**Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh**

**Kilkenny County Council**

**Planning Report**



**To : Tim Butler, Director of Services**

**From: Arlene O’ Connor, Senior Executive Planner**

**Date: 27/7/2020 Part VIII Ref: P8/5/20**

**Re: Vicar Street Improvement Scheme, Kilkenny.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Part VIII Proposal**

This Part VIII proposal is for the improvement works along Vicar Street in Kilkenny City.

The proposal involves specifically, the following works;

* General improvements to pedestrian facilities including widening of footpaths;
* Making the road a one way bound carriageway; and
* Provision of a contra flow cycle lane.

These specified works are being carried out to achieve the following objectives;

* Provide improved facilities for pedestrians that allow for safe and comfortable use of Vicar Street by pedestrians and reduced conflict between pedestrians and residents of Vicar Street;
* Provide improved facilities for cyclists, to be segregated if possible;
* Improve the junction of Vicar Street and Troys Gate / Green Street, making it safer for all road users;
* Reduce the impact of Vicar Street on the Irishtown Junction and the resulting queuing that occurs on St. Canice’s Place;
* Maintain existing parking for residents on Vicar Street; and
* Manage the particular constraints imposed by Vicar Street’s location in the St. Canices Architectural Conservation Area and in the Zone of Noticification of Recorded Monuments in Kilkenny City.

**Zoning**

Vicar Street falls within two zonings, namely ‘*Existing Residential’ and ‘General Business’*,

within the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014 – 2020.

**Heritage**

The development works will have to take heed of any protected structures or recorded

monuments along Vicar Street.

The street also falls within the St. Canices Architectural Conservation Area and is also located

in the Zone of Archaeological Potential in Kilkenny City.

The above can be incorporated into an *Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment* and an

*Archaeological Impact Assessment Report*.

***Special Area of Conservation (SAC)***

The street falls a significant distance from the River Nore cSAC, thus no impacts on this SAC are determined, however it is advisable that the works be *screened for Appropriate Assessment*.

***Special Protection Area (SPA)***

The street falls a significant distance from the River Nore SPA, thus no impacts on this SPA are determined.

***Natural Heritage Area***

The street is not within any NHA.

**Relevant Planning Policy and Guidelines**

Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014 – 2020

**Planning History**

There is a multitude of planning history files along this street, ranging from residential developments and commercial developments.

**Pre-Planning Advice**

A Pre-planning meeting was held between Arlene O’ Connor, Senior Executive planner and

Kilkenny City Area Planner, and Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer and Municiple District Engineer

on Thursday 23rd July at 10am.

The following is advisable in relation to the future proposal for the improvement works on

Vicar Street, Kilkenny;

* Mitigation Measures as per Section 8 of the Archaeological Impact Assessment Report be adhered to.
* Due care and best practice procedures should be adhered to when undertaking the works at the building thresholds of any protected structures to avoid damage to important building fabric or character.
* All works should be complimentary to the character of the Architectural Conservation Area and railings and / or bollards only provided where essential.
* On street / directional signage should be consolidated and minimised to reduce visual impact.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 27/7/2020

 Senior Executive Planner