



To: An Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Kilkenny County Council
From: Naming of Infrastructure Committee
Re: Naming of Infrastructure , Abbey Quarter
Date: 17th May, 2022

Dear All,

The Naming of Infrastructure Committee was established in 2016 to research and appropriately name new infrastructure in the County and City. The committee is made up of 5 Elected Members and a Chair was selected for the term of the Council. The Members are Cllr. John Coonan (Chair), Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick , Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Michael Doyle and Cllr. Pat Dunphy.

The Committee is assisted by Corporate Services and a sub-committee consisting of the Heritage Officer, Conservation Officer, Project Architect , Arts Officer with the support of the Library Local Studies. The sub-committee carry out ground research in relation to the area in order to support appropriate names for the infrastructure.

There are presently eight separate pieces of infrastructure to be named on the Abbey Quarter as highlighted on the attached map. As is normal, existing names are not altered and these can be seen on the map as items (1), (3) , (4) and (9).

The attached report by the sub-committee details the historic context of the names in the area and is the final recommendation agreed by the Naming of Infrastructure Committee. The names are as follows:

No. on Map	Infrastructure Location	Name recommended by the Civic Memorials Sub-Committee
2	Area adjacent to Brewhouse	Brewhouse Square
5	Park adjacent to Watergate Theatre	Jenkins Yard
6	Public Park at St. Francis Abbey	Greyfriars Park
7	Courtyard between St. Francis Abbey & Brewhouse	An Chlabhstra (The Cloister)
8	Urban Street	Greyfriars Walk
10	Lane Way Parliament Street to River Nore - Through Watergate Park and Brewhouse Square and across row	Smithwick's Lane
11	Riverside Park/Garden	Greyfriars Park
12	Teahouse Square	Isabel's Teahouse Square

In line with the recommendations of the Committee, approval of the Members is requested for the names as detailed in the table above.

Yours Sincerely,

Tim Butler
Director of Services

Recommendations on naming of public realm infrastructure at the Abbey Quarter, Kilkenny City

Report from the Civic Memorials Sub-Committee

Feb 2022

Context

The following report has been prepared for the Kilkenny County Civic Memorials Committee to inform the selection of names for new infrastructure within the public realm at the Abbey Quarter. The report, requested by Tim Butler, Director of Services, summarises the recommendations of Civic Memorials sub-committee.

The sub-committee met on 25th January and discussed appropriate names. The committee had cognisance of the following policies:

- i. Kilkenny Civic Memorials & Naming Infrastructure Policy which states that names should be appropriate to its function and location and must reflect the historic/context of the area concerned i.e. history of the area, former uses, etc.
https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Publications/Council_Publications/Naming-and-Commemorative-Memorial-Policy-adopted-.html
- ii. Policy 9.4.1 (Placenames) in the County Kilkenny Development Plan 2021-2027 which states that “The names of all new developments should reflect the local topography, history, culture, ecology or significant people and events, and also incorporate traditional and Irish language placenames from the locality”.

The committee also considered gender balance. At present there is very little gender balance in the names of Kilkenny’s infrastructure.

The draft report was presented to Tim Butler, Director of Services. The committee was asked to consider the name “Smithwick’s” for item no. 10, and agreed to add it to the list of proposed names.

No. on map	Infrastructure (provisional name supplied to sub-committee)	Name recommended by the Civic Memorials Sub-Committee	Comment
2	Area adjacent to Brewhouse	Brewhouse Square	This name references the long history of brewing on the site, dating back to the Franciscan Friars in the 1200's, and later to the Smithwick's St. Francis Abbey Brewery (1710) – later Diageo, without utilising or naming any particular brand of alcohol associated with the site.
5	Park adjacent to Watergate Theatre	Jenkins Yard	The southern part of the Ring was formerly known as Jenkins Lane, a mill known as Jenkins Mill was recorded from Parliament St. East in 1537, and references to Jenkins pump in this area. A timber yard is identified in this area on 1842 map. Jenkin may refer to (i) John Rothe Fitz Jenkyn, a Kilkenny merchant in 1583, and/or (ii) be a reference to land at Jenkinstown, which was owned by St. Johns Priory, who also owned lands near the Franciscan Abbey
6	Public Park at St. Francis Abbey	Greyfriars Park (see 11 below)	Grey Friars is the name by which Franciscan monks are known, due to the colour of their habit which was originally made from a greyish unbleached wool. Franciscan monks established a friary at this site in the 1200's. There is a record of a "Grey Freren Park" in 1663 in the vicinity of the Water Gate East, associated with St. Francis Abbey.
7	Courtyard between St. Francis Abbey & Brewhouse	An Chlabhstra (The Cloister)	The cloister of St. Francis' Abbey is located at this area, therefore this name is historically appropriate and maintains a connection between the original site and the new public use. It is proposed that the area would be known by its Irish name An Chlabhstra.
8	Urban Street	Greyfriars Walk	Grey Friars is the name by which Franciscan monks are known. This name reflects this history of the site as St. Francis Abbey.
10	Lane Way Parliament Street to River Nore – Through Watergate Park and Brewhouse Square and across row	Smithwick's Lane	This area offers a view of, and route to the river. To recognise Smithwick's Brewery/Smithwick family

11	Riverside Park/Garden	Greyfriars Park	It is recommended that areas 6 and 11 are known by the one name. Both are part of the same park unit, both physically and in terms of nature connectivity. There is no rationale to have 2 separate names and it would cause confusion. In addition, Riverside Park/Garden is a generic name and could be confused with the linear park at Riverside Drive.
12	Teahouse Square	Isabel's Teahouse Square (note: Is it Isabel or Isabella – referenced as both)	Isabel de Clare was the daughter of Aoife and Strongbow, and grand-daughter of Diarmait Mac Murchada (King of Leinster), and the wealthiest woman in Ireland at the time. A significant woman in her own right, she was also married to William Marshall. William has many buildings in Kilkenny attributed to him. Isabel is less well known/celebrated. She successfully defended Kilkenny Castle during an attack in 1208. It is recommended that she s be acknowledged in the public realm of Kilkenny.

Sources of Information

- Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA), no. 10, Kilkenny, by John Bradley (Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, 2000).
- Monastic Ireland <http://monastic.ie/history/kilkenny-franciscan-friary/>
- The Placenames Database of Ireland <https://www.logainm.ie/en/>
- The History And Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory. 1905. Canon Carrigan.
- O'Kelly, O. 1985. The Place Names of County Kilkenny.

Thanks to Declan MacAuley, Executive Librarian, Local Studies for the additional research on the Jenkins name.

Kilkenny Civic Memorials and Naming Infrastructure sub-committee:

Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer

Francis Coady, Architectural Conservation Officer

Evelyn Graham, Project Architect

Mary Butler, Arts Officer

