someone is high risk they will not come into the town. In relation to the removal of car park spaces for table and chairs, he believed that this may only be an issue for a limited number of hours each week and is weather dependent. Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked that Kerry County Council draw up a grand plan to provide extra car parking in Kenmare. It is a priority for the town. He expressed disappointment that a request to deep clean the streets wasn't granted, considering the cost was minimal. Finally, he requested that a barrier and signage would be placed at Reenagross Park, Kenmare as soon as possible.

Cllr. N. Moriarty said that she appreciated the work done by the council in compiling the document and that the plan is in place to try and accommodate the businesses, the pedestrians and people with mobility issues within the Municipal District. The businesses are going to be greatly affected with social distancing guidelines, but it is important to promote Kenmare as a "Safe Destination". It is important that the public know this a temporary measure in place. She asked that consideration would be given to partially close some of the street in Waterville to facilitate a public space for tables and chairs.

Cathaoirleach D. McCarthy thanked the staff for compiling the document and said that he had received calls from members of the public regarding the plan for Kenmare town. He also stressed the loss of car park spaces was huge for Kenmare and asked that the council would approach the owner of the private car park between the Statoil garage and the Brooklane Hotel to discuss renting the facility to the council. Car parking is a long-term issue in the town and is

priority that we acquire permanent car park spaces in the town. In relation to the deep cleaning of the streets he said that he too had received calls regarding this matter.

In relation to the query on where the provision of the Mobility Plan arose, Mr. M O' Donoghue stated that following consultation with both the Business Community and the Tourism Sector, the promotion of the County as a safe destination was identified as a primary factor in the recommencement of business activity.

As part of this the public realm had to be considered, to allow pedestrians to access the footpaths and practice social distancing in a safe manner. As more businesses begin to open and tourists visits the county, it is very important that the county is promoted as a "Safe Destination" In addition special COVID-19 training has been developed for businesses and members of the Kerry Hotel Federation in conjunction with Kerry Educational and Training Board. Businesses who complete the course will receive a "Safe Destination" badge.

In relation to car parking in Kenmare, Mr. M. O' Donoghue advised that this is a separate and complex issue and stressed that the securing of additional car park capacity in Kenmare is priority and the council will do all it can to acquire or lease a car park facility in the town. He acknowledged that the council has been unable to make much progress over the last few months due to the Pandemic. Overall, substantial progress has been made in the town over the last number of years, the Casual Trading has been resolved and the council has purchased a section of the Peninsula Lands.

In conclusion he advised that the situation is very fluid and if the regulations change the council will adopt to meet the requirements. He stressed that should any business wish to talk to the executive, they are open to discussions and to please contact them.

In relation to the provision of car parking, Mr. P. Teahan advised that the council has agreed in principal to renew the lease of the car park on Shelbourne Street until 01st October 2020. The contract is due to be signed next week.

In relation to members request to deep clean the streets, Mr. P. Teahan advised that a cleaning program is in place within the Municipal District which involves working with individual businesses and providing the road sweeper to each town. This existing cleaning model will continue within this Municipal District.

In relation to the Mobility Plan, Mr. P. Teahan stressed that the plan is open to change and undertook to investigate the partial opening of the street in Waterville.

He advised that in relation to Reenagross Park, if the council is successful in securing some of the land, a permanent job will be carried out there. In the interim both signage and a barrier will be erected.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae regarding works at Ard na Bhearna, Mr. P. Teahan advised that the works are due to commence in quarter 3 of the year.

In conclusion Mr. M O' Donoghue thanked Mr. Dermot Healy Principal Pobalscoil Inbheár Scéine for the usage of the hall. He thanked the press for their ongoing coverage of the Municipal District Meetings.

The meeting concluded at 11.29

Pádraig Corkery
Meetings Administrator

Cllr. D. McCarthy
Cathaoirleach of the
Municipal District
of Kenmare