

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 KILLARNEY HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON FRIDAY, 23 APRIL 2021

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHILL ÁIRNE ATHIONÓLADH AR LINE TRÍ FHOIRNE MS AR AN AOINE, 23 AIBREÁN 2021

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cathaoirleach B. Cronin
Cllr. M. Gleeson
Cllr. D. Grady
Cllr. M. Healy-Rae**

**Cllr. N. Kelleher
Cllr. M. Moloney
Cllr. N. O'Callaghan**

In attendance/i láthair

Ms. A. McAllen	Killarney MD Manager
Mr. C. O'Sullivan	Director of Roads, Transportation & Marine
Mr. D. Doyle	SE Capital Projects
Mr. J. Ahern	SEE Killarney MD
Mr. P. Corkery	Meetings Administrator
Mr. P. Teahan	SEE, Roads, Transportation & Marine
Ms. E. O'Donoghue	Killarney MD Officer
Mr. O. O'Shea	Press & Communications Officer
Ms. M. Galvin	A/ASO Corporate Support

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm.

Mr. Corkery referred Elected Members to the Protocols for Remote Meetings of Kerry County Council approved last December. He asked that all Members mute their microphones and use the "raise hand" function until called on by the Cathaoirleach to speak. He advised that as per the Standing Orders, the recording or photographing of the proceedings was prohibited.

Cathaoirleach B. Cronin welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting which he had called to deal with outstanding matters. He stated that the Members were frustrated on behalf of the public and asked for clarification on the following issues:

- Clarification required on the height of dividers around outdoor tables and chairs. Killarney MD Office have requested that these dividers are 1.1m in height but they are manufactured at a standard height of 1.5m. Can the MD Office allow the 1.5m height as this is causing an issue for businesses

- Concerns raised in relation to position of tables at the façade of premises which could potentially reduce table numbers for individual businesses.

Ms. A. McAllen, MD Manager confirmed that following representation from the Members and businesses, a height of 1.5m for dividers will now be acceptable to the MD Office.

In relation to the positioning of outdoor furniture, Ms. McAllen acknowledged that businesses wished to maximise any outdoor space that may be available to them. This will be subject to safety and review by the MD Office. For the summer, the MD Office will work with businesses and be as pragmatic as possible. If they wish to put tables on the build out, the Council will work and review with the businesses.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Services provided clarity to the Members on the scheme, as follows:

- The reason for height of 1.1m for the dividers is that traditionally, in the Council's own guidelines, all street furniture must be brought in at night time. Mr. O'Sullivan acknowledged that 1.5m is the height available to purchase on the market and dividers may now have to be left out overnight. This may cause potential issues if they fall over. He stated that this will be monitored.
- Tables and chairs close to buildings – need to be mindful of people moving around such as service staff and that contact with pedestrians is avoided. Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that the MD Office will take a measured approach and will work with businesses whilst ensuring that there are no significant issues for pedestrians or safety.

Cathaoirleach Cronin thanked Ms. McAllen and Mr. O'Sullivan for clarification which had caused confusion at the recent Full Council Meeting. He enquired if the €4,000 grant was available to businesses in all parts of County Kerry.

Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that the €4,000 grant would be available to a business anywhere in County Kerry that provides a dining service only – it is not for any other purpose. The business must also comply with Planning, submit receipts for the furniture and provide a photograph of the furniture.

The Members raised the following issues:

Cllr. N. O'Callaghan

- Some people in Killarney would prefer if 2 or more locations were selected for this infrastructure scheme
- Requested meeting with Fáilte Ireland
- This grant discriminates against public houses that have been closed for 15 months as these businesses do not serve food
- By the time the businesses open up, 80% of the population will have been vaccinated – this is a huge advancement in 12 months, but businesses are still required to provide umbrellas that do not work. Businesses do not have the finance for something that does not work. If businesses are going to be

spending €5,000 for outside furniture, they want something they can use next year

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae

- Cllr. Healy-Rae welcomed Ms. McAllen's comments and that Management had addressed the concerns raised by businesses
- A permanent position needs to be created to enforce this. How will enforcement be managed?
- Does Kerry County Council require planning for this?
- Have many people applied for Outdoor Dining Licences? Assurances are needed that there will not be a delay in issuing same. Businesses are worried that they will not have sufficient time to apply for the grant if they do not receive their licence on time

Cllr. D. Grady

- Cllr. Grady thanked Ms. McAllen and Mr. O'Sullivan for their update
- Requested a detailed map of the proposed works

Cllr. M. Moloney

- An Enforcement Officer is specifically required for this job
- Is the provision of awnings permitted instead of umbrellas?
- Pedestrians cannot be walking on and off footpaths avoiding outdoor furniture
- Members need to be presented with a design

Cllr. N. Kelleher

- Cllr. Kelleher welcomed clarity on the two issues that were highlighted by the Cathaoirleach
- Need a quick turnaround time for issuing Outdoor Dining Licences
- Build-outs in front of businesses – cannot have pedestrians moving on and off footpaths
- Queuing outside businesses for tables and chairs was an issue last year. People are blocking doors of retail premises. There is a need to state in the licence that if a table is not available, that people should return in 10 minutes rather than queuing
- Some people are abusing the 15 minute bays and age-friendly bays and parking in them for up to 10 hours at a time. People have also stated that they are not aware that these spaces are for specific purposes as they cannot see what is written on the ground and the signage is too high. In Mallow, the age-friendly bays are coloured yellow and this should be copied in Killarney

Cllr. M. Gleeson

- Cllr. Gleeson stated that he has seen the benefit of co-operation and listening to each other. The two items that were highlighted at the start of the meeting highlight how matters can progress between businesses, Elected Members

and Officials. A reasonable and fair conclusion will be reached to the benefit of all

- Importance of pedestrian safety is the ultimate priority and must come before everything else. He stated that people should be proud of Killarney's record in relation to Covid. Standards have been adhered to.
- Asked that people with any level of disability would be facilitated to the maximum

Mr. C. O'Sullivan responded to the queries raised as follows:

- He confirmed that this was a Fáilte Ireland Scheme developed with the Government and the role of the Council is to facilitate grant payments
- Enforcement – the Council has adequate resources for enforcement and will work with An Garda Síochána
- Awnings – Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that up until the previous week, the requirement was that awnings required planning permission. Mr. O'Sullivan advised that he had recently received correspondence from the Department confirming that awnings will be treated as exempted development, but further clarity is sought. Individual business owners should discuss this with Planning for clarity
- Confirmation given that the Briefing held the previous week was to outline to Members the terms of the scheme – plans for same have not been developed at this point in time
- A Part 8 will probably be required and will come before Members for consideration
- There have been a number of applications for licences and a number of queries received. Mr. O'Sullivan advised that Mr. M. Brosnan is co-ordinating this
- Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that pedestrian safety is critical. Mobility Plans are being reviewed and any issues that arose last year are being addressed
- Queuing – this cannot form part of a condition of the licence – businesses have a role in ensuring the town is safe
- An Garda Síochána can enforce under the regulations
- The County was promoted last year as being a safe place to visit and it will be busier this year. Everything the Council is doing is to ensure Killarney is safe for this coming season
- A turnaround time of 3 weeks has been put in place for issuing the S254 licences. Mr. O'Sullivan urged applicants to discuss the process with Council staff who will provide general guidance

Members welcomed the clarification on provision of awnings.

Cllr. N. O'Callaghan said he disagreed with Cllr. N. Kelleher's recommendation that the Council would paint the 15 minute bays yellow.

Cllr. N. Kelleher said that he would put his recommendation down as a Motion and the Members would have an opportunity to vote on same. Cllr. Kelleher referred to Mr. O'Sullivan's comments regarding queuing outside premises and stated that a condition should be put in place when issuing licences, that businesses should make every endeavour to prevent queuing. He asked that Kerry County Council take this into consideration when issuing these licences. Cllr. Kelleher welcomed the comments in relation to timeframe for issuing licences and said it was also important for staff to revert to the public should they have queries.

