

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

MINUTES OF JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE ON MONDAY, 14TH JULY 2008 AT 2.00P.M.

PRESENT: Cllrs'. J. Carroll, Leas Cathoairleach (Presiding), N. Bourke, M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, M. Corcoran-Kennedy, B. Cowen, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, T. Feighery, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foran, C. Hanniffy, G. Killally, F. McDonnell, T. McKeigue, S. Moylan Ryan, P. Ormond, D. Owens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Pat Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. Michael Roche, D.O.S., Mr. Declan Kirrane, D.O.S., Ms. Frank Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. H. O'Donoghue, A/D.O.S., Ms. M. Hanlon, A/H.O.F., Mr. G. Daly, S.P., Mr. C. McCarthy, S.E., Ms. R. McKenna, S.E.A., Mr. A. Murray, S.E.P., Mr. J. Coleman, S.E.E., Ms. L. McKenna, A/H.O., Ms. P. Hughes, A.O., Ms. Ann Dillon, A/S.E.O., (Meetings Administrator), Mr. J. Daly, C.O.W., Ms. C. Maloney, E.T. & Ms. Natasha Troy, C.O.

APOLOGIES: Cllr's. M. Fox & T. McLoughlin

VOTES OF SYMPATHY: The members extended Votes of sympathy to families of the following: -

Mr. Charlie Gorman & Family, Shean, Edenderry, Offaly on the death of his wife, Mrs. Kathleen Gorman.

Ms. Jo Kearney, Clara Road, Tullamore, Offaly on the death of her sister, Mary Doyle.

Mr. Tom Moran, Kilkeeran, Portarlinton on the death of his mother, Mrs. Moran.

Mr. Benny Sheridan, Arden Heights, Tullamore on the death of his brother, Fr. Leo Sheridan.

Mr. Paddy Egan, Puttaghan, Tullamore on the death of his sister, Ann Doheny.

The Brazil Family, Gorteen, Killeigh on the death of their mother, Mrs. M. Brazil.

Mrs. O'Brien & Family, Killurin, Killeigh on the death of her husband, William.

Ned & Mary Clarke, Castletown, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of Mary's sister, Ann Durkin.

**VOTES OF
SYMPATHY (cont'd):**

Mrs. Stephaine Murray, Gorteen, Roscrea on the death of her father, Oliver.

Mrs. Carmel O'Donnell & Family, Clonohill Upper, Birr on the death of her husband, Des.

Mr. Pat Brazil, Ballinvally, Killeigh on the death of his mother, Mrs Brazil.

Ms. Jenny Lawbridge, Park Avenue, Tullamore on the death of her sister, Nancy.

Johnny & Pattie Winkler & Family, Cuba Cottages, Banagher on the death of their son, Norman.

Mr. James Whyte, Bloomhill, Ballinahown, Athlone on the death of his mother, Mary Kate.

Mrs. Kathleen Maloney & Family, Doon, Ballinahown on the death of her husband, Jackie.

Ms. Audrey Paisley, 17 St. Mary's Tce., Daingean on the death of her mother, Janet.

Mrs. Angela Davy, 59 Assumption Road, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Andy.

The County Manager on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.

**VOTES OF
CONGRATULATIONS
:**

The members expressed a vote of congratulations to:

Cllr. Dervil Dolan & his partner, Marie McEvoy on the birth of their daughter, Lilly Marie.

Patrice Delaney on winning the De Courcey Cup at the Munster Under 18 Girls Championship.

James Molloy on winning a bronze medal in the Shot Putt competition in the Paraplegic European Championships.

Offaly hurlers on their win against Limerick in the Senior Hurling Championship.

Cllr. John Carroll opened the meeting and expressed apologies on behalf of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. B. Cowen. He advised that he would chair the meeting until he arrived.

He also sent best wishes to Cllr. McLoughlin who had been in hospital recently.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Feighery, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan the minutes of Offaly County Council's June monthly meeting held on 16th June 2008 were confirmed and signed.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan the minutes of Offaly County Council's Annual meeting held on 16th June 2008 were confirmed and signed.

