

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Cllr. N. Bourke (Presiding), Cllrs. M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, B. Cowen, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan, T. McKeigue, J. Leahy, T. McLoughlin, S. Moylan Ryan, P. Ormond, D. Owens, G. Plunkett and L. Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Pat Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S, Mr. M. Roche, D.O.S., Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., Ms. M. Hanlon, A/Head of Finance, Mr. E. O’Ceilleachair, C.F.O., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Ann Dillon, S.E.O, Mr. J. Hogan, A.O., Ms. N. Troy, Clerical Officer.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. S. Dooley

**COMHIRLE NA NÓG
PROGRAMME OF VISITING
SCHOOLS:** Cathaoirleach, Cllr. N. Bourke, welcomed the students of St. Ciaran's Mixed National School, Boher and their teachers, Ann Casey and Carol Robins, to the meeting as part of the Comhairle na nÓg programme.

**VOTES OF
SYMPATHY:** Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-

Christine Mannion, 47 Marion Place, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of her husband, Paddy, former staff member of Offaly County Council.

Pat Gallagher, County Manager on the death of his aunt, Eithne Brady.

Michael Duignan, Durrow, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of his wife Edel.

Cronly Family, Gortacor, Mountbolus, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the deaths of Patrick, Gretta, Willie and Helen.

Jimmy Cummins, staff member of Edenderry Town Council on the death of his wife, Rose.

Maureen Bermingham & Family, Kylebeg, Church Street, Banagher, Co Offaly on the death of Kate.

Phil O’Connell & Family, Garbally, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of her husband, Frank.

William Trodd & family, Ashgrove, Lusmagh, Banagher, Co Offaly on the death of his wife, Mary.

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

James Egan, Main Street, Shinrone, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of his partner, Linda Murphy.

Della Fitzgerald, Clonfanlough, Athlone, Co Offaly on the death of her father, Andy.

Michael O'Regan, Moorpark Street, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of his wife, Eileen.

Josephine Byrne, Cam Cor Apartments, Scurragh, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of her husband, Camillus.

Brendan Coughlan, Curragh, Geashill, Co Offaly on the death of his brother, Larry.

Sean Cooke, 5 Grove Street, Crinkle, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of his brother, Brendan.

Brendan Finnerty, Woodfield, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of his mother, Maise.

Mary Wyer, Church Street, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of her husband, John.

Kathleen Adams, 29 Whitehall Estate, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of her sister, Eithne Brady.

Dolores Horkin, Church Street, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of her sister, Eithne Brady.

Nuala English, 27 The Elms, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of her sister, Eithne Brady.

Delma Gallagher, O'Carroll St., Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of her sister, Eithne Brady.

Patricia Cannon, The Walk, Kinnitty, Co Offaly on the death of her sister, Eithne Brady.

Ann Coughlan, 33 Arden Heights, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of her brother, Larry.

Noel Gowran, Arden Road, Tullamore on the death of his wife, Noreen.

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 extended a Vote of Congratulations to the following:

Offaly Junior Camogie Team on winning the All Ireland Junior Camogie Championship. It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to offer a Civic Welcome to the team in honour of their victory.

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

The Fleadh Cheoil Committee on their successful organisation of the 2009 Fleadh Ceoil. Special tribute was paid to Tullamore Town Council, An Garda Síochána and the Order of Malta for their co-operation and assistance in preparation for and during the event and also Saint Colmcilles Pipe Band, Mountbolus Pipe Band and Clara Town Band.

The Tullamore Show committee were also congratulated on the organisation of the show.

**CONFIRMATION OF
MINUTES:**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens the amended minutes of Offaly County Council's July Monthly Meeting, held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on Monday, 20th July 2009 at 2.00 p.m., were confirmed and signed.

**MINUTES FOR
NOTING:**

The following minutes were noted:

- Minutes of Meeting of Edenderry Area Committee held on Wednesday 13th May, 2009
- Minutes of Corporate Policy Group held 18th May 2009
- Minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 13th July 2009

**REVIEW OF BIRR TOWN
& ENVIRONS
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2010-2016 - CONSIDER
COUNTY MANAGER'S
REPORT ON
SUBMISSIONS:**

Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS informed the members that Birr Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 was placed on public display from 30th March 2009 to 8th June 2009. Eighty six (86) submissions were received and the County Manager's report summarising the submissions and outlining the Manager's opinion on the issues raised had been circulated to the members on 18th August 2009. Mr. Kirrane advised that the members of the Birr Town Council and Birr Electoral Area had met to consider the report. In accordance with the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2006 the report would have to be considered by 9th November 2009 and accordingly it was anticipated that this item would be included on the October meeting's agenda.