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that Mr. Doyle would now make a presentation to the Members in relation to the Fáilte Ireland Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Scheme. He stated that everyone is still dealing with the Pandemic and the Council must be mindful of public health guidelines and the public must comply with them. Mr. O'Sullivan referred to the Fáilte Ireland Scheme and advised that the Council did not come before the Members the previous week with plans. Briefings were held with each Municipal District to outline the terms and conditions of the scheme. It was an information session for Members to get feedback from them. Mr. O'Sullivan advised that the scheme is a bid process and the Council will submit the strongest bid possible. Fáilte Ireland have requested that this must be a standout location and that is why this is limited to 2 locations in each County. He advised that the Executive reviewed various locations throughout the County and in relation to Killarney, the location to ensure the strongest position to win one of those bids. He stated that funding was not guaranteed at this stage.

Mr. D. Doyle read out Assessment Report on the Scheme to Members as follows:

***Assessment Report on the
Fáilte Ireland Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme***

Fáilte Ireland recently announced details of the Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Grant Scheme to provide funding to Local Authorities to upgrade and enhance streets and public spaces and implement weather-proofing solutions, which can facilitate year-round outdoor dining in key tourism centres whilst meeting the needs of all citizens.

Local Authorities are invited to identify a maximum of two towns and propose capital projects that are flexible, innovative and facilitate year-round use for outdoor dining. The scheme also provides that potential projects should respond to the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and support the recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector as well as being future-proofed, from a health and safety perspective, and respect the needs and rights of all users of our streets and public spaces.

It is a competitive bid process, with funding of up to €200,000 available, and the final decision on capital funding will be determined by Fáilte Ireland, having regard to the quality of submissions received and the available funding provided by Government, under the EU Covid-19 Temporary State Aid Framework.

The primary focus of this investment scheme will be on traditionally busy city/town centre locations, as it is considered that such focused investment efforts have the potential to generate the greatest impact on short-term employment opportunities

and recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector. Local Authorities are invited to identify suitable locations and propose capital projects that are flexible, innovative and facilitate year-round use for outdoor dining.

What are the Requirements of the Investment Scheme.

The terms and conditions of the Scheme state that applications meet the following criteria.

This Investment Scheme will support projects that meet the following Minimum criteria.

Eligibility criteria:

- *Imaginative, creative designs are strongly encouraged under this Investment Scheme. Proposals are welcomed which demonstrate synergy with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021, and other relevant schemes.*
- *Proposals must demonstrate a cultural and design led approach which meets Local Authority Planning Regulations, Public Health and Safety Guidance and ensures a quality design aesthetic led by best practice guidelines.*
- *The proposed project(s) must maximise the opportunity to strengthen the cultural identity of the city/town area for tourism impact.*
- *All projects in receipt of public funding are required to follow EU and national public procurement rules and procedures, where applicable.*
- *Eligible projects must have a lifespan of 5 years or more.*
- *Management and maintenance of the proposed project(s) will be the responsibility of the Local Authority.*
- *Local Authorities agree to provide baseline and ongoing performance statistics to Fáilte Ireland with regard to visitor numbers, footfall, promotion and engagement with the project for the next 5 years.*
- *Local Authorities own the material/project being grant aided and will undertake to maintain, service, store and protect.*
- *Each application must be accompanied by a detailed estimate of total project costs (comprising eligible and ineligible project costs). This can be in the form of a detailed cost estimate, copies of concept drawings, maps/plans and any other relevant technical documentation.*
- *Applicants must ensure that all necessary statutory permissions and consents have been obtained prior to the commencement of any works.*
- *Successful applicants will be obliged to acknowledge Fáilte Ireland's grant assistance in all publicity.*

General Characteristics of Eligible Street/Zone Spaces for Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure

- *Proposed projects must be in a permanently pedestrianised or partially pedestrianised street/zone ideally with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall.*
- *The street/zone must contain a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists.*
- *The street/zone should offer dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings.*

- *The street/zone must be in close proximity to visitor attractions, museums, galleries, hotels and other visitor accommodation.*
- *A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses should benefit from the proposed project. Fáilte Ireland requires letters of support from two such businesses to be submitted as part of the application process*
- *Local Authorities are invited to submit proposals for up to a maximum of two towns/cities within their Local Authority area. Separate applications will need to be completed for each location.*

The purpose of the Scheme is to enable projects of scale and to maximise impact. It will focus on city and town centres that present the greatest opportunity to generate tourism impact and an optimum number of year-round outdoor dining spaces. Each Local Authority can apply for up to €200,000 under the Scheme.

