

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 11th September 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor W. Paton (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)
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
Mr D. McInerney, Deputy 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
Mr A. O'Neill, Acting Chief Fire Officer.
Ms A. Sweeney, Senior Planner
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant
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.

The Cathaoirleach requested the suspension of Standing Orders to facilitate the attendance of John Paul Phelan, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government with special responsibility for Local Government and Electoral Reform. Following a show of hands it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Minister Phelan to the meeting. Minister Phelan thanked the Members for their invitation and said he looked forward to having an informal discussion with the Members.

Minister Phelan spoke of the challenges facing local authorities primarily driven by funding constraints and of the challenges in the housing sector. He advised of the Draft National Planning Framework due to be published in October and of the importance of promoting the Southeast Region. He spoke of the move to construct social housing rather than acquisitions or Part V. He advised that the legislation to bring East Carlow back into Carlow-Kilkenny constituency will come before the Dáil in the Autumn. He further advised that Local Electoral Area Boundaries are being assessed and said larger towns such as Carlow should receive special attention. Other issues raised included The Town and Village Renewal Scheme for larger towns and effects of rates review on smaller businesses.

The Members brought to the Minister's attention challenges faced by Carlow County Council due to budgetary constraints and national issues. Members highlighted concerns in relation to Carlow's share of Local Government funding.

Councillor McDonald as a representative on the AILG raised issue of increase in remuneration for Councillors. The Minister responded to the issues raised and thanked the Members for bringing their concerns and suggestions forward and said all matters raised will be examined.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Minister Phelan for his attendance. Pat Deering TD and Senator Murnane O'Connor were also in attendance.

The order of Business resumed at 3.00 p.m

The Cathaoirleach welcomed back Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive following her illness.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Patricia Murphy, Clerical Officer on the death of her brother Ger Jordan, Myshall, Co. Carlow.
- Ena Jordan and Family, Myshall on the death of her husband Ger.
- Family of the late Patrick Kelly, Fairview, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny (former ganger)

- The Sinnott Family on the death of Sheila Sinnott, Coolroe, Ardattin, Co. Carlow
- Stephanie and Thomas Kelly & Family, Drumphea, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on the death of their daughter Helena.
- The Lillis Family, St Brigid's Crescent, Bagenalstown on the death of Ned Lillis.
- The Gardiner Family, St Brigid's Crescent, Bagenalstown on the death of Martina Gardiner.
- Paddy Grant and Family, Ballymogue, Kilbride on the death of his wife Theresa.
- Catherine Gladney, School Warden on the death of her mother Theresa Grant.
- Eileen Darcy and Family on the death of her daughter Linda Darcy, Boherduff, Newtown, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.
- Bridie Egan and Family, 99 Green Road, Carlow Town on the death of her husband Tom.
- Mary Maher and Family on the death of her husband Dr Thomas Maher late of Donore, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.
- Mary Doyle and Family on the death of her husband Lar Doyle, Kilcloney, Borris, Co. Carlow.
- Vincent Grogan and Family, Kilmeaney, Carlow on the death of his wife Elizabeth.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- To the winning teams and all involved with the County Carlow Ladies Football Club Championships 2017.
- To Carlow Ladies Football on their success reaching the semi final of the All Ireland Junior Final.
- Carlow Fire and Rescue Service on their success in the World Rescue Organisation Challenge obtaining 7th Position Overall and the Medics obtaining fifth place in their category. The team consisted of IC Officer John Comerford(Carlow), Driver/Mechanic Paul Curran Medic (Carlow), Fire Fighter Alan Owens (Carlow), Driver/Mechanic Darren Somers (Tullow), Fire Fighter Dermot Scully Medic(Carlow) & Fire Fighter Andrew Fisher (Bagenalstown).

- New Oak Residents Association on representing County Carlow in the 2017 Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place.
- The participants, mentors and all involved with Carlow Community Games on their success in the National Community Games Finals 2017.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July Council Meeting held on 10th July 2017 were

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That the Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 10th July at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.'