NOTING OF MINUTES:

The following minutes were noted:

- Edenderry Area Committee Meeting held 10th March 2008

SECTION 183 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT:- SYNGEFIELD

It was agreed by the meeting to bring this item forward.

Mr. M. Roche, D.O.S., confirmed that discussions have been ongoing with Birr G.A.A. in relation to this site. He advised that the lands are zoned part amenity/industrial and there is also an archaeological site located on the lands. He stated that Birr GAA are not interested in sharing/leasing the land.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Percy Clendennen the council approved of the disposal of lands at Syngesfield, Birr in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 notice dated 7th July 2008.

OFFALY WATER STRATEGIC PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT MAY 2008:

It was agreed by the members to bring this item forward.

Mr. Michael Roche directed the members' attention to the Offaly Water Strategic Plan – Progress Report which had previously been circulated. He stated that this was a strategic 20 year plan to assess the future water supply needs of Offaly and to provide a cost effective water supply system. He advised that Ryan Hanley, Consultants had been appointed and their investigations were still in progress.

In responding to queries he stated that O.C.C. had received funding for Water Conservation. The project has three phases and will take approximately three years. Phase 2 is currently ongoing. He advised that O.C.C. are very active in the area of leakage control and are concentrating on areas like Portarlinton and confirmed that there has been a reduction of up to 50% in unaccounted for water. He stated that the figures in the report for Tullamore are based on future figures for 2028 and advised that new sources have been identified and are currently being investigated. He reiterated that the report will give a blueprint for going forward. The principle aim of the report is to look at water treatment. Storage of water will also be included in the report. With regard to the consultants fees he advised that there is tremendous work involved and the fee of €30,000 is very reasonable and the knowledge gained as a result will be well worth the fee.

**MATERIAL
CONTRAVENTION OF
THE EDENDERRY
LOCAL AREA PLAN
2005-2011 PLANNING
REFERENCE PL2/07/1459
- COUNTY MANAGER'S
REPORT:**

Cllr. G. Killally declared an interest in this item and absented himself from the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

Mr. Declan Kirrane, D.O.S., directed the members' attention to the material contravention documents for Planning Ref: 07/1459 which had been circulated with the Agenda. It comprised of 119 residential units, a 442 sq/m kare centre, a 624 sq/m community centre, a 704sq/m ambulance base, a 250sq/m Midoc centre, a 872sq/m crèche, a park and ride facility, new section of local distributor road landscaping works, services and all associated infrastructure at Monasteroris, Edenderry, Co Offaly.

He advised that the planning application had been fully considered and recommended a Material Contravention which has been approved by the County Manager. He informed the members that the statutory public notice was published on 22/05/2008 and no submissions had been received. He advised that the executive was recommending approval by the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. F. McDonnell, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley the Council agreed to materially contravene the Edenderry Local Area 2005-2011 to facilitate the development as set out in the planning application reference number 07/1459.

In responding to queries raised, Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS, advised that conditions can be imposed to ensure ancillary works are carried out in tandem with the residential development. He confirmed that there has been no commitment made by the H.S.E. to include a Midoc service in the development as the service would depend on available funding.

A vote was called and the results were as follows:

- 17 members voted in favour.
- 0 members voted against.
- 1 member declared interest
- 3 members were absent for the vote.

The motion was carried unanimously.

**FIXING DATE FOR
CONSIDERATION OF
COUNTY MANAGER'S
REPORT ON DRAFT
VARIATION NO. 4
TULLAMORE TOWN &
ENVIRONS
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2004-2011:**

Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. informed the members that the period of public consultation ended on 29th June 2008 and 60 submissions were received. He advised that the Managers Report would be circulated on 22nd July and a date now needed to be agreed to discuss. He confirmed that the Tullamore Town Council were due to have their meeting on 28th August and suggested O.C.C. meet on the same day.