Eligible applications will be evaluated with regard to the following

- *A high volume of tourism and hospitality businesses in the area where the works are proposed.*
- *Letters of support from tourism and hospitality businesses in the proposed area.*
- *The gaps that the proposed project will address in the current available amenities.*
- *Size of accommodation stock within 5km of the proposed project.*
- *Increase in outdoor seating capacity/covers as a result of the proposed project.*
- *Total square metreage of weatherproofed outdoor dining space directly created by the proposed project.*
- *How many Full Time Equivalent (“FTE”) jobs there are in the hospitality businesses covered in your proposed project area.*

Proposal will be appraised and evaluated by Fáilte Ireland.

This is a competitive application process, there is no guarantee of funding for applications submitted.

An assessment of locations in Killarney town were analysed based on the above. The table below summarises this assessment under the following criteria.

Summary of Criteria

- *Footfall*
- *Proximity to minimum of 3 hospitality businesses.*
- *Close to tourist attractions*
- *Semi/Fully pedestrianised area*
- *Cultural & design led approach*

Assessment of Potential Locations in Killarney.

Location	<i>Fáilte Ireland Criteria</i>	<i>Footfall</i>	<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>Tourist attractions</i>	<i>Pedestrian area</i>	<i>Cultural approach</i>
Haha /Kenmare Place	<p><i>This provision of outdoor dining at this town centre location is consistent with the proposed Public Realm Plan for the area, links with the objectives the URDF for Killarney and has previously been identified in the Killarney Urban Masterplan. The selection of this location aligns with the overall vision of Killarney “Town in the Park” given its location adjacent to main entrance to Killarney House & Gardens.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>While Kenmare Place/Haha is pedestrianised at present on a temporary basis, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall, the outdoor dining project is for a five year term and will require a commitment to permanent pedestrianisation. This aligns with the proposed public realm plan for this location.</i> • <i>Pedestrian access and access for businesses along the street will have to maintained as well as access for emergency vehicles.</i> • <i>Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists.</i> • <i>Offers dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings.</i> • <i>The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation. It is adjacent to Killarney House and National Park, the recently developed Anam Arts & Cultural building, Killarney Jarvey stand, Christ the King Monument, St. Mary’s Church, the cinema, etc.</i> • <i>A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project.</i> • <i>Public conveniences are located adjacent to the area.</i> • <i>It is south facing which makes it a very pleasant location for outdoor dining all year round.</i> • <i>There is potential for Urban animation over adjacent public buildings.</i> 					

<i>Plunkett Street</i>	<i>Fáilte Ireland Criteria</i>	<i>Footfall</i>	<i>Restaurant</i>	<i>Tourist attractions</i>	<i>Pedestrian area</i>	<i>Cultural approach</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>While Plunkett Street is pedestrianised at present on a temporary basis, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall, the outdoor dining project is for a five year term and will require a commitment to permanent pedestrianisation.</i> • <i>Pedestrian access and access for businesses along the street will have to maintained as well as access for emergency vehicles. Given the width of the street and the requirement to maintain a minimum of 2.5m public walkway on either side of the street, the potential to use this street for permanent public outdoor dining is limited.</i> • <i>Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists.</i> • <i>Offers dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings.</i> • <i>The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation.</i> • <i>A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project.</i> 					
<i>Main Street</i>	<i>Fáilte Ireland Criteria</i>	<i>Footfall</i>	<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>Tourist attractions</i>	<i>Pedestrian area</i>	<i>Cultural approach</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>While Main Street is a town centre location, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall, it is not pedestrianised at present. The outdoor dining project is for a five-year term and would require a commitment to permanent pedestrianisation.</i> • <i>Pedestrian access and access for businesses along the street would have to maintained as well as access for emergency vehicles.</i> • <i>The consideration of this option would require a permanent closure to traffic. Whilst it would be possible to partially pedestrianise the street at certain times of the year, the full benefits of such a street closure will have to be assessed.</i> • <i>Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists.</i> • <i>Offers dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings.</i> 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation.</i> • <i>A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project.</i> • <i>The provision of a permanent outdoor dining space on Main Street would restrict the use of this public space for other users and limit the use of this town centre location for festivals, parades, etc which travel through the street throughout the year.</i> 					
Old Market Lane	<i>Fáilte Ireland Criteria</i>	<i>Footfall</i>	<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>Tourist attractions</i>	<i>Pedestrian area</i>	<i>Cultural approach</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Old Market Lane is a pedestrianised town centre location, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally medium tourism footfall.</i> • <i>Pedestrian access and vehicular access for businesses and residents along the street will have to be maintained as well as access for emergency vehicles.</i> • <i>It is a narrow street with residential properties. The requirement to maintain vehicular access to part of this laneway limits the potential of this area for outdoor dining.</i> • <i>Given the width of the street and the requirement to maintain a minimum of 2.5m public walkway to access the Glebe car park, the potential to use this street for permanent public outdoor dining is limited.</i> • <i>Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists.</i> • <i>This street primarily has a good lunchtime trade but it does not to have a high level of evening trade.</i> • <i>The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation.</i> • <i>A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project.</i> 					

<i>Milk Market Lane</i>	<i>Fáilte Ireland Criteria</i>	<i>Footfall</i>	<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>Tourist attractions</i>	<i>Pedestrian area</i>	<i>Cultural approach</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Milk Market Lane is a pedestrianised town centre location, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally medium tourism footfall.</i> • <i>Pedestrian access and vehicular access for businesses along the lane would have to maintained as well as access for emergency vehicles.</i> • <i>Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists.</i> • <i>Offers dining opportunities for lunchtime and evenings. This street primarily has a good lunchtime trade but it does not to have a high level of evening trade.</i> • <i>The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation.</i> • <i>A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project.</i> • <i>This laneway is in private ownership.</i> 					
<i>College Street/Square</i>	<i>Fáilte Ireland Criteria</i>	<i>Footfall</i>	<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>Tourist attractions</i>	<i>Pedestrian area</i>	<i>Cultural approach</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>While College Square is a town centre location, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall, it is not pedestrianised at present. The outdoor dining project is for a five year term and would require a commitment to permanent pedestrianisation.</i> • <i>Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists.</i> • <i>Offers dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings.</i> • <i>The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation.</i> • <i>A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project.</i> • <i>The Taxi rank for the town is located on this street and this proposal will require the relocation of the Taxi rank.</i> • <i>The main entrance to the Glebe car park is located off College square making this a highly trafficked area</i> 					

New Street	Fáilte Ireland Criteria	High Footfall	Restaurants	Tourist attractions	Pedestrian area	Cultural approach
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While New street is a town centre location, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall, it is not pedestrianised at present. The outdoor dining project is for a five year term and would require a commitment to permanent pedestrianisation. • Pedestrian access and access for businesses along the street would have to maintained as well as access for emergency vehicles. • The consideration of this option would require a permanent closure to traffic. New street is a primary access to High street. • Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists. • Offers dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings. • The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation. • A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project. 					
Beech road	Fáilte Ireland Criteria	Footfall	Restaurants	Close to Tourist attractions	Pedestrian area	Cultural approach
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While Beech road is a town centre location, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall, it is not pedestrianised at present. The outdoor dining project is for a five year term and would require a commitment to permanent pedestrianisation. • Pedestrian access and access for businesses along the street would have to maintained as well as access for emergency vehicles. • Closure of Beech road on a permanent basis will lead to traffic congestion and would require a traffic management review to avoid traffic congestion at other junctions throughout the town. • Beech road is a heavily trafficked road which provides vehicular access to New Street Car Park which prevent this street being pedestrianised. • Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists. 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings. • The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation. • A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project. 					
<i>High Street</i>	<i>Fáilte Ireland Criteria</i>	<i>Footfall</i>	<i>Restaurant</i>	<i>Tourist attractions</i>	<i>Pedestrian area</i>	<i>Cultural approach</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While High Street is a town centre location, with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall, it is not pedestrianised at present. The outdoor dining project is for a five year term and would require a commitment to permanent pedestrianisation. • Pedestrian access and access for businesses along the street would have to be maintained as well as access for emergency vehicles. • High Street is a heavily trafficked street. • Contains a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists. • Offers dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings. • The area is in close proximity to visitor attractions, hotels and other visitor accommodation. • A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses would benefit from the proposed project. 					