1. CIRCULARS

(a) Circular Letter PL 4/2017 Further extension of duration of planning permissions for certain developments of 20+ houses

Members noted Circular PL 4/2017 informing of coming into operation of new legislation providing for further extension of duration of planning permissions for certain developments of 20 houses or more. The Circular set out details of the new arrangements.

(b) Circular PL 7/2017 Vacant Homes Action Plans

Members had Circular PL 7/2017 for noting, advising of outline approach to assist local authorities in the assessment of vacancy and the formulation of the Vacant Homes Action Plans.

Members also had the following Notice of Motion brought forward:-

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:

"That Carlow County Council, in an effort to progress the current housing situation, employ a person or persons, or appoint a member or members of staff, (whichever can be accomplished most imminently) to assess all vacant, derelict and unfinished houses/dwellings whether publicly or privately owned

in County Carlow and report to the local authority within three months, the potential cost, timeline and any potential hindrances or information in relation to bringing these properties up to specification, so as they may be fit for human habitation"

S. O'Connor, Director of Services, Housing advised that Carlow County Council is currently carrying out a survey of vacant houses in the County with a view to making them available for occupation. He said the Government's Buy and Renew Scheme is a very effective tool by which the Council have bought up to 40 units in the first 3 months of this year but such properties are not easy to find. He said the number of vacant houses in Carlow is likely to be a fraction of that which was determined by the National Census (2,500) as not many house owners are leaving their houses vacant at a time when high rents can be achieved. He said derelict/unfinished houses have already been a matter of formal report by the Planning Section.

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

(a) Filling of vacancy on Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Members' approval was sought to the filling of casual vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) with effect from 29th August, 2017 following the resignation of Councillor William Quinn.

It was Proposed by Councillor J. Pender and Seconded by Councillor A. Ahern that Councillor F. Phelan fill the casual vacancy.

It was Proposed by Councillor M. Doran and Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn that Councillor J. Murphy fill the casual vacancy.

Following a roll call vote:-

Councillor F. Phelan

Councillor A. Ahern
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan

Councillor J. Murphy

Councillor F. Browne
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor D. Foley
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor B. O'Donoghue

Councillor W. Paton
Councillor W. Quinn

6 in favour of Councillor Phelan: 10 in favour of Councillor J. Murphy:
Councillors Cassin and Gladney abstained.

It was resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the appointment of Councillor J. Murphy to fill the casual vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) with effect from 29th August, 2017 following the resignation of Councillor William Quinn.

(b) Filling of vacancy on Southern Regional Assembly

Members' approval was sought to the filling of casual vacancy on the Southern Regional Assembly with effect from 29th August, 2017, following the resignation of Councillor William Quinn.

Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn
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 the appointment of Councillor D. Foley to fill the casual vacancy on the Southern Regional Assembly with effect from 29th August, 2017 following the resignation of Councillor W. Quinn.

(c) To agree date for Special Meeting to consider the setting of a Local Adjustment Factor in accordance with the Finance (LPT) Act 2012 (as amended)

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the holding of Special Meeting to consider the setting of a Local Adjustment Factor on Tuesday 26th September at 3 pm with in-committee meeting at 2 pm in accordance with the Finance (LPT) Act 2012 (as amended).

(d) To agree date for the Statutory Budget Meeting 2017

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

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the holding of Statutory Budget Meeting 2017 on 24th November at 2pm with in committee meeting at 11.30 am.

(e) Proposed Provision of Skateboard Park- Part VIII Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2017

Members welcomed reports from the Chief Executive and from Margaret Nolan, Acting Senior Executive Officer, Recreation/Amenity on the proposed provision of Skateboard Park at lands adjacent to the River Burrin, Linear Park at Paupish Lane, Carlow.

Members’ approval was sought to progress the project as per M. Nolan’s report and as advertised.

**Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan
Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin
AND**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve that the proposed provision of Skateboard at lands adjacent to the River Burrin, Linear Park at Paupish Lane, Carlow be progressed in accordance with the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2017 Planning and Development Acts 2000-2017 and Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2017 Part 8.

Councillor Phelan requested that the Community Section of Carlow County Council meet with the Resident Associations as concerns have been identified in the third-party submissions from local residents.

In response to Councillor McDonald, Ms B. O’Brien advised that the facility will be covered under the Irish Public Bodies Insurance as a Local Authority Recreation Facility.

Councillors Paton and Doran raised issue of security and policing of the park and CCTV funding. Mr D. McInerney advised that as the final design and build project is not complete the issue of CCTV can be examined.

(f) Taking in Charge of Housing Estates

Members’ approval was sought to the advertising of the Council’s intentions to take in charge the following estates namely:-

(i) Loch Abhainn, Carlow Town

- (ii) **Ballydarton Mews, Fenagh, Co. Carlow**
- (iii) **The Meadows Myshall, Co. Carlow**
- (iv) **Academy Court, Carlow Town**
- (v) **Rathsillan (Phase 3) Tullow**
- (vi) **Rathfeilin, Tullow, Co. Carlow**

Proposed by Councillor B. O'Donoghue

Seconded by Councillor J. Pender

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the advertising of the Council's intentions to take in charge the following estates

- (i) *Loch Abhainn, Carlow Town*
- (ii) *Ballydarton Mews, Fenagh, Co. Carlow*
- (iii) *The Meadows Myshall, Co. Carlow*
- (iv) *Academy Court, Carlow Town*
- (v) *Rathsillan (Phase 3) Tullow*
- (vi) *Rathfeilin, Tullow, Co. Carlow*

The advertisement is to appear in the Nationalist and Leinster Times of the week ending September 15th 2017.

Ms B. O'Brien is to check with Irish Water in relation to query from Councillor Browne.

(g) Provision of footways and localised widening of Tullow Bridge Part VIII

Members' approval was sought to proposal to initiate a Part V111 public consultation process for the widening of bridge in Tullow on the entrance from the Thomas Traynor Street side and for the provision of footways external to the bridge parapet wall.

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the commencement of Part V111 public consultation process for the widening of Tullow Bridge and for the provision of footways external to the bridge parapet wall.'

(h) Carlow County Council Twinning and Diaspora Strategy

Members' approval was sought to Carlow County Council Twinning and Diaspora Strategy as circulated.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

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 Carlow County Council Twinning and Diaspora Strategy as circulated.'

(i) Disposal of 0.762 acres (0.307 ha) at Browneshill, to Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The Members welcomed the proposal for the disposal of 0.762 acres (0.307 ha) at Browneshill, to Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

AND

Resolved

Following a show of hands

"That we, the members of Carlow County Council, approve in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 As Amended and Section 183(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 As Amended, the disposal of 0.762 acres (0.307ha) at Browneshill, in the townland of Kernanstown, County Carlow, to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, [23, Kildare Street, Dublin 2](#), in accordance with statutory notice already circulated. No consideration is applicable, as Carlow County Council has already been reimbursed in full for the cost of the acquisition of the said land. The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government is not necessary for disposal of the said site".

Councillor J. Murphy praised the efforts of Councillor Browne to have works at the Browneshill Dolmen site progressed. Councillor Browne said he hoped funding will be made available for an archaeological survey of the newly acquired lands. Councillor Phelan expressed disappointment that no funding is available from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as all funding went to a tourist facility in Carrick on Suir. He requested that the Council write to the Minister on the issue. The Chief Executive advised of

agreement that Carlow County Council will facilitate works locally. E. Brophy advised that the Council have written to the Office of Public Works regarding maintenance of site.

**(j) Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2017
 Chief Executive’s Report recommending the extension of the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 as contained within the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018**

Members discussed the Chief Executive’s Report, as circulated, recommending that the Council extend the life, by a further 4 years (i.e up to and including 4th November 2022), of the Carlow Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 as contained in the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012 -2018. The extension will provide Carlow County Council and all other relevant stakeholders adequate time and opportunity to realise the strategic objectives of the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan.

It was noted that under Section 11C of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as inserted by Section 28 of the Electoral, Local Government and Planning and Development Act 2013) the existing Carlow Town Development Plan, as contained within the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area, will remain operative and be read together with the current Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021, for the administrative area of County Carlow and shall be reviewed as part of the review of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015 -2021.

**Proposed by Councillor J. Pender
 Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan**

“That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and having considered the opinion sought and obtained from the Chief Executive, as contained in her report on the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018, we the members of Carlow County Council hereby extend the life, by a further 4 years (i.e. up to and including 4th November 2022) of the Carlow Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018, (as contained in the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012 -2018), in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 (d – f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).”

A roll call vote was taken

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent

Ann Ahern nee Long	√			
Fergal Browne	√			
John Cassin	√			
Jim Deane	√			
Michael Doran	√			
Denis Foley	√			
Andy Gladney	√			
Thomas Kinsella	√			
Walter Lacey	√			
Arthur McDonald	√			
Ken Murnane	√			
Charlie Murphy	√			
John Murphy	√			
Brian O'Donoghue	√			
William Paton	√			
John Pender	√			
Fintan Phelan	√			
William Quinn				√

The vote resulted in: 17 for and 1 absent and accordingly the motion was carried.

Members raised the matter of a proposed amendment to the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended). Queries raised were addressed by Ms. B.. O'Brien, Director of Services. Following discussion, it was:

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan

And following a show of hands unanimously resolved

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby request, under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, the initiation of proposed amendment procedures for the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended), to facilitate consideration of an application for a single dwelling house, on family lands, within the lands zoned strategic reserve, in exceptional circumstances, subject to the acceptability of the proposal on proper planning and sustainability grounds, including the completion of all relevant Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) reports to accompany the proposed amendment.’

Ms Anita Sweeny, Senior Planner, advised that the written Proposed Amendment, with supporting documentation, S.E.A. and A.A, must be agreed at a meeting of the Municipal District of Carlow and subsequently brought before the plenary Council for approval, prior to commencing the statutory public display process, in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Members requested that this process be expedited.

(k) Chief Executive’s Progress Report for the period 2015-2017 on the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 (For noting)

Members noted Chief Executive’s two year report on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015 -2021. The report is a requirement under Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The Cathaoirleach requested the suspension of Standing Orders to facilitate a matter arising. On the proposition of Councillor Pender, Seconded by Councillor McDonald it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders.

The Cathaoirleach read a letter from Councillor Ann Ahern informing the Council of her intention to vacate her seat on Carlow County Council on Tuesday 12th September. Councillor Ahern’s decision to resign is due to the demanding workload attached to her appointment as principal of St. Mary’s CBS, Carlow. The Cathaoirleach said it was a very emotional day and regretted Councillor Ahern’s difficult decision to resign but understood her reasons for doing so. He spoke of her family’s long tradition in politics making the decision more difficult. He spoke of Councillor Ahern’s achievements and her positive impact as a public

representative on Carlow Town Council and Carlow County Council where her political views and work rate for the people of Carlow were widely regarded. The Cathaoirleach opened the floor to the Members to speak on Councillor Ahern's resignation.

The Members paid glowing tributes to Councillor Ahern and praised her for her honesty, integrity and her work ethic for the betterment of Carlow over the past thirteen years and said she will be greatly missed in Carlow County Council. The Members wished her well in her new appointment and wished her family well. Councillor Ahern said she thoroughly enjoyed her 13 years as a public representative and thanked her fellow Members, the Chief Executive, staff and previous staff for their courtesy and help over her 13 years.

