



16 July 2024

**KN20/0524**

**Part 8 Market Square, Kildare Town**

Mr J Healy gave a presentation to the members on the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82023.08 for the proposed Public Realm Improvement Works to Market Square, Kildare Town.

Mr J Healy raised the following points:

- The proposal seeks to formalise the pedestrianisation of the North side of the Square, an outcome of the accelerated measures that took place in response to Covid 19

**The Proposal Included the Following:**

- Re-grading Market Square, North of Bride Street, Bride Street and Market Square East
- Upgrading footpaths and surfaces throughout site area using high quality natural stone.
- Introduction of bollards to manage vehicular access at Church Lane (Firecastle Lane)
- Introduction of hard and soft landscaping throughout Market Square.
- Introduction of bespoke street furniture, seating, lighting and bicycle parking.
- Provision of 6 no. Pedestrian crossings (1 no. controlled and 5 no. uncontrolled) and widening of existing 3 No. controlled crossings.
- Upgrading of carriageways, signage, road markings and drainage works including implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- A total of 48 written submissions/observations were received by Kildare County Council during the public display period.
- The focal point was to try and keep this project moving forward and to keep funding going.





The members raised the following points:

- Thanked the Public Realm Team for their work and welcomed the report.
- Kildare Town needed universal accessible parking spaces
- The Newbridge Disability Access group had been in the area.
- Kildare town was a good location for this project.
- It was a wonderful opportunity for the community to integrate.
- The success of this plan would rely on having adequate parking for the town.
- Kildare town had low levels of parking spaces compared to other towns.
- Traditional businesses were moving out of the main area because they needed the parking for customers to be able to sustain their businesses.
- It was a big step and game changer for the town.
- If approved when would the roll out happen?

Mr J Healy informed the members of the following points:

- Designs were all ascertained subject to accessibility for the public.
- For every 15 parking spaces 1 accessible parking space must be provided the council have proposed two spaces.
- The council endeavoured to look at the car parks already in the vicinity.
- 50% of the parking in these car parks seemed to be long stay.
- Parking Byelaws would have to be reviewed.
- If ratified the Public Realm Team would hope to roll this out quickly, the costing was done in 2020 at €2.9 million but now it was in the ballpark region of €4 million.
- Activation strategy needed to be looked at and maybe talk to businesses.

Councillor Doyle proposed two amendments to the Part 8.

**Amendment One.**

- That the proposed closure of East Link Road on Market Square is removed from plan.

Seconded by Councillor Duffy



**Amendment Two.**

- That the removal of further car parking spaces on Dublin Road be eliminated from plan and that the disabled bay be located in proximity to bank on Dublin Road.

Seconded by Councillor Duffy

**Resolved** On the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by all members present that the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82023.08 for the proposed Public Realm Improvement Works to Market Square, Kildare Town be approved with the two amendments.

**(END OF EXTRACT)**

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*I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the annual meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 15 May 2024.*

Tony Shanahan  
A/Senior Executive Officer  
Corporate Services