**SECTION 183, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 2001
- DISPOSAL OF
FREEHOLD INTEREST
IN LANDS AT: NO 69
HILLVIEW, RHODE; NO
24 COLLEGE VIEW,
RAHAN:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Hanniffy, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the Council approved the disposal of freehold interest in lands in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice dated 1st September 2009 as follows:

- No. 69, Hillview, Rhode
- No. 24 College View, Rahan

**SECTION 183, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 2001
- DISPOSAL OF
LEASEHOLD INTEREST
IN PROPERTY TO HELM
HOUSING
ASSOCIATION:**

Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. informed the members that the Section 183 is required for the leasehold transfer of twelve (12) unsold affordable housing units to Helm Housing Association for a five (5) year period. He advised that the transfer of units will accommodate housing applicants eligible under the RAS Scheme in Edenderry and Clara.

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Hogan, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the Council approved the disposal of leasehold interest in land in accordance with the terms of Section 183 notice dated 1st September 2009 as follows:

**SECTION 183, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 2001
- DISPOSAL OF
LEASEHOLD INTEREST
IN PROPERTY TO HELM
HOUSING ASSOCIATION
(cont'd):**

- No.'s 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 Clonmeen Rise, Edenderry
- No.'s 8 & 10 Cluain Abhainn, Clara
- No. 11 Kilbride Way, Clara
- No.'s 24 & 25 Heather Grove, Clara
- No. 31 Heather Grove, Clara

In responding to a query Mr. Murray confirmed that Offaly County Council have received an application for twenty three (23) units from a private developer with regard to a different scheme.

**SECTION 183, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 2001
- DISPOSAL OF LANDS
AT FERBANE:**

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the Council approved the disposal of land at Ferbane in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice dated 8th September 2009.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT)
REGULATIONS 2001
(PART VIII)
HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT:
PROPOSED
INSTALLATION OF
DEMOUNTABLE
DWELLING AT
KILOWEN, CLONMORE,
EDENDERRY, CO.
OFFALY:**

Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., directed the members to the report which had been circulated with the Agenda, detailing proposals for preparatory site works, installation of services and locating of demountable dwelling at Kilowen, Clonmore, Edenderry. He advised that no submissions had been received in relation to same and he was now requesting approval to continue with the proposed works.

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley the members approved to proceed with the proposed works.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT)
REGULATIONS 2001
(PART VIII)
PROPOSED SCHOOL
ACCESS ROAD AT
KYLEBEG, BANAGHER,
CO. OFFALY:**

Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., in referring to the report which was previously circulated to the members, stated that the proposals included the development of the proposed link road from the Banagher Bypass road to the Banagher school site. He advised that no submissions had been received.

In responding to a query Mr. Murray confirmed that the proposal does not rule out further works to extend the link road to the main street in the future.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members approved to proceed with the proposed works.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT)
REGULATIONS 2001
(PART VIII)
PROPOSED HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPROVEMENT WORKS
TO BALLYVORA GROVE
HOUSING ESTATE,
FERBANE, CO. OFFALY:**

Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., informed the members that the proposed development consisted of site improvement works including open spaces, boundaries, landscaping, traffic calming and signage, lighting roads and footpath repairs and the provision of three (3) no. extra services sites and is required to regularise specific planning issues.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy the members approved to proceed with the proposals.

**STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEES SCHEME:**

Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator advised that the *Strategic Policy Committee Scheme* had been placed on public display. At the closing date for the receipt of submissions, 28th August 2009, only one submission was received: it came from Mr. Michael Ewing, Co-ordinator of the Environment Pillar. The Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership sought representation on each of the following SPCs:

- Planning, Economic and Local Development
- Transportation and Emergency Services
- Environment and Water Services

Ms. Cleary advised that the draft scheme provides for one member to be nominated by the Environmental Pillar onto the Environment and Water Services SPC. The other two SPCs, on which the Environment Pillar has sought representation, have a representative from the Community / Voluntary sector. Local groups with an interest in environmental issues and in sustainable development were free to register with the Offaly Community Forum and to seek representation through that route as community and voluntary representatives. She advised that the submission had been considered by the Corporate Policy Group who were now recommending that the draft *Strategic Policy Committees Scheme*, as previously circulated, be adopted by Council without any amendments.

Cllr. T. McKeigue recommended that the *Strategic Policy Committee Scheme* be adopted. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy. The Cathaoirleach declared the *Strategic Policy Committee Scheme* adopted.