Recommendation

This provision of outdoor dining at this town centre location is consistent with the proposed Public Realm Plan for the area, links with the objectives the URDF for Killarney and has previously been identified in the Killarney Urban Masterplan. The selection of this location aligns with the overall vision of Killarney “Town in the Park” given its location adjacent to main entrance to Killarney House & Gardens.

Following the above assessment of locations in the town for the Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme, Kenmare Place is recommended as the most suitable location when assessed in accordance with the criteria for this scheme and presents the best option for a successful bid.

Cathaoirleach Cronin thanked Mr. Doyle for the detailed presentation on each aspect of the different locations.

Cllr. N. O’Callaghan thanked Mr. Doyle for his presentation and asked that the Members would receive a copy of same. He stated that he took great pride in Killarney being a safe town and what was accomplished last year was outstanding. He stated that Killarney businesses have been decimated by Covid and Fáilte Ireland should have changed the provision of the scheme to include another area for the Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme to include more areas of Killarney. In relation to the hospitality sector, Cllr. O’Callaghan stated that Kerry was the County most affected by Covid in Ireland. He said that for the summer months, premises need to be rain-proofed and structures provided need to have wind blowing through them to provide ventilation. Cllr. O’Callaghan complimented both Mr. D. Doyle and Mr. J. Ahern for their assistance in the past 2 weeks.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae referred to previous comments and stated that Kenmare Place was the Council’s proposed location at the briefing the previous week. In referring to the Fáilte Ireland grant, she stated it was not a fair funding stream. Restaurant owners will be able to apply for the grant whereas publicans who do not serve food are exempt. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked if planning would be required for the outdoor infrastructure and enquired if it would be in place for 5 years. Cllr. Healy-Rae referred to enforcement and said that issues will arise during the evening and night. She asked if it would be enforced outside of office hours and stated that the Members need to be provided with a point of contact. She asked for clarity on the role of An Garda Síochána in enforcement and what was the Council’s role. Cllr. Healy-Rae said that Members would like to see this infrastructure spread around the town and asked if seating could be provided in areas of the town in an effort to share the benefit.

Cllr. N. Kelleher asked why Mr. Doyle’s presentation was not made available to the Members at the previous week’s briefing as there was much clarity contained in it. He stated that the Council were looking to put forward a location for the grant prior to Elected members making a decision on same. Cllr. Kelleher stated that the people of Killarney want more than one location considered for the infrastructure. Seating and a structure could be provided at another pedestrian location. He asked that this be reviewed prior to the application being lodged with Fáilte Ireland.

Cllr. M. Moloney welcomed the funding scheme. She stated that at the previous Full Council meeting that other Members had said that Killarney was “ok” but she stated

that it stands to reason that Killarney would lose most of its tourists because of the lockdown. Restaurants and shops have been decimated by the lack of tourists. This funding is needed to enhance the town. Cllr. Moloney stated that something is required for the town centre. She asked who would allocate the seats and monitor same. She stated that if the structure is roofed and permanent, it will attract congregations at night which will create noise which will upset residents and businesses. Cllr. Moloney stated that something is needed that will look good and benefit the town.

Cllr. D. Grady thanked Mr. Doyle for his presentation. He said Members needed to see a plan. He said it was important to provide assistance to businesses but advised that it would attract problems if not correctly managed. In referring to comments that Killarney had been decimated, Cllr. Grady said he disagreed and stated that Killarney had done very well.