It was agreed to hold the meeting at 10.30a.m. on the 28th August.

**FIXING DATE FOR
CONSIDERATION OF
COUNTY MANAGER'S
REPORT ON DRAFT
OFFALY COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2009-2015:**

Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. informed the meeting that the schedule of dates had already been agreed. He confirmed that the areas will discuss the villages, Sráids etc. but advised that policy issues need to be discussed by full Council. He stated that the report had been circulated and to give time to consider it, he suggested the 5th September 2008 for a meeting.

It was agreed to hold the meeting at 2.30p.m., 5th September 2008.

**PART 8
KILMOCHONNA,
CEMETERY, LUSMAGH:**

Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager directed the members' attention to the report on Part 8 – proposed extension to cemetery at Kilmochonna, Lusmagh, Co. Offaly.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennen the council approved to proceed with the above works.

In answering a query, Mr. Gallagher, County Manager, advised that Michel Roche, D.O.S. would revert to the Area Councillors regard the extension of High Street Cemetery and other progress on cemetery works.

**EDENDERRY PARKING
BYE LAWS:**

Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., directed the members' attention to the proposed Edenderry Parking Bye Laws which had been previously been circulated.

Cllr. N. Bourke advised that a number of meetings had been held with Edenderry Area Committee and some with the Edenderry Town Council. He stated that as a result of these meetings some amendments had been made to the Bye Laws which had also been circulated. His recommendation was to adopt subject to the following amendments:

- Limited off street parking – free all day
- Bus use free all to allow for pick up – drop off
- Bus continue to use O'Connell Square as pick up point also
- All day paid parking also required.
- Review in 1 year

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. G. Killally the council adopted the Edenderry Parking Bye Laws subject to the amendments which had been circulated.

Cllr. Bourke also referred to his concerns regarding safety on J.K.L. Street and problems with parking.

**SECTION 183 OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT
2001 – DISPOSAL OF
FREEHOLD INTEREST
IN PROPERTY AT:-
CLUAIN FIA, CLARA;
CLUAIN ABHAINN,
CLARA; HEATHER
GROVE, CLARA:**

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. T. Feighery the council approved, in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 notice dated 1st July 2008, of the disposal of freehold interest in property as follows:

- No. 33 Cluain Fia, Curragh Road, Clara
- No. 35 Cluain Fia, Curragh Road, Clara
- No. 10 Cluain Abhainn, Clara
- No. 20 Heather Grove, Clara
- No. 21 Heather Grove, Clara
- No. 22 Heather Grove, Clara
- No. 23 Heather Grove, Clara
- No. 24 Heather Grove, Clara

**SECTION 183 OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT
2001 – DISPOSAL OF
FREEHOLD INTEREST
IN PROPERTY AT:-
CUIMIN, SHINRONE;
ARMSTRONG GROVE,
CLARA; NEWBERRY
PARK, EDENDERRY;
BIRR ROAD, CLOGHAN;
BALLYVORA, FERBANE**

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy the council approved, in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 notice dated 1st July, of the disposal of freehold interest in property as follows:

- No. 5 Glen Cuimin, Shinrone
- No. 6 Glen Cuimin, Shinrone
- No. 38 Armstrong Grove, Clara
- No. 10 Newberry Park, Edenderry
- No. 9 Newberry Mews, Edenderry
- No. 9 Breachnagh, Birr Road, Cloghan
- No. 13 Ard Glas, Ballyvora, Ferbane

**2008 WORK
PROGRAMME
PROGRESS REPORTS
FROM HOUSING &
ENVIRONMENT
S.P.C.'S.:**

Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Chair of Housing, Social & Cultural S.P.C., directed the members' attention to the progress report which had been previously circulated. She advised that 4 meetings had been held this year to date with an average of 56.5% attendance. She informed the meeting that the following policies, programmes and initiatives had been reviewed and discussed:

- Playground Site Selection & Funding
- Timber Purchasing Policy
- Library Development Programme
- Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Sale of Private Sites Policy
- Application of amenity element of development levies

She advised that the Housing S.P.C. had made a policy recommendation to the C.P.G. regarding the establishment of an Offaly Film Commission and she stated that the following standing items had also been considered and discussed:

- Homeless Forum
- County Development Board
- Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
- Tullamore Library Project
- County Arts Facility

**2008 WORK
PROGRAMME
PROGRESS REPORTS
FROM HOUSING &
ENVIRONMENT
S.P.C.'S.:**

Cllr. T. McKeigue, Chair of Environment S.P.C., directed the members' to the progress report which had been circulated with the Agenda. He advised that 2 meetings had been held this year, to date with an average of 55% attendance. He informed the members' that the following policies, programmes and initiatives had been reviewed and discussed:

- Burial Ground Maintenance Grant Scheme
- Review of draft Litter Management Plan
- Provision for recycling services in large commercial and residential developments
- Water Framework Directive – Farm Surveys
- Chairman's Annual Awards – Community Environment Grants
- Timber Purchasing Policy

He stated policy recommendations had been made as follows:

- Draft Litter Management Plan
- Chairman's Annual Awards – Community Environment Grant.

He also advised that the following standing items had been considered and discussed:

- Portarlinton Flood Study
- Water Framework Directive
- Burial Ground Provision – new 5 year plan

**RENTAL
ACCOMMODATION
SCHEME
PRESENTATION:**

Mr. James Hogan, A/S.E.O., gave an informative presentation to the members regarding the Rental Accommodation Scheme. He advised that this scheme was introduced as an additional option for social housing to help deal with long housing lists and is funded by the D.O.E.H.L.G. He included the following points in his presentation:

Main features of R.A.S.

- Tenant must be in receipt of rent supplement for 18mts.
- Involves a three-way relationship between the L.A., the landlord and the tenant.
- The L.A. pays full rent on behalf of the tenant.
- The tenant makes a rent contribution to the Council, which is assessed in accordance with the Council's differential rent scheme.
- The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 governs the relationship between landlord and tenant. The landlord must have registered, or give the commitment to register the tenancy with the Private Rented Tenancy Board.
- The landlord must produce a Tax Clearance Certificate.
- The property must meet minimum standards for private rental accommodation as determined by the L.A. In Offaly a Clerk of Works inspects all properties before they are signed up for R.A.S.
- Where apartments are being leased, landlords must produce evidence of compliance with fire safety standards.

**RENTAL
ACCOMMODATION
SCHEME
PRESENTATION
(cont'd):**

Options for Housing Authorities under R.A.S.:

- L.A. may enter into R.A.S. contracts where the tenant is happy to remain in their existing accommodation, once it meets the minimum standards.
- Where accommodation doesn't meet standards, L.A. can source alternative more suitable accommodation.
- Most R.A.S. contracts are done by way of lease, but the L.A. may also purchase houses or apartments to be dedicated to R.A.S. Two such properties have been purchased in Tullamore.
- Housing Authorities may enter into agreements with Voluntary Housing Bodies to provide tenancy support for some RAS tenants who may have problems i.e. health issues, substance abuse etc.

Some general benefits of RAS:

- It will provide local authorities with another social housing option.
- It will minimise dependence on the rent supplement scheme.
- It will facilitate better housing tenure mix and therefore help achieve more sustainable communities.
- It will remove the employment trap that exists under the rental accommodation scheme.
- It will expand the amount of private rented accommodation available on long-term basis for rent supplement tenants.
- It will improve the quality and standard of private rented accommodation.
- It will improve tenant choice through the creation of an expanded system of housing options.
- With RAS, accommodation can be sourced at short notice.

He informed the members that in Offaly to date, there have been 78 transfers to RAS, 65 private transfers and 13 in Voluntary Housing Associations. The 65 private transfers have taken place in the following areas:

- 23 in Tullamore
- 18 in Birr
- 19 in Edenderry
- 2 in Clara
- 3 in Banagher

He confirmed that in the last couple of months the main focus of RAS has been in Tullamore. Of the 317 people in Offaly who are currently in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months or more, 168 (53%) of which reside in Tullamore.