**ELECTION /
APPOINTMENT /
NOMINATION OF
MEMBERS TO THE
FOLLOWING BODIES /
COMMITTEES:**

**i. STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEES
- PLANNING, ECONOMIC &
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
- TRANSPORTATION &
EMERGENCY SERVICES
- ENVIRONMENT & WATER
SERVICES
- HOUSING, CORPORATE &
CULTURAL SERVICES**

**ii. MIDLAND REGIONAL
DRUGS TASK FORCE**

i. Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett, the members agreed to the appointment of members as follows:

- Planning, Economic and Local Development SPC: Cllrs. D. Dolan, L. Quinn, P. Ormond, J. Butterfield and S. Dooley;
- Transportation and Emergency Services SPC: Cllrs. G. Plunkett, N. Bourke, C. Hanniffy and D. Owens;
- Environment and Water Services SPC: Cllrs. P. Clendennen, T. McKeigue, J. Foley and J. Leahy;
- Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services SPC: Cllrs. N. Hogan, B. Cowen, J. Carroll and S. Moylan-Ryan.

Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator advised that nominations were received from the National Pillars as follows:

- The Environmental Pillar nominated Ms. Theresa Ryan-Feehan, 17 Woodlands, Birr to the Environment and Water Services SPC.
- The Community / Voluntary Sector nominated Ms. Susan Ryan and Ms. Tessa Doyle to the Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services SPC; Mr. Hugh Farrell to the Transport and Emergency Services SPC; and Mr. Tom Finnerty to the Planning, Economic and Local Development SPC.
- The Irish Congress of Trade Unions nominated Mr. Ray Kennedy, IMPACT to the Planning, Economic and Local Development SPC.

**ELECTION / APPOINTMENT /
NOMINATION OF MEMBERS
TO THE FOLLOWING
BODIES / COMMITTEES...
(cont'd)**

She advised that the Council were awaiting nominations from the Agriculture / Farming Pillar, a further nomination from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and clarification from the Business Sector regarding their nominations.

Cllr. B. Cowen proposed the appointment of the above persons nominated by the National Pillars and Cllr. M. Buckley seconded the proposal. The appointments were agreed by the members.

ii. Midland Regional Drugs Task Force

Cllr. M. Buckley proposed and Cllr. C. Hanniffy seconded the nomination of Cllr. Clendennen to the Midland Regional Drugs Task Force. Cllr. P. Ormond proposed and Cllr. E. Dooley seconded Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan to the Midland Regional Drugs Task Force.

The members agreed that the Meetings Administrator would contact the Midland Regional Drugs Task Force to determine if two appointments could be made to the Task Force. A decision on the appointment to the Task Force was adjourned to the October monthly meeting.

**PLAN FOR FIRE AND
EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS, SECTION
26, FIRE SERVICES ACT
1981:**

Mr. F. Heslin, DOS advised the members that the Council is required to develop a *Fire and Emergency Operations Plan* in accordance with Section 26, Fire Services Act, 1981. The adoption of the plan is a reserved function and the last plan adopted by the Council was in 1996. Mr. Heslin, DOS and Mr. E. O'Ceilleachair, Chief Fire Officer gave a detailed presentation to the members. They stated that three (3) stations were below agreed manning levels as outlined in their covering letter to the proposed plan. Three options for the future operation of the fire services were outlined:

1. Provide a five (5) brigade service in line with the current €3.3m budget, i.e., two (2) pump stations in Birr, Tullamore and Edenderry and a one (1) pump station each in Ferbane and Clara.
2. Continue with eight (8) brigades in Offaly. According to Mr. Heslin to make the eight (8) stations operational would require an additional €30,000 *per annum* and an immediate capital investment of €1.743m.
3. Continue with the current five (5) operational brigades and maintain three (3) other brigades, i.e., Daingean, Kilcormac and Banagher on payroll costs only.

Mr. Heslin advised that the *Fire and Emergency Operations Plan* circulated to the members was based on option 1. He advised that this option conforms to health and safety standards; response times are in line with international standards; and the plan can be resourced within the current budget and staffed in accordance with the staff moratorium circulars. He recommended that the circulated *Fire and Emergency Operations Plan* be adopted.

During the ensuing discussion a number of issues were raised and addressed by Mr. Heslin and Mr. O'Ceilleachair. In summary:

- Both the executive and the elected members have responsibilities under Health and Safety legislation and it is not feasible to allow the *status quo* to continue.