Cllr. M. Gleeson advised that it was hard to facilitate everyone. This is a public space that is open to traffic and pedestrians. He referred to the Milk Market that was previously sold by the Council which was a huge regret to him. If that still existed, it would have been the vibrant heartbeat of Killarney Town. He advised that every location in Killarney was proximate to the National Park. Cllr. Gleeson stated that the standard of presentation in Killarney has totally transformed the town and thanked the efforts of the Elected Members and Officials for same. He stated that whatever is put in place, it must be to the highest standard. Central to this is equality of treatment and everyone should be treated fairly and equally. Cllr. Gleeson asked who would have controlling interest in the facility and give a right to admission to such a structure that will be fair and will not cause anger to those excluded. Any structure at the present time should not be enclosed. It should be open air so free movement of air is permitted. He asked if this were sub-divided, would the town end up with 3 semi-good places that may have to be demolished. If the Council proceeds at one location, then it may invite similar developments in years to come.

Cathaoirleach B. Cronin said he welcomed funding from any source that will help businesses and the general public. He said it would have been beneficial to have received Mr. Doyle's report the previous week as it would have assisted when answering the public's queries. The Cathaoirleach referred to Main Street which would be key, but it needs to have flow of traffic through it. He noted that it would not be feasible to ban traffic from Beech Road as it provides access to 2 central car parks. He stated that the proposal at the top of High Street had merit as it was an open public area. The Anam Centre is adjacent to the College Street taxi rank and had a wide and open footpath. He asked if Management could review these 3 locations and perhaps provide public seating there as not everyone will go to pubs and restaurants. Such facilities could be used by families bringing picnic bags and the Council must provide for that. The Cathaoirleach referred to Management's proposal for Kenmare Place and agreed that the location was more preferable than other locations. He enquired if there would be a defined designated allocation for those businesses or will it be open? He said there needs to be clear distinction as to what is available to the public and this needs to be controlled. He asked when will the Elected Members see the design and drawing? The Cathaoirleach asked when would construction expect to commence on the project if funding is received. He

stated that National Government need to give clear indication as to how publicans can operate and give them assistance.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan responded to comments made by Members. He stated that a robust discussion had taken place at the briefing the previous week and the Members' views were taken on board. He agreed to review a number of locations identified by the Members. He again confirmed that no plans had been prepared but agreed to make them available to the members when finalised. He advised that an architect has been engaged to develop the plans. He hoped that if the Council were successful in receiving grant funding, that works would commence on 1st September, subject to the strategic process being completed. He confirmed that Kenmare Place was the most suitable location based on Fáilte Ireland criteria. In relation to High Street and the Anam Centre, Mr. O'Sullivan agreed to look at providing something suitable in these areas that would be separate to this scheme.

Mr. D. Doyle confirmed that a copy of his report would be provided to the Members. He stated that the design would reflect the area and the comments of the Members have been taken on board. In relation to "dry" pubs, Mr. Doyle advised this was a National issue. In relation to selecting Main Street as the area for the infrastructure, Mr. Doyle stated that a requirement of this scheme was infrastructure that would last 5 years and operational for a minimum of 10 months of the year. At present, traffic goes through town centre down Kenmare Place so there is a need to review the overall traffic in the town. Mr. Doyle hoped that construction would commence on 1st September subject to a statutory process and be completed by 30th November. He said that very tight deadlines had to be adhered to. The selection of Kenmare Place was the most suitable location based on the Fáilte Ireland criteria. He stated this scheme was available for the public and adjacent businesses will have access to some locations. In relation to a suggestion of using High Street and/or the Anam Centre, Mr. Doyle advised that an architect had been engaged who will look at providing something suitable in these areas but this would be outside the terms of the Fáilte Ireland Scheme.

In response to a query from Cllr. M. Healy-Rae, Mr. C. O'Sullivan confirmed that Enforcement Officers had been employed last year and their role is broad. He stated that a review would be taken regarding putting in place enforcement outside of normal working hours and weekends. Under Public Health Regulations, An Garda Síochána are responsible for enforcement of the public health requirements. Anti-social behaviour enforcement would be the role of the Gardaí and they would have full-time staff to fulfil that role. The Council's Enforcement Officers will ensure compliance with the S254s.

Ms. A. McAllen advised Members that Mr. C. O'Sullivan had issued information that an Information Webinar for businesses will be held regarding the Outdoor Seating & Accessories Grant Scheme.

The meeting concluded at 4.05pm.

P. Corkery
P. Corkery
SEO Corporate Services

Cllr. B. Cronin
Cathaoirleach of Killarney MD