

**TAIFEAD DE CHEARDLANN AN CHOMHAIRLE A TÓGADH  
AR LÚNADH, 15 NOLLAG, 2025 AG 3.00 I.N.**



**RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025 AT 3.00 P.M.**

**Chair:** Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh.

**Elected Members:** *Council Chamber*

Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, Jenny Catt Slattery, John Coonan, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Patrick Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ger Frisby, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Seán Ó hArgáin, Joe Sheridan and Michael Shortall.

*MS Teams*

Cllrs. Brian Cleere, Deirdre Cullen, Stephanie Doheny, Michael Doyle.

**Officials:** Lar Power, Tim Butler, Martin Prendiville, Fiona Deegan, Ian Gardner, Seamus Kavanagh, Denis Malone, Margo Hayes & Brenda Kelly.

**Apologies:** Michael Delaney.

**To consider the Chief Executive's Report to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development application for an extension to Belview Port Facilities with the intention of supporting Offshore Renewable Energy development.**

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh invited Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services to outline how the meeting will proceed.

Mr. Tim Butler advised the Members that this meeting is being held to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the SID Planning Application made by Port of Waterford, Marine Point, Belview Port, Co. Kilkenny [ACP-323575-25], for an extension to Belview Port Facilities with the intention of supporting Offshore Renewable Energy development.

The legislation requires that the Chief Executive Report is presented to the Elected Members to give them the opportunity to express their views on the proposed development. The Elected Members can also decide to attach recommendations to the Report and any recommendations must be passed by resolution of the Council in the normal way.

The Chief Executive Report is required under Section 291 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended by Section 3 of the Planning & Development [Strategic Infrastructure] Act 2006 and had been circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting.

The Chief Executive Report and any resolution passed by resolution together with a Record of the Meeting will be sent to An Coimisiún Pleanála for their consideration.

There are three [3] documents that form part of the submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála:

- (i) Chief Executive Report as circulated to Elected Members.
- (ii) Any recommendations that the Elected Members may consider appropriate to make on the proposed development by resolution at the meeting, and
- (iii) The record of the meeting as prepared by the Meetings Administrator.

The submission of these documents must be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála before Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025. The public consultation period for the proposed development closed on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.

The Council was required by the Bord to make available the application documentation for public inspection, all submissions were made directly to the Bord. The Bord must have regard to all submissions received in making its decision on the proposal.

Mr. Denis Malone, Senior Planner gave a Powerpoint Presentation providing a summary of the Chief Executive's Report, detailing the proposal including associated works and the location of the proposed development was highlighted. Mr. Malone's Presentation outlined national and regional policies relevant to the proposal as well as an overview of the Environment Reports, the EIA Reports and the Natura Impact Report. Mr. Malone provided the overall considered view as well as conditions that should be considered should permission be granted.

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh thanked Mr. Tim Butler and Mr. Denis Malone for their contributions and comprehensive overview of the Strategic Infrastructure Application.

In general, all Members welcomed and supported the Chief Executive Report and thanked the Chief Executive and Planning staff for their detailed consideration of the development.

Specific contributions were made as follows:

#### **Cllr. David Fitzgerald**

Cllr. Fitzgerald commented that this is a hugely significant proposal and it is remarkable that Kilkenny has a Port. Offshore wind energy doesn't have the numerous challenges that we have encountered with onland wind energy and this represents a highly positive development for Kilkenny, the South East and the country as a whole.

He queried whether this initiative puts Kilkenny in competition with Rosslare Port or if it forms part of a broader strategy to develop infrastructure that supports the nationwide rollout of renewable energy solutions.

#### **Cllr. Tomás Breathnach**

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach stated that he broadly supported the extension and asked about the level of public consultation that occurred previously and asked if further consultation would be emanating from An Coimisiún Pleanála.

He questioned the heritage of the site, i.e. the Glass Houses and Gorteens Old Mill and asked that An Coimisiún Pleanála include a condition in relation to protected structures and how they will be maintained going forward.

#### **Cllr. Fidelis Doherty**

Cllr. Doherty highlighted the historic significance of the Port, noting that Kilkenny's access to the sea originated from a tradition whereby every diocesan Bishop was required to have a route to the sea to enable them to depart from the area if necessary.

#### **Cllr. Maria Dollard**

Cllr. Dollard noted the importance of the Report as it outlines a very important development for Kilkenny and how it has the potential to be a fantastic asset for Kilkenny and the South East region. She asked that An Coimisiún Pleanála would clarify how they intend to ensure proper oversight so that all conditions set out in the Planning Application are fully adhered to as this would prevent many potential issues.

She also mentioned the heritage aspect of the site and the suggestions for repurposing the Glass House and Gorteens Old Mill. She said that it is vital that they are protected and not allowed to fall into further disrepair and asked for confirmation that this will be prioritised.

### **Cllr. Ger Frisby**

Cllr. Frisby welcomed the project stating that it was a cleaner and more practical solution compared to onshore wind farms. He emphasised the importance of adhering to all conditions during the construction phase and for effective oversight and enforcement to avoid past mistakes that left communities feeling disenfranchised.

He highlighted current concerns related to the Environmental Impact Study where issues such as wells running dry have arisen. He stressed the need to address these risks and ensure robust plans and procedures are implemented to prevent similar problems.

He also raised the importance of traffic and road management during the construction phase, suggesting that upgrades to the road network may be necessary to mitigate impacts on local traffic and residents. He reiterated his overall support for the development, noting the significant benefits it will bring to local businesses and hospitality provided that regulations are adhered to and that it is policed properly to prevent problems.

### **Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin**

Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin raised the issue of railings on site noting that when CIE shut down its freight operations in the 1980/90's it resulted in a loss of access for timber processing which led to a significant shift of timber freight from rail to road causing major environmental impacts both nationally and in Kilkenny. He asked what the current situation is regarding the rail connection for this development and if it has been addressed or impacted within the report.

### **Cllr. Pat Dunphy**

Cllr. Dunphy broadly supported the project and sought an update on the progress of the infrastructure and how it would be delivered onsite. He emphasised his preference for offshore infrastructure stating that it is more suitable than onshore alternatives. He also requested clarification on how the infrastructure will be integrated and whether it will have any impact on the existing Power Station.

### **Cllr. Jenny Catt Slattery**

Cllr. Catt Slattery asked about the impact it will have on local residents in terms of roads and traffic given the challenges they have already experienced. She asked for confirmation that proper measures will be put in place to address these concerns effectively.

### **Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh Cathaoirleach asked about who would have oversight of it the process.

Mr. Denis Malone responded to the queries raised by the Elected Members stating that the An Coimisiún Pleanála will assess the application and will be responsible for all decisions regarding environmental impact. The enforcement of conditions will ultimately fall to the Council. Therefore, it is essential that any conditions set by the Board are reasonable, appropriate and clearly worded to ensure they can be implemented effectively and without delay.

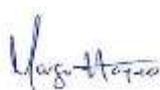
It was proposed by Cllr David Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach:

*"that Kilkenny County Council support the Chief Executive's Report and that the Elected Members request An Coimisiún Pleanála to support the development in its entirety as proposed."*

Members all agreed. There was no Member dissenting in relation to this resolution.

Cllr. Cavanagh thanked all the Members for their contributions, she thanked Lar Power Chief Executive, Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Mr. Denis Malone, Senior Planner and thanked the Members.

**SIGNED:**

  
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**Meetings Administrator**