**PLAN FOR FIRE AND
EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS, SECTION
26, FIRE SERVICES ACT
1981 (cont'd):**

- The draft *Fire and Emergency Operations Plan* provides for two (2) pump stations in Tullamore, Birr and Edenderry with twelve (12) fire fighters, a one (1) pump station each in Clara and Ferbane with eight (8) fire fighters and continues the current relationship with Portarlington station i.e. Offaly County Council pay one third (1/3) of the operation costs to avail of the service.
- The 2009 fire service budget, €3.3m, is insufficient to meet the cost of operating eight (8) stations and meeting the agreement to pay for one third (1/3) of the costs of the Portarlington fire service.
- Three (3) stations, Kilcormac, Daingean and Banagher, are currently under resourced as regard staff numbers, fire station facilities and equipment. A capital investment of €1.743m is required to bring these to an acceptable standard and an additional budget of €30,000 *per annum* to meet payroll and training costs.
- Following the provision of funding in the 2009 budget fire fighter posts were advertised in March. The Department of Finance issued a directive ordering a moratorium on staff recruitment on 27th March. On 13th May a further circular issued allowing local discretion in special cases. On 20th August local discretion on recruitment was rescinded and all staffing requests must now be submitted to the DEHLG for approval.
- The fire service budget was reduced by €345,000 in June to assist the Council address the anticipated €4m budget deficit. The Council was notified of a further reduction of €22,000 from the Local Government fund in June which had yet to be addressed and a further 10% reduction to revenue income is anticipated for 2010.
- The Council was advised at the July monthly meeting that further savings would be required.
- The response times and numbers per brigade are at the discretion of the local authority. However, Mr. Heslin stressed that the proposed option represents best international practice.
- As two brigades are required to attend all road traffic call-outs Banagher, Kilcormac and Daingean fire brigades are currently being assisted by a brigade from another station at each road traffic call-out.
- Currently, the Birr brigade is the first respondent to all call-outs in the Kilcormac area. The Kilcormac brigade must wait until the Birr brigade arrives before it can mobilise. The Daingean brigade requires support from another station when responding to all incidents and the Banagher brigade are only authorised to respond to chimney fires on their own.
- The 1999 national union agreement provides for a staffing level of fifteen (15) and nine (9). However this is to provide for a roster system. There is no roster system in Offaly Fire Service. The proposed staffing numbers, twelve (12) and eight (8), are in line with best practice.
- Offaly County Council works with the surrounding authorities when responding to call-outs and the agreed principle is that the nearest appliance is the first responder.
- The matter had not been referred to the SPC as the SPCs are currently not in place.
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Mr. Pat Gallagher, County Manager summarised the Council's approach as follows: they were not proposing to remove a fire

**PLAN FOR FIRE AND
EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS, SECTION
26, FIRE SERVICES ACT
1981 (cont'd):**

service from any part of the county; the manning levels in a number of brigades are below the required minimum - the Council are not in a position to bring all stations to the required minimum levels due to the moratorium on staff recruitment and the current financial restrictions on the Council; the standards outlined in the plan are based on best practice. He reiterated the duty of management and members to meet Health and Safety requirements within the fire service. The County Manager further advised that the executive would provide any further clarification and/or information to assist them in their deliberations.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged that this was a difficult decision for all the members. To allow the members the opportunity to evaluate their options and make an informed choice it was agreed that a decision on the *Plan for Fire and Emergency Operations* would be deferred to the October monthly meeting. The meeting agreed to this proposal.

**HIGHER EDUCATION
GRANT SCHEME
2009/2010:**

The Higher Education Grant Scheme 2009/2010 was proposed by Cllr. Tommy McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley. The Scheme was adopted by the members.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(CHARGES) ACT 2009:**

Ms. M. Hanlon, Acting HOF drew the members attention to the circulated document outlining the main features of the Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 on taxation on Non-Principle Private Residences. She advised that the legislation provided for: a system of self declaration; an annual fee of €200 payable from 31st July 2009; after the first 3 months a €20 monthly penalty applies; outstanding taxes become the first charge on the sale of a house; the fee can be paid in any county. The Department estimated that 2,000 properties in Offaly were liable for the tax. Ms. Hanlon informed the meeting that to date Offaly County Council had received €60,000 in respect of the tax. She stated that a number of enquiries had been received and that the scheme would be advertised in the local media over the coming weeks.

