

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 30th April 2024 MS TEAMS**

PRESENT

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Ger Barron
Cllr. Declan Clune
Cllr. Liam Brazil
Cllr. John O’Leary

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. R. Walsh, SEO, Economic Development
Mr. M. Conway, SEA, Economic Development
Mr. C. O’Neill, SEE, Economic Development
Ms. A. Flynn, Corporate

1. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (AS AMENDED), PART X1 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED), PART V111 – RAILWAY STATION, KILMATHOMAS, CO. WATERFORD.

R. Walsh, SEO said the proposed Tourist Accommodation/Short Stay Facility at Kilmacthomas Railway Station is a shared development between the Council and the Community. He said the overall wish within the community and in particular by the primary development group in the village, Kilmacthomas Social Enterprise Group is that there be an accommodation provision here to serve users of the Greenway but that there be another component also in the form of a exhibit space. He said the Councillors are being asked to approve the Part 8 to allow the development of the Railway Station for the mutual benefit of the Greenway users and the Community itself.

M. Conway, SEA outlined the proposed development. He said two-bedroom short stay units would be provided in the existing railway station building and two ‘Line-Huts’ would be constructed each providing one roomed short stay accommodation and a single storey exhibition space would be constructed which will house a unique model of the railway line created by the late Lar Barton. He said there were three submissions on the proposal. One was from Uisce Éireann requesting that we comply with their regulations which will be complied with, one from the Department requesting compliance with various heritage and architectural guidelines. All works will be carried out under the supervision of our Conservation Architect in collaboration with our Conservation Officer. The third submission was in support of the proposal.

Cllr. Barron proposed that the development as outlined proceed saying it was an interesting and exciting project. He said the late Lar Barton had requested that the model railway he had created

over a period of 30 years be displayed somewhere along the Greenway. He paid tribute to the late Lar Barton and his family for their generosity and said the model railway was a history of the railway line between Waterford and Dungarvan and would serve as a reminder to users of the Greenway that it was not always a Greenway but rather a working railway line.

Cllr. Brazil seconded the proposed development saying it was a big news story for Kilmacthomas. He said bringing what was a derelict building for many years back in to use with the provision of short stay accommodation was fantastic for Kilmacthomas as was the construction of the workers huts. He thanked the late Lar Barton also for his gift to the Greenway and commended Cllr. Barron for his work over the years in Kilmacthomas.

Cllr. O'Leary said this is an ideal proposal, an exciting development making great use of the space and is a good news story. He said the late Lar Barton's legacy as an employee of the Council is this model railway. He said model railways and railways are of huge interest to a lot of people noting that the Suir Valley Railway is a valuable tourist attraction. He said Cllr. Barron has always been to the forefront in relation to the development of Kilmacthomas and this is shown again in his securing of the model railway which will be a historical piece for the station.

Cllr. Clune said he wished to echo the comments of the other Members in terms of the positive news that this development will be. He commended Cllr. Barron for his work in relation to the proposed development. He said it is a really positive day to see the buildings come back into use, the historical significance of it plus the fact of the model railway. He said it is a good news story and well done to everyone involved.

Cllr. Power said he too wished to echo the comments of the previous speakers. He said the model railway will be a huge attraction bringing tourists to Kilmacthomas and to Waterford. He commended the Kilmacthomas Community Groups and Cllr. Barron for their contribution to the proposed development and said he was delighted it had happened before Cllr. Barron's retirement from the Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

**Resolution of the Elected Members
Waterford City and County Council, Comeragh District
30th April 2024
Ref: R2024/13**

The development under Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and the requirements of Part 8, Article 81 & Article 120(3) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, for the proposed Tourist Accommodation/Short Stay Facility at Kilmachthomas Railway Station, Kilmachthomas, Co. Waterford.

The nature and extent of the proposed works, as described in the public and site notice were as follows:

Proposals to carry out development works at the site of Kilmachthomas Railway Station (a Protected Structure, RPS ID-WA750624), Co. Waterford to provide short-stay accommodation. The development will consist of:

- Internal alterations to the existing railway station building to provide two bedroom short stay accommodation
- Construction of two "Line Huts" each providing one roomed short stay accommodation
- Construction of a single storey exhibition space adjacent to the station platform

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Comeragh District of Waterford City & County Council.
Proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed unanimously.

Signed:

Councillor Seanie Power
Cathaoirleach Comeragh District

Witnessed:

Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator