

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council,
held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on
Monday 9th October 2017 at 2.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor W. Paton (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor D. Foley
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn.

In attendance: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning,
Economic Development, Health and Safety,
Mr S. O'Connor, Director of Services, Housing, Community,
Building Control & Emergency Services,
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms A. Sweeney, Senior Planner
Mr. L. Fitzgerald, Senior Engineer, Roads
Mr. M. Brennan, Senior Executive Officer, Community
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer, Environment
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate
Services,
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

In commemorating the 1916 Rising the National Anthem was played.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Declan Alcock former Councillor on the death of his mother Annie Alcock, 96 Pearse Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow
- Councillor Tommy Kinsella on the death of his mother- in-law Bridie Ralph, Poulmounty, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The Family of Paul Timmons, 24 St. Patrick's Ave., Carlow, former pensioner with Carlow County Council.
- The Family of the late Jim Nolan, Knockdoorish, Kilbride, Co. Carlow former pensioner with Carlow County Council.
- To the Gladney Family, Clochristic, Milford, Co. Carlow on the death of Christina Gladney.
- The Donoghue Family, The Ridge, Bilboa, Carlow on the death of Jim Donoghue.
- Sinead Gurhy & Family 66, Feltham Hall, Blackbog Road, Carlow on the death of her husband Jim.
- Olive Lysaght & Family 57, Oakley Park, Tullow Road, Carlow on the death of her husband John.
- Mary Canavan & Family, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford on the death of her husband James.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Fenagh on winning the Minor A Football County Final
- Fenagh on winning the County U/16 A Football Championship
- Ballon on winning the Junior A Football County Final
- Kilbride on winning the County Intermediate Final
- Ballinkillen on winning the u/16 County Hurling A Final
- Eamonn Tracey, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on winning the Senior Conventional Test Match at the National Ploughing Championship 2017.
- John Murphy, Milford, Co. Carlow on winning the U/21 Conventional Class at the National Ploughing Championships 2017.
- The Carlow County Council Culture Team on the success of Culture Night Carlow that took place on Friday 22nd September.
- The organising committee of Carlow Mental Health Festival (Mensana Fest 2017) taking place from 9th October to 27th October.

- Carlow Sports Partnership, the National Parkrun Coordinator and volunteers on the Carlow TownPark Run that commenced 30th September.
- Tidy Towns and Local Improvement Groups on increasing their points in the National Tidy Towns 2017. Clonegal and Leighlinbridge maintaining their gold medal status. Carlow Town received a silver medal and Clonmore a Bronze Medal. Borris won the Endeavour Award.
- Kieran Comerford, LEO and all groups involved on securing County Carlow allocation in the sum of €884,487 for eleven towns and villages under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Carlow Chamber of Commerce on the Carlow Business Awards 2017.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September Council Meeting held on 11th September 2017 were

Proposed by Councillor W. Lacey
Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 11th September at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.’

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 26th September 2017 at 3.00 p.m were

Proposed by Councillor D. Foley
Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Tuesday 26th September at 3.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.’

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 26th September 2017 at 3.00 p.m were approved subject to the Meetings Administrator amending the Minutes stating the reason why Members voted not to vary the basic Local Property Tax rate. The minutes do not require to be reapproved by the Members.

2. Filling of Casual Vacancy due to resignation of Councillor Anne Ahern (Nee Long)

Members had for consideration notice of casual vacancy that has occurred in the membership of Carlow County Council, with effect from 12th September, 2017, due to the resignation of Councillor Anne Ahern (Nee Long).

E. Brophy confirmed that all requirements under the provisions of Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) have been complied with to fill the casual vacancy.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed former Councillor Anne Ahern to the meeting. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Andrea Dalton, her husband Sean, her parents Jim and Eileen, family and friends to the Chamber. Also in attendance was Senator Jennifer Murnane-O'Connor.

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender
Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'that we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the appointment of Ms. Andrea Dalton, Barr na Cassa, Tinryland, Co. Carlow to the Membership of Carlow County Council to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Anne Ahern (Nee Long) in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001(as amended), S.19 (3) (a) and S 19 (5) applies.'

The newly elected Councillor Andrea Dalton said she was humbled and honoured to be co-opted to the membership of Carlow County Council. She thanked her proposer and seconder and the Fianna Fáil Members for their support. She thanked Ann Ahern for her support and guidance and said she will be a hard act to follow. She thanked the Chief Executive and staff and looked forward to working with everyone. She thanked her parents for the values instilled in her. She thanked her husband Sean, her sister in law and her aunt for their support.

She spoke of her involvement with St. Catherine's Community Services Centre and of working with the people of Carlow over the past 20 years.

She said community development and education are very important to her and as a member of Carlow LCDC and having held positions on Carlow County Development Board, the Joint Policing Committee and Carlow PPN she has good experience behind her. She said she will be mindful of representing County Carlow and will work to the best of her ability to keep Carlow at the heart of her work. She thanked Senator Murnane O'Connor for her support.

The Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the County Council, congratulated Councillor Dalton on her co-option to Carlow County Council and spoke of her strong track record of working with the community.

Each of the Members congratulated Councillor Dalton on her co-option and spoke of her excellent track record and experience working with the people of Carlow.

3. CIRCULARS

(a) Circular Letter FPS 01/2017 Publication of Draft National Planning Framework (NPF) Ireland 2040: Our Plan

Ms B. O'Brien, Director of Services briefed the Members on the Draft National Planning Framework (NPF), titled 'Ireland 2040: Our Plan'. The Draft Plan is open for public consultation up to 12 noon on Friday 3rd November 2017. B. O'Brien stressed the importance of this Draft Plan and advised that a comprehensive submission has been made and a further submission will be made.

Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner gave an overview of Development Strategy to 2040 under population growth, housing demand and additional jobs required.

A lengthy and detailed discussion took place with the following issues raised by the Members:-

- Competition for investment, economic strategy and growth for smaller towns and rural areas. The need for Structural and Investments Funds to invest in job creation and education to help create a sustainable economy across the whole of the country.
- As a lot of investment is centred in Dublin resulting in long distance commute city status for Carlow Town was suggested that would act as an economic driver, as the town is growing rapidly.

- As Carlow is a Leinster county it would make more sense as a member of the Midland and Eastern Regional Assembly and not the Southern Assembly.
- Funding to back up Development Strategy to ensure balance throughout the country. An Action Plan with investment and job creation required for the South East as the Draft Framework Document puts particular emphasis on Northern and Western Region.
- If Carlow has availed of funding opportunities under the Interreg Programmes.
- As 'Apple' is in difficulty setting up in Athenry can Carlow be promoted at every opportunity as a suitable location to invest. It was suggested, as well as IDA visits, that Carlow goes directly to companies making a case for Carlow as a location to invest in.
- The importance of available sites and infrastructure for job creation in all towns in the County.

The Chief Executive advised of submission made on the National Planning Framework 2040 and that a further submission will be made and that, as part of the submission, it be indicated that funding be made available. The Chief Executive also advised that any Foreign Direct Investment proposer would engage with the IDA and that the Council must work within this framework. She said the Council works closely with Enterprise Ireland and other agencies to promote economic development.

Ms B. O'Brien said the Council had been making a case for Carlow independent of the IDA. She said that there are a substantial number of indigenous companies in Carlow and that a number of planning applications had been made this year by local companies that were expanding.

A workshop is to be organised for Members on the Draft National Planning Framework 2040 where submission will be discussed.

(b) Circular: 6/17 Multi – Annual Rural Water Programme 2016-2018

Members noted Circular:6/17 Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2016-2018 advising of the final overall allocations for 2017.

4. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUE, STANDING ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

(a) Filling of vacancy on the 1916 Commemoration Committee

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘that we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the appointment of Councillor Andrea Dalton, Barr na Cassa, Tinryland, Co. Carlow to fill the vacancy on the 1916 Commemoration Committee created by the resignation of Councillor Anne Ahern

(b) Filling of vacancy on Joint Policing Committee

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘that we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the appointment of Councillor Andrea Dalton, Barr na Cassa, Tinryland, Co. Carlow to fill the vacancy on the Joint Policing Committee created by the resignation of Councillor Anne Ahern

(c) Filling of vacancy on the Cultural, Health & Agricultural Strategic Policy Committee

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘that we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the appointment of Councillor Andrea Dalton, Barr na Cassa, Tinryland, Co. Carlow to fill the vacancy on the Cultural, Health and Agricultural Strategic Policy Committee created by the resignation of Councillor Anne Ahern

(d) Filling of vacancy on Kilkenny & Carlow Education Training Board

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender
Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'that we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the appointment of Councillor Andrea Dalton, Barr na Cassa, Tinryland, Co. Carlow to fill the vacancy on the Kilkenny & Carlow Education Training Board created by the resignation of Councillor Anne Ahern

(e) Filling of vacancy of the Carlow County Museum Board

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender
Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'that we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the appointment of Councillor Andrea Dalton, Barr na Cassa, Tinryland, Co. Carlow to fill the vacancy on the Carlow County Museum Board created by the resignation of Councillor Anne Ahern

(f) Lease of premises known as the Old Crisp Centre, Hacketstown, to Hacketstown Community Group

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender
Seconded by Councillor B. O'Donoghue
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, approve the lease of premises known as the Old Crisp Centre, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow to Hacketstown Community Group for 5 years in consideration of an annual rent of €100 in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000, Section 211. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government is not necessary for the lease of the said site.'

(g) Disposal of the freehold of Site No. 3 Kernanstown Industrial Estate, Carlow

Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane

Seconded by Councillor J. Deane

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, approve the disposal of the freehold of Site No. 3 Kernanstown Industrial Estate, Carlow to Matthew Kearney and Paul Kearney, Site 3 Kernanstown Industrial Estate, in consideration of the sum of €2,000 plus all associated costs in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000, Section 211. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government is not necessary for the disposal of the said site.'

(h) To approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €2million for the year ending 31st December. 2018

Mr. P. Delaney, Director of Finance sought Members approval to retain the current overdraft limit in the sum of €2m for year ending 31st December 2018.

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor B. O'Donoghue

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €2 million for the year ended 31st December 2018 in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.

(i) Taking in Charge of Meadowbank Housing Development, Palatine

Mr. L. Fitzgerald, Senior Engineer, Roads, sought Members approval to advertise the Council's intentions to take the Meadowbank Housing Development, Palatine, Co. Carlow in charge.

**Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin
Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey
AND**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the advertising of the Council’s intentions to take in charge Meadowbank Housing Development, Palatine, Carlow.’

The necessary advertisement to enable the taking in charge procedure to commence will appear in the Nationalist and Leinster Times of the week ending October, 13th 2017.

(j) Amendment to Standing Orders re Civic Receptions

Members had report from E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, advising of proposed amendment of Standing Order Number 84 – Civic Receptions/Civic Honours following a review of Standing Order Number 84.

**Proposed by Councillor W. Lacey
Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane
AND**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the amendment of Standing Order Number 84 – Civic Receptions/Civic Honours as set out and in accordance with Local Government Act 2001 as amended (Section 44-47) and paragraph 16 of Schedule (10).’

Members noted that it will be necessary for each Municipal District to amend their Standing Orders accordingly.

Councillor Cassin raised issue of 1916 Committee.

Councillor Phelan advised that a meeting of the committee will be held in the coming weeks to review projects and the commemoration of projects going forward. The composition of committee going forward will be placed on the agenda for discussion. Councillor Lacey suggested that the 1916 Committee be disbanded and a new committee formed. He also raised issue of commemoration event to recognise Carlow people who died in the First World War 1914 – 1918.

(5) DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Community, Recreation/Amenity & Sports Partnership Progress Report

Members welcomed Progress Report from Mr. Michael Brennan, Senior Executive Officer, Community.

Councillor C. Murphy welcomed funding under the Clár programme and thanked the Chief Executive, M. Brennan, and R. Wickham for their assistance with applications for funding.

M. Brennan encouraged Members to consult with their communities in respect of projects for the CLÁR Programme in respect of 2018.

Members raised issue in relation to Turas Nua Programme and the effect this programme is having on numbers participating in Community Employment Schemes and Tus job activation Programme. Members said that Tus and CE Schemes are invaluable to Community Initiatives such as Tidy Towns as it is getting more difficult to get younger people involved in these initiatives. Councillor Kinsella suggested that funding in the form of a grant be made available through the LEADER Funding to help community initiatives.

A Notice of Motion was brought forward by Councillor Paton.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

"That Carlow County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to initiate a review of the Turas Nua programme, in particular, to examine the effect Turas Nua is having on drying up recruitment for the Community Employment and TUS job activation programmes. The Council calls on the Minister to exempt those over 60 years of age from the Turas Nua programme, where the individual involved does not wish to enter the Turas Nua programme."

M. Brennan said a lack of community participants was identified during the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan and this will be examined as part of plan process.

Councillor J. Murphy complimented all groups involved on securing County Carlow allocation in the sum of €884,487 for eleven towns and villages under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Councillor Cassin queried update on lands on Tullow Road and if funding will be made available by the Department. M. Brennan advised that the Tullow Road Renewal Project was currently at public consultation phase

and that there will be further detailed discussions with the Department when proposals are in place. In response to Councillor Murnane, M. Brennan said the process was slow as it required full consultation with all stakeholders and stressed the importance of collaboration and ownership of the project. Councillor Murnane queried the use of lands as a temporary facility with a one year lease. M. Brennan advised of requirement for vacant possession and recent legal advise

Councillor Pender raised issue of Ducketts Grove and expressed dissatisfaction with current lease arrangement. M. Brennan advised that the lease is with Carlow County Development Partnership. Councillor Pender also raised issue of plans for expansion of tea rooms. Councillor Phelan concurred with Councillor Pender and suggested that a person be made available to answer Members' queries in relation to advancing tourism facilities at Ducketts Grove. M. Brennan said projects are being advanced and advised of recent employment of Project Manager/Gardener to enhance Georgian Gardens and project. Funding application for project works was submitted under the Towns and Village Renewal Scheme. The Cathaoirleach said the expansion of tea rooms should be supported and that the shed should also be expanded to accommodate outdoor events such as concerts. He suggested a Plan be drawn up as the current lease is coming to an end. Councillor J. Murphy concurred with the Cathaoirleach and said the gardens are very important for footfall. Councillor Phelan requested that refuse dumped at the Towers be removed immediately and that measures be taken to prevent illegal dumping.

(b) Transportation Progress Report

L. Fitzgerald, Senior Engineer presented the Transportation Progress Report to October 2017.

Issues raised by the Members included the following:-

- If IPB retained earnings dividend (RED) can be used to progress works on Tullow Street Project.
- Public Lighting out at Roundabout Staplestown Road/Hosey's Post Office, Train Station area and public lighting required close to bridge near railway station.
- Update on Transfer Station following the closure of Powerstown Landfill.
- Revised traffic measures at Royal Oak Junction having an impact on residents, local businesses and traffic passing through the village.
- Pedestrian Crossing, Bagenalstown – ESB connection awaited.

- Footpaths too wide at John Sweeney Park/Burrin Manor
- Hedge cutting compliance around the county.
- Signage required at housing estate The Orchards, Hacketstown due to volume of cars turning at entrance to estate.
- Some residents in the Powerstown area not qualifying for Powerstown Community Fund due to change in area criteria.
- Traffic calming measure required on N80 at right turn for Tinryland coming from Carlow direction.
- Surface water from roadway entering private residence- needs to be resolved.
- Dangereous bends Friarstown.
- Blocked drains St Mullins/Tinnahinch and Ballyellin road. Road sign on Borris road needs to be moved further back for safety reasons.
- 'No right turn' sign Ballinacarrig Road/Tinryland removed.
- Some signs promoting charitable events taken down on Ballinacarrig Road. Members queried policy on 'for sale' signs and suggested that a circular go out to all members on regulations for the erection of signs.
- The need for a roundabout at Ballinacarrig.
- Consultants report not acted on in relation to works at O'Driscoll's pub, Tinnahinch.

All queries raised by the Members were addressed by L. Fitzgerald.

(c) Environment & Water Services Progress Report

Members welcomed Progress Report on Environment & Water Services to October, 2017 from B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer.

The following issues were raised by the Members:-

- Members acknowledged the work on the Town Centre Project 'Clean Carlow'. Members acknowledged the support of Irish Rail, Eir and local residents in this campaign.
- Irish Water rehabilitation works holding up progress works on Tullow Street project.
- Update on assessment of Bottle Banks throughout the County addressing collection frequencies, site maintenance and compliant

procedure. Members welcomed new larger site with increased facilities. CCTV for new Bottle Bank site.

- Members queried removal of bottle bank Bilboa and paper receptacle at Myshall.
- An extra receptacle for cans and explanatory signage required for Tullow Civic Recycling Centre.
- Work at The Weir welcomed.
- Housing estate Ballon – storm water entering sewerage line.
- Transfer Station, Powerstown Landfill. L. Fitzgerald advised that no commercial waste will be taken in 2018. Staff compliment will determine if a transfer station is viable and once assessed a decision will be made if it is financially viable.

All issues raised by the Members were addressed by L. Fitzgerald.

Extension of time.

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'We, the Members of Carlow County Council, in accordance with Standing Orders, approve the continuation of the meeting to 6.00p.m'

6. TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES

(a) River Basin Management Plan Update

Members had report from D. McInerney, Director of Services on the Draft River Basin Management Plan. The Water Framework Directive 2000 compliance is achieved through the River Basin Management Plans. The report covered engagement and feedback on work undertaken to prioritise areas for further investigation as part of the 2nd Cycle River Basin Management Plan measures.

Queries raised by the Members were addressed by B. O'Donovan.

7. CORPORATE, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

(a) Agriculture

Councillor C. Murphy urged Members to resist a call to ban the use of glyphosate as the herbicide is useful in the eradication of unwanted vegetation.

Councillor J. Murphy raised issue of Japanese Knotweed Invasive Plant that is causing major damage to homes and gardens around the country. He said he did not support Leitrim County Council's Notice of Motion calling on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to ban the use of glyphosate weed killer in public areas.

(b) Health

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Councillor A. McDonald advised of upcoming meeting of HSE South and any questions Members may have can be raised at this meeting.
- The Cathaoirleach queried Primary Health Care Centre for Tullow.
- Councillor Brown raised issue of distance from car park St. Lukes Hospital, Kilkenny to main building for people with mobility issues.
- Councillor Gladney raised issue of health risks from mobile phone masts. Councillor McDonald said a dedicated policy is required in relation to the erection of mobile phone masts.
- Councillor Cassin raised issue of the installation of alarmed defibrillators in Carlow on a trial basis. The Cathaoirleach advised that two such defibrillators are to be installed in Tullow.

(c) Conference Attendance Approvals

Proposed by Councillor B. O'Donoghue

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the following:-

Forthcoming Conferences 2017:

Building 2017,
City North Hotel,
Gormanstown,
Co. Meath.

29 th September 2017	Fee: €95
17 th Ernest Shackleton Summer School, Athy Heritage Centre, Athy, Co. Kildare. 27 th to 30 th October 2017	Fee: €160
GeoparkLIFE, Tourism for Conservation, The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare. 23 rd November 2017	Fee: €95
Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan For Housing & Homelessness, The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth. 3 rd to 5 th November 2017	Fee: €100
The Fair Deal Scheme: What's the Deal With Nursing Home Care, The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 17 th to 19 th November 2017	Fee: €100
Invasive Exotic Species of Wildlife in Ireland's Rivers, Canals & Lakes, The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 24 th to 26 th November 2017	Fee: €100

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Members noted Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for September 2017.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence from the Office of John Paul Phelan T.D., Minister for Local Government and Electoral Reform in response to Members letter regarding the reports of the Dáil Boundary Committees.

Members noted correspondence from the HSE in response to Members letter in relation to Kelvin Grove.

Members noted Notice of Motion from Offaly County Council calling for a complete overhaul of how our Social Housing Programme is administered by the Department.

Members noted email from Minister Naughten on the obligations on Local Authorities in relation to collection of household waste.

Members noted correspondence from Heather Humphreys, TD in response to Members correspondence regarding the selection process under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Members noted Notice of Motion from Leitrim County Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to ban the use of glyphosate weed killers in public areas.

Members noted Notice of Motion from Leitrim County Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to review the terms and conditions of the Housing Grant Scheme to allow Local Authorities to use discretion in the awarding of house repair grants for older people.

Members noted correspondence from the OPW in response to Members letter regarding maintenance of Brownseshill Dolmen.

Councillor Phelan said the response from the OPW in relation to the maintenance of Brownseshill Dolmen was unacceptable and requested that the Council again write to the OPW expressing the Members views.

Councillor Browne raised issue of Courthouse railings and the length of time it is taking to complete the necessary restoration works. The Chief Executive advised that a further letter will issue to the Court Service on the matter. Councillors Browne and Phelan said that if no response is received by November that legal action be instigated to have the works completed.

Councillor Cassin raised issue of lands at Kelvin Grove and for the Council to contact the HSE regarding disposal of lands to the Council for housing purposes.

The Chief Executive advised that a report is being prepared by the Director of Services, Housing for the November meeting of Council and for the members to await this report before making any proposals.

10. Notice of Motion.

Standing in the name of Cllr. K. Murnane

This item was deferred from the September meeting of Council

Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

Health Insurance

“During the recession, numerous persons in Ireland ceased their health insurance policies for economic reasons. Some of these people are now in a position to recommence private health insurance and the Council calls on the Minister for Health to require that Health Insurance providers do not apply a penalty to these persons, for example, by having a waiting period for cover or by excluding pre-existing condition.

Standing in the name of Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue, Cllr. Fergal Browne, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Michael Doran, Cllr. John Murphy and Cllr. Denis Foley

This item was deferred from the September meeting of Council

Proposed by Councillor B. O'Donoghue

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

"That Carlow County Council, in recognition of the hundreds of jobs that were created in Carlow alone since its introduction, and its potential for the future of tourism in Carlow, requests the minister to retain the 9% vat rate for the hospitality sector"

Standing in the name of Cllr. W. Paton & Others

This item was deferred from the September meeting of Council

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“Support for Publicly Funded Higher Education

This council supports publicly-funded higher education and rejects income contingent loan (ICL) schemes.

A publicly-funded higher education funding model has shown to be more beneficial to the student, state and society on economic, social, public and private benefits.

Recognising the benefits, culturally and economically, of the historic decision to invest in publicly funded secondary education in Ireland is also recognising that the introduction of publicly funded third level education would further encourage a generation of young people to attain the highest levels of education.

Further recognising that a number of contributing factors have led to a significant gap in funding for the third level sector and that, while this shortfall must be addressed, it cannot be at the expense of those most vulnerable in our society.

In terms of ‘equity, fairness and justice’ Option One of the Cassells report, the publicly funded option, provides this.

The degree of uncertainty with Option Three, income contingent loan schemes, is outlined clearly that not all loans would be repaid in full and the issue of increasing rates to recoup losses on those who have debt.

Historically, Ireland should not use debt as a means of funding. To add to this uncertainty, the Cassells report fails to address the impact of emigration that will occur due to competition for high earning careers. This will have an economic effect on labour and domestic markets (an issue raised by foreign investors) and reduce the public benefits from taxation and spending here in Ireland.”

With high emigration rates for graduates, the risk of a loss of €14,058 per annum causes concern. An ICL funding option that would take 17 years to ‘hopefully’ become self-financing while deterring people from higher education is dangerous. Using debt to fund higher education instead of state funding is not accessible.

Where reliance on a system that does not exist to ensure funding could then be shared between countries in a similar manner to international taxation treaties is used as a ‘hopeful’ solution engagement with students and learning outcomes a publicly-funded system allows students to fully immerse themselves into their studies, and to educate themselves without concern. The current system and an ICL model would, as shown in Australia, UK, Canada and the US, reduces engagement and learning outcomes due to effects on health and working to decrease the burden of graduate debt.

This Council calls on the Government to affirm its commitment to providing equality of access to education for all; to reject any move to implement an income contingent loan scheme to fund third level education; and to adopt a policy of ending college fees and implementing a truly publicly funded higher education system in Ireland."

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. William Paton

Proposed by Councillor J. Deane

Seconded by Councillor J. Pender

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

"That Carlow County Council call on the Office of Public Works to complete the car park at Rathgall Hill Fort just outside Tullow to allow better access for tourists and local visitors alike."

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Brian O'Donoghue, Tommy Kinsella

"That Carlow County Council provide funding in the 2018 Budget for a school warden for both Rathvilly National School and Grange National School as the schools have over 200 children each."

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Fergal Browne

"That Carlow County Council provide funding/ support in the 2018 Budget for a school lollipop person at Bennekerry National School as the school has over 450 children in the school"

Standing in the Name of Cllrs John Murphy, Tommy Kinsella & Willie Quinn

"That Carlow County Council provide funding in the 2018 Budget for school wardens for all schools in county carlow with over 200 students, that have an urgent need of school wardens, also for schools that difficulty in replacing Tus Scheme workers who presently fill this role in some schools and who only work on a 1 year contract a school.

A discussion took place on the 3 Notice of Motions calling on the Council to provide funding/support for provision of school wardens at various schools in the county.

L. Fitzgerald said that 30-35 schools do not have school wardens. It will be necessary to establish priorities, examine risks, traffic volume and to make sensible decisions. He said it would cost the Council approximately €11,000 per annum for each school and funding would be an issue. An in-depth analysis is to be carried out and a report prepared for the November/December meeting of Council.

It was unanimously agreed to defer the 3 Notice of Motions pending the report.

Councillor Murnane referred to Notice of Motion raised at the September meeting of Council in relation to Vulture Funds.

Councillor Murnane said companies that purchased distressed property loans from Banks should establish a register of the properties to which the loans relate.

Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

“That the Council calls on the Minister for housing to require companies who purchased distressed property loans from Banks trading in Ireland, during the collapse of the banking system to establish and maintain a register of the properties to which the loans relate, on a county by county basis. Government Departments/Agencies and Local Authorities to be provided with access to this database to allow them access data on unfinished estates and other houses which could become available for acquisition.”

11. Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach

Members requested that Carlow Hospice be invited to address the Council in the coming weeks on their plans for the Hospice.

E. Brophy advised that this request must be put in writing in accordance with Standing Orders.

This concluded the business of the meeting.