In responding to queries raised, Mr. Hogan advised the following:

- Can remain on housing list if allocated a RAS house, there are various contracts which can be availed of.
- The cost of rent is in compared with the private market.

**RENTAL
ACCOMMODATION
SCHEME
PRESENTATION BY
JAMES HOGAN (cont'd):**

- Funding is allocated from the Department of Social & Family Affairs through the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government. There is a limit on available funding.
- There is no limit on transfer cases.
- There are standards set for Health & Safety. Landlords are required to submit documents in this regard.
- To qualify as “long term”, an assessment is carried out. The applicant must be in the area for a while.
- Majority will be 18 month cases but less will be considered.
- All properties which are being rented should be inspected. Working under 1994 Regulations. Standards currently being reviewed by the Department. New regulations will be stricter.

Mr. Hogan acknowledged the work of the housing staff of Offaly County Council. He also recognised the cooperation from the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, and the Health Services Executive etc.

The members expressed their compliments to Mr. Hogan.

**PROTOCOL ON “CALL
OUT” TO ROAD
TRAFFIC COLLISIONS:**

Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., directed the members’ attention to the report which had been circulated with the Agenda, which described the protocol on “call out” to road traffic collisions agreed between the Health Services Executive’s Ambulance Service and the Fire Services for the four midland counties.

He outlined the report, detailing the following:

1. The Fire Service’s primary role is to provide a first instance responder service for fires.
2. They also support An Garda Síochana and the Health Services Executive (HSE) Ambulance Service as auxiliary responder for traffic collisions and the Fire Service may be requested to support their work subject to the discretion of Ambulance Control or An Garda Síochana.

Mr. Heslin advised that O.C.C. have regular contact with the management staff of both these organisations and operational effectiveness and procedures are reviewed on a regular basis. He confirmed that correspondence was issued on the 6th March to the Chief Ambulance Officer further developing such operational procedures.

Mr. Heslin informed the members that an analysis of Department of Environment figures between 1995 and 2005 shows a 300% increase in the number of road traffic incidents attended. He advised that the policy for the four Midland counties reflects the long standing policy operating nationally for responses to traffic collisions.

**PROTOCOL ON “CALL
OUT” TO ROAD
TRAFFIC COLLISIONS
(cont’d):**

He outlined the protocol in place with the Ambulance Services for traffic collisions, which is that the Ambulance Controller will ascertain whether there is someone trapped or not. If there is no one trapped, then the Fire Services will not be called automatically. If there is someone trapped, or if the caller is unsure whether or not there is someone trapped, then the Fire Services will be called automatically. In addition, the Ambulance Service can decide to seek the assistance of the Fire Service at any time during an incident if the situation so warrants.

In responding to queries raised by the members’, Mr. Gallagher, County Manager emphasised that it was never policy to have the Fire Services dispatched automatically for traffic collisions. He advised that the Fire Services are only first line responders in cases of fire and also provide assistance to the other services. He informed them that there had been a change in the operating procedures not the policy. He strongly disagreed that the change was putting lives at risk and stressed that this was an inaccurate. He reiterated that it was never the policy to automatically dispatch the Fire Services to traffic collisions. He advised that all the services work very closely in the Midlands and the operating procedures are reviewed regularly. He referred to the first paragraph of the report and stated that the previous operational routine had evolved over time but was never the policy. He confirmed that the Chief Fire Officer (C.F.O.) had restated the practice to the Chief Ambulance Officer in March.

Mr. Denis Cunningham, C.F.O., confirmed that it developed over time that the Ambulance Service contacted the Fire Service for any accident but in the majority of cases, they were not required. He advised that discussions were held recently between the Ambulance Services and the Chief Fire Officer to clarify the policy. He advised that he feels the system which is currently in place is safe for the public and he stressed that if the Fire Service is required, they will attend.