The Chief Executive said she wished, on her own behalf and on behalf of all the staff to be associated with the remarks to Councillor Ahern and thanked her for her service to Carlow County Council and wished her well in her new position.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Emergency Services Progress Report

Members welcomed progress report from Mr Alan O'Neill, Acting Chief Fire Officer. The following issues were raised by the Members:-

Fire Safety Multi-Storey Housing, Bon Fires at Halloween, upgrade of Bagenalstown Fire Station and schools safety checks.

Issues raised were addressed by the Acting Chief Fire Officer.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated the Chief Fire Officer on the success of the Fire and Rescue Extrication Team in the World Extrication Challenge in Romania coming seven in the World and the Medics obtaining fifth place in their category.

(b) Housing Progress Report

Members had Housing Progress Report from S. O'Connor, Director of Services, Housing.

The Cathaoirleach invited the Chief Executive to give an overview of summit meeting called by Housing Minister Eoin Murphy with the Chief Executives of 31 Local Authorities.

The Chief Executive advised of discussions on the homeless crisis and of additional measures which would assist in helping to house families and individuals currently in emergency accommodation and those accessing emergency state supports.

She advised of establishment of Inter Agency Group, additional funding for Health Care Services, changes to Notice to Quit with notification to the Tenancy Board, reduced time frame for housing design, modular housing and rapid build housing. She advised of discussions on a wide range of issues

and of strong statement from the Taoiseach that funding to solve the housing crisis is not an issue.

Councillor Kinsella complimented S. O'Connor and staff on being proactive with a total of 400 new housing units being progressed in the County through purchase, built or works in progress. Councillor Browne said 100 new builds are needed per year in Carlow for the foreseeable future.

S. O'Connor thanked the Members for their compliments and praised the work of the design staff within the Council and the Housing Staff.

Issues raised by the Members in relation to Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People, Grants for People with a Disability, and energy upgrades under SEAI Scheme were responded to by S. O'Connor.

The following Notice of Motion was brought forward by the Members.

Standing in the name of Cllrs Jim Deane, Andy Gladney and John Cassin

“Acknowledging there are 7,482 people with disabilities in county Carlow amounting to 14% of the population and at least 7,600 people with disabilities on social housing waiting lists of which 170 are in county Carlow.”

That the Chief Executive will within two months' report to the Council, for their consideration, setting out:

1. The current situation in relation to matters which the Council has direct responsibility for
2. An estimation of the areas and the extent of unmet need relating to same
3. The areas where engagement of this Council with other public bodies would improve participation for people with disabilities and the names of those public bodies, and
4. The measures taken and planned by this Council to ensure the participation and engagement by people with disabilities and their representatives in local decision making structures and mechanisms, with a view to budgeting and planning for 2018 and beyond for the Council to advance implementation of the UN CRPD.”

S. O'Connor, Director of Services advised that all housing units built by Carlow County Council and by the Voluntary Housing Associations are Universally Accessible. People with disabilities are assessed, for priority, in accordance with the nature of their disability. Carlow County Council also seeks to purchase bungalows and ground floor apartments. This Council will liaise with the HSE in the immediate future to ascertain areas of co-operation,

with a view to providing assistance to persons with disabilities. A useful structure for this co-operation already exists in Carlow County Council's organisational structure.

Extension of Time

Members unanimously resolved following a show of hands

'We, the Members of Carlow County Council, in accordance with Standing Orders, approve the continuation of the meeting to 6.15 p.m.'

Notice of Motion

Standing in the Name of Cllr. Arthur McDonald

"That Carlow County Council provides funding in the 2018 Budget for a school warden for Ballinabranna National School as the school has over 200 children."

Members had Notice of Motion calling on the Council to provide funding for a school warden for Ballinabranna National School. The position was previously filled by the Tús Programme but changes to the programme means that the school is unable to fill the position. Members were advised that it would cost €10,700 annually to employ a warden. Mr. D. McInerney advised that there is no policy in place on whether the Council supplies a warden or not at a particular school.