**APPLICATION UNDER
GATEWAY AND HUBS
ERDF GRANTS SCHEME
2009:**

Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS advised that the BMW Regional Assembly had secured EU funding for gateways and hub towns in the region. Tullamore Town Council made a submission seeking funding to improve the canal and heritage centre area. The estimated cost of the project is €2m and a decision on the application is pending. The members acknowledged the high calibre of the Council's application and paid tribute to all the staff involved.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. N. Bourke took the decision to hear Notices of Motion "a" and "e" together as they both related to the same topic.

The motions were proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield and approved:

"That Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Transport to ask him to rescind the decision of An Bord Snip Nua to axe the rural transport scheme"

And

NOTICE OF MOTION
(cont'd):

“That this Council call on the relative authorities to continue the Rural Transport Initiative in our County”.

It was agreed to circulate to other councils.

b) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy:

“That Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Education regarding the drastic education cuts proposed for the coming year”

c) Cllr. T. McKeigue proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennen and agreed by the members

“That Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Social Welfare to ensure the payment of the Christmas bonus”

d)The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley:

“That Offaly County Council calls on the Minister to extend the time frame on Planning Permissions granted from five years to seven to accommodate people who are not in a position to carry out construction works due to the down turn in the economy”

Cllr. B. Cowen confirmed that there are provisions in the new bill to extend this period under certain circumstances.

f) Cllr. J. Butterfield proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue.

“That this Council clarify the present situation in relation to the Derryclure landfill facility”

Mr. M. Roche, DOS, advised that An Bord Pleanála had refused OCC’s application to increase the intake capacity of Derryclure Landfill to 100K tonnes. He advised that the EPA is currently reviewing the waste licence for the site.

g) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. John Carroll

“That Offaly County Council take immediate steps to re-open the library in Shinrone and provide an appropriate level of service to the community in Shinrone and surrounding areas.”

Mr. S. Murray, DOS, confirmed that Shinrone library will not be reopening in the short term. The Council was exploring alternative

facilities for the delivery of library services. In the interim a number of library services continue to be provided to its members.

COMHDHÁLACHA:

The members approved attendance at conferences as follows:

Folklore Conference – 24th September 2009

No members expressed an interest in this conference.

Irish Association of Suicidology 13th Annual Conference – 1st October 2009.

It was agreed to send Cllrs. G. Plunkett, J. Carroll, B Cowen. D. Owens.

La Touche Legacy 2009 – 2nd – 4th October 2009.

It was agreed to send Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick, B. Cowen, P Ormond

Getting a Grip 2009 – 8th – 9th October 2009.

It was agreed to send Cllrs. P. Clendennen, N. Hogan, G. Plunkett, J. Carroll, B. Cowen, P. Ormond, D. Owens

Douglas Hyde Conference – 16th – 18th October 2009

It was agreed to send Cllrs P Ormond, M. Buckley, C. Hanniffy, J. Butterfield. N. Bourke

Induction Course for Newly Elected Members – 30th September 2009

It was agreed to send Cllr. J. Leahy.

COMHFHREAGRAS:

There were no discussions under this item.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Resource Centre

Cllr. D. Dolan requested that the Council write to the Minister to seek a continuation of funding for the Resource Centres in Clara and Arden View, Tullamore. Cllr. M. Buckley seconded the motion.

Planning Decisions

Cllr. T. McKeigue raised the appropriateness of recent planning applications. Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS in responding advised that it was not appropriate to discuss individual applications at the meeting but assured the members that permissions granted were in accordance with the relevant Development Plans.

Community and Voluntary Forum

Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS, informed the meeting that three hundred and sixty six (366) organisations are registered with Offaly Community and Voluntary Forum. The Forum had requested that they be afforded the opportunity to meet with the Area Committees on an annual basis to discuss issues of mutual interest. He advised the members that this arrangement had been agreed by the CPG. He anticipated that the first meeting would be held before the end of 2009.

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

Clara Market

Cllr. M. Buckley advised that residents in the vicinity of the Clara market had brought to her attention traffic and littering issues in the area. The County Manager informed the meeting that the matter had been fully investigated following a motion on the issue last year. He advised that there were no matters of an enforceable nature remaining and that the Environment Section were dealing with environmental issues. The matter had also being discussed with the Gardai.

**Planning Application – Lumcloon Energy Ltd
Electricity Generating Station at Lumcloon, Cloghan, Ferbane**

Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS, advised the members that the planning file is available for viewing at the Planning office. Observations have to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala before 27th October 2009. He advised that the Manager's report will be included on the October monthly meetings agenda.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

_____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

_____ **RUNAÍ**

19th OCTOBER 2009