**OFFALY EYES
PRESENTATION:**

Ms. C. Hilliard, I.S. Project Leader, gave a very informative presentation to the members on a new computer application which has been developed by a cross organisation team within Offaly County Council for making observations to Area Offices/Town Councils, specifically from their journeys around Offaly. She stated that it was tested with an Offaly County Council colleague group as initial users and is now moving into working with a pilot group of the O.C.C. Councillors.

**OFFALY EYES
PRESENTATION
(cont'd):**

She advised that the first stage of the development of the application was in the summer of 2007 and in late 2007 the project had test sites of Ferbane and Edenderry Area Offices with one observation category (lighting). Since then, Birr T.C./ Birr Area Offices, Tullamore T.C. and Tullamore Area Office have been added as recipients of observations and extra categories of Potholes, Road Signage and Flooding have also been added.

She informed them that the application was shortlisted for the Taoiseach's Public Service Awards in April 2008.

Cllr. Barry Cowen, Cathaoirleach, encouraged the Councillors to make use of "OffalyEyes", stating that it was a very useful facility.

The members' complimented the I.S. department and welcomed the application.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. M. Corcoran-Kennedy and agreed.

"That Offaly County Council follow through on their commitment under the Barcelona Declaration, which was signed a number of years ago. Access and the involvement of Disabled people in the planning and implementation being of crucial importance".

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley.

"That Offaly County Council write to the Minister of the Environment and Local Government to request an "amnesty" for drivers with provisional licenses who have been driving for over ten years with no offences. Also, that additional drivers testers be employed to clear the backlog".

The motion was defeated.

COMHDHÁLACHA:

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. T. Feighery the Council approved of the members attendance at conferences as follows:

Humber Summer School 2008
21st to 24th August 08 – downhill Hotel, Ballina, Co. Mayo
It was agreed to send Cllr. T. McKeigue

Sliabh Luachra Summer School
5th to 10th August 08 – Bruach na Carraige, Rockchapel, Co. Cork
No-one expressed an interest in this conference.

**COMHDHÁLACHA
(cont'd):**

Annual Conference of the Society for Folk Life Studies
18th – 21st September 08 – Lake Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry
It was agreed to send Cllr's P. Clendennen, M. Buckley and J. Butterfield.

National Advisory Council Conference 2008
18th September – Lyrath Estate Hotel, Dublin Rd, Kilkenny
No-one expressed an interest in this conference.

Parnell Summer School 2008-09-08
10th – 15th August 08 – Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.
It was agreed to send Cllr's P. Clendennen, M. Buckley & E. Fitzpatrick.

COMHFHREAGRAS:

Cllr. M. Buckley, requested O.C.C. support the motion passed by Limerick County Council calling on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to review the operation of Voluntary Housing Schemes by reducing the level of administration required as this is having a serious effect on the capacity of voluntary organisations to deal with these projects.

It was agreed to support this motion.

Cllr. M. Corcoran-Kennedy requested O.C.C. support the motion passed by Limerick County Council calling on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to further increase the fuel allowance to help alleviate the effects of recent and future prices increases on the elderly.

It was agreed to support this motion.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS
(cont'd):**

Interpretive Centre, Clara

In responding to a query, Mr. H. O'Donoghue, A/D.O.S. advised that the County Librarian is currently preparing dates for the opening which should be in mid-August.

Illegal Encampment, Kilmucklin, Clara

Mr. H. O'Donoghue, A/D.O.S. advised that Offaly County Council have initiated legal proceedings.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Area Committee Meetings

Cllr. Cowen questioned whether the Councillors could interchange from one Area Committee to another to facilitate the boundary changes.

Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. advised that the committees shall remain as they are for the moment as they have not yet received any directions from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government. He confirmed that the Councillors could attend the area meetings for their information but could not have any input into decisions being made.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: -

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTATOR

15TH SEPTEMBER 2008