Members empathised with Ballinabranna school but conjectured that other schools around the county are in a similar position and called for a county wide review to be discussed at SPC meeting and bring about a policy on how to deal with the situation.

The Cathaoirleach advised that if the Motion is passed the earliest funding can be put in place is January from the 2018 Budget.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Council write to An Tús to examine eligibility for the scheme in order that suitable, qualified local people may apply for the position.

It was

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

AND

Following a show of hands the Motion was resolved:-

"That Carlow County Council provide funding in the 2018 Budget for a school warden for Ballinabranna National School as the school has over 200 children."

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

(a) Agriculture

Councillor J. Murphy raised issue of Japanese Knotweed Invasive Plant that is causing major damage to homes and gardens around the country. He called for the message to go out to people not to cut down the plant but to seek expert advice on its eradication.

(b) Health

Councillor Phelan expressed concern at the inadequate Ambulance Service cover in County Carlow and called on the Council to write to the HSE and the National Ambulance Service requesting that representatives attend a meeting of Council to address the issue. Councillor Pender supported Councillor Phelan's request and it was agreed.

Councillor McDonald said that he will also present the letter to the HSE Forum South at their next meeting.

(c) Conference Attendance Approvals

Members unanimously agreed following a show of hands to the forthcoming Conferences.

29th La Touche Legacy Weekend –
“Creating a New State”,
Greystones Golf Club,
Whitshed Road,
Greystones, Co. Wcklow..
29th to 30th September 2017

Fee: €100

Local Authority Budgets 2018,
The Silver Tassie Hotel,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.
13th to 15th October 2017

Fee: €145

A Practical Guide to Budget 2018,
The Four Seasons Hotel,
Carlingford,
Co. Louth.
13th to 15th October 2017

Fee: €100

What does a Hard Brexit mean for Ireland,
The Clonakilty Hotel,

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Members noted Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for July and August 2017.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government acknowledging receipt of letter regarding Dáil Boundary Commissions report and recommendations.

Members noted correspondence from the Office of John Paul Phelan T.D Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform acknowledging receipt of invitation to address the Members of Carlow County Council.

Members noted correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in response to Council's correspondence regarding inward investment in County Carlow and the Southeast Region.

Members noted correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in response to Council's Notice of Motion on waste management proposals.

Members noted correspondence from the Road Safety Authority in response to Council's correspondence regarding waiting time for driving test in Carlow.

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Health in response to Council's correspondence regarding the legalisation of medicinal cannabis.

Members noted correspondence from the Health Service Executive in response to Council's correspondence regarding Occupational Therapy Services in the Carlow/Kilkenny area.

Members noted Notice of Motion from South Dublin County Council calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to increase investment in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Members noted Notice of Motion from Limerick City and County Council calling on the Gaelic Athletic Association to halt the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic Games fixtures.

Members noted correspondence from Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin thanking the members for their letter concerning the recent Echternach Pilgrimage.

Members noted correspondence from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in response to Members letter regarding procurement of asphalt products.

8. Notice of Motion.

Standing in the name of Cllr. K. Murnane

Vulture Funds

“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.”

S. O'Connor in response said he was unsure as to the propriety of said publication or to the detail which it should contain. Carlow County Council has occasional access to sales of such properties but is generally unable to buy because of the 'fire sale' nature of disposal, which requires an immediate deposit. The major assistance that the State could give would be an extension of the Council Housing Loan facility to persons in viable distress. This scheme is currently limited to first time buyers.

Standing in the name of Cllr. K. Murnane

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.”

This item was deferred to the October meeting of Council.

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

"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"

This item was deferred to the October meeting of Council.

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

“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.”

This item was deferred to the October meeting of Council.

9. Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach

Councillor Phelan requested that businesses and tenants be contacted directly regarding cut off in water supply in the Dublin/Tullow Street area on 12th and 13th September.

This concluded the business of the meeting.