



20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**To: Each Member of Donegal County Council**

I hereby give notice under Paragraph 7 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001, having received a requisition from the Cathaoirleach pursuant to Paragraph 6(1)(a) of said schedule, that a Special Meeting of Donegal County Council shall be held at 10am on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 in the County House, Lifford to transact the following business.

### **AGENDA**

**Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001(as amended)**

To approve the carrying out of works so as to facilitate the development of the "Letterkenny 2040 - Reimagined Market Square" at Market Square, Castle Street and Main Street, Letterkenny.

A copy of the requisition is attached, and an online link will be available.

  
Paul Mc Gill  
Meetings Administrator



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

Cllr Liam Blaney  
Cathaoirleach Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall  
Chairperson of Donegal County Council



18<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

**Mr Paul Mc Gill**  
**Meetings Administrator**

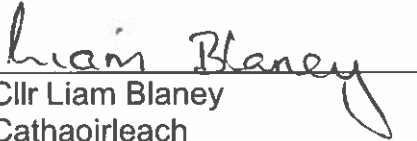
Dear Paul,

I am hereby requisitioning you in accordance with Paragraph 6(1)(a) of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001, to convene a Special Meeting of Donegal County Council at 10.00am on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 to transact the following business:

#### **AGENDA**

**Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001**

*To approve the carrying out of works so as to facilitate the development of the "Letterkenny 2040 - Reimagined Market Square" at Market Square, Castle Street and Main Street, Letterkenny.*

  
Cllr Liam Blaney  
Cathaoirleach

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD**

**C/391/22**      **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs L. Blaney, Cathaoirleach, K. Bradley, D. Coyle, G Crawford, A Doherty, D M. Kelly, G. Mc Monagle, and J. O Donnell.

*Online:* P Canning, N Crossan, M T Gallagher, M Mc Clafferty, N. Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, J Mc Guinness, A Molloy, and J. Murray.

**C/392/22**      **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Liam Ward, Deputy Chief Executive, Paul Mc Gill, Meetings Administrator, Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment, Bryan Cannon, A/ Director Roads & Transportation, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Sinead Mc Cauley, A/Senior Executive Planner, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, Róise Ní Laifearthaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

**C/393/22**      **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr John S O' Fearraigh who was unable to attend the meeting.

**C/394/22**      **CARRYING OUT OF WORKS SO AS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LETTERKENNY 2040 - REIMAGINED MARKET SQUARE" AT MARKET SQUARE, CASTLE STREET AND MAIN STREET, LETTERKENNY**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services advised that the purpose of the meeting was to facilitate consideration of the Chief Executive's report in relation to the Part 8 proposed development for the "Letterkenny 2040 – Reimagined Market Square" in Letterkenny. The objective of the project, he confirmed, was to create a useable, flexible and dynamic public space which would be capable of meeting the needs of the town to 2040 and beyond, as the largest town in the County, and as the Regional Centre in the North West.

Members were informed that the Part VIII proposed development was published in line with the statutory consultation process on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 following extensive consultation in 2020/2021 and progressed in partnership with the Letterkenny Chamber. It was noted that further direct consultation had taken place earlier in 2022 with users of the Square in relation to the substance of the design element.

The following submissions it was noted had been received:

- 3 no. from statutory and internal consultees.
- 4 no. from the public.
- 1 no. late submission.

He said that the substantive issue here had been the provision for taxi operators and the reallocation of on-street parking spaces. Thus, he contended, it had been necessary to reflect on the overall objective of the project, which had been to create a dynamic, accessible, safe, flexible, and multi-user civic space. It was acknowledged that to achieve this aim, pedestrians had to be prioritised which resulted in change and adaptation for some of the stakeholders involved.

The Director of Services alluded also to the fact that a survey of occupancy had been carried out in relation to the taxi ranks over a six week period and that this had concluded that the provision of taxi ranks to cater for 6 parked taxis at any one time would meet and exceed the current demand. This, it was noted, had also shown that the existing taxi rank to the front of the Market Centre was the busiest, though not always used to full capacity. On this basis, he said the Planning Office was recommending that the development as published on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 be modified to provide for the reallocation of 3 no. car parking spaces only on Main Street to the taxi rank. This, it was confirmed, would result in a total capacity of 6 taxi rank bays between Market Square and the existing rank at the Kitchen. He said that this modification and recommendation, had been set out in Section 6 of the Chief Executive's report, and had indicated that there was sufficient capability to meet the evidenced need in relation to taxis, whilst taking into account business concerns and the provision of an optimum arrangement with regard to the provision of disabled car parking spaces.

Cllr Mc Monagle noted that there had been widespread consultation with all the stakeholders and rate payers involved. The wider community in Letterkenny, he advised, were appreciative of the need to regenerate the Market Square, and enhance the Main Street, so as to increase footfall and encourage activity in the town centre. There had been, he added, considerable discussion at workshop level as to how the Market Square area could be regenerated and remain accessible to all.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Coyle, the carrying out of works with regard to the Part VIII (Local Authority own development) for the proposed development of the Letterkenny 2040 – Reimagined Market Square at Castle Street and Main Street, Letterkenny was approved in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) subject to the amendment of the recommendation set out in the Chief Executive's report and, in lieu, to modify the development as published on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, as follows:

- i. Retain the existing taxi rank to the front of the Market Centre and,

- ii. Retain 6 no. on-street car parking spaces on Main Street between Fonez and the entrance to the Courtyard Shopping Centre and;
- iii. Relocate 2 no. existing disabled car-parking spaces from the foot of the Market Square to the frontage of the Ulster Bank on Main Street through the reallocation of 2 no. on-street car-parking spaces.

Cllr Coyle seconding the motion said that it was important that there were protections for the business community and the ratepayers. He noted that every effort had been made to ensure that the taxi drivers were catered for. There was, he concluded a national review of taxis to be carried out in the near future and this would allow for an overall review of the number of taxi ranks in Letterkenny.

Cllrs O' Donnell, Bradley, and Kelly outlined their support for the proposal. They outlined the fact that there had been considerable discussion to date on the matter and that any further delay would push the project back to square one. It was important for all the stakeholders involved that the project moved forward, they contended, and there was general agreement that the proposed revamp would only serve to enhance the vibrancy of the town centre.

The Cathaoirleach concluding the meeting acknowledged the presence of a representative from the Letterkenny Taxi Drivers at the meeting. He said that it was imperative that there was ongoing consultation with taxi drivers and the local business community as the project progressed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.